

# Halbrite musician Kelly Gill wins for Best Country Album

Halbrite musician Kelly Gill recently won an Akademia Music Award for Best Country Album as an independent artist for his album "One More Mile".

"I cut the album down in Nashville, and it has been doing very well. The album then got submitted to the Akademia, down in Los Angeles."

"They have different judges from all across the world, and a very general audience," said Gill.

The album "One More Mile" involves a lot of storytelling in the music itself. "One of the songs on there is a re-make of a song I had on an earlier album, called 'The Stranger'," said Gill. "There are some fun songs, but also some ser-

ious songs."

Gill's interest in music started at the young age of six years. He found his mother's old 12-button accordion on the farm and the interest turned into a passion. From the old accordion to piano to guitar to singing, it was like a thirst that could not be quenched. He performed at single appearances before he could legally drive.

As the years progressed he started the band, The Prairie Travellers, with various band members who played bass, guitar, mandolin, piano and steel guitar. He stayed with the band for 18 years and in that time developed a passion for writing as well. The Prairie Travellers recorded two albums at Touchwood Studios in Regina and

performed right across southern Saskatchewan.

That creative thirst for more however could still not be quenched. He was juggling the home cattle ranch and a full-time battery operating business in the oilfield when he decided to head for Nashville.

Gill continues to perform with current band members Neil Atkinson on bass, Wayne Honig on piano, Grant Honig on steel guitar and lead guitars and Kelly on rhythm and lead guitars. "It has been a real blast, I really enjoy playing with my backup band, the Hired Guns."

He plans for a few performances in the future, including one that will be held south of Alameda on June 11.



## On the red carpet with music executives

Halbrite musician Kelly Gill, centre (with cowboy hat), poses on the red carpet with music executives from the Akademia Music Award. Gill recently won for Best Country Album as an independent artist for his album "One More Mile".