

Ticket



Always...
Patsy Cline

Stage Right Productions

Page 2

www.YourConroeNews.com

Friday, February 11, 2011

Join Us
Valentine's Day
Monday, February 14th

2 for \$22

- Two Buffets & Drinks,
- Two \$5 Game Cards
- Two rounds of Mini Golf
- Two Ice Skating Sessions

A full day of fun
for you and a
special
someone!

Romantic Movie
in Starlight
Theater



230 South Loop 336 West
Conroe, TX 77304
936-441-2222
www.ipcconroe.com



Keating reprises role of Patsy Cline in Stage Right production

BY BRAD MEYER
bmeyer@hcnonline.com

A local vocalist and actress who has starred six times in the popular theatrical story of singer Patsy Cline's life – in Conroe and as far away as Dublin, Ireland – is confident “seven” is her lucky number.

Mary Allen Keating stars as the iconic country singer in Stage Right's production of “Always ... Patsy Cline.” Performances kick off at 8 p.m. Feb. 18 and continue weekends through March 6 at the Crighton Theatre in Conroe.

“Patsy sang from her heart like no one else,” said Keating. “She had a unique style of singing and performing that connected with audiences in a very special way, more than any other country singer or balladeer.”

In one particular case, the connection between performer and fan proved particularly strong. “Always ... Patsy Cline” isn't just a tribute to the legendary country singer who died in a plane crash at age 30. The play is based on the real-life friendship Cline forged with a

Houston fan named Louise Seger who continued through correspondence until her death.

“She had a lot of natural talent in her voice,” Keating said of Cline. “She continues to be one of the top country recording artists of all time.”

To prepare for her previous performances as the legendary singer, Keating has sung along with original recordings and even watched video footage of Cline's live performances on television and at the Grand Ole Opry.

“Patsy has a unique singing style that includes some unique ways of forming the words with her mouth,” noted Keating. “You can learn quite a bit about her methodology from watching, as well as listening.”

The play has a special connection for local audiences because the meeting between star and fan occurred at the Esquire Ballroom in Houston. Seger hailed from Deer Park and lived in the Houston area until her death in 2004.

In the play, Keating performs 27 Cline songs – a challenge because Cline had a

WHAT'S NEXT

The Stage Right production of “Always ... Patsy Cline” debuts at 8 p.m. Feb. 18 and continues weekends through March 6 at the Crighton Theatre, located at 234 N. Main Street in Conroe. For tickets and information, visit www.crightontheatre.org or call 936-441-SHOW.

particularly wide dynamic range, from lower bass to high soprano and many of the songs require her to belt the lyrics out with feeling as well as volume. Keating has two volunteers to help her with the rapid costume changes that are required.

“I don't have a dull moment in the show from start to finish,” quipped Keating.

A Conroe native, Keating earned a BA degree in theatre at Texas A&M and a Masters at the University of Houston. She has been active in theatre and musical programs since grade school. Her family operated the Rainbow Roller Rink on Loop 336 in Conroe for many years.

Keating is particularly proud of her participation in “Always ... Patsy Cline” in Dublin, Ireland. The production ran for four weeks and



Courtesy photo

Conroe resident Mary Allen Keating is the featured vocalist in the Stage Right production of “Always ... Patsy Cline.”

was well received she said.

“The Irish are very fond of American country music,” she said. “It's a very eclectic environment with people that enjoy a wide range of entertainment types; it was great.”

Accompanying Keating on stage is Carolyn Corsano Wong, Stage Right founder and artistic director in the role of Louise Seger. For one show, however, an understudy will be stepping up to



Courtesy photo

Carolyn Corsano Wong, left, and Mary Allen Keating star in the upcoming production of “Always ... Patsy Cline” at the Crighton Theatre.

take over for Keating.

“I really wanted to be in this production of the play, but I also had a commitment to be in the wedding of my best friend from college,” said Keating. “We were able to work things out.”

With Keating unavailable for the Feb. 26 production of “Always ... Patsy Cline,” the show will go on with understudy Meredith Zaritski, a student at Sam Houston State University.

“She has been rehearsing

and preparing right along side me,” said Keating. “She'll do a great job.”

Auditions for the stage comedy “Harvey,” Stage Right's next theatrical production running April 22 through May 8 take place at the Crighton Theatre at 7 p.m. on Feb. 20 and 21.

For tickets and information on the Stage Right production of “Always ... Patsy Cline,” visit www.crightontheatre.org or call 936-441-SHOW.

LOCAL VALENTINE'S DAY EVENTS

“MY JAZZY VALENTINE”

Date: Saturday, 7 p.m.

“My Jazzy Valentine” is a special evening of music for friends and lovers. This will be an electric night of jazz music and a captivating ambiance. This experience will include three of the most powerful jazz performers in the realm of contemporary and smooth jazz with Michael Lington. This event is scheduled for Saturday at 7 p.m. at Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion — House of Blues Hospitality 2005 Lake Robbins Dr. The Woodlands, Texas, 77380. You can purchase tickets at The Cynthia Woods Pavilion

Box Office, a Ticketmaster outlet or Ticketmaster.com. Tickets are \$40 & \$55 dollars. VIP guests will receive a souvenir champagne glass & chocolates.

MERCURY BAROQUE IN THE WOODLANDS

Date: Sunday, 2 p.m.

On Sunday at 2 p.m. Mercury Baroque returns to The Woodlands for the second time this season with a stylish performance entitled “8 Seasons.” The program juxtaposes Vivaldi's famed Four Seasons with the Four Seasons by Argentinean Tango composer Astor Piazzolla. The performance will take

place at the acoustically marvelous Performing Arts Center at The John Cooper School in The Woodlands. Tickets and information can be found online at www.MercuryBaroque.org or by phone at 713-533-0080 during regular business hours.

CONROE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PRESENTS “A ROMANTIC CELEBRATION”

Date: Monday, 7:30 p.m.

The Conroe Symphony Orchestra hosts “A Romantic Celebration” concert Monday at 7:30 p.m. at Ark Family Church, 450 Humble Tank Road, Conroe, TX

77301.

Following intermission, special guest soloist Mike Mayes will perform selections from Broadway and opera. For tickets call 936-760-2144 or visit www.conroesympphony.org.

SINGING VALENTINES BY THE STATESMEN CHORUS

Date: Saturday through Monday

Give a unique and personal gift by having a barbershop quartet deliver a Singing Valentine to your sweetheart.

The singers will be dressed



Courtesy photo

Give a unique and personal gift by having a barbershop quartet from the Statesmen Chorus deliver a Singing Valentine to your sweetheart. The singers will be dressed in tuxes delivering a special love song, a rose and a personalized card. Delivery dates are Saturday through Monday. Prices are \$50 with a four-hour window, \$60 with a two-hour window and \$80 with a specific one-hour window. Or the song can be delivered by phone for \$20 with no card or rose. Call 832-232-3090 to place your order for a singing Valentine.