

UXBRIDGE SONGSTRESS WANTS YOUR VOTE

It's common knowledge that Uxbridge is rife with talented young men and women who are putting their roots down here, but spreading their wings in the wider world. Julien Kelland is poised on the edge of this adventure. The 15-year old USS student is set to take part in a national songwriting competition, beginning March 10 and ending March 24. Her song *Falling For You*, which was written with fellow Uxbridge singer/songwriter Leah Daniels, will be featured on Toronto radio station 99.9 Virgin Radio. Listeners will have the opportunity to hear the song and then vote for it online.

The Bell Media 21st Annual Radio Star National Songwriting Competition is open to "emerging artists who compose and perform original Canadian material." There are nine participating radio stations across the country, so the contest is divided into regions, with there being regional winners, along with a national winner. Social media is also a big determinant of the contestants' final score, but there will also be industry professionals who will judge the entries.

"I didn't even know about this contest, my mom was looking for things for me to be involved in, and we found this. *Falling For You* is a song that I wrote with Leah at the Music Hall, and I think it's pretty good. It's kind of in the pop style, but it's not really mainstream. It's not dance, but it's still upbeat," says Julien.

Falling For You was recorded and mixed at Ineo Studios here in Uxbridge, which is owned by Brett Simmonds.

Julien says that Leah Daniels has been a huge support to her burgeoning career, and describes her as both a mentor and a friend. Julien participated in Leah's summer music camps while growing up, and eventually started assisting with the camps.

At her young age, Julien has already crammed a lot into just a few years.

She says she started singing at six, recorded some cover songs at 10, and was performing at 13. She takes vocal lessons with Jennifer Neveu-Cooke, and is a member of the Bella Nove choir. She takes piano lessons, and five dance classes with the Uxbridge Dance Academy.

Julien is also a semi-finalist in the 2013 International Songwriting contest. Her song *You + Me*, co-written with Daniel Mulholland and Brett Simmonds, is part of the the top eight per cent of



Julien, left, and Leah Daniels, right, perform together at a concert at the Uxbridge Music Hall. Submitted photo

entries to that contest - there were almost 19,000 from over 100 different countries. Julien will find out on Monday, March 3, whether she has been chosen as a finalist in that competition.

No one - especially a 15-year old in high school, can do it all, and Julien readily acknowledges the great team she's got behind her.

"Oh, my parents are great, my band is super, there's Leah, there's Caitlin (Christoff Taillon) who does my marketing...everyone is so super."

Keep an eye on *The Uxbridge Cosmos* for reminders to listen to *Falling For You* either on her website www.julienkelland.com, or through

99.9 Virgin Radio. Julien also has a Facebook page, and can be followed on Twitter. She also has several videos on YouTube.

(The Uxbridge

Cosmos is listening to Julien's songs as this is going to press, and *Falling For You* is definitely worth a listen! We'll vote for it!



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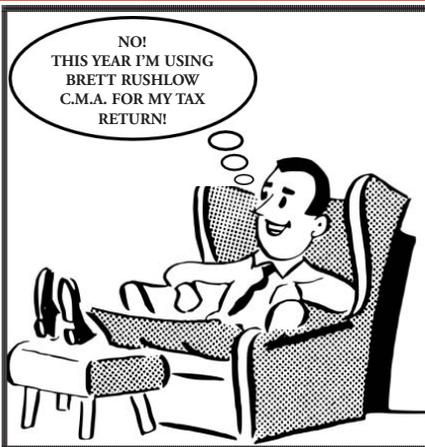
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