Blogger, singer
and now lawyer
Singer-songwriter Genie puts singing career on hold

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B EING a full circle of artistry, Genie Gan is not just a singer and songwriter. She is also a lawyer.

Genie, who is also well known as Genie, began her singing career in 2005 with a mix of English and Mandarin songs featured in her daily blog entries. She released four albums of self-written tracks. Her career path has taken a lot of twists and turns. In 2005, she set up a talent studio which specialises in personalised training in music, dance and speech. It was initially called Genesis 2 Revelation and under a sole proprietorship. But Genie wanted to make it a private limited company. So it was closed and reopened as Genie Sound Advice.

Genie, who earlier took a degree in accountancy from Nanyang Technological University (NTU), graduated with a degree in law from the National University of Singapore (NUS) last week.

As both lawyer and musician, Genie is strongly against piracy.

She said: “I’ve wanted to be a lawyer since I was eight; this is just going full circle. I’ve had many detours, now I’m going to do what I set out to do.”

She added: “Being a singer-songwriter myself, I know what it’s like to experience piracy. In the music industry, there are so many parties involved, and downloading music illegally affects the lives of everyone involved.”

In 2006, Genie launched a virtual album of six songs called Genie’s MAgIC, which stands for Movement Against Illegal Content-sharing. It was available for download from legal websites here as well as in China, Taiwan and Malaysia. Each song cost $1.99 per download.

Most recent album
Her most recent album Dreams And Awakenings, which she recorded to raise funds for HCA Hospice Care, was released this year in the form of a thumb drive which allowed legal sharing of the mp3 files in it.

It contains 11 songs, one music video and four wallpapers and is on sale at all Gramophone music outlets for $25 each.

As a multi-pronged approach, Genie also advocates for environment-friendliness, so that saved materials too.

In 2009, Genie Sound Advice refocused to concentrate on helping people with public-speaking and vocal training.

Genie also has neurolinguistics coaching certification and a specialist diploma from the Academy of Certified Counsellors.

She said she was once extremely shy and began to speak out only after her former career as a singer required her to.

She said: “Being a singer, you have to communicate and interact with a lot of people whom you might not know personally.”

Now that she is beginning her new career as a lawyer, she hopes she can continue her services at Genie Sound Advice.

“I definitely want to help people find their direction in life through my counselling and coaching,” she said.

“I believe in using our talents to help people. If we’ve been given so much, we should try to pass this on and help others.”