

Thursday, August 30, 1979

(F1D)



Peter Yarrow misses performing now that he's into producing and looks forward to the concert series with Mary Travers.

Two-thirds of trio sing together again

By ETHEL SIMMONS

In that deep, throaty singing voice, Mary Travers, of former Peter, Paul and Mary fame, described by phone her upcoming concert series with Peter Yarrow.

You could picture her wholesome features, with her straight blonde hair and bangs — a vision that haunted the 1960s.

First an interview had been arranged with Ms. Travers, then she was unavailable and the interview was to be with Peter Yarrow instead. After a change in time from morning to afternoon Tuesday, Ms. Travers and Yarrow both agreed to be part of the telephone conversation from New York to Birmingham.

After about a half-hour conversation with Ms. Travers, she said she had to leave, because there was a call from her daughter's school principal, she has two daughters.

"I HAVE to go and be a mommy now," she said. "If you want to talk to Peter, call back at two."

The following night, Ms. Travers and Yarrow were to give the first concert together by two-thirds of Peter, Paul and Mary. In Chicago, they would perform at Park West theater club. Then, another concert in Minneapolis would precede their third and final concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 1, at the Birmingham Theatre.

Ms. Travers, in mellifluous yet controlled speech, explained how "this thing with Peter will be fun."

"The two of us can get together on occasion — if it proves to be fun — to do concerts on a regular basis." She said, "For me, it's not the only way to

'A sense of real communication on many levels was very much a part of whatever gift that we shared together.'

— Peter Yarrow (of Peter, Paul and Mary)

work, and Peter has other fish to fry."

Mary Travers has been performing basically as a solo since Peter, Paul and Mary disbanded in 1970, after the trio performed for 10 years.

Their incredible success together, singing songs of "an urban genre," according to Ms. Travers, was recreated for their last year when Peter, Paul and Mary reunited for a concert tour.

ONE OF THE STOPS was Pine Knob Music Festival in Clarkston, where a capacity crowd greeted them. During the spirited performance, the audience joined them in singing such moving themes as "Blowin' in the Wind" and "If I Had a Hammer."

STILL ACTIVE in political causes, Ms. Travers' newest record release "Freedom," produced by Yarrow, will be out in September on Chrysalis Records. "I've got four tracks down," she said of a forthcoming album, also Yarrow-produced, slated for October release.

"I've always been in social involvement," she said, when asked about her causes. "There are certain things you focus on that are really important."

She said she is "very supportive of ERA and supportive of the anti-nuclear movement. It's a very valuable thing

for performers. It brings a sense of reality to the work. The act of being a performer can be very insulating."

Peter lives in California. Noel "Paul" Stookey (originally from Birmingham) makes his home in Maine, and Mary divides her time between Connecticut and New York. Besides their individual causes, the three entertainers still get together doing benefit concerts to support a social issue "if there's a bigger need."

"PETER IS BUSY as a record producer and a TV producer," Ms. Travers said, about his current professional work. "He doesn't perform much, and he misses it."

Shortly after 2 p.m., Peter Yarrow was reached by phone, at Ms. Travers' office. He started the conversation by talking about a film his wife is producing in her Minnesota hometown, before he said, "But that's not what we're supposed to be talking about."

Yarrow, Stookey and Ms. Travers plan to get together again, starting rehearsals in November. "Paul has a personal ministry in his life, with his family in Maine," Yarrow said, explaining why Stookey was not participating in the current concert series. "We must respect that."

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On the Weekend

IN THE SUBURBS

- **BIRMINGHAM THEATRE** — Peter Yarrow and Mary Travers, two-thirds of musical team Peter, Paul and Mary, perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 1. This appearance is part of first concert tour Peter and Mary will make as a duo. For ticket information call the box office at 644-3533.
- **PINE KNOB MUSIC THEATRE** — "Tonight" show host Johnny Carson at 8 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, Aug. 30-Sept. 2. Chicago will appear at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 3. Tickets available at Birmingham Theatre, Pine Knob in Clarkston, Harmony House at Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield and Detroit's Fisher Theater. For further information call 647-7790.
- **FRIDAY'S CAFE** — presents James Jackson, a comic from Chicago, 8:30-11 p.m. Friday and Saturday, Aug. 31-Sept. 1, in the Comedy Castle Room, in West Bloomfield. Dave Linsell performs magic tricks in dining area 8 p.m.-midnight. Phone 651-3252.
- **THE RAVEN GALLERY** — presents Jim Perkins Wednesday-Sunday, Aug. 29-Sept. 2, in Southfield. Show times are 9:30 p.m., plus an 11 p.m. show on Sunday. For more information phone 557-2622.

