



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Office of the Governor

Timothy M. Kaine
Governor

May 17, 2007

Ms. Jane Powell
13012 Flack Street
Silver Spring, MD 20906

Dear Ms. Powell:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I wish to extend my sincerest thanks to you for your musical contribution to the historic visit by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II to the Capitol on May 3, 2007.

Your performance was a key part of the success of the day. I am grateful that you were able to lend your time and talents to showing the world what great music Virginia has to offer. The enthusiasm you demonstrated on stage helped to make Virginia's Royal Welcome a truly special day for everyone in attendance.

Again, thank you for your participation in Virginia's Royal Welcome.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy M. Kaine".

Timothy M. Kaine



Jane L. Powell

Article

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AN EVENING OF FUN WITH JANE

Released 05/04/06

By Page H. Gifford

Those who missed Jane L. Powell missed a smash hit on April 22 at Carysbrook to end their 2005–06 season.

Powell lived up to all the praise critics heaped on her. She is certainly sassy like Pearl Baily and not only sings like Aretha Franklin but with a little Sarah Vaughn and Ella Fitzgerald thrown in too.

“I bet you expected Jane Powell...the blue eyed blonde,” said a smiling Powell. What they got was “the chocolate goddess of love” she calls herself and a lot of unexpected fun.

The place was crackling with energy as Powell opened with “I Can’t Stop Loving You.” Powell’s voice was rich, brassy, bold and smoky. She took songs where they had never been before, making them her own. The voice is a singer’s instrument but Powell goes beyond the usual limits, showing how to use her voice to reach down deep into the abyss of her soul with songs like “Summertime” and “Unchained Melody.”

She then reaches high and soars with cool, finger snapping classics like Duke Ellington’s “Take The A Train” adding in some fancy scatting.

Her unique version of Otis Redding’s “On The Dock of the Bay” was sensational with whistling that she carried up and down the scale with effortless finesse.

By this time the audience was clapping, singing along and was hooked by Powell’s intimate and unpretentious warmth and spicy humor. She is spontaneous and unexpected while interacting with the audience, getting a few of the men to participate on stage while she sang “Under The Boardwalk” and they sang the chorus.

Not to be overlooked was the trio of wonderful musicians who accompanied her. Their solo was bold and uninhibited like their flawless skill with their instruments. Dave Yivisaker, nicknamed “Porkchop” by Powell and sometimes just plain “Pork,” did a Jerry Lee Lewis on the keyboard, his fingers flying across the ivories. Steve Sachse, nicknamed “Cookie” played the base and Powell’s husband James Jackson played the drums with confident abandon.

Not since Mark Nizer or Big Ray and the Kool Katz did the audience laugh and have as much fun with a performer. Many want Powell to return again to Carysbrook and anyone who missed her this time should not miss her next performance. She is a knockout performer who packs a punch.

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Ray Charles

The concept at the Versailles Room of the Bethesda Holiday Inn is commendable—a one-price dinner/open bar/concert with special guest stars, preferably those who can bring back precious memories to several generations. It's like celebrating New Year's Eve on a bimonthly basis; last night, Ray Charles was Santa Claus, but he brought little beyond his presence.

Charles, who has earned the high-priest-of-soul moniker over three decades of often magnificent singing that not only transcends but bridges diverse genres, has one of the classic, most instantly recognizable voices in popular music. Like Willie Nelson, he can absorb the essence of songs as different as Rodgers and Hammerstein's "Some Enchanted Evening" or Irving Berlin's "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and integrate them seamlessly with a hurting blues like "I Can't Stop Loving You" or a sassy strutter like "What'd I Say."

The long evening was saved by Jane Powell, a barrel-voiced singer from Roanoke who handled sweet ballads and punchy dance tunes with equal flair and abandon. Though she did mostly covers, she invested them with an internalized passion that was lacking in Ray Charles. She stole the night from a legend.

—*Richard Harrington*

June Powell . . . simply the best!

The Vocalist . . . "A certain talent comes along every 20 years or so, and you're it!"

Tony Bennett

The Humorist . . . "Entirely unpretentious, refreshingly honest, and completely without self conscience."

Steve Pate
The Charlotte News

The Actress . . . "We had to shoot it several times because in the script, after she sang the songs, the audience wasn't supposed to applaud. They were supposed to remain quiet; but every time she finished, they cheered and clapped. I loved it!"

