

Aggielife

She's the

After selling 20 million records and topping Billboard's charts with such hits as "You Win My Love," Shania Twain stops in Aggieland tonight on her first world tour.



Photos Courtesy of Pace Concerts

One

BY KYLE WHITACRE
The Battalion

She has sold 20 million records worldwide, received a Grammy, won awards from The Academy of Country Music and tops Billboard charts on a regular basis.

What's next on Shania Twain's list? Leaping tall buildings in a single bound?

No, the diva of pop-country is in on her first world tour.

Twain is stopping in College Station tonight as she enters the third month of her first world tour, which is scheduled to last through May 1999.

Leahy, a Celtic dance and musical group, is opening for Twain. The group of five sisters and four brothers was hand-picked by Twain to open during her debut tour.

Performing with Twain tonight for one song will be the Texas A&M Singing Cadets. The Cadets will accompany Twain on "God Bless The Child" from her first album.

David L. Kipp, director of the Singing Cadets, said he was very excited about the opportunity. "We got a call from Reed Arena saying they

had been in contact with Shania Twain's people. They were looking for nine people to help sing backup for her," Kipp said. "We were glad to meet that need."

Kipp said choosing only nine members of the group to perform was a difficult task.

"It was hard choosing among our many, talented members, but we decided on the merit of experience and seniority," he said.

With recent performances at Carnegie Hall and on the "CBS This Morning Show," Kipp said the Singing Cadets get their fair share of the spotlight.

"We get opportunities like this all the time," Kipp said.

For the past several years the Canadian singer has topped charts and become one of the hottest female acts in the country today. She also appeared on the cover of the September issue of Rolling Stone magazine, making her the first female country artist to appear on the cover of Rolling Stone since Dolly Parton in 1980.

The pop-country superstar was born in Timmins, Ontario on Aug. 28, 1965.

Her parents were divorced when she was two, and she was raised by her mother and stepfather,

who was an Ojibway Indian.

In 1987 tragedy struck when both her mother and step-father were killed in an automobile accident. Shania Twain spent the next three years taking care of her three younger siblings by singing at a local resort six nights a week.

When her youngest brother was able to care for himself, Twain was finally able to venture out on her own.

In 1990 she recorded a demo and headed to Nashville, where she recorded her first self-titled album in 1993. She was only able to write and produce one of the songs on the album and received little attention from it.

That changed when she was noticed by Mutt Lange, producer of internationally famous acts Michael Bolton, Bryan White and Def Leppard.

The two met in 1993 and were married less than a year later.

The couple wrote and produced *The Woman in Me*, which was released in February 1995 and has sold 10 million copies since.

SEE TWAIN ON PAGE 4.

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