

Red Dirt Lotus - Chloe Beth Campbell

By Molly Payne

“Don’t worry about nothing’ at all...cuz we’re movin’” ~John Fullbright

I remember the first time I saw Miss Chloe-Beth. WoodyFest, 2016 - the year she turned 16. This tiny, brightly-colored haired girl stepped on the backyard stage of Rocky Road Tavern in Okemah, guitar in hand.

“How cute is she!” I thought. “Wonder what she’s going to sing?”

With a big smile on her face, she introduced herself and talked about the song she was going to play - an original. I couldn’t hear everything she was saying, but I remember her girlish giggle, followed by, “I hope you like it.”

And then she started singing...that cute, soft-spoken tiny girl could really sing! Sweetly, melodically, the song began...and then she belted out the punch line, “But Tuesday night...I chopped off all my hair!”

A ripple of laughter ran through the crowd as they realized her song might be autobiographical. You see, Chloe-Beth was not sporting just any kind of colorful hairdo, it was mostly buzzed with only a shock of hair on top.

Her performance caught the attention of some of the more seasoned singer/songwriters at WoodyFest, many of whom she has developed close relationships with - especially the women. This year she found herself sharing the stage of the Women of Woodyfest, Tulsa, with Melissa Hembree, Cassie Latshaw, Susan Herndon, Amy Carlin Lee, Chloe Johns, Lauren Lee and Peggy Johnson. She will return to WoodyFest this year as a scheduled performer at 1 pm on Friday, July 13 at the Hen House in Okemah.

Chloe-Beth has been able to continue to grow as a singer/songwriter, all while finishing up her senior year at Enid High School. And although her music family delights in watching her grow, it is her momma Niki who is her biggest fan.

Since that July day at WoodyFest, I have had the opportunity to get to know Chloe-Beth and her mom. Sometimes you meet people and quickly realize there is a connection. I feel that with them. They seem to have a special relationship...a kinship deeper than just mother/daughter - much like me and my daughter Sara.

Just prior to Chloe-Beth’s 18th birthday in February, Niki shared her memories of her pregnancy. “She was wild and reckless in the womb. She seemed commanding as if her soul was too big for my binding womb even then,” she recalled. “She is so ready for this stage in her life,” she continued. “She’s been chomping at the bit since her arrival in my womb. I am so impressed with her patience and the way she’s kept her heart open to always learn...she is rip-roaring and ready to go. 18 is really only a number...you’ve been grown for awhile.”

Still a force to be reckoned with, Chloe-Beth released her first full-length album, Remnant, on her 18th birthday. She graduated from Enid High School with high honors in May. This fall she will begin pursuing a degree in contemporary music business at the University of Central Oklahoma...all while continuing to hone her gift of music and song. Wise beyond her years, Chloe-Beth reaches inside and is able to express herself through

her lyrics, weaving tales of love, life and laughter with simple melodies. Her voice is pure, strong and beautiful - just like her soul.

Chloe-Beth, or "Little Lotus" as she is affectionately called by her mother, is rising above the red dirt waters of Oklahoma to bloom for the world. And I, for one, can't wait to see what happens next.

"I reach for the sky. I walk on the sun." ~Kasey Chambers

To buy her music or for more information go to: [www.chloebethmusic.com](http://www.chloebethmusic.com). You can also find her on Facebook or Twitter.