TWEENY'S CAFE — ● presents guitar and bass jazz sets from 7-9 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30, in Birmingham.

IN DETROIT

- **ETHNIC FESTIVAL** — Latin American Festival on Friday, Aug. 31-Monday, Sept. 3 (Labor Day), at Hart Plaza in downtown Detroit. Festival hours 6-11 p.m. Friday; noon-11 p.m. Saturday-Monday.
- **COBO ARENA** — Ted Nugent, also Blackfoot, at 8 p.m. Saturday-Monday, Sept. 1-3, in downtown Detroit. Call 561-1800 for ticket information.
- **JAZZ AT THE INSTITUTE** — presents Roy Eldridge Quartet at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30, in museum's Kresge Court cafe at Detroit Institute of Arts. Ticket information by calling 832-2730.
- **ATTIC THEATRE** — presents "Steamhath," Bruce Jay Friedman's outrageous comedy, through Saturday, Sept. 29, in Greektown in downtown Detroit. Ticket information at 563-7789.
- **CELEBRATION LOUNGE** — presents Detroit group Mel Ball and Colours every Monday-Saturday through Sept. 29, in Detroit Plaza Hotel, Renaissance Center, Detroit. Hours 8 p.m.-2 a.m. Additional information at 568-8000.
- **REMBRANDT'S ROADSTER** — presents music and comedy, with Phil Marcus Esser, "The Singing Waiter," Friday and Saturday, dinner show, with dinner at 7 p.m., show at 8:30, cabaret show, seating 11 p.m., show midnight. For reservations call 963-1055.

MICHIGAN STATE FAIR — ● presents free performances by stars with shows at 2 and 8:30 p.m. daily. Styx, Thursday-Friday, Aug. 30-31 (7:30 p.m. only); Billy "Crash" Craddock, Sat. Sept. 1; Eddie Rabbitt, Sunday, Sept. 2; Jody Miller, Monday, Sept. 3. Admission charge to fairgrounds.

Female DJ takes job in stride

By JIM WINDELL

At times, Kaven Savelly of West Bloomfield is a bundle of raw nerves. But you would never know it by listening to radio station WRIF-FM between 6 and 10 p.m. During those hours, Ms. Savelly is a low key, thorough professional and one of the top female disc jockeys in Detroit.

In person, the woman is not afraid to talk about her feelings. "I have a basic insecurity," she says. "I always feel I'm doing something real dumb."

This insecurity has not stopped the 28-year-old from moving from student-run Wayne State University station WAYN to WWWW, to WABX, to WRIF. In an industry noted for swelled egos, Ms. Savelly says "I have no ego at all."

Except when she retreats to the tiny studio in the WRIF white house on W. Ten Mile Road. Safely behind the turntables and microphones, with the rock and roll records she loves, she tries to project a different image to her 300,000 nightly listeners.

Following her four-hour stint one night last week, she talked about herself and her image.

"MY STYLE is the chick who knows how to rock," Ms. Savelly said. "I try to keep it up-tempo at the hour I'm on the air. And I like to rock. I like heavy metal rock."

"That was the unique thing when I was first on the radio. That distinguished me from other DJs, because I rock more than a lot of people do."

Very few women have the same taste in rock & roll. They generally go for soft rock or the Motown sound. I play heavy rock on the radio."

She believes her personality and the music she plays complement each other. "I like to go out and have a good time. Just like any guy coming home from work and listening to me on the car radio. People comment that I sound like I'm having fun. I like the people who listen to me and I want to play what makes them happy if I can."

