

Music makes her world turn



Pam Cannon has just released her first record. (Photo by Mindy Saunders)

By SHIRLEE IDEN

Pam Cannon first toddled up to the piano when she was too young to comprehend what it was.

Since then, music has been the love of her life.

Nowadays the 27-year-old, who was born and raised in Southfield, lives in Toronto and sings in clubs while attempting to launch a recording career.

The daughter of Margaret and Edward Cannon of Southfield, she is one of six children.

When Ms. Cannon graduated from Southfield High School in 1970, she was already actively pursuing a life in the music business.

"I started at age 15," she said. "I play the guitar and piano and I sing. I can also play the harmonica."

"We always had a piano, so I started banging on it before I even knew what it was. Actually, we're a musical family."

Her grandfather was a musician and one-time president of a musicians' union.

and her father sings in a barbershop quartet.

"I began as a teenager by singing in groups around the Southfield area," she said.

"New Minority, was the name of one group, and I just lived for music."

MS. CANNON said she used to get straight A's in music and "could care less about the rest of my studies."

After graduation from Southfield High School, she attended Oakland Community College where she was active in the choir and took music theory classes.

"I also studied privately a great deal," she said.

It was after her brief marriage to a Canadian that she settled in Toronto.

"But Southfield is home and I miss it," she said.

Ms. Cannon has just made her first recording, a single called "Walk Out Backwards," for which she has high hopes.

"A Detroit guy, Jan Eugenides, wrote the song," she said.

Ms. Cannon also has begun to write songs and enjoys performing her own music.

"I'm an entertainer," she said. "I like to involve the audience."

She has played the bars and clubs and on the road for several years and admits to being tired of that aspect of the business.

"You burn out quickly on the road," she said. "I've played the beautiful rooms and ones which were the pits."

"I'VE PAID my dues, I think," she said. "And now I intend to do more studio work."

Most of her recording work is being done with the same band that works with Anne Murray. Since they are on tour much of the time, her recordings are taking a long time to complete.

"You can do a recording in a week or it may take months," she said. "The one we're working on has songs by me and songs by Jan Eugenides."

Coming up on her career horizon are

five television shows this fall and winter.

"Some will be shown here in the Detroit area," she said. "The name of the show is 'Lively Country.'"

Ms. Cannon describes her kind of music as "sort of folk-rock-jazz."

The new album will be promoted through an American record label.

"The promotion is everything," she said. "That's what takes it somewhere."

Her goal is to be known as an artist; not just an entertainer, and Ms. Cannon works hard on every aspect of her music.

"I want to sell records, and I love television," she said.

"I would really love to have my own television show."

Recently she came home to spend some time with her family and she also appeared in a benefit concert at Mercy High School in Farmington.

When she returns to Toronto, she'll concentrate on an album to be called "A Musical Love Affair."

'Tagging Together' says thanks with concerts

The band and orchestra music students of Farmington, Harrison and North Farmington High Schools wish to send a public thank-you to all area residents who supported Tag Days in October.

In return for contributions, supporters were given a tag to be used as free admission to one of the concerts to be performed by each of the three bands in November.

The Symphony Band will play "Hands Across the Sea," "Zampa Overture" and "Flag and Gallop."

The choir contributes "We Have Just Begun" and "I Feel Love."

Selections by the Marching Band are "Finale," "Primal Scream, Emperata Overture," and "The Way We Were."

These not holding tags may purchase tickets at the door.

Day Concert is set for 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 9.

Farmington High School's concert is set for Saturday, Nov. 10 with an 8 p.m. curtain.

The three high schools began "Tagging Together" several years ago.

Music students enjoy scholarships, uniforms, alumni activities, banquets, letter awards, refreshments and band camps through the cooperation of residents. The programs are administered jointly by each school's Band Boosters.


Newcomers seek members

The South Oakland Newcomers Club is open to new members.

Meetings are held at 8 p.m. the second Monday of each month at the Berkley Community Center, 2300 Robina.

Nancy Michaels of Southfield says members participate in planned activities as a means of making new friends.

For more information call her at 356-4326 or Mary Lou Kimmons, 576-1517.



m.m.memos

Margaret Miller

There's no sillier feeling. It was the end of a wearing day at the end of a wearing week. Before going home I made stops for gas and fried chicken and wine so we'd be ready for the next day's tailgate picnic.

Finally I drove through the subdivision where we've lived only a few months and pulled into the driveway. There was a white Thunderbird parked there. I decided daughter's social life must be taking an upward turn and then groused a bit under my breath that the car was parked on the wrong side of the driveway.

The next thing I noticed was a note pinned to the bush to the right of the garage. Funny she'd leave a note there, I thought. And anyway, why a note when she was inside if Mr. Thunderbird was visiting. And besides, . . .

IT HIT ME, then, of course. The white thing was not a note but a flower on the bush that was not a juniper but a rosebush and the Thunderbird belonged in that driveway but I didn't.

Our house was on another street. Very carefully and very sheepishly I backed out and realized I had turned one block too soon when I came in from the side road. I looked the next day, and decided there was only a superficial resemblance between the houses. I wondered how I ever could have pulled into the driveway.

But I know I'm not the first subdivision dweller to do so and I immediately thought of a teacher friend.

He too had moved from one house to another, he filled me in, and one afternoon he was driving home with his mind on the problems at the school he had left.

He too pulled into the driveway and got out of the car and walked up to the front door.

The key didn't fit, and he thought that rather strange.

And then it hit HIM — he was trying to get into the house where he no longer lived. He too beat a sheepish retreat.

"My wife couldn't believe I had done that," he said, recounting the incident. But I do, and I won't even make any jokes about absent-minded professors. It can happen to the best of us.

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