

# Kelita — A Canadian Cowgirl Talent To Watch!

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CELITA'S singing career started at the ripe old age of 7. She was a little girl who got to be like her heroine Shirley Temple. Her mother dressed her in Shirley Temple style dresses and did her hair in ringlets. The young child would then go to barn up in the hayloft and find she was on stage singing. She also loved to watch the most popular variety shows such as the Ed Sullivan Show and Red Skelton Show. She and her sister would love to get dressed up and stand in front of the screen and dance to the music. She learned to play piano at the age of nine and it was on her mother's piano that she wrote her first song at the age of eleven when her father died. "I can understand that day by day," she says. "The song just poured out of me. It was really special, as if somebody had given me a wonderful gift." Tragedy struck a few years later when her mother died of breast cancer. "It was through music and poetry that she was able to express her deepest feelings and come to terms with the tragedy. I was able to cope with her feelings of grief with the help of her

local church. She would be there five nights a week in the youth choir, gospel band, senior choir, and youth group. It was in the church that she joined a gospel band called The Love And Truth Company, and went on the road for the first time. The band played in six different states on the West Coast. They recorded an album, two songs of which were penned by Kelita. The album was financed by the husband of Dorothy McGuire (of McGuire Sisters fame) who also attended the same church and greatly encouraged Kelita in her budding singing career. But her life was not as it seemed on the outside. She began to lead a double life experimenting with drinking, drugs and an unhealthy lifestyle whilst putting on a different mask for her church life. This compromise brought her much sorrow and pain. Leaving school Kelita moved to Toronto to study drama at York University where she soon began to excel in singing, songwriting, and acting. It was here also that she met her first husband. After graduation she had parts in the musicals 'Gypsy' and 'Godspell', but felt a deep longing to get back to her music and



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songwriting that enabled her to express herself much more. With the help and encouragement of her husband she left behind her acting career and decided to renew her singing career by putting out her first album entitled simply 'Kelita' in 1983. The album was distributed by Boot Records. Kelita travelled all across

Canada promoting the album and introducing herself to radio station programmers, making new friends as she did so. This exposure resulted in her having three Top 10 singles to her name and receiving the Canadian Country Music Association Vista Rising Star Award. Kelita's career continued to blossom and she was soon

opening for the likes of Reba McEntire, Randy Travis, George Jones and Waylon Jennings. Her recording career continued with her next album 'Too Hot To Handle' (RCA/A&O) and singles 'Too Hot To Handle', 'Saturday Night Dancing' and 'I Need To Be Needed' which received extensive radio play. Her new found fame enabled Kelita to experience travel to several parts of the World, joining the Canadian Armed Forces and United Nations Summer and Christmas Concert Tours she visited Israel, Egypt, Cyprus and Germany. Audiences everywhere receive her with great enthusiasm. In spite of all the adulation Kelita's spiritual life was not doing well. Her husband had effectively replaced God in all aspects of her life and she was living a life of sin and sorrow. Her marriage broke up following a serious car accident in 1988 after which Kelita rededicated her life back to Jesus. During one of her UN tours Kelita met Gord Lemon, who became her producer and co-writer. They subsequently married and have one son called Kekkon. About the same time Kelita teamed up with the Inland recording

artist Susan Aglukark and together wrote 'Kathy I' and the Top Ten Canadian hit which was featured on Susan's platinum selling album. In 1988 her song 'Neighbours Of The World' was featured as the official song of Canada's Winter Olympics held in Calgary. Kelita's latest album 'The Strong One' (Heart & Soul) features her in autobiographical introspection. It's an album where the vocalist wears her heart on her sleeve and therefore comes across with great transparency and impactive honesty. This modern Canadian cowgirl has a rich warm voice that captures attention immediately. Her quality material is clear, direct, and honest, packaged musically in contemporary country chart styling. It is obvious that this inspirational album has been a labour of love and is highly autobiographical in content. Highlight tracks include 'Don't You Think It's Time', 'River Of Jordan' and 'Unusual Child'. Beautifully packaged, this album deserves a major label release and I would highlight it as an album worth searching out. It may be difficult to track down therefore a fax to Canada on 001 905 765 0228 should provide you with all the information you need.

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