

"It just works out that a couple of my sisters and a couple of my brothers play the right instruments. When I need a backup band, depending on who's schedule works, I usually have my siblings as backup," she said. "I love that my family is there supporting me with music and moral support. It's very cool that my family is who they are, because I didn't have to go out and find them — they were already there."

Beka started recording her album in October 2011, and it was released in October 2012.

"I have a friend in Montana who is a music producer, and so I spent six weeks in the studio recording the album," Beka said. "It was the most incredible experience ever."

Recording turned out to be more work than Beka realized.

"You sing each song eight different times, and then you listen to each track and pick the best notes and the best sounds to actually use on the CD. I really wanted it to sound the best that it could. It's a lot of tedious work, but the finished product is so worth it. It was definitely a really inspiring process."

Since its release, "Hidden Hope" has been selling steadily. You can buy the CD for \$10 from Beka's website www.thebeckoningmusic.com or locally at the Christian bookstore, The Carpenter Shop.

"It started out really good and has been slowed a bit since October, but I didn't expect it to just blow up and sell like crazy," Beka said. "I realize it's a process and you have to start out slow."

Beka said her favorite song on the CD is one that she wrote during the recording process.

"My favorite is probably 'So Cool,'" she said. "I had written another song that I was going to use on the CD. But during recording, I realized it just didn't jive with the rest of the CD."

"I had actually been to the top of a mountain and wrote a song about how awesome and cool it was that God made the mountains and landscapes as gifts for us. As glorious and overwhelming and mighty this Earth is to us, we're so much greater in the eyes of God. We are the peak of His creation, and when you look at the beauty he gave us, that's a pretty cool feeling," she said. "The song speaks of the awe of knowing that. We added it to the CD at the last minute, and it's my favorite."

One of Beka's greatest joys is hearing from her fans.

"I love hearing about how my songs have reached someone, and something that I wrote about how I was feeling on the inside touched someone else," she said. "I've had people ask me, 'How did you know

exactly how I'm feeling?'" That's so powerful to realize that other people have the same struggles and joys as you, to realize that we can all connect through music and faith. To know that God is working through what I've been saying is a really good feeling."

Beka is currently working on getting the word out about her CD and is practicing and putting together a set to start a tour.

"Hopefully, I'll get a tour started and sell more CDs, which will allow me to write more songs which will turn into another CD and another tour," she said. "(My plans) are for just more, really."

While Beka says her music genre is typically focused to the teen/young, she said it is suitable for all ages.

"I hope to do a tour of coffeehouses, youth groups and Sunday church services," she said. "The first tour will probably be in the Midwest and be short-term, but I'd love it to get bigger and bigger. For now, it will probably be limited to where I know people."

Beka said her favorite Bible verse, Psalm 33:3, "Sing to Him a new song, play skillfully with a shout of joy," is her musical motto.

"It pushes me to improve my skills as a singer/songwriter and musician and to remember God is my inspiration and that I should do everything with joy and be happy," she said.

■ by Tera Schmidt



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