

Canadian country singer Joan Kennedy to perform Friday.

LISA CARTWRIGHT
Features

Joan Kennedy, the Canadian country singer whose song "A Dozen Red Roses" was CissFM listeners' favourite for five days, will be performing at Markham Fair October 3 at 8 pm.

Kennedy has released six albums since she was discovered in 1983 at a National Talent Contest. While she has performed at both large and small venues, Kennedy said it's

not the size of the venue that matters, but the opportunity it gives to the people.

"It's not about how big or small (a venue) is, it is about people who buy your music being able to see you. "The (Markham Fair) gives me the opportunity to really thank the people who have brought

"A Dozen Red Roses" to life," said the singer/song writer in a telephone interview. "The Ontario market really opened its arms to this."

In high school, Kennedy,

music into the show.

Once discovered, Kennedy released *I'm a big Girl Now* as well as a Christmas album. But her big break came when she released *Candle In The Window*. The album had six top 10 singles.

Her newest album *A Dozen Red Roses* is a retrospective album of all of her favourite cuts from her past albums including *Working Man's Daughter*, a song she wrote about her dad.

While Kennedy has written some of her own songs, most of her music comes to her from publishing companies that choose songs they think she will like.

"It's a long process," said Kennedy who loves songs that reach her on a personal level.



Joan Kennedy

like most aspiring musicians, belonged to band who would practice and play after school.

"We would do a little bit of everything. Linda Ronstadt ... and other popular female artists. We played dance music and other music people wanted to hear. We would (then) incorporate our own

Finding the perfect song for an album is like going to the library to find a good book - it's a long process, you have to go through a variety of books before you find the one you like, she said.

"It's a hard thing. (A song) really has to hit you. They don't come along that often and some have to grow on you."

Like the song she had in her possession for three years. At the time, it just didn't work for

Kennedy. Recently she pulled it out and realized how much she liked it.

"I just dusted it off and said 'wow, what a good song'."

And song writing is a lot like finding the perfect song, except that Kennedy has to create it herself.

Starting with a title, Kennedy creates the idea then tries to write around it. She said she gets inspirations everywhere including from

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