Disco Delaurentis
RE: "Marie" starring Cissy Spacek

The Entertainer . . . "Looks like Patti LaBelle, sassy like Pearl Bailey, sings like Aretha Franklin..."

Gary LeMaster
The Stardust, Las Vegas

The Recording Artist . . . "The first time I heard her sing, she made me smile."

Alan Glass, Record Producer
for Glass House Productions
Projects include Whitney Houston,
Kenny G, and Jennifer Holliday

The Person . . . "It doesn't matter to me who you are or what you do, just enjoy my music, and enjoy me. That's why I'm here."

June Powell

Programming



1990 Campus
Entertainer of
the Year:
Jane Powell
& Co.

Jane Powell and Co.

Campus Entertainer of the Year



"She stole the night from a legend," wrote The Washington Post about Jane Powell when she appeared on the same bill with Ray Charles.

"A certain talent comes along every 20 years or so, and you're it!" said singer Tony Bennett about this talented lady after catching her show in Nashville a few years back.

With such luminous accolades coming her way, it's no wonder the vocalist of Jane Powell and Co. has won not only this year's Campus Entertainment Award in the Jazz Music category, but the coveted Entertainer of the Year honor as well. She was also nominated in the Contemporary Music and Performing Arts: Music categories.

A Roanoke, Va., native who has mastered practically every musical genre, Powell has been described as outrageous and unforgettable, boasting a five-octave range and a magnificent voice reminiscent of both Ella Fitzgerald and Mahalia Jackson. This is one singer, however, who doesn't want to be categorized. "I'm a little bit jazz, a little bit rhythm and blues, a little bit soul," she said, explaining that what she might be singing on any given night depends on her mood. And although she avoids comparisons with other singers, she claims the legendary Ella as well as Della Reese, Otis Redding, Aretha Franklin and other greats among her musical idols.

"However you choose to classify (her), one thing's for certain; she's terrific," wrote Emily Hedrick in The Charlotte News (NC). "That, and flamboyant, outrageous at times, totally unself-conscious, witty, sexy, playful — and with a velvet voice big enough to fill a canyon, and sweet enough to soothe a savage.

"Find me a better all-around entertainer — one who can make you laugh and cry, who can caress you with sensual ballads and rock you with everything from soul to country and western — and I'll swear you've just come back from Mars," Hedrick added.

Powell has often been praised, not just for her staggering musical abilities, but for her rapport with her audiences. "... Ms. Powell initiated a rapport with the audience that even a well-trained comedian would be hard pressed to equal," wrote Mark Latendress of The Appalachian after Powell appeared at Appalachian State University (NC).

Powell is known for her banter with audiences. "If people annoy me, I'll tell 'em. If they don't like my music, I tell 'em to leave. And if they love me, I give 'em all I've got," she says. "It doesn't matter to me who you are or what you do, just enjoy my music and enjoy me. That's why I'm here."

Although Powell has supported herself as everything from a sewing factory or ice cream parlor employee to a cook or maid, music has always been a top priority for her. She was encouraged by her father, himself a professional entertainer, to sing. And sing she did — at weddings, funerals and clubs. When her husband asked her to choose between him and performing, she bid him farewell and never looked back.

Powell has performed in a variety of venues, including film. She sang two songs in the film *Marie*, which starred Cissy Spacek. "We had to shoot it several times because in the script, after she sang the songs, the audience wasn't supposed to applaud. They were supposed to remain quiet; but every time she finished, they cheered and clapped. I loved it!" said director Dino DeLaurentis.

Backed by her five-piece, full-tilt funk band, Jane is a joyous performer who captures the heart of any audience with her unpretentious humor and wit. "Looks like Patti Labelle, sassy like Pearly Bailey, sings like Aretha Franklin . . ." wrote *The Stardust*.

Yes, whenever the great ladies of song are mentioned, Jane Powell's name will surely be among them.



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AUG 21 1991

August 20, 1991

Ms. Sue Carper
Entertainment Department
Kloster Cruise Limited
95 Merrick Way, 3rd Floor
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Dear Ms. Carper:

Again I wanted to compliment you and your department on the outstanding entertainment on board the MS Seaward for the August 4th sailing. This being my 5th cruise, (second with NCL in two years) I have never been as satisfied with the shows.

Pursuant to our conversation on Monday, I am requesting a tape of the entertainer Jane Powell, singer. If there is any need for payment, please contact me using the enclosed card.

