

THAT'S AMOR, EH?

Singer set to release new album

By Sally McDonald

RUBBING shoulders with the stars at the glittering Grammys is all in a day's work for one former North-east schoolgirl.

Singing sensation Tennille Amor was today preparing to return to New York after hanging out at a string of Grammy events with good pal Will.i.am of Black Eyed Peas fame.

Hanging out at the famous American music awards, which boasted performances from Eminem, Lady Gaga, Rihanna, Barbara Streisand, Usher, and Justin Bieber, gave Tennille a welcome opportunity to meet Natasha, the Grammy nominee sister of her other chum, Daniel Bedingfield.

But a modest Tennille - who releases her much-awaited new album in the summer - is guarded when it comes to her celebrity pals.

She admitted: "Yes, they are friends but I hate talking about that. It just sounds so cheesy."

But she was quick to praise Natasha Bedingfield who performed during Los Angeles' Grammy Week.

Former Cults Academy pupil Tennille said: "Natasha gave a great performance and I congratulated her afterwards."

"I told her I was a friend of Daniel's. She was lovely. Really sweet."

Tennille jets out to her family home in Trinidad next week for the island's annual carnival and to record with Swaggi, star of *Soca music* - a mixture of soul and calypso.

Then it's back to New York to plan the launch of her album *Evolve Through Love*.

Speaking from LA, she said: "We haven't set the date yet but I am planning to have launch parties in New York and

LA and perhaps in Trinidad. "I would love to do something in London too."

Marketing of the album is down to her lawyer, who also represents John Mayer.

Tennille has come a long way since leaving Cults Academy where she was known by her family name of De Freitas.

The family came to the North-east from Trinidad thanks to the oil industry and Tennille's brother, rapper Kirk De Freitas, 24, still lives in the Granite City.

Singer-songwriter Tennille has since forged a successful career for herself.

And she reluctantly admits to amassing a long list of talented friends including Little Night Terriers and, not least, platinum album artist Pixie Lott.

Tennille still holds the Granite City dear to her heart. She said: "I'd love to come back and play the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre."

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SUCCESSFUL: Tennille Amor, left, got the chance to hang out with Will.i.am and Natasha Bedingfield.

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