

Rosalie Morgan

Putting Her Music Where Her Mouth Is

by Jeff Stiles



As most of us know, music can be a form of therapy. Whenever we're depressed, listening to a cheery song can soothe our soul. When we're discouraged, a celebratory song can lift our spirits. And when we're lonely, hearing a song about true love can give us hope for the future.

For Platteville resident Rosalie Morgan, music has been a part of her life and her emotions since she was a little girl. A child who started taking piano lessons at the age of 7, Rosalie says she remembers clearly when she wrote her first song.

She was 11 years old at the time.

"My family went on a trip to New Orleans, and I was fighting in the back seat of the car with my brother," she recalls. "My mom said, 'You're really irritating me—would you please write a song or something?' and threw a piece of paper and a pen at me!"

Too bad all young children don't follow the directions of their parents as well as little Rosalie, who immediately began writing down lyrics about what

she was feeling at the time. "When I got home I sat down at the piano and put music to the lyrics, and all of a sudden my first song was written!" she says.

At the time, Rosalie thought the experience was pretty cool. After all, she was a musical child who had all the typical dreams of stardom—she wanted to have her songs on the Top 40 charts, to be famous, to tour around the world. But as she grew older, Rosalie says writing music became her sanity as well as a lifelong career!

"Now, whenever I go through anything bad or treacherous or something that hurts, this is how I heal," she explains. "If I'm upset about something or if I'm stressed out, I simply sit down and pound on the piano and it relieves all the stress. I write music, and once it's out I don't feel like that anymore—or at least I'm dealing with it!"

Since her childhood, Rosalie has certainly spent a lot of time writing music and relieving stress. Since 1976 she has written over 100 songs, and has written and produced four

albums of her own.

The basement of the Morgan home contains a state-of-the-art digital production studio—where Rosalie and her husband, Jim, record jingles, voice-overs and music-on-hold telephone messages. Rosalie's the featured performer at the Royal Supper Club in Mineral Point, where she sings 2-3 times a month, and she regularly performs on the weekends at area clubs and restaurants.

And as she's done since the beginning, she prefers to sing about the experiences that have impacted her life. "My father died six years ago, and I'm still dealing with the stress of figuring out where I fit in life without him," she says. "The last four songs on my album *Forever Changed* are about that, and I'll be releasing another CD in the spring, *Home To You*, that will be continuation of songs about how I deal with things.

"I write about what I need or about how I feel, or what I want someone to say to me, or what I need to hear."

Rosalie says her musical and vocal



Rosalie Morgan has been performing music professionally since she was 14 years old.

inspirations come from artists such as Barry Manilow, Juice Newton, Olivia Newton-John and Sheryl Crow—and the leadoff track on Rosalie's latest Christmas CD, *My Favorite Christmas Songs, Volume 2*, begins with vocals that sound hauntingly reminiscent of '70s pop star Karen Carpenter.

But don't think Rosalie has any lingering dreams for international stardom herself. "Actually, I could hardly care less," she says. "I just want to share music and emotions and love, and touch people and have people let me know what touches them. To me, that's a measure of communication beyond my comprehension!"

This weekend, Rosalie will be appear-

THIS WEEKEND...

Who: Rosalie Morgan

What: CD Release Party for My Favorite Christmas Songs - Vol. 2

When: Saturday, December 20, 7 p.m. to close

Where: The Grape Harbor, 123 Main Street, Dubuque

Cost: Free admission

For more information, visit www.remproductions.com or call (563) 582-6440