Singers trades in pop hopes to spread gospel message

A couple of years ago, Karen Kevor-kian realized she wasn't going to find fame and fortune as a singer/composer

fame and fortune as a singer/composer of pop songs.

Rather than abandoning her lifelong dream, she discovered a new talent.

The Lathrup Village resident is still singing, but she's changed her tune — from pop to gospel.

It's been a change for the better — one that's provided her with a new outlook and renewed hopes for success, said Kewpklan.

look and renewed hopes for success, said Kevorkian.

She'll be appearing in her first concert as the opening act for goopel singer Jesse Dison at 7:30 pm. Nov. 27 at the Lakeview High School Auditorium, 21100 11 Miles, St. Cair Short, 10 me because Jesse Disons a well-known gospel singer, she must be succeed to the state of the

DURING THOSE FIVE years, she had some success. She performed at New York's Catch a Rising Star, a nightelib which features young talent. While at the club, she met such well-known comedians as the late Freddy Prinze and Andy Kauffman. Writer/producer Paul Mason saw Kevortkian's performance and asked her to appear as an extra on the Welcome Back, Kotter television program.

Scholar will speak

on Polish problem

A Polish scholar in law and political science will be the first guest speaker in the 192-83 lecture series at Mercy Colege of Detroit.

Rett Luderikowski, Ph.D., will speak it 7:30 p.m. Nov. 23 on "Soldarity: Work, moral political systems, means que current issues in Poland and their alarger human significance. The evening and elements of hope for human free-larger human significance. The evening the current issues in Poland and their larger human significance. The evening the current issues in Poland and their larger human significance. The evening the current issues in Poland and their larger human significance. The evening the current issues in Poland and their larger human significance. The evening the current issues to be a control of the

Kevorkian packed her bags and went to Callifornia to become a "sweathog" on the Kotter silve.
When her stint as a actress was over, she returned home, hoping to get back to work on her singing carees.
Her hopes for a contract with Para-chute Records were dashed when a record deal fell through in 1978. Still determined to pursue her career, Kevorkian went back to California in 1980.

1980.

"I kept saying to myself, 'I have to find my niche.' I though I flollywood was the answer.

"I was singing at the Improvisation (a nightclub for aspiring singers and comedians in Los Angeles) and trying to get a record deal with anybody. I didn't have any luck.

"I had a handful of dreams and promises, and I was left empty-handed."

During the summer of 1980, Kevorkian declied to leave California once again.

During the summer of 1980, Kevorkian decided to leave California once again.

On the road from Los Angeles to Detroit, Kevorkian had what she now be lieves was a "religious experience."

I was of viving along a road in Iowa and I heard a voice telling me to call home. When I left California, I had decided I was going to surprise my parents, so I didn't call them.

"At first I thought it was my friend (who drove back with her) telling me to call, but it wasn't.

"I called home, and my parents told me they were really worried because they couldn't reach me. They said they had joined a new church.— Bloomfield Hills Christian — and learned how to pray according to the word of God in the Bible. That day, they had prayed for me to call home.

When she got home, Kevorkian's parents asked her to go to Cobo Hall with them to hear evangelist Kenneth Copeland.

"I WAS LEERY because I always

land.
"I WAS LEERY because I always "I WAS LEERY because I always thought going to hear an evangelist alik about God and Jesus was strange. I thought they were like the fire and brimstone preachers I used to see on television.

"My dad convinced me to go, and I was totally measureized. He (Copeland) talked about God and Jesus, and he made sense. He explained how the word of God could work in my life."
Kevorkian, who calls herself a "born again Christian," said ahe started regularly attending the Bloomtield, Hills Christian Church after that.
Not long after, she was "inspired" to write goople songs, she said. "I always wanted to write songs for Jesus, but I just couldn't do it. One day, I prayed for the spirit of God to come into my life.

wanted to write songs for Jesus, but I just couldn't do it. One day, I prayed for the spirit of God to come into my life.

"This doesn't make sense logically, but it worked. A few minutes after I prayed, I sat down at the piano and wrote my lirst gospel song." Heavenly Angels. That week I wrote live songs."

Kevorkian teamed up with Karl Nilson, another member of the Bloomfield Hills Christian Church, and together they composed 2's songs within a year. Nilsson is program director for local Christian musle station WMUZ.
"Our songs tell people that Jesus pald the price for them, and they can be free.
"There's a lot of people hurting out there. I can offer them an answer through my music," she said.

Keverkian said one of the most moving experiences she's had as gospel singer was performing for limites at the Oaktand County Jail.

They were one of the best audiences. I've ever performed for. Men and wonen were crying and asking me when I was coming back.

"It wasn't because I had a good once. I was telling them that God loved them and didn't condemn them.
"I was telling them the good news — that's what gospel means.

Kevorkian said she hopes to "spread the good news" by touring around the world.
"I'm not just entertaining anymore. I feel as if it's a ministry."

"I'm not just entertaining anymore. I feel as if it's a ministry."

Karen Kevorkian of Lathrup Village is singing a new tune these days. Once she wrote pop songs and appeared on a national television series.

Now she says she's found her niche with gospel music.

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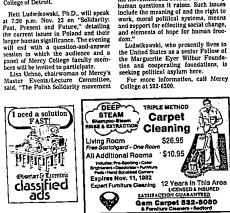
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