



Interview: Heidi Duss / Foto: Marco Duss

## **Interview with Susan Hickman, CMA Fest Nashville, 11.06.10**

### **Q: Is this your first appearance at CMA Fest?**

A: Yes it is the first time that I'm going to be performing and the first time at CMA Fest altogether. I'm very excited about it.

### **Q: How did you choose the name on your current single "Hell still Aint Frozen over"?**

A: Actually I didn't write this song, I don't know what the writers thought about when they came up with it, but whatever they where, it turned out really well. It is a beautiful ballad. I think it is something that somebody who's listening to it, really can relate to because most of us have been there or have gone thru that.

### **Q: You have a new CD coming up for release soon?**

A: Yes, July 20. is the official release date for the CD. We're really excited about it because it is such a long time coming and we've been waiting for the perfect time to release it. It has been going so good this year and everything has just been falling into place.

### **Q: Can you tell me about this CD? The songs on there?**

A: Yes, we have 10 songs on there, some really beautiful ballads, the writers where really incredible. Then some up tempo feel good fun songs. I actually have a cover of an Allman Brother song on there, "Whipping Post", it is one of my favorites. It's a classic Rock and it was really important to me to have that kind of a song on a country record. It is not something somebody would do normally, but it shows, "hey, I can be diverse, I can do something outside the box and still be ok.

### **Q: How did your musical career get started?**

A: I started at a really young age. I always wanted to be a singer, ever since I was very little. Everybody knew it too. But when I really got serious about it, my Mom and Dad told me "you'll know when you really want to do this and when you do, you let us know and we'll be behind you every step of the way. " I started making calls to agencies, saying hey I'm ready, I want to do this. I just kept calling, calling, calling, and made some appointments. Then I gave Mom my itinerary and told her ok, we'll do this tomorrow. We just kind of jumped in

and learned everything we could about the business. We've been doing really good and we have a lot of plans for the future. It's a very exciting time right now.

**Q: How old were you when you actually got started?**

A: Professionally, I guess about 12 or 13 years old. But I started singing around the house and in Church when I was really young. I started playing the piano when I was 5, I play the Violin and I've been playing Guitar a few years.

**Q. Where your parents involved with music?**

A: My Mom always did sing, my Dad does not do much with music, but my uncle, my Dad's brother is a fantastic Guitar and Banjo player. Anything with strings, he is amazing. We always sing at family reunions, everybody knows how to harmonize, it's really cool when we all get together.

**Q: Who influenced you the most in music? Why country music?**

A: You can do so much with country music. Like what I do with the Allman Brothers, you can even go outside the box and make it, it's got a country feel to it, but it's got so many influences of southern rock and stuff like that. You can turn on a country station and hear a little bit more pop, a little bit more rock or a little bit more bluesy, I think that is why I picked country music. As far as who influenced me, my Mom helped me a lot, I think she was a big influence on me. I love Garth Brooks, Dolly Parton, Steven Tyler from Aerosmith, he is my absolute favorite.

**Q: Do you listen to other kinds of music also?**

A: I love a lot of different kinds of music. I'll have the radio on an oldies station one day, then on a country music station the next, or rock, depending on the mood. There's a song for every mood.

**Q: You were in Europe this year, what were your impressions?**

A: We went to Germany, Switzerland and Holland and it was amazing, we were there for two weeks and just had a blast. I really liked Switzerland, we spent four days there and were able to sightsee a little bit. We didn't get to do that in the other places. We went to Zurich and to Bulach, it's probably the cleanest place I've ever been. It was really great and the people we were with were so much fun.

**Q: You are going to France in July, have you been there before?**

A: I have never been in France, but I've always wanted to go there. I specially want to see Paris, I'd really like to take a train and go there. We will be in France four days and we are playing at the Rendez-vous Festival in Craponne, it is a three day festival and they expect around 30,000 people in attendance. I'm very excited and really looking forward to it.

**Q: Are you planning on another European tour?**

A: Yes, I'm hoping to be back next year around March again.

**Q: Are you married?**

A: Yes, I met my husband through a mutual friend.

**Q: Is your husband a musician?**

A: He plays Piano and Guitar, but he is not playing for a living. He used to play all the time, but he works so much now. He is a beautiful Piano player, I didn't know until a few years ago when he got on a Piano and started playing, he is really good. I've been telling him that I have a couple of songs I want him to play the piano on, I keep telling him that I really need him on there.

**Q: Do you have any children?**

A: No children, but we do have a dog. She is about enough baby that we need right now. We are going to wait a few years to have children.

**Q: Do you participate in any sports?**

A: I used to be into football, I played with my friends all the time, it was a lot of fun. I love to watch baseball and I used to watch basketball too, but I can't play at all. My husband used to play baseball.

**Q: Are you involved in any Charities?**

A: Well, the New York SPCA really needs donations. I try to donate to them and try to help out anyway I can. They have a big auction coming up in September. They need things they can auction off, so I try to send some things for that.

**Q: What is your biggest wish for the future?**

A: To be successful in what I'm doing right now, I really want to make a name for myself. I don't care about being famous or anything like that. I just want to make my mark in the world. I hope that I can really touch the lives of people with my music, something they can relate to, so they say "that really helped me, or that really changed my life."

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