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X Factor star finds joy after the tears

Rebecca Ferguson has travelled a rocky road but **Paula Murray** discovers the singer is now in an upbeat mood with a new album and a national concert tour about to begin...

THE last few years have brought a bittersweet mixture of heartache and joy for X Factor star Rebecca Ferguson. First she was abandoned by the father of her third child after telling him she was expecting – but went on to give birth to a little girl.

Then, just months later, she was forced to pull the plug on her planned tour because of recording commitments.

But as the 30-year-old from Liverpool is itching to get back on stage, it is all looking rosy for her once again.

Her new album, Superwoman, was born from the challenges she faced and with the first single, Bones, already out she is raring to go.

“I was absolutely gutted I had to postpone the tour,” she admits with a pained look and adds: “I was really unhappy about it but I’m glad am coming back now.”

Despite not winning the 2010 series of the talent show – the top spot went to Matt Cardle – she was among the most successful artists to come out of the show, along with One Direction.

While the boy band members have called time on their musical career for the moment, and winner Matt has all but vanished from the scene, Rebecca has been working hard to put food on the table.

With three young mouths to feed – her youngest is just under two and the other two aged 10 and 11 – she simply has to.

“I don’t think I would have made it without the programme,” she concedes. “I’d been trying for so many years, done so many demos and been to so many auditions and

nobody was interested.

“It got to the point where I was spending so much money trying to make it that I had to start thinking about my kids.

“I realised the time had come for me to focus on a real job.

“In the end I had to knuckle down and I went to college to become a legal secretary.

“Without the X Factor audition I would have continued to study to become a solicitor. I would not have been happy about it, but I would have done it because it was about



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putting bread on the table for my kids. In all honesty, I would have been really gutted if it hadn’t turned out the way it did.”

For Rebecca, the opportunity to feature in one of the most-watched TV programmes in the UK was nothing more than a platform.

She had a clear idea of what she was about as an artist and stood her ground – something she reckons the X Factor creator Simon Cowell was actually happy to see.

“That show and other shows like it are about showcasing yourself in front of a very large audience,” she points out. “The rest is about what you do with that opportunity.

“But you do need to be wise with it all. They [the mentors] may tell you they want you to sing a certain song but at times you need to stick to your guns and say no.

“I think Simon wants to know that you’ve

