

# Q&A WITH SINGER LINDA EDER

THE ECLECTIC ICON BRINGS  
BROADWAY, JAZZ & MORE TO  
THE SHARON ON NOV. 1



Photo courtesy of Scott Zapata

**L**inda Eder's diverse vocal repertoire spans Broadway, standards, pop, country and jazz. Raised in Minnesota, the acclaimed artist has performed on Broadway and released 16 solo recording albums since 1991. She established her own record company, Tressamail Inc., in 2013. The 55-year-old sweetheart chatted with *The Villages Magazine* about her upcoming concert and masters class at The Sharon, her early beginnings on "Star Search" and much more.

**Q. Fans are looking forward to your concert in The Villages. What can they expect?**

**A.** My current show is a mix of standards and Broadway show tunes for the most part, and it spans my whole career. It all fell together so naturally, because it is stories from my life. I'm a performer who is very open to the audience, and at my shows people say they feel like they're in my living room.

**Q. Can you name some songs you'll perform here?**

As a performer you have to keep certain songs in the mix. The ones I'm known for are "Memory Lane," "Someone Like You" from (Broadway's) "Jekyll and Hyde," "Vienna" and "Man of La Mancha." I always encore with "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," "Don't Cry for Me Argentina" and "Climb Every Mountain."

**Q. You also will give a masters class in The Villages. Why is it important to you to help train other singers?**

**A.** Whenever I hear someone sing, I know how to make their voice better. I didn't have formal voice lessons. I'm basically self taught and I developed my own way of teaching about after I started about five years ago. I usually introduce myself a short amount, jump right in and take questions at the end.

**Q. What do you enjoy most about vocal coaching?**

It's so satisfying. I enjoy it so much more than I ever thought I would. It seems like sort of a natural progression in life that you end up teaching, and I never understood it until I started. I get a joy when I see a light bulb go off on their faces.

**Q. Have you been to The Villages before?**

**A.** I've never been to The Villages, so when this opportunity came on board, I said I'd love to. I've heard so much about it because I have a very dear friend, Ellen Jacobs, who lives in The Villages. Florida's always a fun place to visit. I'm going to tie it in with a mini vacation down there.



**Q. Your big break came after winning 12 straight weeks on the 1987 “Star Search” season. What was that like?**

**A.** It was incredible. It was something I had wanted to do, and when they came to town and did the auditions, I was showing a horse that morning at the fairground in Minnesota. I won, changed into my performance dress and was fixing my melting makeup. We got there with just enough time to run in and run up on the stage. I didn't have time to get nervous, which I think helped me. It's really tough to get up in front of an audience and it's really tough to be judged.

**Q. How did “Star Search” help you find your next steps?**

**A.** (The show) definitely was a contributor (to my success) because it introduced me to a national audience, which was so important. In that sense, it was huge for me. And because of that show, I met (American composer) Frank Wildhorn and got into doing Broadway.

**Q. Your repertoire spans a wide variety of genres. Do you have any favorites?**

**A.** As a singer, you tend to go the Broadway route, but innately as a person, I'm much more of a country girl. As a kid with a guitar, that's what I naturally gravitated to for writing. I'm very much a farm girl, outdoorsy girl, horse girl. I live on my own little private horse farm about an hour north of New York City in Westchester County with my 17-year-old son, Jake.

**Q. Your latest album, *Retro Volume 1*, came out in 2015 with its Broadway-esque melodies. What's next?**

**A.** I've done a lot of albums in my career. The challenge is always, “What is the next one going to be?” There are many different types of records that I'd like to make and have plans for. There were so many great melodies Frank (Wildhorn) made over the years, and I thought, “This stuff was really good.” I was surprised I found enough to put together at least two volumes of 20 years of music. I might try to have that out by Christmas.

**Q. What else is on your horizon?**

**A.** I want to keep the fans happy. I'm really happy where I am and with what I've achieved. I sold out four shows at Carnegie Hall, and that was always my goal growing up in Minnesota. I've recorded albums in Miami and performed concerts and plays in Florida. This career has been a lot of fun. I'm a homebody and I have a beautiful place that I love. I have so many interests that that's what important to me — horses, gardening, restoring things, remodeling things, building things. After I had my son, I really changed and (singing) really wasn't as much my focus anymore. Life's been pretty good to me.

— COMPILED BY KATHRYN DEEN

#### MASTER CLASS

Linda Eder will work one-on-one with 10 vocalists from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Nov. 2 at The Sharon. Gary Powell, The Sharon's resident musical director, will serve as the accompanist. Tickets are \$50 for students and \$25 for up to 80 observers at The Sharon's Box Office or at [thesharon.com](http://thesharon.com).



#### LIVE IN CONCERT

See Linda Eder live 7 p.m. Nov. 1 at The Sharon, 1051 Main St. Buy tickets for \$25 to \$75 at The Sharon's Box Office or [thesharon.com](http://thesharon.com).