

Katie Croy on road to stardom

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Correspondent

She's pretty, she's perky, she's got major hair and a purring voice. She's Katie Croy, only 23, a local girl from Goodwood who recently went to Nashville to cut her first CD.

You may have heard her popular new single "Grow Up" on the air. Or caught her alluring video on CMT. And she's only just begun.

Croy grew up with her two brothers and parents Vern and Louise on a cattle farm in Manitoba. One of the reasons they relocated to the Goodwood area three years ago was to give their daughter more opportunities in the entertainment industry.

"They really believe in me," Croy said appreciatively of her parents.

And she did make better connections here. The little girl who spent her childhood singing in choirs and festivals went on to talent contests in bars.

It was at just such a competition at the Corral in Oshawa that Croy met D.J. Hopson, who she refers to as her "guidance counsellor."

He has helped her launch her career by putting together a band, booking gigs and serving as executive producer of her CD.

To further develop her natural musical talent, Croy took piano lessons from Debbie Cammack in Uxbridge for about a year. Now she is concentrating on her second year of learning the guitar from Daniel Cammack, a local 17-year-old who also plays drums, keyboard and harmonica.

She hopes to get good enough to strum on stage with "The Katie Croy Band."

"I love performing live," said Croy. "The audience reaction really fuels you with energy."

They are booked into country bars in Whitby and Bowmanville in the near future and looking for more engagements.

Croy enjoys her acting lessons at the Drama Workshop in Toronto. It's her favourite "stress release" where she gets to "act like a kid again."

She is also studying psychology at the University of Toronto so she can "figure out the music business."

In her spare time, Croy works at Danier where she gets fantastic suede and leather outfits to wear when she performs.

Soon she'll return to Nashville to complete an album slated for release in February '98. One of the cuts will be a song she wrote herself, "First Step."

She was inspired to do so when she had to face the difficult choice of attending a friend's wedding or Country Music Week. She chose the latter, but as a special tribute to the new bride Croy wrote "First Step" as a wedding present.



CHORD ACCORD: Goodwood resident Katie Croy, left, has a new CD out, but she's still perfecting her craft. The songbird is seen jamming with guitar teacher Daniel Cammack of Uxbridge.

Photo by LYNN CAMPBELL

Croy really enjoyed her trip to Nashville in October. When she wasn't tied up in the recording studio, she toured the famous city with her cousin Jill Clark of Sunderland who accompanied her on the trip.

Croy said she has enjoyed meeting a lot of Canadian country music stars. She is a big fan of Trisha Yarwood, Patti Loveless and Terri Clark. Her own band does a "variety" of popular material by

the Eagles, Pam Tillis and Amanda Marshall, for example, as well as original material.

Croy is really getting into writing new songs, but singing is her first love, and she has an easygoing voice with a great range and lots of personal charisma and style.

She's well on her way to achieving the kind of successes her idols have enjoyed, and making her dreams of a new red Mercedes and a Takamine guitar come true.

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