

PRESS RELEASE



Jazzical blues act MASTERS MARIE and Nashville Opera present an evening of ballads, story songs and standards

- MASTERS MARIE to perform in conjunction with Nashville Opera's Mary Ragland Young Artists
- March 21st event is one of the first in the new Natchez Hills Winery Tasting Room at Fontanel in Whites Creek
- Doors open at 5 PM, show at 7 PM; full wine bar and tapas available - no reservations required, but space is limited
- Part of Nashville Opera's popular Opera@ events

February 26, 2015 (Nashville, TN) Jazzical blues act MASTERS MARIE and Nashville Opera's 2015 Mary Ragland Young Artists will perform together for the first time in a one-night-only event Saturday, March 21, 2015 at the new Natchez Hills Winery Tasting Room at Fontanel. The evening's performance will include selections from the newly released MASTERS MARIE album "Live, Laugh, Love" combined with beloved standards, Broadway tunes and opera arias which will all tell stories of love through the varied musical genres. MASTERS MARIE consists of singer-songwriter Krista Marie, virtuoso musician Tom Shinness, who plays an impressive six instruments on the recording, percussionist P.T. Houston, and Michael Morton on solo flute. The 2015 Nashville Opera Mary Ragland Young Artists are tenor Christopher Nelson, soprano Hanna Brammer, baritone Alex Soare, mezzo-soprano Christine Amon and pianist Cory Battey. The newest addition to Fontanel, the Natchez Hills Winery Tasting Room, will have fine wines and tasty bistro tapas available at 5:00 PM, with the show starting at 7:00 PM. No reservations are required, but space is limited. A suggested donation of \$20 per person will benefit Nashville Opera's education and outreach programs which is celebrating its 20th anniversary. This year, the Mary Ragland Young Artists will perform *Jack and the Beanstalk* for more than 24,000 children throughout Middle Tennessee.

"The first time I met Krista Marie, she sang an aria from *The Barber of Seville* to me from memory, and I knew that this was an artist who profoundly understands music and how the different genres here in Music City are all interconnected," said Noah Spiegel, Chief Operating Officer of Nashville Opera. "I'm overjoyed that she has agreed to perform with our exceptional 2015 Mary Ragland Young Artists to showcase the musical diversity we have in Nashville. The new Natchez Hills Winery Tasting Room at Fontanel is the perfect spot to showcase this unique program that deeply connects with the audience with this engaging selection of incredible songs."

"Special thanks to my husband, Marc Oswald, who consistently supported our new music," said Krista Marie. "Much of the album and music was inspired while staying at www.Fontanel.com so it feels very appropriate to be bringing it all together on property with the Nashville Opera for this special event.

About MASTERS MARIE

MASTERS MARIE began out of a kindred friendship between the late singer/songwriter AJ Masters & Krista Marie. Both having had country music chart & individual solo artist success, they decided to write what they were "feeling" instead of focusing on the "commerciality" of music. With AJ's iconic, 1950's Gibson guitar & both of their backgrounds in jazz, classical & blues, (conceiving their new genre "Jazzical Blues") the pair began writing what evolved into their debut album, "Live Laugh & Love." The compilation was released one month prior to AJ's unexpected passing of prostate cancer. The duo team had plans of recording their next album, touring & hopes of adapting their music to a full stage production. This organic, musical writing journey was what AJ & Krista Marie called "writing therapy"...

"We wrote what we were feeling, initially with no intentions of it going anywhere but on our voice memos and to memory," said Krista Marie. "We both needed an outlet for our personal frustrations, our creativity, & honestly our writing sessions together were therapy for one another. AJ brought out the best in me... and although our time was cut way too short, I am so grateful & blessed for the times I had with AJ... it was personal... these songs that we wrote are OUR personal stories... It is very revealing & scary when you allow others to listen to some of your most vulnerable, true to life stories..."

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MASTERS MARIE recorded their musical stories at Off The Row Studio, engineered by PT Houston. The multi talented virtuoso, Tom Shinness: played his 1913 Gibson Harp-guitar, harp, nylon string guitar, cello, mandolin, mandola and octave mandolin & banjo on the album. Jeff Taylor: accordion & keys, Al Reingold: keys, Billy Henderson: co-lyricist & writer. The group is scheduled to record the new MASTERS MARIE material as planned next month to honor their friend & co-writer. Let the music live on... AJ Masters (1950-2015)

About Fontanel Hotel and Resort

Fontanel Mansion, open daily for tours, is a 27,000 square foot log home formerly owned by Country Music Hall of Fame member Barbara Mandrell. The home, situated on the 186-acre property is nestled in the rolling hills of the Whites Creek Valley just 15 minutes from downtown Nashville. With the luxurious Inn at Fontanel, the Holiday Inn Concert Series at the Carl Black Chevy Woods Amphitheater, their award winning restaurant Cafe Fontanella, Prichard's Distillery, family friendly atmosphere, activities like Music City Ziplines by Adventureworks and three miles of Metro Parks Greenway walking trails, and now the addition of the Natchez Hills Winery Tasting Room and Whites Creek Bistro, it is easy to see why Fontanel is one of Nashville's premier destinations. For more information or to book a private event, visit www.fontanelmansion.com or call 615/724-1600.

About Nashville Opera

Nashville Opera, Tennessee's largest professional opera company, is dedicated to creating legendary productions and programs. Among the most successful regional companies in the United States of America, Nashville Opera has presented three different world premiere operas since its inception in 1981. Main stage performances are presented at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center and the Noah Liff Opera Center, playing to over 13,000 people annually. Nashville Opera's extensive education and outreach touring program reaches over 25,000 students throughout Middle Tennessee. These projects are supported by grants from the Metro Nashville Arts Commission, the Tennessee Arts Commission, the National Endowment for the Arts, the Judy and Noah Liff Foundation, the Nashville Opera Guild, and many other corporate and individual supporters.

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