

# Wide-eyed country girl from Mississauga

By DECLAN FINUCANE  
Special

*Peel Bio.*

Mississauga singer and songwriter Lorelei Melnick admits she is somewhat naive.

However, after scanning her list of accomplishments at age 27, and her plans for the near future, "naive" may not be the first word that comes to a person's mind when describing the pop singer.

After all, 10 years in the business that includes stints as a singer with various pop and rhythm and blues bands in Toronto, four independent EP releases and a number of benefit and sports event appearances sounds like time spent by a person who is well aware of things around them. Melnick is also working on an album she hopes to release in the next year.

Still, the native of The Pas, Manitoba — an eight-hour drive north of Winnipeg — sticks to her guns in her self-analysis.

"I still have that wide-eyed country girl naiveté," said Melnick, who sang the Canadian and American national anthems before Monday's Toronto Raptors game at the SkyDome. She also performed similar duties before a Toronto Blue Jays game last year.

"I'm from a really small town in northern Manitoba, and sometimes I can't believe how far I've come in just eight years or so," said Melnick, who made the move to Mississauga seven years ago, with degrees in interior design and theatre arts from the University of Manitoba to her credit.

"When I sang at SkyDome last year, I wasn't nervous. I was overwhelmed standing there and looking up at the fifth deck. That was quite an experience for someone from a small town."

While she may still be wide-eyed at times, Melnick does concede she's learned much over the years as well, and confesses to being a big-time risk-taker, who once boldly approached popular Canadian rock singer Allannah Myles for a shot at singing backup vocals.

Perhaps the most important lesson Melnick learned, at an early age, was how quickly word spreads in the music industry — specifically, words taken out of context and subsequently passed around.

"I learned quickly to be careful what you say at certain times, because words can be taken out of context," said Melnick, adding that she's been described as a cross between Heart lead singer Ann Wilson and chart-topping Canadian pop singer Celine Dion.

"In the music business, it doesn't take long for people to get to know you, and vice versa. It doesn't matter if you're in a rock band, jazz band, whatever. Everyone knows everyone in this industry, and it's important to treat people with respect and carry yourself professionally. That's the way I carry myself."



Photo by Joel Robertson

Mississauga singer Lorelei Melnick, 27, sings the Canadian and American national anthems before the Toronto Raptors basketball game Monday night at the SkyDome.