

Singer/pianist records for memories, healing

A Platteville musician once made the leap from beautician to radio jingle writer

By **SANDYE VOIGHT**
TH staff writer

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. — Anyone can write a happy song, Rosalie Morgan says.

Whether inspiration strikes while she's in the shower or her car, she often writes songs that stem from grief.

"It's how I deal with things," she said. She planned today to release her fifth CD of piano and vocal music, recorded in her basement studio on her label, REM Productions.

"Songs of Comfort and Inspiration" is a compilation of music she has often performed at funerals. "I Am Free" is the only original song on the album. Otherwise, the playlist includes her arrangement of familiar hymns and



ROSALIE MORGAN
Pianist, singer,
songwriter

often play at weddings and funerals anymore.

"I'm too much of a perfectionist," she said. "I want the wedding memories to be perfect." Ditto for funerals. She started doing them at age 14, which was about the time she started taking voice lessons. She began studying piano at age 7.

Morgan, who grew up in Lancaster,

anthems, such as "How Great Thou Art," "Amazing Grace" and "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

"People are looking for answers in music," she said. The album stemmed from requests she often has received after performing at funerals.

She doesn't

attended the University of Wisconsin Center at Richland Center, intending to major in music.

But after a year, she dropped out and went to beauty school, working as a beautician for about 20 years.

"I always played in bands, sang, did karaoke," she said. "I just thought, 'I have to grow up and not do the music.'"

But it seems the music wouldn't let her go.

"I quit hair in '96," she said. She'd been writing radio jingles for years and decided to give it her full attention.

She did one for Floorshow Interiors — "Something beautiful for every room." There was another for Morgan Clock Co. (her in-laws) and New Destination Travel as well as the Benton State Bank.

"I did their telephone hold music, too," she said. One of her first jingles was for a lingerie shop in Oelwein, Iowa.

"Jingles are easy," she said. "Half the lyrics are already there for you. You've got the name and the slogan. And you only get 30 to 60 seconds (on radio)."

NEWS

You can use

What: "Songs of Comfort and Inspiration," piano and vocal CD

Who: Rosalie Morgan

When: Scheduled release Friday

Where: REM Productions

P.O. Box 187

Platteville, WI 53818

www.remproductions.com

Cost: \$15 plus \$2 shipping

The lingerie bit came to her in the shower, with a Mae West/Ethel Merman-esque voice.

She spends nearly all of her weekends as a featured performer at one of several tri-state area nightspots: Shultzie's Supper Club in Dickeyville, Wis.; The Grape Escape in Galena, Ill.; Rafters Restaurant in Dubuque; and the Royal Supper Club in Mineral Point, Wis.

When she is not performing or recording, she's practicing.

"It's nothing for me to play for five hours straight," she said.