

Her favorite tunes

■ Wenonah singer, always fascinated by American standards, will sing them in Somerdale, tonight

By Kelly Roncace

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Familiar songs such as "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "Impossible Dream" are known as American standards and can be enjoyed by music lovers of any age.

Wenonah's Caroline Kearney will present these and other standards in "Love Songs, Ditties and Dreams: An Evening of Song" tonight in Immaculata Hall at Our Lady of Grace Church in Somerdale, with pianist Steve Kwiatkowski of Collingswood.

"I've always been fascinated by the American standards," Caroline said. "I've always loved the movie 'White Christmas' and Irving Berlin. So I'll be doing 'Love, You Didn't Do Right By Me.'"

That being her very favorite, Caroline said some other favorites she and Steve will perform are "Impossible Dream" and "Sentimental Reasons."

This is the first time Caroline and Steve are performing together, and she said the pairing is quite a compromise.

"Steve is more ragtime and vaudeville," she said. "I'm more flowy and he's more choppy, so we meet in the middle and it works."

Despite his love of the ragtime style, Steve agrees that the standards can be shared by young and old.

"They get passed through families," he said. "They are the music we can enjoy with our parents and grandparents."



Photo provided

Caroline Kearney, of Wenonah, will sing American standards in "Love Songs, Ditties and Dreams: An Evening of Song" tonight in Immaculata Hall at Our Lady of Grace Church in Somerdale, with pianist Steve Kwiatkowski of Collingswood. "I've always been fascinated by the American standards," she said.

Kearney: Wenonah woman to sing tonight

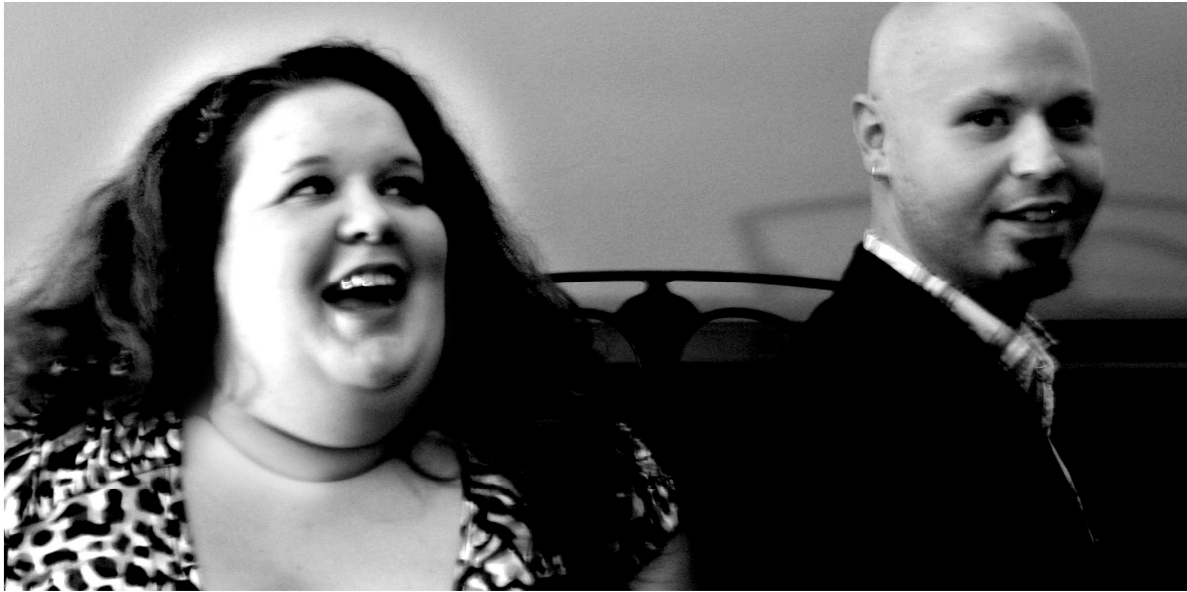


Photo provided

Singer Caroline Kearney and pianist Steve Kwiatkowski will perform together at Immaculata Hall at Our Lady of Grace Church in Somerdale, tonight in a show called, "Love Songs, Ditties and Dreams: An Evening of Song."

Caroline first sang publicly at a Wenonah Elementary School Christmas concert, and since the first notes of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" that evening, she hasn't stopped pursuing her musical dreams.

Caroline immersed herself in a world of imagination and song, and by high school was singing lead roles in school musicals and traveling the state with regional choirs.

After high school graduation, Caroline continued studying music at Westminster Choir College in Princeton and from there has performed with the New York Philharmonic, the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra of the Netherlands and the Philadelphia Orchestra at venues such as the Kennedy Center, Carnegie Hall and the Kimmel Center.

During her senior year in college, Caroline toured with Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer, Charlotte Church and the Royal Philharmonic for the Royal Christmas Tour.

Steve grew up in a musical family, citing his grandfather, who played banjo, and his father who plays bass, as "big inspirations."

Steve began by learning to play the accordion at the Acme Accordion School and then studied piano at the Conservatory of Musical Arts in Haddonfield.

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— Caroline Kearney, of Wenonah

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At Collingswood High School, Steve was a member of the chorus, the Madrigals — a select choir by audition only — and the school band.

After high school, Steve studied piano performance at Camden County College and Temple University.

He is currently an accompanist and choral director at St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church, and an organist and assistant choral director at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church.

Caroline and Steve are both looking forward to performing their repertoire of Broadway and movie musical tunes.

"The music is as demanding as opera, but leaves room for exploration," Caroline said.

"That's why you'll find singers like Rod Stewart and Carly Simon, Renee Fleming and Boz Scaggs, Queen Latifah and Ronny Milsap, all taking turns at recording these songs. I've been singing them as long as I can remember."

Tickets for "Love Songs, Ditties and Dreams: An Evening of Song," are \$12 and are available through Little Bird Music, LLC, by emailing littlebirdmusicllc@gmail.com, or through the Little Bird Store at www.carolinekearney.com.

For more information, call 609-221-6921.