

Ottawa Valley artist's new album an ode to old country

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One Ottawa Valley artist will be taking listeners to the past in her new album.

April Verch is set to release her twelfth album, *Once a Day*, which she describes as a homage to '50s and '60s classic country.

“This type of country music is what I grew up with,” the Rankin native said. “My dad, Ralph, had a country band that would play the classics, so it’s a big part of my life and I wanted to go back to those roots.”

While most cover albums would try to modernize

classic songs for the new age, Verch made sure that the covers on her album would be as close to the originals as possible — even going so far as to record the songs in a way that was popular in the era.

Verch explained why she chose *Once a Day* as the album title.

“Naming an album is one of the hardest parts of making any record,” Verch said. “For this album, we had to look at what was common back then, which was naming it after one of the tracks. We wanted something that rolled off the tongue, and at the end of the day the popular title among the team was *Once a Day*.”

The album will comprise of 15 covers of classic country songs from the 50s and 60s, a mix of both Canadian and American artists.

“I wanted a way to pay tribute to artists who originated from the Ottawa Valley, along with the more well-known artists,” Verch said. “With such a rich selection of artists from that era, it was hard to only choose 15 songs for the album.”

The album features Verch collaborating with various musicians and band members — including her father, which she pointed out as a special moment while working on the tracks.

Verch gave some sound advice to any aspiring musicians.

“It’s important to listen to heart when you’re performing,” Verch said. “You not only need to have the talent to perform, but you need the business mind to make certain decisions as well.”

Once a Day will be released on April 12, and an album release concert will be held at Station Inn in Nashville beforehand on April 10; the concert will feature artists and musicians that worked with Verch on the album.