

Hurst honing her craft

Ladner artist featured on DCTV

TREVOR WALES
South Delta Leader

newsroom@southdeltaleader.com

Rosemarie Hurst's music is much more simple and intimate than the hook-driven pop songs which currently rule the airwaves: she describes her first CD, "Eyes of the Angels," as an "unadorned acoustic record," and the soft, relaxing songs match her personality.

"I'm a very quiet person by nature," she says above the background noise in Ladner's bustling Starbucks. "Having to speak so loud in here is killing me right now."

Hurst has called Ladner home for two years now, and in the time here she has become a member of the Delta Arts Council, through which she's had her photo art cards on display at a number of locations, including the Ladner Pioneer Library's shop and the Tsawwassen Arts Centre.

They will also be on sale at this Sunday's final Ladner Village Market Day in the Delta Arts Council tent.

The photo art cards feature mainly nature shots from throughout the Lower Mainland, including several shot in Stanley Park, West Vancouver, and even here in Ladner.

"I've always been really big on nature scenes and animal pictures," Hurst says. "I don't really do many pictures of people. I find nature shots to be much more peaceful, more spiri-

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Ladner-based singer/songwriter Rosemarie Hurst also has her photo art on display at numerous locations in South Delta.

Two more CDs in the works

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And while photography has always been a passion of Hurst's, she insists that it's no more important to her than song writing.

"I've been writing ever since I was a kid, from when I was maybe five-years-old," she says. "I love writing, and self-expression has always been really important to me."

Her main method of expressing herself for a long time was poetry, which is reflected in her songs in a style she calls poetical lyricism. She began writing songs shortly before moving to Vancouver from Ancaster, Ontario in 1997, but her big break didn't come until 2003.

She responded to a call for entry from the B.C. Festival of the Arts which was looking for singer/songwriters who could accompany themselves on an instrument and showed promise for a professional career. She sent in a couple songs and was among 14 people selected from the 100 applicants.

She found herself performing on stage for the first time in front of a crowd of 250 people at the Herald Street Theatre in Victoria, an experience she called "absolutely terrifying, but totally worth it."

"If somebody had said to me a few years back that in a very short amount of time I was going to be working alongside (acclaimed Canadian songwriter) Stephen Fearing, I would've said 'not a chance'. I would've thought they were out of their mind," Hurst says. "But it's funny how these things work out."

Later that year she recorded her debut CD on Bowen Island at a bed and breakfast owned by Teun Schut, who also runs a studio there. The 10-track CD is a collection of songs written between 1998 and 2002, and she accompanies herself on guitar, shakers, and harmonies. One of the songs even features some lyrics in French.

"I really had to step outside my comfort zone because I'm pretty introverted," she says. "But it was so exciting and was an amazing process."

So exciting that Hurst has plans

to release two more discs, the first of which could drop as early as the beginning of 2007.

The details of that second CD are shrouded in secrecy, although Hurst did say that it was entirely based on someone else's poetry which she has written music for.

The third disc features some material left over from "Eyes of an Angel," and will also have some new songs. Hurst is also considering a couple cover tunes as well.

"I'd like to mix it up a bit on some of the new stuff," she says. "I've never tried electric guitar, and I've also thought about making things a little more jazzy. But it'll still be very soft."

Hurst has appeared on DCTV's "Spotlight" for the month of August, which features several local performers over the course of the half hour show. Hurst's performance features two songs, including one written exclusively for the show called "My Best Friend."

"Spotlight" airs Monday at 10:30 p.m., Wednesday at 8:30 p.m., and Friday at 5:30 p.m.