

Group of ‘America’s Sweethearts’ Sings Through History

The all-women harmony group comes to the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center at 7 p.m. July 3.

By TAYLOR STRICKLAND
Daily Sun Senior Writer

“In words from a friend ... there is magic in the number three,” said Carly Kincannon, founder and CEO of America’s Sweethearts LLC.

From the swinging sounds of The Andrews Sisters all the way to the rhythm and blues of Destiny’s Child, America has always loved all-women close harmony trios.

One woman-owned, New York-based company seeks to honor the legacy of all the sister groups that came before in “America’s Sweethearts,” a vintage revue featuring selections from the Great American Songbook, classic Broadway, patriotic anthems, 1950s pop tunes and jazz standards.

The inspiration for America’s Sweethearts came from Kincannon’s childhood.

She grew up in a family of performers and military veterans. Her grandmother and great-grandmother were both prominent radio singers in their day, and her grandfather and great-grandfather were both colonels in the U.S. Army.

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Founder and CEO of America’s Sweethearts LLC

family that served or played musical instruments in the armed forces,” she said.

Despite her love of older music and vintage swing groups, Kincannon never thought she would start her own entertainment company. In her own words, she was an Indiana girl who came to New York City with big Broadway dreams.

“As an artist, especially in New York, you’re sort of always cobbling together different jobs,” she said.



“America’s Sweethearts” is a tribute to history’s all-women swing groups as well as a vintage salute to the armed forces. Nearly all The Sweets, which is what the group’s singers are called, have family members that served in the military in some way.

Submitted photo

Caught up in the hustle and grind of trying to make it as a performer, Kincannon has been everything from a waitress, a Disney princess, a receptionist, a saleswoman, a teacher and an Edible Arrangements representative. Somewhere along the way, she met other women with similar stories, and in 2016, she founded America’s Sweethearts LLC.

Kincannon created the company as an off-season form of employment for Broadway’s aspiring leading ladies. She said every member of the company works other jobs when not performing as The Sweets, which is why, in addition to a live five-piece band, she has a roster of about a dozen singers — four

sopranos, four mezzos and four altos — that she can pull from for any given performance.

The women donning patent leather pumps and victory rolls for The Villages show are soprano Katie Anderson, Broadway mezzo Amanda Lea LaVergne and alto Kristen Michelle.

Anderson, a Florida native and one of the newer members of America’s Sweethearts, said she feels very fortunate to be part of such an amazing family of strong, talented and inspiring women. She is also excited to be back in the Sunshine State.

As to why Kincannon decided on trios instead of larger ensembles, she references that friend who once said there is magic in the number three.

“Throughout time, there’s been this synergy in the number three, and there’s something magical about a three-part harmony, especially for women,” she said.

When harmonizing, singers must blend their voices together and trust that their singing partners will uphold their parts of the chords. Kincannon said the trust and camaraderie The Sweets have built with each other

allows them to do just that — and more.

Not only do The Sweets sing, they also tell stories, do comedic bits and quite a bit of improvisation that, depending on the occasion, may involve members of the audience.

“They’re all very funny and charming,” Kincannon said of the ladies in red. “There’s a lot of joy and laughter.”

“America’s Sweethearts” comes to The Villages at 7 p.m. July 3 at the Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$30 and up. To learn more, go to thevillagesentertainment.com.



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