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06/10/05 - Health news section

Sick mum releases song for daughter

A mother dying of cancer is releasing a charity song she wrote to remind her daughter of the good times they shared.

Breast cancer patient Maxine Edgington, 47, wrote the lyrics to the song *We Laughed* as part of a six-week workshop with singer-songwriter Billy Bragg at the Trimar Hospice in Weymouth, Dorset.

The lyrics were inspired by a photograph of the single mother and her 16-year-old daughter Jessica laughing through life.

Ms Edgington, who was given six months to live on November 30 last year, wrote pages of notes for the song while she was ill and unable to attend the song-writing workshops. Bragg wrote the music and the song was recorded by musicians from around the country at a Weymouth studio in July.

The song will be released on October 31 and is being performed by Bragg to mark the World Hospice and Palliative Care Day at Trinity Hospice in south-west London on Saturday.

Ms Edgington, from Portland, Dorset, is due to have chemotherapy from October 10, but will be speaking about her song during the World Hospice and Palliative Care Day event.

Profits from the record sales will go to the Joseph Weld and Trimar Hospice and CancerCare Dorset.

Bragg's workshops for women suffering from cancer were part of the Rosetta Requiem project - a cycle of songs and films made by people living with life threatening illness and established film-makers, song writers and composers.

Bragg said: "She said once the grieving is over for Jess I want her to have good memories. That's why she wanted to write the song."

Ms Edgington wrote, on the Rosetta Life web site, that she was initially "sceptical" about the idea of writing song lyrics when she was preoccupied with finding a guardian for her daughter after her death. But she described the workshops as her "path to freedom and hope".

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