While she says she is afraid of people, conversation on a one-to-one basis is important to her. "The most important thing that every job should try to achieve is one-to-one communication. The ultimate would be if a guy driving home from Chrysler's talks to you in his car."

IT WAS INTEREST in trying to please her listeners that led to her move a few weeks ago, during the personnel rocking and rolling at the Detroit rock stations, from her three-year stay at WABX.

"It was hoping there would be a greater opportunity to play for listeners. WRIF is getting into sounding more human and that's important to

'Sometimes I don't feel I'm getting enough feedback. So I just pick up the request line and start a conversation. That always gets me back into it.'
— Disc jockey Karen Savelly

me. I think this can be a community-oriented station," she said.

To keep in touch with people, all she has to do is pick up the phone and answer requests. "When I feel like I'm in an ivory tower here, then I'll get on the phone. Sometimes I don't feel I'm getting enough feedback. So I just pick up the request line and start a conversation. That always gets me back into it."

SHE TRIES TO ATTEND as many concerts as possible because she says she learns much from watching the rock phenomenon in person.

"You can talk to every record store in town on the telephone, but watching 15,000 kids yelling for Black Sabbath tells you a lot more. It usually opens my eyes."

"Part of the reason I go to concerts is because I want to do what everyone else is doing. But I've learned more about how popular some groups were with the people by going to the concerts."

Ms. Savelly just plain enjoys music. Not only rock but also jazz. That was due in no small part to her parents who exposed her to music at a young age.

"My dad was buying me records when I was really young, and my mother was a singer. My younger brother plays several instruments and, although I don't consider myself a musician, I took piano lessons for five or six years."

"I also took ballet. I loved it and my teacher thought I was very advanced. When I was 10, she put me in a class with 13- and 14-year-old girls, so I quit. I was too afraid."

SHE GREW UP in West Bloomfield and speaks highly of her parents. While she admires her mother and stays in close touch with her family, there was one time when her mother did not admire her.

"That was in the late '60s when I was a hippy. Well, sort of. My mother and my family thought I would turn out to be no good. I was a loner then."

Ms. Savelly never considered performing in front of others when she was growing up. In fact, it was by accident she discovered she could communicate with more than one person at a time.

"In my freshman year at Wayne State University, I was going to be a teacher. I had to take a speech class and I was scared to death."



Karen Savelly rocks on WRIF-FM, despite her insecurities.

"I found that I loved the speech class. After that I took every speech class they offered. Then, when I ran out of speech classes, one of my girlfriends suggested a mass communication class. As part of this class, that only earned one or two credits, we worked with WAYN, the Wayne State University student-run radio station."

"Since I had to do something with the station, I decided to do the news because then I wouldn't be on the air that much. Later that semester I got the news director's job because no one else was interested in it."

"One day WDET-FM called me and asked if there was a student in the news department who would be interested in coming over and doing the news for free."

"Since WDET had a much stronger signal than WAYN and my parents would be able to hear me on the radio out in West Bloomfield, I told them I would take it."

She worked hard at being a news broadcaster, she says, coming in at "ungodly hours" in the morning and sometimes spending hours at a time preparing a news summary. After a couple of quarters reading the news,

she took on more responsibility at WAYN as a disc jockey.

A FRIEND whose husband worked for WWWW told Ms. Savelly about an opening for a female DJ at that Detroit station.

"I did a demonstration tape that was just terrible, but they gave me a shot at it anyway. My first day on the air was Dec. 18, 1972. I started on weekends and had different shifts until I had an afternoon show."

She also worked her way up to music director of that station during her four years there. She left W4 to go to WABX. "I left there finally because I wasn't real content. It was loosely formatted and we were playing all kinds of music, but I needed a change. It seemed like WABX was exciting and the day I left W4, I felt a lot of relief."

Ms. Savelly looks back on her three years at WABX fondly and still is sure of all the reasons for leaving there to go to WRIF.

"I had a great time at ABX. I'll always have happy memories of my time there. I have many good feelings about that station and, the many friends I made. Even though you change stations, you still remain friends."