

PREVIEW

Mother chasing her dream

Marny Duncan-Cary
Friday & Saturday
The Pump Roadhouse

By **GERRY KROCHAK**
for the Leader-Post

She's not your average pop, rock or country singer-songwriter. And though her methods might be considered less than conventional, Marny Duncan-Cary is as real as the Lumsden soil beneath her feet.

Writing songs about what's really important in life, the 35-year-old singer makes a strong case for the advantages of being a late musical bloomer.

"It's never too late to be what you could have been," she says with a shy smile.

"I think I had everything that I ever wanted in life. A great husband. Healthy, beautiful kids. A degree. A house.

"But there was still a hole.

"This is something I've always wanted to do, for reasons that maybe even I can't fully explain."

Her accomplishments in life and education to this point notwithstanding, and despite promising beginnings, Duncan-Cary faces the same struggles as any up-and-coming artist trying to take the next step.

Although most of her performance experience had been relegated to singing alone in her vehicle, around campfires with her kids, or at the odd wedding, her additional talent of songwriting was discovered only because she let her lifelong dream out of the bag, threw caution to the wind, and for the first time entered one of her songs in a talent contest sponsored by radio station CKRM in 1998.

She won.

The tunes she's written since are in preparation for what will be her debut full-length independent CD, which she is hopeful will be in local record stores by the fall.

Songs such as "Banner Road," "Straight For You," "Who's That Man" and "Linger A Little Longer" are as snappy and easy to like as anything on country or crossover radio, but they originate in a very special place.

"My husband and my kids are my biggest inspiration," she says of her muse. "I don't know if it would be considered in vogue, but my songwriting is really family-oriented.

"It's something that I can sing about because it means a lot to me, it's real to me, and I know others can relate because ... it's life."

With her family's support, and while



Marny Duncan-Cary is giving music a shot.

she has been busy preparing demos of her songs (with producer Bart McKay of the Johner Brothers), Duncan-Cary has also been working on her live set and getting used to the idea of being an entertainer.

Fans who show up at The Pump Roadhouse on Friday and Saturday night will get a good balance of original material sprinkled throughout with covers of classic rock, pop and country.

One thing they won't get from this rookie entertainer — "I've only done about 10 gigs," she says — is a last-minute case of performance anxiety.

"I love being on stage," Duncan-Cary giggles. "It's an environment that I'm really quite comfortable in. I'm a middle child, so I guess I was the one who always needed attention and approval.

"It's a lot of fun and I've got a great

band with great players (guitarist Ken Burton, bassist Brett Schinbein, drummer Jason Brinkworth and keyboardist Lorena Kelly).

"I'm looking forward to playing my own songs, but I think our strengths for a show at The Pump will be in our diversity: lots of good cover tunes, lots of up-tempo stuff, lots you can dance to, and lots you can sing along with."