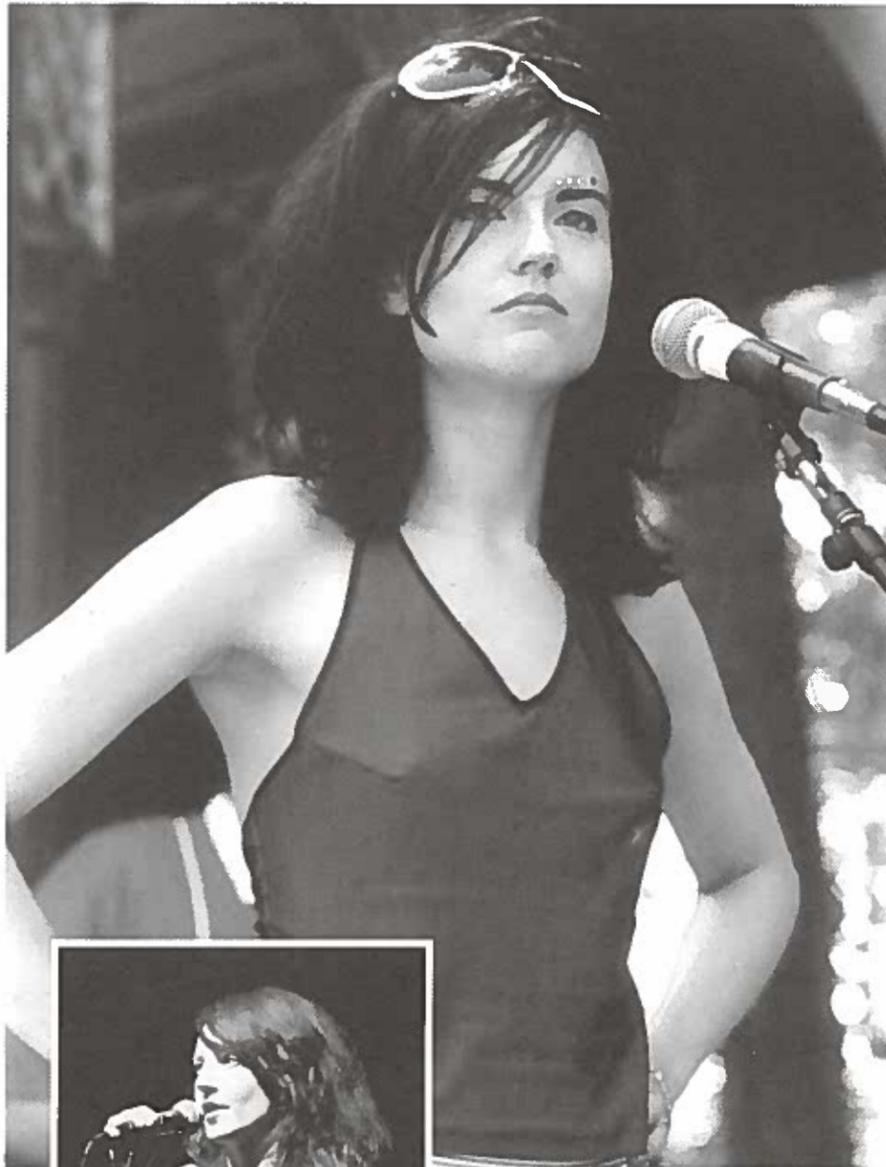


ROBERTA CARTER HARRISON

Arts



Inducted: 2006
Years at GCI & VS:
1981 - 1986

Roberta Carter was born in Galt on May 11, 1967. The Carter family lived in Hespeler and Roberta received her elementary education at Centennial Public School and Hespeler Public School before enrolling at GCI in 1981. During her high school years, Roberta concentrated on her academics while taking swimming and piano lessons. Her singing career started when she sang in the Musical Ensemble with her church youth group. It was during this time that Roberta met her future husband, Ken Harrison; at church functions she sang songs that he had written.

Roberta graduated second in her class from GCI in 1986. She received numerous awards and left Cambridge to study Physiotherapy at the University of Toronto. In 1988 she married Ken Harrison and, in 1989, they formed a musical group called the Wild Strawberries. Roberta was the lead singer and Ken was the writer and composer. The group played in small local clubs until their first song, *Crying Shame*, was discovered in a music talent search by CFNY in Toronto. In 1991, the group produced their first CD, *Grace*, on an independent label and then in 1993 the CD, *Bet You Think I'm Lonely*, was released. This CD led to a Juno nomination in the best new band category in 1994 and a record deal with A&M Records. In 1995 they moved to Network Records and, *I Don't Want To Think About It*, was released. This CD "went gold" in Canada, selling over 50,000 copies; it was in the video top ten on Much Music.

For the next five years the Wild Strawberries toured Canada and the United States. An important step in their development as a band was an invitation from Sarah McLaughlin to participate in the Lillith Fair Tour and in the documentary film about the tour. *Quiver* was released in 1998 and then Roberta and Ken produced *Twist*, in association with Universal Records in 2000. Electronica music was hugely popular in Europe and a disc jockey, pen named ATB, heard their music and remixed *Let U Go* for release in Germany. The record went to number seven and was featured on a German television show called Top of the Pops. It was then nominated for an Echo Award, the German equivalent of a Juno.

The Wild Strawberries are tremendously popular in Germany, Sweden, Brazil, Portugal, Austria and Eastern Europe. Six recordings have reached the top twenty in Germany and three of the six made the top ten. All of their major releases have made the top ten on the Electronica charts in the United States. Their music has been featured in numerous movies including *Firefox*, *Stir of Echoes*, *Suspicious River* and *Uncorked*. Featuring Roberta's haunting vocals and Ken's lyrics, the Wild Strawberries continue to be a force in the music industry worldwide. Roberta and Ken are still actively recording and in 2005 released a new CD, *Deformative Years*. The couple, who live in the Kitchener-Waterloo area, have four children, Georgia, Ruby, Oliver and Finley.

