
Meet Christina Dellea

We all imagine what we will be when we grow up — for Christina Dellea, it came true.



No matter the season, you can be sure to see a lot of local songstress Christina Dellea. She is generous with her talent, appearing at many community events as well as frequently being booked to entertain at venues throughout the region. There's more to Christina than meets the eye — or the ear, in this case.

Did you grow up in the Hillsdale area?

No — I grew up in Westchester County, in Tarrytown. My Mom is from Copake; we all lived in Tarrytown, but when my Dad died, Mom, my sister and I came back here, where I finished my last few years of high school. After graduation, I went to college, and traveled for about 10 years. At my 10-year reunion, I re-met Phil, and soon settled in Hillsdale with him. [Phil Dellea owns Phil's Irrigation Inc.]. We own a home in the countryside, with a scenic pond that we like to relax by, when we can.

What did you always want to do for a living?

(laugh) — I always did want to be an entertainer, a singer — it was what defined me, it is who I am. So I did. No matter what I do, my music is part of what I do. Music has been a passion, but it's more than just entertaining to me — I've always been a person who wants to help people, so my music is a ministry.

I sing all over the area, for a lot of different occasions and venues. When I appear at places like the Copake Greens, it's all about entertaining the guests, but when I am asked to sing at a wedding or funeral or nursing home I am there to provide comfort, support and therapy.

My singing extends into choral work, which has been a big part of my performing, by bringing the community together in music. Community is important to me — I am involved with a lot of community events, both as a planner and a performer.

I've done career days at some colleges and schools, to encourage kids to follow their dream in entertainment. More recently, I've been teaching voice classes at the Renaissance Arts Center in Great Barrington.

What are your biggest challenges?

Juggling! Not only do I have my music career and my role as a wife, I hostess at the Old Mill a few nights a week — I love the customers there — and I help out with the family business, mostly doing bookwork. It can be a challenge to try to fit in everything that I like to do, find time to enjoy this area, its beauty and attractions. I'm happy to say that I have been successful

at carving out time for me, (thanks to Phil as well) to rejuvenate myself and put my heart and soul into my singing.

And your greatest reward?

To see the look on people's face who are changed because of my music — who are moved in some way. It's life affirming for me when this happens, it makes it all worthwhile — for someone to feel as if they are touching someone else is amazing to me.

Tell us something that we wouldn't know about you.

My work with the local (community) Youth Ministry. It's called "Fun, Food, and Fellowship", and it's a group of their peers that I wanted to form outside of the school and home activities, to let them know that there is another source out there that supports them. The Youth Ministry engages the youth in our community, and lets them know that they have support spiritually and community wide to attain their life goals. I struggle to engage the kids, in their busy lives in this world that we live in, where material things are perceived to be of the utmost importance, and the business of their lives, getting them to stop and "feed themselves" — and to help them understand that they have the support.

On a totally different note, my husband and I also raise beef cows!

What does the future hold for you?

Hopefully, more singing! I hope that my music will continue to help heal and comfort, to lighten and enlighten. Professionally, my current goal is to release a spiritual compilation of original songs, one at a time online, and to bring them to the Church circuit.

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