



proved a real highlight of her first jaunt to “Music City, USA”.

“It was really cool, a really great experience, as it usually takes years to get to sing at the Bluebird Café,” she told me recently.

Jefferson is just one collaborator or witness to her musical development who is greatly confident of considerable future success for Haley Breedlove. A Nashville resident of fifteen years and songwriter recorded by no less than country superstar and Mr. Nicole Kidman, Keith Urban, he

seems eager to learn, is very observant and has a natural ear when it comes to hearing something she likes. It was an honour to write with her and I look forward to seeing what the business of music will reward her with in the future.”

And although the opportunity to collaborate slipped by this time, Kerr concurs, telling me: “I think Haley is a very talented young girl. She’s already made a good impression here in Nashville with several songwriters and is not your average 16 year-old country singer. She really has a strong musicality, playing several instruments well.”

HALEY BREEDLOVE: ADVENTURES IN MUSIC CITY, USA

BY DAVID MORRISON

On Tuesday November 11th last year, Taylor Swift’s “*Teardrops On My Guitar*” scooped *Country Song of the Year* at the BMI Country Awards held in Nashville. This prestigious bestowal is the latest of many handed to her, honours coming so thick and fast that the Swift mantel will surely be buckling under their collective weight. What is so notable, however, is that this country music megastar turned just 19 years-old in December.

Just a short drive from where country music’s glitterati were assembled that night, another young female country singer was taking the next step in her efforts to ultimately join their ranks. The scene was the legendary Bluebird Café, a venue where pretty much every country music luminary you could name has performed: Garth Brooks, Dixie Chicks, Emmylou Harris, Kris Kristofferson and Trisha Yearwood are just five among hundreds just as famous, the full role call practically a history of the last quarter-century of the genre.

Accompanying her Nashville producer, Paul Jefferson, on a song of his she’s recorded, Qualicum Beach’s 16 year-old Haley Breedlove loved every second of what

knows a thing or two about talent. He sees it in abundance in this young lady, her spot with him at the Bluebird Café particularly turning his head.

“I’ve seen veteran entertainers get jittery playing at this place; it’s just so intimate, people say. But Haley was comfortable and sang as she always does – great!” Jefferson enthused. “She has all the elements of a great singer and all she needs is an opportunity to be heard.”

The purpose of Haley’s trip to Nashville was to lay down some tracks with Jefferson, but also to continue honing her songwriting skills under the guidance of some seasoned veterans of the discipline.

“I went down there to record, and I wrote with RyLee Madison and Larry Wayne Clark. I was also going to write with Laurie Kerr, but she ended up getting sick, so I didn’t get to do that,” Haley recalled. “I completed three songs, but I plan on going down to do three more songs, then eventually have a full album.”

Madison was also deeply impressed with her young charge, saying: “Though Haley is brand new to the craft she has great ideas,

While her champions confirm she possesses rapidly evolving musical attributes aplenty, Haley is also blessed with a quality absolutely essential in anyone striving to make it in their chosen field: patience. Her trip to Nashville underlined the necessity for this trait, Haley returning home wiser for the experience.

“I learned that you have to be patient with things and that things do take time,” she told me, explaining that completion of work on the follow-up to her 2006 debut album, “*This Is Me*,” could take “one, two, maybe even three years!”

It really does seem that everything is moving in exactly the right direction for Haley Breedlove, a steadily rising star who has been aiming for the top since she was just a tot. She is content to chip away at her sophomore offering as and when she can, perhaps crafting a country smash hit in the process. And, who knows, one day in the not-too-distant future, the *BMI Country Song of the Year* award could well be placed into the grateful hands of Haley Breedlove at the very moment another young hopeful takes to the stage at the Bluebird Café.~

Haley Breedlove will be performing at Nanoose Place in Nanoose Bay at 2pm on Sunday January 25th. For more information: www.haleybreedlove.com www.myspace.com/haleybreedlove. Haley’s CD is available at Timbuktu in Qualicum Beach.