



SONY MUSIC

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## Joanna Smith - Biography

Growing- up in the small south Georgia town of Crestview, Unincorporated where her family has a working farm called “Cherokee Rose Ranch.”, Joanna Smith had Music City aspirations at an early age. Asked at age 5 what she wanted to be when she grew up she replied, “I already AM a professional country music singer but I just don’t get to get on the stage much!”

Backed by her family and armed with a tape recorder and an affinity for music by country’s iconic leading ladies including The Judds, Reba McEntire, and Dolly Parton, Joanna entered every singing competition around in hopes of perfecting her own live show. By 18, Joanna was tapped to join an all-girl band based in Nashville, but to chase her dream she had to leave behind a full scholarship to Auburn University. Despite a short run with the band and with no industry connections in a new city, she set out writing and singing demos—determined to make it in Nashville. In just a little over a year, she had her first taste of success and signed a publishing deal with Big Borassa Music. Since then, she has had two songs cut including “Flying By” on Billy Ray Cyrus’ latest record, Home At Last, has played at the legendary Ryman Auditorium, and is writing with many of Nashville’s most successful hit writers.

As a burgeoning songwriter Joanna still craved the thrill of the live performance so she earned a regular spot playing at the famed honky tonk, Tootsie’s, on lower Broadway. That experience helped establish her as a seasoned live performer and landed her a label deal with Sony Music Nashville in the Fall of 2009 and a new publishing deal with Sony/ATV-Monument.

Having just finished recording her first studio record, Joanna commented, “I wanted to write and sing country songs that hard-working, real people can relate to. Songs that folks can connect with through the ups and downs of life.” After listening to her songs you immediately know that Joanna Smith has a natural ability to relate to a realness as true as the red clay of Georgia. This saucy girl with the deep Southern twang is destined and determined to realize her dream of playing to fans across the U.S.