I hope in the future you have the opportunity to have Ms. Powell on board again. Her show was very moving and was "the talk of the ship".

Compliments to Kloster, NCL, you and your department and all the entertainment. My only gripe is the chefs. I gained too much weight! (The food was excellent!).

Sincerely,

Ken Silvestri
Account Executive

F41:
cc: Greg von Seeger
Jane Powell

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Corporate Travel Consultants II, Inc.

Fran Sefcik
Norwegian Cruise Lines
95 Merrick Way
Coral Gables, FL 33134

Re: Miami Dolphins Group 74185

Dear Fran,

At present, we have approximately 210 passengers booked aboard the NORWAY for June 17th to 24th, plus Miami Dolphins Bryan Cox, Troy Vincent, O.J. McDuffie, J.B. Brown, Marco Coleman, Jeff Dellenbach, Bernie Parmalee, Gene Atkins, Pete Stoyanovich, Keith Sims, Terry Kirby, James Saxon, Irving Spikes, Craig Veasey, Tim Ruddy, Chris Green, Mike Williams & Detroit Lions Quarterback Scott Mitchell, a total of 18 NFL players. I have sold all six Owners Suites, all of the Deluxe Penthouses, most of the Penthouses and Junior Penthouses.

On our last Dolphin cruise aboard the Dreamward, and prior to that aboard the Norway, the players had the opportunity to hear Jane Powell sing. She and her band even did a special session for the guys back in 1990. I have had several requests from the guys who heard her on both these cruises to see if they could get her back on the Norway during our cruise, plus a lot of the guys who only heard about her. I'm not sure how to go about requesting her, or if she is even available. I do know that she enjoyed the players, and they enjoyed her. If there is a way that we could request having her aboard the NORWAY that week, it would go a long way towards guaranteeing us a fabulous cruise.

Please let me know if there is someone I could talk to, how to reach Jane, or the entertainment department. My wife escorted a group on the Seaward last month and said she was on board and was still fabulous.

Thanks for your help.

Sincerely,

Sandy Leach

Sandy Leach

Sue -
Can you or
Joy get on
to him? Obviously,
this? up to you!
it's Thanks -
Fran
1/23/95

OK called &
sold them 1/30/95
Jane will be there
SL

Green River to host Jazz Fest; Powell featured performer

By Darci Mattioda
Staff Writer

Green River Community College's 21st Annual Vocal Jazz Festival will take place tomorrow in the gym. Twenty-seven high school participants from across the state will compete at the festival. Each competitor will perform for fifteen minutes at their scheduled times throughout the day.

Jane Powell, professional jazz vocalist, will be the special guest at this year's festival. Powell is the 1990 winner of the National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) entertainer of the year award, and the Campus Entertainment Award in the Jazz Music Category. Powell has mastered many aspects of the musical field with a five-octave vocal range that is often compared to Ella

Fitzgerald and Mahalia Jackson. Powell sings a combination of jazz, rhythm and blues and soul. She will begin performing in the gym at 9 p.m.

The vocal Jazz Festival will begin at 8 a.m. and continue throughout the day. The competitions will be from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., with a lunch break at noon. At 4 p.m. the GRCC Music Company give a performance and the finalists in the competition will be announced. The Divisions A, AA, and AAA will perform from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The tickets for this event are available through the Green River ticket office or Ticket Master outlets. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students. These prices are good throughout the day and the evening. Prices for those who want to see competition only are \$2 from 8



Photo courtesy of Student Programs

Jazz vocalist Jane Powell is the featured performer at the 21st Annual Vocal and Jazz Festival tomorrow at GRCC.

a. m. to 5 p.m. This annual event was put together by co-directors Linda Fahlgren

and Diane Anderson, and student director Crystel McDaniel.

Roanoke's Jane Powell
takes shore leave to
talk about her music,
her goodwill project
and her new movie



Photos by ERIC BRADY / THE ROANOKE TIMES

Singer Jane Powell recently visited her parents at their home in Salem.

'I've been blessed'

By MADELYN ROSENBERG / THE ROANOKE TIMES



For audiences, she's dubbed herself the "chocolate goddess of fun."



Homesick?

Who? Jane Powell, sassy and smooth, a singer who abandoned her Roanoke apartment for a cruise ship with two dining rooms, eight lounges, one casino and twin Jacuzzis?

Well, yes.

It's not that her life isn't full, as the featured entertainer aboard the Norwegian Sky, as a touring artist, as leader of her own small outreach project.

