

**Dolly/**From page 3  
photographer to take their photo. About three weeks later, McNeill received an autographed and framed copy of their photo in her mailbox.

The new show isn't the only way McNeill expresses her admiration for Parton through her art.

She also incorporates the icon into performances with her band Wild Angels — The Women of Rock, Pop & Country. The all-woman band features McNeill and fellow Minnesota singers Mary Jane Alm and Aimée Lee, who perform hit songs from legendary female artists over the decades, with Parton being one of them.

"I do that with my two best friends Mary Jane Alm and Amy Lee and we do everything from Adele to The [Dixie] Chicks to Stevie [Nicks] to Janis Joplin, Linda Ronstad, TLC," McNeill says. "It's kind of all over the place, and we do Dolly too."

Though currently based in Eden Prairie with her husband, McNeill's



Richard Kriehn and Pamela McNeill perform "Islands in the Stream" during the "Janis, Stevie, Dolly and Me" show earlier this year.

extensive experience in the music industry has taken her all around the world.

The Winona native started songwriting at 15 years old and joined her first rock band at 16. She later lived in the U.K.,

performing as a backing singer for English musician Rick Astley at Royal Albert Hall and The London Palladium for the Royal Family.

She eventually wrote a couple of her albums

in Nashville, Tennessee, after being encouraged by her good friend Bobby E. Boyd — a Grammy Award-winning songwriter best known for co-writing "Bless the Broken Road" by Rascal Flatts

— to explore its rich country music scene. She has also performed at the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville several times and wrote with and for a variety of musical artists, including Wynonna Judd, Jim Peterik and Yanni.

She is best known across the state of Minnesota for being a member of the Famous Armadillos and RRXS (Rock and Roll XMAS Spectacular). In 2024, she was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame, joining legends like Prince, Bob Dylan, Judy Garland and more.

Though McNeill takes inspiration from Parton and country music, she knows where she comes from and reflects that sentiment in many of her original songs, like the popular "Mississippi River Song," which was released on her 2007 album titled "Nightingale."

"I lived on a farm that was no longer being farmed. But yet I have those country roots," McNeill says. "And even though I wanted to be a rocker, I still have [those] country roots under me and that can't help but get into the things you write about."

To learn more about McNeill and her upcoming performances, visit [www.pamelamcneill.com](http://www.pamelamcneill.com).

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