

Edmonton Journal

Tuesday, July 15, 2003

Success chased Butterill, Not Vice Versa

by Peter North, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Without so much as a single tour to his credit, Kenny Butterill's talents have translated into a solid fan base on both sides of the Atlantic.

Raised and educated in Ottawa, Butterill now calls Northern California home. It's that part of the world where he cut his latest disc, *Just A Songwriter*, a collection of 14 insightful tunes built around memorable melodies that have impressed Americana-formatted radio stations. Quite a leap for a fellow who left Ottawa for the U.S. in 1980 with an accounting degree and the dual citizenship bestowed on him by his American father.

Butterill didn't even begin to pursue music as anything more than a passionate hobby until he began recording a few of his blues and country injected tunes in the 1990s, and it wasn't until 2002 that his tune *How Far Can We Go*, became a No. 1 hit on the European country charts.

Today, Butterill has snagged airplay on more than 300 stations worldwide, while *Just A Songwriter* continues racking up rave reviews. "There's a definite ripple effect from a bit of success," says the business consultant, who realizes he really does enjoy the best of both worlds. "I now have some credibility thanks to the Americana format and it's something for me to see my name next to Delbert McClinton's on a chart. "I've never pursued the showbiz side of music. I don't tour but I can see myself doing some house concerts in the near future."

That said, Butterill, who could likely slap together some humorous pre-song patter for tunes like *Canadian Road Trip* and *Vegetarian Dead Cow Blues* in a live format, has taken to heart the advice of Canadian friends Willie P. Bennett and Ray Bonneville. "When they were here working on *Just A Songwriter* and we were having a hoser kind of time, both Willie and Ray suggested that I just keep doing what I'm doing and talked at length about how hard life on the road is."

"I've reached that first goal and raised my profile, now it's time to pitch the whole song catalogue to the traditional country people in Nashville."

Butterill's *Just A Songwriter* can be purchased through any HMV store in Canada or via the Internet's CD Baby.