



Calling the cyber tune

Words: Alesha Capone and Belinda Fraser
Picture: Jason Sammon

PUTTING together Highett singer Renata Sajko's latest album was not so much a game of musical chairs as musical emails.

The vocalist, musician and songwriter formed Constant Revelation with US guitarist and songwriter John Dabbs.

The duo have never met or even talked on the phone, yet they have written, arranged, recorded and produced *Hidden Gems*.

Sajko and Dabbs crafted the album in their home studios, half-a-world apart, but communicated by email.

The pair spent three years emailing each other parts of songs to create the rock-jazz fusion CD.

Meeting online through a *musicians wanted* ad, Sajko sent Dabbs a song she had written, *One Day*.

"I knew it needed something else," Sajko said.

"John came up with a guitar accompaniment that was fantastic. I couldn't imagine anything better - it was perfect."

The song became the opening track of *Hidden Gems*, and album featuring a host of styles, from slow acoustic ballads such as

Dreams to the jazz rock grooves of *You're to Blame* and alternative rock of *Painted Pony*.

Sajko said the album was a blend of her musical history and that of Dabbs.

Sajko started performing at 16, concealing her age to sing in Richmond pubs with a rock band. She went on to cabaret in piano bars and developed a love of jazz.

She secured a recording deal with Mushroom Records but left before an album was released to pursue her individual style.

"It wasn't me. I wanted to do my own music," Sajko said.

Dabbs' influences are alternative rock and blues, playing with bands in Detroit for many years.

Sajko said the two styles had converged to create a distinctive musical signature that is Constant Revelation.

"Our styles have come together," she said. *Hidden Gems* describes a story about a tiny seed - it sprouts to create a huge acorn (tree).

"What I have come to realise is I can do anything I want to do."

Constant Revelation's first album *Hidden Gems* has already sold in Australia, Canada, the US and France. It is available online at www.constantrevelation.com.

Renata Sajko's new CD was created with a US-based musician.

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