

= Kellie Loder =

Kellie Loder ( born 1988 ) is an independent singer @-@ songwriter from Newfoundland , Canada , who plays drums , guitar , and piano . She has released two Contemporary Christian music ( CCM ) albums : The Way in 2009 and Imperfections & Directions in 2010 . With a voice that St. John 's @-@ based newspaper The Telegram has described as " powerful yet serene and soulful " , she has been nominated for awards at the annual MusicNL awards in Newfoundland , as well as at the Juno Awards , Canada 's top music prizes .

Loder wrote her first song at age 16 about a cousin who had died in a traffic accident . She was studying nursing at the Grenfell Campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland when she released The Way in August 2009 . Also that year , she won a talent @-@ search contest hosted by YC Newfoundland , a Christian youth conference , and , as part of the award , was given time with music professionals who helped her with Imperfections & Directions , which was released at the 2010 YC Newfoundland . Loder 's nursing studies hampered her ability to showcase Imperfections & Directions by touring . Loder was nominated as Female Artist of the Year at the 2010 MusicNL awards , and then as Gospel Artist of the Year in 2011 . Imperfections & Directions was nominated as Contemporary Christian / Gospel Album of the Year at the 2012 Juno Awards .

= = Early life = =

Kellie Loder was born to Christina and Bob Loder in 1988 , and was raised in Badger , a town in the Canadian province of Newfoundland and Labrador . She considers her first introduction to music to have taken place before she was born ; her mother frequently played Michael W. Smith songs to her through headphones while she was still in the womb . Loder claims to have " natural rhythm " and that she began emulating the drummer at her Pentecostal church by beating on a pew with pencils at the age of two . At age 10 , Loder was placed in her church 's drumming ensemble .

Loder 's younger brother taught her three guitar chords when she was 14 , and she received her first guitar later that year . She began writing songs at age 16 . Her first song , which was about a cousin who had died in a traffic accident , used lyrics from a poem by one of their mutual friends . With encouragement from her family , Loder concentrated on her singing and songwriting and performed this in addition to another she subsequently wrote for a friend 's graduation .

Loder was raised as a Christian by her parents , and considers herself to have become serious about her faith in 2007 , when she " started to accept [ her ] gifts for what they were ... and just assumed it was [ from ] God . " After this experience , she began playing piano , and credited God with teaching her how to play . Loder favours the piano , considering it the most beautiful of the instruments she plays . The first song she wrote after beginning the piano was " Giants " , also for a graduating class ; the song uses the story of Goliath as its theme , generalizing the story to apply to each individual 's internal struggles . " Giants " eventually appeared on both of her albums : The Way and Imperfections & Directions .

= = Music career = =

In 2008 , while studying nursing at the Grenfell Campus of Memorial University of Newfoundland through the Western Regional School of Nursing , Loder met Devin Robinson , a record producer . The meeting led to him producing her first album , an independent release called The Way , which was recorded at Sweet Music Studios . Loder wrote all 11 songs on the album , which was released in August 2009 . The initial run of the album sold out , and she subsequently went door @-@ to @-@ door in small Newfoundland communities selling a second run of the album . On her most lucrative day selling albums in this manner , she made \$ 1000 . Loder later said that this manner of selling her album proved to be a good way to develop a fanbase ; people invited her into their homes for meals , prayer , and discussions . Also that year , she won a talent @-@ search contest hosted by YC Newfoundland , a Christian youth conference , where she performed " Giants " .

As part of the award , which was valued at C \$ 20 @,@ 000 , Loder was given a membership for

both the East Coast Music and MusicNL trade associations , and was given time at a recording studio and advice from music industry and production professionals . She was also engaged in a featured performance slot at the following year 's YC Newfoundland . Loder later referred to the music professionals she met ( including Scott Mansfield , Mark Peddle , and NewManiac Studios ' Peter Newman ) as " the top players " in the music industry of Newfoundland and Labrador , and the producers helped Loder with Imperfections & Directions , her second album . She was particularly appreciative of Newman , who produced the album , mixing Imperfections & Directions with Tom Laune in Nashville , Tennessee . Loder originally conceived " Fearless " ( one of the album 's tracks ) as a techno song , and believes that Newman was the one who made that techno feel a reality .

On November 14 , 2009 , Loder opened for the Newfoundland @-@ based Christian rock band Anyday , which was launching its debut album , Got Extraordinary , at a benefit concert at Springdale 's Indian River High School . This concert , which was Loder 's first performance in Springdale and her first time performing with Anyday , raised \$ 675 to support David Willis and his family in Willis 's battle with lymphoma at Daffodil House in St. John 's , with more than 100 people in attendance . She and Anyday were scheduled to perform together again on November 28 at Dorset Collegiate on Pilley 's Island .

Loder moved to St. John 's in January 2010 , and performed alongside Starfield and Roy Martin later that year at the Exploits Valley Salmon Festival gospel concert in Grand Falls @-@ Windsor . She also performed at the 2010 One Worship Festival in Springdale , and officially released Imperfections & Directions , another independent release , at YC Newfoundland that October . Loder 's nursing studies hampered her ability to showcase this album by touring . A reporter for The Telegram , a St. John 's @-@ based newspaper , noted that Imperfections & Directions " demonstrates how Loder wears her faith and love of God on her sleeve . " Loder was nominated as Female Artist of the Year at the 2010 MusicNL awards with Mary Barry ; Teresa Ennis ; Irene Bridger ; and Amelia Curran , the eventual winner . Loder was nominated for another MusicNL award the following year , this time in the Gospel Artist of the Year category ; this nomination was , in part , due to Imperfections & Directions .

