**Ruth Manning - Bio**

Ruth grew up in a musical household and began singing since at the age of 2 with her three older sisters in a family group known as “the Best Girls”. The group took part in many variety shows and festivals in the Annapolis Valley area for many years, including the Triple D Bluegrass and Old time Music Festival when Ruth was age 10 and 11. As a teenager, Ruth continued to sing in this family group and began to perform on a solo basis as well.

Upon graduating from Central Kings Rural High School, Ruth entered into studies at Nova Scotia Teachers College to pursue her teaching degree. During her time there from 1990 to 1994, Ruth performed both on her own and with many others at college functions. During this time period, Ruth also entered several singing contests in the Valley and the Truro area. In 1993, she joined a country band in the Truro area and played for several engagements in Truro and the surrounding area.

Since 1995, Ruth has worked with a number of bands and performers, making her way around Nova Scotia, PEI and New Brunswick including Triple Time, Sidekixx, Route 12, Graham Moorehead, and Ryan Cook. She is pleased to say that she has been involved in country music for over 40 years.

In 2005, Ruth won a singing contest in Dartmouth which took her to Nashville to sing on the stages of Tootsies Bar and The Nashville Palace. She has since completed four solo CD’s which include many of Ruth’s original songs, two of which were recorded in Nashville. The most recent is a Christmas CD which features a mixture of original songs, traditional Christmas songs and country Christmas favourites. Ruth’s original music has received radio play on several stations here in Nova Scotia, Ontario, the US, Australia, Germany, New Zealand and beyond.

Ruth received a nomination for Music Nova Scotia’s Country Recording of the Year in 2016 for her ***Tennessee Calling*** project. From this CD, a video was produced for the song “Unsung Heroes” that achieved over 25, 000 views on Facebook and many on Youtube as well.

This year, Ruth was thrilled to receive a Josie Music Award nomination for her video “Unsung Heroes” and to attend the awards show in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee in Sept. 2018.

Ruth’s TV appearances include being a top 4 finalist on the Atlantic Songwriters’ Challenge on Eastlink TV in 2016 and an appearance on CTV Morning Live in Nov. 2018 to perform the song “Unsung Heroes” in honour of Remembrance Day. CTV also played this video for Remembrance Day 2019.

2019 was a very exciting year for Ruth’s music journey. In March of 2019, Ruth saw two of her original songs make it to the semi-finals in the Music City Song Star contest in Nashville out of thousands of entries. In the same month, Ruth attended the North American Country Music Association International in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee where she won Most Promising Female Vocalist for Traditional Country and Songwriter of the Year for Traditional Country.

In May of 2019, Ruth was notified that she was nominated for two Josie Award categories – Rising Star Female Vocalist across all genres and Holiday Song of the Year. In September of 2019, Ruth attended the Josie Music Awards where she won the Rising Star Female Vocalist across all genres. This was a huge accomplishment!

Shortly after winning the Josie Award, Ruth was notified that she had won a World Songwriting Award for her song “Second Wind”. As the fall of 2019 continued, additional songs reached semi-final status in the UK Songwriting Awards and the most recent round of the Music City Songstar Competition in Nashville.

Ruth was very pleased to be asked to host and organize ***Heat Up the Mountain* *Music Festival*** in July of 2019 and she is very excited to be back again in 2020 as this new festival grows!