



helps by providing some proof of everything you are working so hard for. In saying that, awards are not why we do what we do. Awards are very nice, but it is really great just to be nominated... But I'm not giving it back either!"

The girls have just released their third single from *Here And Now*. *If Love Ain't Crazy* was written by Nashville based Aussie singer/songwriter **MARK O'SHEA** and US songwriter **ELISHA HOFFMAN**.

"I had meet Mark before he went over to the US," Liz said. "He said if we ever needed material to let him know so when it came to searching for songs for *Here & Now*, I emailed him and he sent over four songs - *If Love Ain't Crazy* was one of them. It has such a great opening riff and the sentiment of the song, that love is meant to wild and crazy and you just have to dive in, is the way I feel about love, so if I can relate to it then I hope other people will too."

2009 is looking like the best year ever for The Harmonators as they begin planning for their next CD.

"I think (I hope) I am a little more relaxed and confident about what we are doing and where we are headed," Rae said.

Liz agrees, "I think I just have a better understanding of who I am as a singer, performer and songwriter. When you're younger you absorb from all those around you and in a way try to impersonate what they do. I've learned to trust my instincts and my talent and be happy with who I am.

"I think back to gigs where there were only a handful of people with their backs to us as they watched the football," Rae said. "I had always dreamed of performing on stage, writing music, having my own album. This is all a dream come true."

BY **DEBORAH MINTER**

Sydney girls **RAE MOODY** and **LIZ KINNINMONT** always dreamed of bright lights and a career in music, and as **THE HARMONATORS**, they have started living that dream.

The pair met at Uni, where both were studying music. Liz, a confirmed **TRISHA YEARWOOD** fan

quickly converted Rae to country and **THE HARMONATORS** was born.

"When I first left school I studied nursing," Rae said. "I worked at that for about 6 years, but always felt something was missing. All my life music had been my passion and I always longed to be the person on stage performing.

"So I decided to go back to uni to study music. It was such a big gamble and I was very unsure about the change. But on my first day of uni I knew I had made the right choice."

"For me it just felt like the natural course," Liz said. "Nothing but music, country music, was the right fit for me."

"Not long after that The Harmonators started singing together," Rae added, "we decided to go to Tamworth for the festival - I had never been before - and we had a ball. I had never enjoyed myself so much or had been so happy, and that was it... hooked!"

"I think my favourite venue is the Tamworth Town Hall," she said. "Maybe I have a soft spot for it because it's where The Harmonators had their first taste of success winning the CCMA National Jamboree during our first trip to Tamworth."

The girls released their debut album *Here And Now* in 2008. The impact was immediate, with their singles *Don't Come Back* and *Tomorrow Never Knows* both gaining great airplay and making a statement on both radio and CMC charts.

January 2009 saw them nominated for the TIARA (Tamworth Independent Artist Recognition Awards) for the third time in the Group/Duo category.

"We were absolutely positive that, considering the strength of the competition, we didn't really have a chance," Rae said. "We even told our families to stay home to save disappointment. Imagine our surprise and absolute delight when our name was announced as the winners!"

"It's like a validation that The Harmonators has something to offer the Australian country music industry," Liz smiled. "It gives you the confidence to keep going, to keep making music."

"You always wonder if you are on the right track, doing the right things, or even if you are any good," Rae added. "Winning the award