In early 2012 , Loder made a music video for " Your Love Alone " , one of the album 's tracks , which was uploaded to YouTube . She later said she had written the song during a difficult phase in her life , and the song 's lyrics revolve around the idea that the grace and mercy of God can be found in the most difficult situations . Through her experience , she became convinced that knowing God is all @-@ important , expressing this concept in the chorus : " Your love alone is sufficient . It needs no company . " She stated that she wrote the song " One Name Away " after having watched The Tyra Banks Show . The episode featured an interview with a girl who had been forced into prostitution at a young age ; despite smiling on screen , the girl hopelessly declared that she would probably die before she turned 22 .

Imperfections & Directions was nominated as Contemporary Christian / Gospel Album of the Year at the 2012 Juno Awards , Canada 's top music awards . Loder said the nomination was a surprise ; she learned about it in a text message from Newman after missing a call from him . Her fellow nominees in the Contemporary Christian / Gospel Album category were Jon Bauer 's Forevermore , downhere 's On the Altar of Love , Sky Terminal 's Don 't Close Your Eyes and Hawk Nelson 's Crazy Love . Loder travelled to Ottawa , Ontario on March 28 to attend the awards ceremony , which was hosted by William Shatner at Scotiabank Place on April 1 . Her album was one of three Newfoundland nominees at the Juno Awards that year ; the other two were rock band Hey Rosetta ! and The Once 's folk album , Row Upon Row of the People We Know . Loder said that " on a scale of 1 to 10 " , her excitement about her Juno nomination was " probably a 10 . "

Although Loder lost the Juno Award to downhere , an alternative rock band , she said she enjoyed walking down the red carpet and would never forget meeting major Canadian musicians such as Blue Rodeo and Sam Roberts ; Loder had an opportunity to sing and play guitar with Blue Rodeo 's Jim Cuddy at the Junos . She competed in the Juno Cup hockey game , in which , at 5 feet 4 inches ( 1 @.@ 63 m ) , she was considerably shorter than most of the other players . Playing for the Rockers team of Juno nominees against the Greats team of former National Hockey League players , she was awarded a penalty shot after a fight with Troy Crowder . The Greats threw their sticks in

her way as she took the shot , which was stopped with ease by goaltender David Francey , a Juno nominee who had been traded to the Greats .

Loder returned to Newfoundland on April 2 ; the following month , she performed at Gros Morne National Park 's Trails , Tails & Tunes Festival with Dave Paddon . That July , she performed alongside Nick Hamlyn at Corner Brook 's Downtown Days festival . In December 2012 , she held two free coffeehouses in Newfoundland : at the Stavanger Drive Second Cup on the 15th and at Cornerstone Ministry Centre on the 21st . Over the subsequent months into the middle of 2013 , she performed on a monthly basis at the Stavanger Drive Second Cup , which is owned by Newman . She also performed at the Majestic Theatre and the Fat Cat Blues Bar in St. John 's . In 2013 , she was named a showcase winner by the Christian Women in Media Association ( CWIMA ) and was selected to perform at the organization 's national conference .

Loder performed six songs live as part of an interview on CBC Radio in April 2013 . She had written five of these songs , and four of them had not been previously released . The unreleased songs were " Playground " , " Nursing a Broken Heart " , " Like a Flower " , and " One Girl " , and the fourth song was " On This Drive " , which had appeared on Imperfections & Directions . The fifth song was a cover version of Johnny Cash 's " Folsom Prison Blues " . She was inspired to write the song " Nursing a Broken Heart " after watching George Stroumboulopoulos Tonight on which Hugh Jackman uttered the phrase " nursing a broken heart " as part of an interview . She wrote " Like a Flower " after a friend challenged her to write a song directed at herself as a child .

Listeners unfamiliar with Contemporary Christian music ( CCM ) often assume that Loder sings hymn @-@ style music . Her career is unusual in that it began in CCM ; most young musicians choose music genres such as country and pop , which are generally considered more likely to bring commercial success . Loder has asserted that she chose CCM because it gives purpose to her music ; many of her songs are about God , but they may also be interpreted as being about other subjects . In 2013 , she said that she was starting to write and perform songs in other genres , and hoped that she would be able to transition out of CCM as Katy Perry , Lifehouse , and Creed had done previously . In transitioning out of CCM , she wished to assure the public that she had " definitely not turned [ her ] back on [ her ] faith . "

Loder believes everything that she sings is for God , regardless of the song 's subject . She sees her music as a Christian ministry , the goal of which is to inspire people to live happier , better lives . A reporter for The Telegram called Loder 's voice " powerful yet serene and soulful " . Her songs have been played regularly on Rogers TV and CBC Radio . Specifically , her song " Raise You Higher " was selected for several song countdowns and was played across Canada by both secular and Christian radio stations . A CBC Radio reviewer called Loder " amazingly talented " , her music " gorgeous " and her song " Playground " in particular " absolutely beautiful " . In April 2012 , Loder said that she had not decided whether she would focus on medicine or music . In April 2013 , she said that music was now her focus and that she was considering moving to Toronto in hopes of increasing her opportunities to develop her music career . She was working as a Child and Youth Worker at a company called Blue Sky at the time .

= = Discography = =

= = Awards and nominations = =

2009 ? YC Newfoundland talent @-@ search contest winner

2010 ? Female Artist of the Year nominee at the MusicNL awards

2011 ? Gospel Artist of the Year nominee at the MusicNL awards

2012 ? Contemporary Christian / Gospel Album of the Year nominee at the Juno Awards for Imperfections & Directions

2013 ? Showcase winner at the CWIMA National Conference