

## A LONG ROAD TO THE RIGHT PLACE

AND THEN THERE WERE TWO

**N**ancy Haubrich and Bob Danielson may be adult professional musicians who have spent years in the business, but get them talking about music—their own or their favorite composers—and they generate the enthusiasm of a couple of kids on their first professional gig. Together, they are Alchemie, a duo that spawns excitement with vocals, Haubrich's keyboard, and Danielson's drum kit, while managing, at times, to sound like a much larger band.

The two of them met in the Bay Area of California. Haubrich moved there from her native Minnesota. Danielson had a shorter move, from his stomping grounds in Davis, California. Both were working in bands that played pop covers and some originals when Haubrich placed an ad looking for musicians willing to play original music. Danielson answered the ad but didn't get the gig. Nonetheless, the two made a connection and kept in touch. Eight years later, in the mid-80s, Cupid woke up and let arrows fly, and the duo has been together ever since.

Haubrich continued with her rock and country bands, while Danielson landed a regular gig—with health coverage and paid vacations—with Beach Blanket Babylon, the longest-running musical review in theater history. He held the principal drummer's chair for 15 years, becoming the most-tenured drummer in the show's history.

In 2014, impressed by the city during their visits, they moved to Albuquerque. "We feel like we escaped," says Danielson. Haubrich adds, "We love it here," and she's been saying that before she knew it was a certain magazine's tag line.

In Albuquerque, they embarked on a new chapter in their musical life, forming Alchemie. Though they'd recorded the EP "Cold Rain" in California with a guitarist and bassist and released it in early 2017 under the Alchemie brand, the band is



The husband-and-wife duo, Alchemie, releases its latest album, "Dark."

strictly a two-person affair.

The sounds on their latest album, "Dark," all come from just the keyboard, the drums, and their two voices. It's a very personal collection of songs drawn from "remembered experiences," says Haubrich. Though the title reflects the subject matter, the music is sweet, and the warmth of Haubrich's voice softens the songs' edges. "We want this to be radio friendly," says Haubrich, but she also wants to address difficult times in her past and help others with similar experiences.

Having just the keyboard and drum kit presents some challenges. In crafting their original songs and their cover tunes, the two rely on variety in the arrangements to balance the instrumental limitations. Given their admittedly stubborn personali-

ties, leavened with complementary skills, it may take some time to get a song the way they want it. "We do a lot of musical things that end up—we hope—making songs interesting," says Danielson.

It seems to be working. In just a little over a year, the band has made a mark in Albuquerque and the pair is on its way to its goal: to make a living making music. Nominated in three categories for the 2017 New Mexico Music Awards, Alchemie has dates booked through the end of the year. The band has been the featured artist on listenabq.com and has also appeared on KOB-TV's "Good Day New Mexico." You can keep up and make contact with Alchemie—and listen to or buy its albums—at [alchemielab.com](http://alchemielab.com).