But she misses her family. Cell-phone conversations when she reaches port just aren't good enough.

"I miss that home cooking," Powell said last week, at her parents' home in Salem for a quick fix.

The first night she was in town, her mother, Maxine, obliged her by cooking up a mess of fried chicken, meatloaf, deviled eggs and sweet potato pie.

But of course the flight from Houston was delayed past the dinner hour.

So "she had chicken at the airport," ratted her sister, Janice Mack, explaining that their other sister, June, toted the snack to Roanoke Regional for the ride down U.S. 460.

Jane turned to Janice with her best Cruella De Vil scowl. Like the chicken, the story wasn't necessarily for public consumption. "It's all out now," she said, almost hiding her grin. "You're done talking."

Powell is not convinced that people

More, even, than her music, though just as essential to her life as sleep. ("I'm singing in my head," she said. "I'm singing right now.")

Powell first visited Honduras when her last cruise ship, the Norwegian Sea, began docking in the Honduran port of



Photo courtesy of Jane Powell

Powell is surrounded by poor Honduran children at the port of Roatan.

Roatan after stops in Cancun and Cozumel, Mexico.

"The beaches are some of the most beautiful in the world," Powell said. "But the beaches are surrounded by poverty."

Especially since the devastation that came with Hurricane Mitch in 1998, leaving a million people homeless.

So when the captain pulled the white, 42,000-ton ship into port, bare-foot Hondurans would crowd the gate to watch



"I just like music. Period."

dore talking."

Powell is not convinced that people in Western Virginia really wonder what she's been up to since she cut down her appearances at area clubs and colleges, where her big voice, honesty and occasional back talk made her an audience favorite. But she'd rather their image of her not focus on a leg of fried chicken, even if it is her mother's.

Try, instead, an image of Jane Powell surrounded by children in Honduras.

That's what she talks about the most — more than life on the 700-foot ocean liner, more than the new movie she'll appear in, come November,

white 42,000-ton ship into port, barefoot Hondurans would crowd the gate to watch.

"They didn't look unhappy," Powell said. "It's like people always say when they're coming up. 'We were poor but we didn't know we were poor.'"

"I prayed to God. 'What can I do?'"

When she returned to the Norwegian Sea's base port in LaPorte, Texas, she told the staff at the nonprofit Lou Lawler Seafarer Center, a hospitality and help center for workers on ships, cruise to cargo, that she wanted to do something. She wanted to find those children some shoes.

PLEASE SEE JANE/10

FROM PAGE 1

Jane

"We told her no problem," said Romona Cadberry, who has worked at the center since it opened in 1983 to aid ship workers of many nationalities with their errands while they were in port.

"We put an ad in the paper. The next Sunday, we had beaucoup stuff for her, and every Sunday after that."

One woman brought in 150 pairs of shoes. Another got her church to contribute clothing. Powell emptied one of her suitcases and went to the Wal-Mart in LaPorte for notebook paper and folders.

She canvassed the people she knew on the ship and the people she knew back home.

Shoes came in by the bagful, and Powell went into Roatan to distribute them.

"Miss Jane, bring me a size 9," children clamored. Many didn't know what they needed and Powell became an expert on feet; she can guess their length within a half size.

She distributed other things, too: clothing, toys and a bicycle for a round-faced boy named Sampson, who tagged after her like a puppy each week.

A friend took over the deliveries this month when Powell was reassigned to the fleet's newest ship, the Norwegian Sky, which heads to Germany and Norway instead of tiny Roatan. She hopes to return to Honduras next year.

"I thought, 'I've been blessed with all of these good things,' she said. "With all this luxury on the ship."

Powell was blessed growing up, too.

She never remembers a time she didn't want to sing, or when her parents didn't encourage her.

Post toddler, she would belt out lyrics from Tennessee Ernie Ford: "16 tons and what do you get? Another day older and deeper in debt."



Powell's publicity photo from the early '90s.

list, by the third song, we were off. She was always quick to read the demographics and the attitude."

That meant each show was different, he said, and the audience members felt they were seeing something special, just for them.

She was performing for a college showcase when Sue Carper, director of entertainment for Norwegian Cruise Lines, saw her perform and offered her a job.

Now, Powell lives in the ship and performs twice a week at two hours a night. Most cruises last a week or longer.

Her voice covers five octaves, though "most of the time I stick to three or four," she said.

