

*Paige Powell Music Blog for September 25, 2020:*

## ***The Story Behind the Song, "Give Me A Beach"***

"A bunch of girls sittin' around, talkin' fantasies" is the opening line, and that's actually how "*Give Me A Beach!*" was born. It was a Tuesday evening in Nancy Buzalsky's living room with five of us in her "small group" from church. She started our group discussion with an ice-breaker question: "*What is one thing you would LOVE to wake up to, first thing in the morning?*" Marcia said she hates to drive, so she would love to have a chauffeur waiting for her. Jennifer, who was single, said she wanted to wake up with a loving husband beside her. I liked her answer and added, "*I'd like a husband who is bringing me breakfast in bed!*". Then, Nancy threw her arms into the air and shouted, "*Give me a beach!*"



When I brought the first draft to the **Songwriter's Exchange** meeting of the **Songwriters' Association of Washington** (SAW.org), they had suggestions for improving my song, but one really threw me for a loop. I had been truthful about Nancy's role in the first verse, and I began the second verse with "*My brother, Stan, sells real estate...*" (My brother and his wife are true beach bunnies.) The songwriters at the meeting agreed when one of them said, "*The song has to be about YOU loving the beach. Don't let the truth get in the way of a good song!*" That second sentence is one I've heard many more times over the years.

So now, dear reader, you know the truth. I don't care didly-squat about the beach but I do love songwriting. I apologize to Nancy, who is still one of my best friends, and to my brother, Stan Powell. **I sang the original version to each of them not long after I wrote it, to honor their inspiration.** It bothered me so much to change the song that I spent the time and money to record it both ways in the recording studio. I have a professional recording of "*Give Me A Beach*" in the original version which you can hear by clicking on the link beneath the CD cover illustration on the song's page at <http://www.paigepowellmusic.com/give-me-a-beach!.html> and compare it to the final version.

I had SO much fun recording this song in the studio, adding keyboard-generated steel drums to give it that "island" sound, and my sound engineer, **Kevin Gutierrez**, added bongos and a beach sound effect during the bridge and at the end. **It is my most award-winning song**, so I'm grateful to everyone who contributed to it. It's really true that no one succeeds alone. We all need each other! And that includes YOU, dear reader. Please recommend my once-every-10-days newsletter, "*The Story Behind the Song*" to just one other person.

My sweet brother, Stan recorded a video of me singing this song and dancing around on HIS local beach which I plan to use in a music video someday. Also, I hope my cousin, Noah, who is AT the beach in NC right now gets to hear this song and celebrate his vacation. Wednesday morning, he sent me a beach sunrise photo!