

WATER LOTT OF HELP

Music star partners Pixie in funds effort for Africa

By Sally McDonald

BIG-HEARTED music star Tennille Amor takes a break from rehearsals to pick up the phone.

In a few short hours the Aberdeen-born singer and her good friend, teen sensation Pixie Lott, will perform to a sell-out 500-strong crowd.

But proceeds from the concert in Cambridge won't be lining their pockets.

Instead, the cash will go to Tennille's charity EPIC to provide clean drinking water for communities in Africa.

"We're hoping to raise £3,000 to £4,000 for the charity, that is equal to half of one well," said Tennille in an exclusive interview with the Evening Express.

Tennille is also busy putting the finishing touches to her debut album *Evolve Through Love*, which is being produced in San Francisco by Jay Bowman.

She 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.

Her other brother Geleon, 33, is back in Trinidad with parents Roger and Christine.

The caring singer-songwriter has forged a successful career for herself, amassing a long list of talented friends including Matt Harvey, Little Night Terrors and, not least, Pixie Lott - who

at 19 already has a platinum album and two number one singles behind her. Tennille said: "It's great to be doing a gig with Pixie. She is like family. I am staying with her and her family in London while I am in the UK."

Trips back to the UK are more sporadic these days since Tennille has been living in New York for the last seven years. She studied at the American Musical Dramatic Academy and focused on Global Consciousness/Performing Arts for her BA at New York's City University.

But while it may seem glamorous sharing stages with stars such as Pixie and US star and "good friend" John Legend, Tennille and her business partner, US model and TV personality Alexi Panos are committed to helping people in developing countries. Together they founded EPIC (Everyday People Initiating Change) after being touched by stories from developing countries, particularly Tanzania. And once she's finished her show with Pixie and completed her album,

Tennille plans to return to Tanzania to drill two more wells and launch a volunteer programme for EPIC.

The organisation has also joined forces with Quiksilver Women's eco-friendly clothing line, who are donating 3% of their profits to the cause.

Tennille's life path - to help others and to unite people of every race, class, and creed through love and music - was sealed when as a child she

travelled the world with her oil worker dad, witnessing extreme poverty. And that path is reflected in her music. She said: "The whole concept (of the album) is love in all its forms, from conscious love to romantic love. "Some of my songs have been influenced by my experiences in Tanzania."

The album will be an independent release, for good reason. She explained: "The music industry wants to put you into a certain box. "My music does not fit into any one box. It has influences from very different genres."

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TALENT: Tennille Amor knew from an early age, after seeing poverty on her travels, that she wanted to help others.



SINGER: Tennille has shared a stage with many big names including her friend, US music star John Legend.



FRIENDS: Tennille and business partner Alexi Panos, pictured left in Africa, and her friend Pixie Lott, above, are committed to raising cash.