

LEAH KAMIYA

Biography



Leah Kamiya’s exciting emergence onto the pop scene this year with her single release of “Because The Night” is living proof that while great musical talents can cast their true passion aside for a time, outrunning their destiny is quite another matter.

Raised on an inspiring dose of Pat Benatar, Natalie Merchant, Madonna and Shakira, the Japan born, New Jersey bred singer and performer discovered her calling early—at age 13 to be exact, when she set foot in a Tokyo studio to record tracks for TDK Electronics, where her grandfather was VP at the time. She spent many of her childhood and teenage summers in her home country, where her grandparents exposed her to the dazzling R&B/jazz stylings of Wada Akiko, known affectionately as “Akko” and renowned internationally as “the Aretha Franklin of Japan.”

While developing her powerful chops as a singer and taking years of private instruction, Leah began setting her sights on becoming a multiple-threat performer, training in multiple styles of dance—ballet, tap, modern jazz and hip-hop. Life threw her a few crazy curveballs that pushed her career pursuits aside for several years, but there’s something magical about the rekindling of a dream deferred, and it’s hard to imagine her interpretation of the Bruce Springsteen/Patti Smith classic rocker “Because The Night, having the emotional impact without the wisdom she gained from the trials that have shaped her over the past few years.

This single—whose eclectic vibe makes it the perfect crossover project covering AC, mainstream pop & R&B, for fans to enjoy while Leah looks forward to her full-fledged album debut.

When a debut artist chooses to break ground on their career with covers of songs the world knows and loves, there has to be a special twist that takes the original to a whole new creative level. Leah re-imagines “Because The Night”—which she first heard via Natalie Merchant/10,000 Maniacs’s memorable 1993 version—as a lilting acoustic singer-songwriter piece.

“The best part of recording and releasing ‘Because The Night’ is that I am finally starting to live out my dream,” says Leah. “This is what I’ve always wanted to do—sing and perform and touch people with music. It’s also been so much fun interacting with the audience. My personality is upbeat and I’m a pretty wild performer who likes to have fun. The energy I feel from the crowd makes that experience even more dynamic.”