She'll sing anything, any style. "I just like music. Period." Country night on the ship?

friends, and they've corresponded for more than 20 years.)

In November, this Jane Powell, our Jane Powell, will appear in a movie of her own, "The Bachelor," a New Line Cinema release. In it, she sings "The First Time Ever I Saw Your Face" as Chris O'Donnell prepares to make a hasty proposal to Renee Zellweger.

"Do you mind?" he asks her, as she hovers over his table, singing away.

Her job, besides singing, was to give O'Donnell what director Gary Sinzger called "attitude" and Powell called "face."

"I told him, 'you hired the right person for this. I can give the brother some attitude.' I look at him like this," she said, rolling her eyes and frowning her brow. "I give him face, big face."

Her father, Laine, was a singer, and as Jane got older, she tagged along on gigs with him.

"I always wanted to go," said Powell, now 49. "I said this is what I want to do."

She received more encouragement at William Fleming High School. Though choir director June Webb Perry said her voice "stuck out too much" for the main choir, the teacher also gave her encouragement and said, "I know you'll be a singer some day."

She started soon after that, making the main choir as a senior and singing in her own

She sings for those, making a joke of it: "Hmm. A large black singer. Texas right."

And then she'll belt out Patsy Cline's "Crazy," scatting a little in the middle, then stopping herself.

She sang "It's Raining Men" on a cruise for gay men once.

Powell also sings her own songs, "Brings Me Joy," and standards, crowd pleasers, like "I Believe in Music."

She walks to the stage from the audience where she sits, incognito, getting a feel for the crowd.

"You hear all kinds of things

Singer originally envisioned Barry Manilow for the part.

But when he and his wife took a cruise and heard Powell sing, "He took out Barry Manilow and put me in." During the filming, they were still arguing over who "discovered" her, forgetting, perhaps, that though she doesn't have a record contract with a major label, she's been an award-winning singer for nearly 30 years.

The filming for the scene took place over nine days in California, where everyone has an assistant and her band, with her on the ship and when she tours,

she didn't want to sing, or when her parents didn't encourage her.

Post toddler, she would belt out lyrics from Tennessee Ernie Ford: "16 tons and what do you get? Another day older and deeper in debt."

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She received more encouragement at William Fleming High School. Though choir director Jure Webb Perry said her voice "stuck out too much" for the main choir, the teacher also gave her encouragement and said, "I know you'll be a singer some day."

She started soon after that, making the main choir as a senior and singing in her own band at clubs, restaurants and parties.

She sang for a national McDonald's commercial.

She hit the college circuit ("those students are starved for my kind of music," she says), winning campus Entertainer of the Year for 1989, and Jazz Artist of the Year from 1990 to 1995.

She still does a month a year on the road, visiting college auditoriums and music festivals.

Wes Crawford, her drummer for 12 years and now her manager, was with her then.

"Her forte is reading the crowd," he said. "We never had a set list, and if she wrote a set

two hours a night, most cruises last a week or longer.

Her voice covers five octaves, though "most of the time I stick to three or four," she said.

She'll sing anything, any style. "I just like music. Period."

Country night on the ship?

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"You hear all kinds of things out there," she said. Things like, "I thought Jane Powell was dead," a reference to the older actress by the same name, who is, like *this* Jane Powell, very much alive.

"I know you were thinking blond hair and blue eyes instead of the chocolate goddess of fun," she tells the 70-year-olds sitting nearest the stage and explaining that she was never in "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers" and she's never done an ad for Follies.

(Actually, the shared name has made the two Jane Powells

attitude" and Powell called "face."

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The filming for the scene took place over nine days in California, where everyone has an assistant and her band, with her on the ship and when she tours, could not get over the size of the shrimp.

They pushed all of the buttons in the limousine while Powell urged them to, please, guys, pretend you're used to all this.

Truth is, even as the auditoriums for on-the-road performances get bigger and manager Crawford adds things to her rider like "a quiet place to sit before each show," Powell isn't used to all of this either.

"It's just nice to be able to sing for a living," she said.

Madelyn Rosenberg can be reached at 981-3230 or madelynr@roanoke.com



**21st
Annual
Vocal
Jazz
Festival**

Featuring

Jane Powell

April 13

1991

**Green River
Community College**

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Jane Powell

VOTED ROANOKE VALLEY'S

Best Area Vocalist

BY THE READERS OF ROANOKER MAGAZINE



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