

# "Carl Durant's new song and video pays tribute to bus crash victims" by Jam Session | San Diego Reader

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JAM SESSION

## Carl Durant's new song and video pays tribute to bus crash victims

**"(Not Our) Ride Home" dedicated to twenty-two sixth-graders and six adults killed in the crash of a Belgian tour bus in Sierre, Switzerland**

*Jay Allen Sanford, November 12, 2012*

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**Carl Durant** has released a new single and video for his song "(Not Our) Ride Home," dedicated to the twenty-two sixth-graders and six adults who didn't survive the crash of a Belgian tour bus in Sierre, Switzerland, on March 13, 2012.

"I literally couldn't sleep for two days after reading about it online," says Durant. "I think it was around 10pm here in San Diego when the news was announced that a bus with Belgian kids had crashed in the Swiss Alps. Although I've been living here for ten years now, it still felt like a bomb

dropped at home.”

“One day, I picked up my guitar again and I started playing sad chords. That’s what I do when I feel down. And suddenly it started flowing out: a melody, the concept for a song about an older sister left behind. And I knew this would take time to get it right, but would also be worthwhile to finish.”

Recorded in Durant’s home based studio, the song features backing vocals from San Diego Music Award winner **Veronica May**, known most recently for being part of the old-timey music duo **the Lovebirds**.

Originally from Belgium, Sorrento Valley–based singer/guitarist Carl Durant relocated to San Diego in 2002 to take a job with a newly founded electronics firm. “I published my PhD about integrated circuit design as a book in 2003. It made me a whopping \$100 in royalties.”

Once he discovered the open-mic nights, “I started turning up more and more with my guitar. It became more of a focus, especially my songwriting, which Cathryn Beeks encouraged when I started writing songs for “The Game.””

Held approximately monthly, the Game is a songwriter showcase where Beeks provides a song title and several locals write and perform an original tune based on that title. Originated by Jeff Berkley, Steve Poltz, and Gregory Page, other Game participants have included Josh Damigo, Astra Kelly, Berkley Hart, Ken Lehnig, and Christy Bruneau.

His songs feature vocal harmonies that musically and lyrically linger somewhere between Mraz and Coldplay, between REM and Muse. Although often starting from a base of acoustic guitar, this is not country or folk music. “I’ve been pitching my live band sound as Brian Molko of Placebo joins the Decemberists to play an electrified James Blunt cover, remixed by Moby.”

He debuted his new band in May 2009, later recording a five-song EP, *Last Place*, at his home studio. Mixed at ZenMastering, it was released in April 2011. “I used a mellow production, to make it sound like a movie score,” he says.

He began recording a new EP in late 2011, after playing his first out-of-state show in Tucson AZ at Sky Bar on November 10.

Durant performed at a February 9, 2012 pre-Grammy party at the Belgian consul’s residence in L.A., along with Belgian singer-songwriter Milow. “Before his set, my wife and I had a long conversation

with Milow about living in San Diego. He was here as an exchange student in the Bishop’s School, about nine years ago. I promoted Lestat’s as much as possible with Milow’s manager.”

Milow is best known to U.S. audiences for his YouTube spoof of the 50 Cent/Justin Timberlake/Timbaland song “Ayo Technology,” which has earned over 45 million plays, though he’s a chart-topping artist in Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Switzerland, and Sweden.

“During soundcheck, I jammed with Ted Perlman, who now wants to get me in his studio to record. He congratulated me on my song quality and sound of my voice. I had to Google him, but apparently he played with a lot of big names, Whitney Houston, for example.”

Here's the video for "(Not Our) Ride Home":

In Memoriam Sierra 13/03/2012 - (Not Our) Ride Home

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