



Hurlburt campaign moves along with next concert

Chantal Kreviazuk is coming to the Vernon Performing Arts Centre in support of the Rebuilding Hurlburt campaign, Oct. 1.

By Kristin Froneman - Vernon Morning Star

It has been a long time since Chantal Kreviazuk has visited this neck of the woods.

Scheduled to play the Salmon Arm Roots and Blues Festival in the summer of 2003, the Winnipeg-born singer/songwriter/pianist had to cancel her performance last minute due to the massive widespread power outage that occurred out east.

Six years, three babies, an album, and a few hair product commercials later, the singer is ready, once again, to play for adoring Okanagan fans.

Kreviazuk follows in the footsteps of TV personality Rick Mercer and guitar great Randy Bachman as the next entertainer to play in support of the Rebuilding Hurlburt campaign to refurbish the more than 70-year-old children's camp on Okanagan Lake.

She takes the stage at the Vernon Performing Arts Centre Oct. 1.

"She will have a new CD out in August and plans to play in a trio with a cellist and violinist," said

Loretta Bell-Hardy, Hurlburt liaison with the community campaign.

Besides raising three young children with her husband, Our Lady Peace frontman Raine Maida, at their home in California, Kreviazuk has been busy writing her upcoming album with the working title, Plain Jane.

"I lead a very unique life, I think, not because I am a singer-songwriter, but because I am a singer-songwriter whose material is most celebrated in my native country, Canada, but I live part time in another country," says Kreviazuk on her MySpace blog.

"In California, where Raine and I have a home/home studio, I am simply a mom — a working mom, yes, but I am mostly a typical mom. In Canada, I am a singer, who does interviews and has videos, a commercial and lots of very public advocacy work for many organizations I believe in, which puts me far more out front."

A classically-trained pianist, Kreviazuk will perform on the Performing Arts Centre's nine-foot Hamburg Steinway concert grand piano.

Kreviazuk, 36, took to her own concert grand piano at her home studio to write her fourth and last album, 2006's Ghost Stories, which was co-written and produced by Maida.

That CD followed on the success of 2002's What If It All Means Something, with its massive hit single In This Life, which is still heard on about every radio station, as well as a few commercials and soundtracks, to this day.

Kreviazuk's reflective and personal style of lyrical songwriting goes back to the days of her first two albums, 1997's Under These Rocks and Stones, with its hit single God Made Me, and 1999's Colour Moving and Still. Both had multi-platinum sales in Canada, with the latter earning Kreviazuk two Junos for Best Female Artist and Best Pop/Adult Album.

A prolific songwriter, who has penned hits for the likes of Avril Lavigne, Gwen Stefani and Kelly Clarkson, Kreviazuk has also recorded versions of popular songs that have been used on soundtracks for movies and TV.

Her cover of John Denver's Leaving on a Jet Plane was featured on the Armageddon soundtrack, and a version of Randy Newman's Feels Like Home was used on (TV show) Dawson's Creek. Another cover of The Beatles' In My Life was used on the late NBC series Providence.

Known for her work helping children's organization's such as War Child Canada, Kreviazuk has travelled to Iraq, and more recently went to Ethiopia to give voice to the AIDS crisis and the many orphans who have lost their parents to the disease.

"It's ideal that she is coming to Vernon to lend her support to a camp that has given so much to thousands of children from all over the valley," said Bell-Hardy.

Kreviazuk takes the stage at the Vernon Performing Arts Centre Oct. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale this Saturday at the centre's Ticket Seller box office. Order them by phone at 250-549-7469 or online at www.ticketseller.ca.