

Singer turns adversity into promising career

By DECLAN FINUCANE
Special

Paul B...

Mississauga singer and songwriter Kelita Haverland has found a lot of comfort in her music over the years.

Having tragically lost her parents and brother during her teen years growing up in Alberta, Haverland turned to her faith and her music, eventually finding the strength to sing about the experiences that have left emotional wounds to this day.

"I have had a very smoky and troubled past, and a lot of tragedy, I really do have a soap opera background," Haverland says candidly. "That's when I turned to my music and became a Christian. It (religion) was a crutch at the time, but a very positive one.

"My music has been very healing for me over the years," continues Haverland, who has two albums and four Juno Award nominations to her credit. "For a lot of years I didn't write about my experiences. But now I'm very open about them. I've found it's helped me and it

has helped others that listen to my music too. It's taken me more than 20 years to get to this point, but I can say I'm happy now and have learned to deal with things openly."

Haverland, whose background lies in country music, will be going on the road to Nashville, Tennessee next month as part of a showcase of Canadian Christian artists organized by Oakville's Northern Praise Ministries.

It's a trip she's been making for 10 years now, and she's hoping the trips will continue to showcase Canadian Christian musical talent.

"There are a lot of Christian artists developing in Canada now, and for years the U.S. has dominated that scene," explains Haverland, who's just started working on a new CD she hopes to have out early next year. "But we have a lot of talented musicians in Canada in that category, and we want to show people what we have up here."

Before heading to Nashville, Haverland and several other artists will be performing Saturday, Oct. 14 at the City Centre Baptist Church at 1075 Eglinton Ave. W. beginning at 7:30 p.m.

PEEL BIOGRAPHY

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