

# The Little Masters

by Rama J. Vernon

There are children who hear the angels sing, who commune with an essence of a spirit that is unseen by most eyes. There are children who wonder why we cannot live in a world without violence. A world where there is clean air, water and a reverence for mother earth and the life forms that she cradles and sustains. A world where animals roam freely without fear of one another or the carnivorous appetite of hu-man. A world where all species of creation live in harmony with one another understanding the underlying universal law that "we are one".

Just as there are those who wonder and those who hear the angels sing, there are those who sing like an angel. Kelsey Fry is one of these little masters who have entered our world with a song in her heart and a desire to share the music of the spheres with others. She is an artist and is emerging as a master of the arts beginning at the tiny age of 2 years and even earlier. When we see children like Kelsey, how can we ever doubt that they have come into this world with a mission. Through her art and her presence, Kelsey lightens the hearts and quickens the soul, lifting her peers and elders to new heights through her music and songs.



*Kelsey Fry, nine years old*

Kelsey has been performing since the age of five, singing and dancing and acting in over 30 shows. She was the feature soloist performing her own original music at the Vogue Theater, Granville Island Mainstage and Revue Theater, Harmony Arts Club Festival, Pacific National Exhibition, Children's Hospitals and more.

## *...there are those who sing like an angel.*

Before Kelsey could talk, at the age of two, she stood on a picnic table in her diaper and sang the song "twinkle twinkle little star". Those watching could not believe their ears or eyes. Her mother, Terri, thought it was normal because Kelsey had always sang even when she was a younger baby.

It was Kelsey's grandmother and grandfather that told Terri that Kelsey's abilities and talents were highly unusual for a child of such a young age. She was always on key... and melodious with her voice since infancy. Her mother thought it was always the way babies were... but

then after time... she realized that Kelsey was different.

"Kelsey would sing to the ceiling at night just before falling asleep. Her singing voice is maturing each day... her music deepens and expands to new avenues of exploration."

Terri's own background as a figure skating coach does not seem to genetically relate to Kelsey's music. "I was one of the figure skating coaches who switched from competing to coaching. I loved helping others to believe in themselves. I feel that is my true purpose in life" said Kelsey's mother. "I coached for 19 years before retiring... and realized... that is what I really do... why not transfer that talent of coaching to my own daughter, Kelsey. I transferred those

coaching skills to being at home... to help her follow her own path. I hope that she will find the same happiness in her chosen profession and her life as I have found in mine. If we find that balance in our profession... then our personal life seems to also be harmonious and fulfilling."

At the age of four, Kelsey did her first show. "She couldn't get auditions for singing groups because most performing artists and producers felt that she just couldn't be good at the age of four and wouldn't even listen to her," Terri said. Kelsey wasn't into children's music but music that had real "drama" and story to it... like the music in the Disney shows that appeal to both adults and children and support story lines with a moral.

She would continually catch musical songs on the radio... and say "that song has really good words." Words and deep meaning... gave the foundation to her current musical compositions that are classed now as "pop rock" but she seems to be geared more dramatically towards musical theater.

*Masters, continued on p. 11.*





The first song that she wrote was registered with a copyright agency for musicians in Canada and the U.S. She signed the papers at the age of six and felt like a young adult copy-righting it at that tender age. The song was good enough to perform and she did perform it often at community functions such as the arts festival, Pacific Songwriters Association and for many other concerts and public performances.

Since the age of four, Kelsey has composed and performed her own material. It was at that age that her parents realized that she should be put into a performing group.

Kelsey has always been a bit of a soloist... a kid who wants to do her own thing. She's a child with unending energy... not a nervous energy... but she has to be learning and absorbing all the time," her mother, Terri, said. "her lyrics are like those of a 'very old soul.'"

"At night, when I can't sleep" Terri shared, "Kelsey will say to me 'You know how I'm connected with you... and you are connected with Grandma... and she's connected... like the connection of dots.'" She then traces us all back to where we are all connected. She says frequently to me and others, "Go within. That is our real dictionary. That's our real source of information. It is through connecting as a whole where we get our real information."

Kelsey is home-schooled so she can adjust her schedule to acting on television. But Kelsey has not chosen to follow the path of TV because her heart is deeply in the development of her music. Kelsey is an extremely bright child. She has a music mentor, an artist who composes musicals. The mentor relationship keeps the creative path open... be-

cause if she is trained only in the traditional methods without the creative opportunities, it can close down her creativity and spontaneity.

Kelsey has said, "The right foot is the discipline side. If that was all, we can only hop on the one foot. If we used only our left foot which could be creativity, we could only hop. If we use both feet... it brings freedom of both the discipline and the creativity."

"When I balance the creativity with the discipline, then I can walk... and even run," Kelsey says, with the wisdom of the ages.

Kelsey and her mentor are developing a special "language" to communicate Kelsey's natural creativity with traditional musical paths.

There are stars that have never had a musical lesson in their life. Then there are those who have the discipline and lose their own intuitive creativity in the process... perhaps they lose the trust in their own inner intuition.

"Sometimes the opinions of others override and put a knot in my stomach," Kelsey's mother says. "But if we follow our own heart and trust our own intuition, then we find the balance between rigid discipline and the creative. It really takes listening inside...it's a juggling act."

Terri encourages all mothers to allow the process of your child to unfold organically. "If it gets too uncomfortable, you can always change your mind... you can always go back to the traditional methods of raising a child. You can't go wrong as long as you love that child. Kelsey can always go back to public school and traditional musical education. She can always do that. Yet, right now, we are so happy with what we are doing. I love being home with Kelsey. I choose that."

Kelsey comes not from a "broken home," but an extended family where she is deeply loved by her father, stepfather, mother, grandparents, and a wide expanse of friends. "It's difficult with a single income, Terri says, but we weigh our priorities and it's worth it. I love being at home... it's not forever... they are only young once."

She has a little dog with floppy ears that she loves very much, a cocker spaniel like those seen in picture books. His name is Shaka, which Kelsey named after a Dolphin she swam with in Hawaii. The name Shaka means peace in Hawaiian. Kelsey and Shaka have become inseparable.

Kelsey said that she dreamed and asked for a dog for 3 years before she found him... or he found her. Finally, one day, she received a dog... a Santa Puppy who became another family member. The family waited until they could be there and give the dog the love it deserved... and perhaps that is why the dog is so peaceful and happy... it knows it is wanted and loved.

Her mother says, "The dog goes everywhere... Shaka goes to Kelsey's gymnastic lessons, her music mentoring lessons and just sits and watches.

"Shaka, my beloved dog, gives his love whenever you want it, it's always there, no matter what's happening, he always gives his love unconditionally." Kelsey continues, "We humans seem to receive it... we take it... we give it at times... but Shaka always gives it. It is like an unending love, it is there at every moment. We can learn from the dog... no matter what's happening, he's always there with his wagging tail."

As to Kelsey's future direction? Her mother says, "we will follow our heart and trust in that direction. We are leaving it open... at least for the moment."

---

*Rama Vernon is founder of Women of Vision and Action, an international organization encouraging leadership for a new world. She is also President of the Center for International Dialogue.*