

Helen Marketti's Music Corner

Melissa Manchester



Sandusky State Theatre will welcome Grammy Award winning artist, Melissa Manchester on Friday, May 2, 2014.

Melissa Manchester has a career spanning over forty years with many hit songs. Her beautiful and powerful voice can be heard and felt on, Don't Cry Out Loud, Fire In The Morning, Midnight Blue, You Should Hear How She Talks About You, Looking Through the Eyes of Love (theme from Ice Castles) and many more.

Melissa knew in her heart that she wanted to sing by the tender age of five when she discovered Ella Fitzgerald and Judy Garland. "Ella and Judy were the musical Godmothers for me," said Melissa. "They formed my soul in terms of Judy's deep well of emotion and Ella's beautiful and honest command of the lyrics. As for the male artists, I always loved Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett and Nat King Cole."

Melissa's work over the past several years has included composing, acting, singing and songwriting. "I came from a family with a musical background. My father was a bassoonist for the Metropolitan Opera and my mother was one of the first women to own a clothing design and manufacturing firm on Seventh Avenue. I grew up during the wonderful Golden Age of Hollywood where there were actors like Cary Grant. They all seemed to be groomed a little more magnificent than us mere mortals." (Laughs)

"I am filled with joy and gratitude for what I do," said Melissa. "I also spend time teaching as well. I teach one day per week at the Thornton School of Music, which is at the University of Southern California. I am an adjunct professor so that keeps my schedule open to continue with my other projects. I work with students who are singers and songwriters and teach them whatever they want to learn whether it's discussing a composition or a vocal performance. I find that everything I do fulfills the creative urge to commu-

nicate ideas. Inspiration for my work comes from life experiences, eavesdropping on people's conversations, discussions with friends and family and when collaborating with others. The muse starts singing to you."

Melissa is currently working on her twentieth album titled, "You Gotta Love The Life" which is due for release in the fall of 2014. "At the end of each of my concerts I like to meet my fans. I enjoy saying 'hello' and signing items. Everyone has a story about how my music touched them or helped them make a decision. I think it's an unexpected gift for what I do and I find it to be very sweet."

"I have reached out to my fans for my upcoming twentieth album. The idea came from my students about fan funding. My fans have been a great help through the Indiegogo campaign where they can contribute money at different levels and we give different premiums. Some fans have been able to visit my studio while I am recording. It is unbelievable how we are into a new industrial revolution for recording. Young people now are not used to albums. Everything has changed so much and the industry is more single-driven than having an entire album. When you did a full album in the early days, it was great to have the record company behind you. On the other hand, it's also nice to be independent because you can call the shots and make it more of your own responsibility."

Melissa has a regiment that she usually follows on the day of a show. "I drink lots of water and work out. I usually stay quiet for most of the day. Sound check is around 5:00 pm and then I start getting ready around 6:00 if the show starts at 8:00. It's all part of taking care of myself, my energy and keeping it right."

The Sandusky State Theatre performance is a co-adventure with Terra State Community College. It includes a Master Class on May 1st. "I am looking forward to playing at Sandusky State Theatre," said Melissa. "I am excited to also be teaching a Master Class with the AmeriKids on May 1st. They are going to be singing with me onstage. We will be rehearsing a choral piece that I have written. My time in Sandusky is going to be very special."

For more information about Melissa Manchester:

www.melissa-manchester.com

For ticket information:
www.sanduskystate.com



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