

Arts

Gospel vocalist sings message

By Jeff Pierce
Staff Writer

Sandi Patti, who has only been working on her solo career for four years, is fast becoming one of contemporary gospel music's leading female vocalists. Patti, a 26-year-old married to her manager John Helvering, is a native of Oklahoma.

She studied music at Anderson College in Anderson, Ind., where the couple now make their home.

Although her professional career is still relatively new, her musical roots go back to when she was just a young girl singing in her family group, The Ron Patti family.

Her achievements include, The Gospel Music Association's Female Vocalist of the Year, award 1982-83. In 1982, she was honored as Gospel Artist of the Year and for Gospel Song of the Year, *We Shall Behold Him*, written by Dottie Rambo.

Not only does Patti possess an incredible voice with a wide range of musical versatility, she has a distinct message to tell which she hopes will uplift all who see and hear her in concert — and leave them with a

lasting joy and warmth only found in Jesus Christ.

Although Patti now has a long list of plaudits to her credit and her music ministry reaches more people with every performance, she still maintains a "down-to-earth" perspective on life. "I'm committed to this ministry as far as God wants me to be. I want to keep my priorities straight," she said.

In her 1983 album *More Than Wonderful*, she displays the amazing versatility indicative of true talent. Recorded live at Great Circle Sound in Nashville, Tenn., and First Assembly of God in Lakeland, Fla., the album contains music for all listeners, from her opening number, *It's Your Song Lord*, to her moving, live rendition of the 1982 Gospel Song of the Year, *We Shall Behold Him*.

A special effect that sends the entire crowd "to its knees" is Patti's testimony on one of her closest and dearest friends who died in an auto crash this past year and she does sign language while she sings her closing song, *We Shall Behold Him*.

Patti also uses an unorthodox approach to singing *Jesus Loves Me*. In this, her original arrangement of *Jesus Loves*

Me, she reminisces about high school days, and how she wanted to be Karen Carpenter or Barbra Streisand.

Then she proceeded to give very accurate impressions of each of these ladies.

The title cut, *More Than Wonderful*, done with another gospel singer, Larnelle Harris, has become a favorite contemporary gospel song and features a soft rock ballad tempo set to the expert orchestration of the David Clydesdale Orchestra and the Nashville String Machine, a prominent group of studio musicians.

Add the rhythm and blues flavored *Yes, God Is Real*, moving *How Majestic Is Your Name*, the beautiful soft ballad, *Because of Who You Are*, and a tune which is becoming a Gospel favorite, *Upon this Rock*, and you have a wonderful album which can be very influential to listeners of all types of music.

Patti's message, primarily to college students, makes an identifiable impression. "There are some wonderful things to share with people that can make their lives better," she said. "That's how she sums up her message."



DISTINCT MESSAGE: Patti hopes to uplift all who seek and hear her in concert with her musical ministry.

Ralphy spends best Christmas ever in comical film

By Felicia Fogleman
Arts Editor

When you were a kid did you ever wonder if you would get what you asked for for Christmas? This question formed the plot for Rene Dupout and Bob Clark's production, *A Christmas Story*.

Movie Review

Eleven-year-old Ralphy (Peter Billingsly) with his nose pressed up against the store window looked through his black-rimmed glasses at the only thing he wanted from Santa Claus: the Red Rider B-B gun.

Ralphy was scared to ask for that gun for Christmas, because he didn't want to hear "no" and become heart broken. But he did hint around. He even put a B-B gun advertisement under his father's pillow.

Then at the supper table,

Ralphy was asked what he wanted for Christmas. With a slip of the tongue, Ralphy said he wanted a B-B gun, and his mother said "No, you'll shoot your eye out." But he didn't give up.

His teacher told the class to write a short paper on what each student wanted for Christmas. Ralphy had it all worked out. He'd write about the B-B gun, get an "A" on his paper which would really impress his parents, then they would buy him the gun.

But that plan bombed too. He received a "C" on the paper and a little note that read, "You'll shoot your eye out."

Along with the plot of the story was comedy. Ralphy's little brother Tony had a hard time coming and going to school. Each morning he was bounced into his one piece jump-suit and had a scarf wrapped around his face with only his eyes showing.

It was quite funny watching him run from the bullies as they chased after him and

All Ralphy wanted for Christmas was a Red Rider B-B gun, but when he asked for one, his mother said, 'No, you'll shoot your eye out.'

others. He looked like a zombie hobbling from side-to-side.

Mother went through a lot to get Tony to eat his food. She had to play a game to bribe him into eating. She asked him what sound a pig makes and he made the oinking sound of a pig. She asked him how a pig eats and he stuck his whole face in his plate and slopped down the food.

When you were a kid did you ever do something because you were "triple-do-dared?" Well, Ralphy's friend did. On a cold wintery day his friend was bribed into sticking his tongue on the flagpole. He couldn't say,

too much with his tongue frozen to the pole, and after it was all over with he looked rather silly with it bandaged.

Getting back to poor Ralphy — he just knew he'd never get that B-B gun when he let a "bad" word slip in front of his father.

He claimed that he said the word "fudge" as he stretched the one syllable sound. Lifebouy soap did a good job cleaning out his mouth, and his mother even nibbled on it just wondering what it was like.

And finally it was Christmas. On Christmas day Ralphy was

asked if he got everything he wanted for Christmas, and being the truth, he said "Yes." Then he was told to open his present behind the television. He opened it. And of course it was his B-B gun.

Then something tragic happened. A B-B ricocheted off the target, knocked off his glasses and knicked him under the eye, making it bleed. They told him he was going to shoot his eye out. Now what was he going to tell Mom! A lie. She believed him when he said a big ice cube fell and cut him underneath the eye.

"That was the best Christmas I ever spent," said the grown-up voice of Randy as years later he had a flashback, and made it into *A Christmas Story*.

The movie was entertaining and funny. It was a child's view on parents and life. All the things little kids do when they grow up were in this movie — the darn, bullying, lying, and cussing were all things in this movie that anyone can relate to.