

When I first heard of the Studio 55 art group, I thought it was a group of people who are artists, as in, people who can sculpt, draw and paint pictures. In other words ... not a group for me, because, alas, even though I think it is something I should be able to do ... the art just doesn't travel out from my mind through my arms, hands, and fingertips. I do, however, very much appreciate artists and enjoy looking at art, learning about art, talking about art ... and so, was glad to learn that Studio 55 also included people who like art. I'm in!

I was surprised, though, when Sandra asked me to submit an article for the newsletter. (I don't think she knows about the adult pottery class I took and when I gave one of the pieces to my Mom ... asked her to tell people I made it in second grade.) When I expressed to Sandra my doubt about my contribution, she explained that she meant for me to write about my involvement in music. OH THAT!?! HUH?

So I went to Merriam-Webster and looked up the definition for artist. The condensed version:
*a person who creates art (such as painting, sculpture, **music**, or writing) using conscious skill and creative imagination / a skilled performer especially : a **musical** or theatrical entertainer*

Well, my goodness! If Merriam-Webster can be believed ... I am, indeed, an artist. I have been performing .. singing on stage, since about age 8. I am Charles and Jan Lee's daughter. Charles & Jan met at the country music stage of Mooneyham Junction circa 1963 and have been singing in the Ozarks since then. Somewhere around age 8, I was the curly blonde-haired girl that would come out on stage and belt-out *most likely*, a Connie Smith song. (Don't try doing the math ... It will give ya a headache.) I have very fond memories of going on a bus with the Tommy Thompson show to sing at a fair in Webster, South Dakota. I got a standing ovation and I WAS HOOKED on show business!



That's me on the far left.

I LOVED those green & white shoes!



Battlefield Bluegrass Express

When I was about 12, we started singing three-part harmony and soon after, the band Battlefield Bluegrass Express started playing at bluegrass festivals all over the mid-west. In addition to me and Ma&Pa, the band grew to include Don Pearman on mandolin, Danny Hopkins on banjo, Jack Pearman on bass, and Mark Pearman on fiddle. There were many years of making music memories with a backdrop of singing around a campfire, all-night jam sessions, and music that rang in my head for days after a festival. I tell ya, you haven't lived until, in trying to get ready for a Saturday afternoon stage-show, you've put on a dress and pantyhose in a 100-degree camper! Ah yes Memories! In 1975, I was delighted to be named the SPGMA (Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of America) Female Vocalist of the Year.

So much of my life has revolved around singing ... good times singing in church (The Gospelaire!) and a lot of fun singing in high school groups. Somewhere around 1994 I started singing with a bluegrass group called Lights of Home. That group brought me about 16 years of making memories making music at venues all over the Ozarks. There was also another bluegrass group that I sang in with Ma&Pa called Country Harmony.

Well...Well...Well ...all these memories and all those years flying by in a few paragraphs. The show must go on and I am happy to report that I am still singing. I still get to sing a bit with Ma&Pa. I still sing bluegrass in a band called Blue Train. I sing duets with my friend, Kenny Key, in what we call our favorite songwriters tour. We sing some of our favorite songs in folk/country/pop and some original songs from my favorite songwriter ... Kenny Key.



Juanita Lee & Kenny Key



Blue Train

I have enjoyed and continue to enjoy singing with so many music ARTISTS! Oh! There's that word – artist! So I googled artistic personality I got: *Artistic personality type is impulsive and independent. These individuals are creative, impulsive, sensitive and visionary. Although they are creative, it may not necessarily be expressed with paint and canvas.* Well, how about that?! I'm In!

As for the future ... I dream of singing a song with my music artist hero, Connie Smith. My dream job would be to be a back-up vocalist for Dolly Parton. *In the meantime ...*

You can hear me sing with Ma&Pa (Charles & Jan Lee):

Sat, Oct 1, 2022 (5:30 pm) - Song Fest - First Christian Church, 443 N Main, Republic, MO

You can hear me sing with Blue Train:

Sat, Sep 10, 2022 – (7 – 9 pm) Mooneyham Junction, 15964 West County Line Rd, Billings, MO Sat,

Sep 17, 2022 (1-2 pm) – Harvest Days – On the Square in Marshfield, MO

You can hear me sing with Kenny Key:

Sun, Sep 17 (11:30 – 12:15) – Cider Days – Walnut Street, Springfield, MO

Sat, Sep 24, 2022 (TBD) – Pig Roast - Oldfield Opry /Roughly 25 mi SE of Springfield on Missouri 125, Oldfield,

Sat, Oct 8, 2022 (5:45 - 6:30 pm) - Oldfield Opry /Roughly 25 mi SE of Springfield on Missouri 125, Oldfield, MO

Sun, Oct 9, 2022 (2 – 3 pm) The Library Center, 4653 S Campbell Ave, Springfield, MO