



Campbellton native Brenda Best is making great strides in her music career in Nashville.

Performing well south of the border

BY TREVOR MCNALLY

CAMPBELLTON ► A former Campbellton resident is making great strides in her music career south of the border.

Brenda Best said last week that as of late, things couldn't be going any better for her in Nashville, where she recently released her latest album.

"It has definitely become a career for me...not a fantasy or a dream. I had a plan to use my talents, so like any business professional, it didn't happen overnight. In fact, it's still happening, it's a journey," she said in an e-mail exchange.

"I guess because I have even higher goals to reach than my present successes, it seems like I'm just scratching the surface, but it feels really good making a living doing what I love to do."

Best said she left Campbellton for Fredericton in 1984 where she lived for about five years getting her feet even more wet in music. In 1989, she headed west for Winnipeg where after a few years she found herself bouncing between Vancouver and Virginia for close to a decade. Her final move was in 1999 when she ended up in Nashville, where she's been ever since.

"I am very proud of my hometown of Campbellton. There is a video on my website (www.brendabest.net) called *Eminent Domain* that is about Campbellton. Another of my original songs called *Golden Years* won an ASCAP Award this year so things are going very well."

Best said she received a telephone call from another former Campbellton resident who studying voice acting in Ottawa. Stephen Bujold, who worked for CKNB on four separate occasions grew up in the city thirty-some years ago and he and Best have since found one another through Facebook where they continue to keep in touch.

She wouldn't disclose her age because, as she says, she doesn't ever want to think herself too old to continue pursuing her goals.

"That age question always gets the 'Best' of me," she joked. "I'm sure locals will know how old I am, but I wouldn't want to see it in print. I truly never want to confirm that to myself for the fact that I never want to believe that I'm too old and should quit doing something I LOVE to do."

Best said she writes about almost anything and gets her ideas from a wide range of topics.

"My inspiration for writing seems to come to me from all around me, from my personal experiences to other people's experiences as well (*Golden Years* was written for a friend's parents who were celebrating their wedding anniversary). My friend asked me to write a song for his folks, and I did. Then I recorded it, got one copy pressed on CD as a gift for their anniversary...then realized this could sell and make money. I never realized I'd win an award and it would become my best-selling CD at The Nashville Nightlife Theater where I perform over 250 shows every year. It is quite an accomplishment getting recognition for my songwriting with The American Society of Composers, Authors & Publishers."

Best said that 2012 is shaping up to be as busy as 2011 was. She wrote a song that she hopes will be used in commercials.

"My song *A New Me* was pitched as a jingle to AVON for their advertising campaign (AVON brand: ANEW). I wasn't aware they were launching a worldwide competition via their website looking for positive material for a girl group and also a songwriting competition as well. Thanks to my sister Doris in Atholville, who heard



Best with her producer Shawn Pody

about the AVON International Songwriting Competition."

She said she entered the competition and it's the song heard when you click on her website. There were more than 10,000 entries but her's was not one of the 10 finalists. However she's still hopeful that AVON will come calling.

"But luck or fate was still on my side and my song somehow made it to AVON Execs in the Marketing Department in Cincinnati and 'voila' my song is now being considered for a TV campaign."

She said a career in music is always something she wanted in life.

"I used to dream about and think 'Ahhh I wonder how that happens getting a song with a huge company like Coke, Pepsi?' but I never thought of AVON. Anyhow, things are beginning to get very exciting for me."

Even while she continues to make great strides in music, she has nev-



Brenda Best performing at Hard Rock Nashville recently



Those opportunities when Best can kick back and relax are few and far between

er forgotten where she came from or how she got to where she is now.

"I love making my family proud and my hometown as well. It seems that my story could inspire anyone that ANYTHING in this life or world is possible. We're all just people, born

the same way into this world, but with a little ambition and making a decision to pursue something important to oneself can make a difference in how one's life turns out."

For more information on Best, visit www.brendabest.net