

May 11th, 2000

When Karla Bonoff kicks off her string of summer dates this week in Atlanta, Ga., her songs will be familiar to many, though listeners likely know them by other voices.

Bonoff is the writer behind the gentle "Someone to Lay Down Beside Me" — a hit for Linda Ronstadt — and the bluesy "Tell Me Why," recorded by country star Wynonna .

Her song "Home" has been covered by musicians ranging from Bonnie Raitt to Holly Dunn , and Bonoff herself hit the chart in the early '80s, with a song she *didn't* write, "Personally" — a P. Kelly tune she was introduced to by the Eagles ' Glenn Frey .

Bonoff rose out of that same Southern California rock scene that spawned Ronstadt, the Eagles and fellow singer/songwriters Andrew Gold , Wendy Waldman and Kenny Edwards , who together with Bonoff recorded as the group Bryndle .

Ronstadt, after recording three Bonoff tunes on her 1976 Asylum release, "Hasten Down the Wind," appeared on the songwriter's self-titled debut album on Columbia the following year. Ronstadt returned to the Bonoff songbag again, for "All My Life". The song earned a Grammy for Ronstadt and her duet partner, Aaron Neville.



Bonoff will likely reach even further back to her roots, with the folk tune "The Water Is Wide," which is included on *All My Life*, a compilation album released on Columbia Legacy in 1999.

"I learned [the tune] when I was 13," she points out in the liner notes for that disc, "when I took guitar lessons from the Weavers . So it comes out of my very early folk-music training, and, to this day, people come up to me and say this song really moves them."