



KELITA's BIO

Kelita opens a window to your soul. Her lyrics resonate with your hurts, empathize with your pain and offer a gentle, healing nudge back to embracing and loving life.

Much of what Kelita writes and sings about is gleaned from her own life experience. From tragedy to triumph, the lessons are shared with a transparency and honesty that engages and inspires. Her ability to touch and penetrate the hearts of audiences is what drives her success, with a message that rings true in her own soul and pours out through the words with which she shares her innermost thoughts.

Even in the world of celebrities, few people have enough recognition to be known by just one name, but a diminutive Canadian singer-songwriter known simply as Kelita is one of those people. It may be because her name is so unusual, or it may be related to the fact that she has been plying her trade from early childhood.

From her imaginary stage in the hayloft of the big barn of her parent's Claresholm, Alberta ranch where she began to sing at the age of 4, to the yard light that was her first "spotlight", her love of music and performing were Kelita's escapes from significant traumatic experiences and abuse during her early childhood and teen years. In fact those escapes fine-tuned a dream that she would one day be a star – a reality that continues to expand after decades of performance.

And performance is what attracts the following that Kelita has gathered. From comic sketches delivered by a host of unique characters, boot kicking country, to melodies that stir inner most emotions with lyrics that will swell tears, Kelita's versatility and diversity allows her to captivate the hearts of her listeners and open their minds to messages with universal appeal. She has become a superstar with a mission.

Some of Kelita's past successes include:

- Five Juno Award Nominations (Canada's equivalent of the Grammy)
- CCMA's Entertainer of the Year Nomination
- CCMA's Vista Rising Star of the Year Award
- Leading Parts in "Godspell", performed at Toronto's Bayview Playhouse and Bathurst Street Theatre and "Gypsy" at the Port Dover Lighthouse Festival
- Appearances on Tommy Hunter Show, Nashville Now, CMT and Much Music
- She has shared stages with such notables as k.d. Lang, Reba McEntire and Jim Carrey.
- She gave a break to an aspiring 19-year-old from Timmins Ontario named Eileen Twain who sang back up on Kelita's hit Song "Too Hot to Handle". It was before the young lady renamed herself "Shania Twain" and went on to superstar status.

After years of climbing to the top of her field, a near fatal automobile accident saw Kelita's personal life and music career take a dramatic turn. Combine a pending recording contract with Capital Records,



Nashville, lost as a result of Capital's corporate restructuring; with dissolving a thirteen-year relationship with her husband/manager which you would think would be enough to crush anyone's dreams.

It was a time of great soul-searching for Kelita and out of the ashes, a stronger, more resilient and transparent singer-songwriter emerged. The songs she now wrote were honest, open-hearted and reflective. This new resonance with the heart attracted collaboration with recording artists Michael Burgess and Susan Aglukark. Kelita helped Susan write "Breaking Down" and "Kathy I" for her Triple Platinum Album "This Child".

A few years later Kelita met and married musician Gord Lemon who then became her producer and co-writer. The most precious product of their collaboration was their son Keldon, now a teenager. Musically, their first project garnered them the hit country song "The Strong One". Together they have created and produced all of Kelita's award winning Inspirational music CDs including "Naked Soul", for the 2000 Juno nomination for Gospel Album of the Year; "Because of Love", winner of the 2003 CGMA's. Inspirational Album of the Year, "Spirit & Truth's" nominations for Inspirational Album and song of the year in 2004 and more recently in 2008 when Kelita was nominated for Female Vocalist and her Christmas CD "Heavenly Night", nominated for two more CGMA awards.

Inspired by her deep understanding of the hurt and pain associated with childhood trauma, Kelita has developed a passion for social justice. Her music had already taken her to many countries and allowed her to impact more people than she could ever have imagined, but the "Heavenly Night" CD funded an advocacy initiative she undertook in support of young Cambodian children rescued from the sex trade. (www.heavenlynight.org)

Her newest music reflects a connection with emotional scars left in so many people today. It speaks to acknowledgement, empathy and the struggle of overcoming adversity. It has become commonplace for her audience to bestow virtues on Kelita for her music helping them through hardships, illness or seemingly insurmountable life challenges. As one of her fans proclaims; "Kelita's music is good medicine."

Kelita sees her mission of healing as only beginning and is currently preparing to release "Heart of a Woman" her new album project that she describes as her "dream come true" in the fall of 2010. It promises to touch the soul, give hope and inspiration to the wounded and calm the fears and tears of audiences around the globe.

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