

PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

New Concert Series Kicks Off With Valentine Theme

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American Fork, UT - "IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE! Classic Songs for Lovers" presented by VocalWorks.org and the American Fork Arts Council celebrates Valentine bliss.

IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD OF LOVE! Classic Songs for Lovers
Friday, February 9th, 7:30 p.m.
American Fork City Hall (31 N Church Street)
Tickets \$5 (\$3 for students and seniors)

Just in time for a Valentine date night: a romantic evening of classic songs from musical theater and opera. Beautiful voices mix with music from Phantom of the Opera, Seven Brides, Tales of Hoffman, Camelot, Secret Garden, Trial by Jury, She Loves Me and more. To enhance the "food of love" theme, audience members will have a chance to win one of several gift certificates from local restaurants and eateries, including Cobblestone Cafe, Colorado Kernels & IHOP.

The concert officially kicks off the new "Vocal Works Recital Series" sponsored by VocalWorks.org and the American Fork Arts Council. The series home will be the newly-restored historic American Fork City Hall, which provides a picturesque setting and fine acoustics. This concert was organized by Janilyn Anderson and VocalWorks.org producer M. Ryan Taylor and involves a number of excellent local singers:

Soprano Sara Thomas spent this last summer in New York City where she sang Norina in Don Pasquale and Kate Pinkerton in Madama Butterfly. She has sung other operatic leading roles in Mozart's The Marriage of Figaro, Puccini's La boheme, and Gilbert and Sullivan's HMS Pinafore. She has soloed with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir at Tanglewood and on their nationally televised weekly broadcast.

Janilyn Anderson has performed with Utah Opera, Utah Lyric Opera Society, New Opera Works, and Utah Symphony. Past president of the National Association of Teachers of Singing Southern Utah Chapter, Janilyn has a great passion for teaching and owns her own vocal studio. She has a Bachelor degree in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy from BYU.

Ruth Ellis was raised in Orem and at the age of 19 bought a one way ticket to New York to pursue her education at the internationally renowned conservatory, The Manhattan School of Music. During her fourteen years of study and performance in New York City, Ruth enjoyed an interesting mix of genres. She had the opportunity to create several roles in their New York or World Premieres. Other operatic roles performed range from The Queen of the Night in Mozart's The Magic Flute, to the title role in Naughty Marietta with Utah Festival Opera Company.

M. Ryan Taylor was raised in southern California, but since completing degrees in vocal performance and composition at BYU, has adopted Utah Valley as his home base. Taylor created VocalWorks.org to create opportunities for the public to hear the excellent talent native to the Utah Valley area. To learn more about Taylor, visit MRyanTaylor.com

Andrea Bowles Custer, soprano, received her Bachelor of Music from Utah State University, and her Master of Arts from San Jose State University, both in Vocal Performance. She has performed with Opera San Jose and will perform with Utah Opera in March.

Soprano Kimberlee Talbot was born and raised in Sandy, UT. She completed her BM and MM at BYU and is happy to be back in Sandy working and teaching voice.

Neil Whitaker loves to sing and is seen in community theater and concerts from Salt Lake to St. George, performing classical and musical theater favorites.

Accompanist Norma Mitchell studied voice and piano at the McCune School of Music and earned a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from BYU. She accompanies The Madsen Women's Chorus, The Utah Polynesian Choir, and four lovely sopranos known as "Sing Joy."

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