

## An Open Letter from Celebrating Patsy Cline, Inc.

After many years of dedicated work, Celebrating Patsy Cline marked March 2006 as a pivotal point in its quest to honor Patsy Cline with a permanent museum in her hometown of Winchester, VA. With Patsy's husband, Charlie Dick, in attendance, we arranged a hardhat tour of the unfinished space that is likely to become the museum, representing her accomplishments as country music's all-time top female singer.

At the time, we believed the museum would be completed later that year. But as we worked, we realized that the project would be incomplete if it offered only the story of her early, Winchester years. Patsy is a legend and her museum must be all-inclusive.

That has led some to speculate that the museum project is off course. But our direction is straightforward, and our mission remains strong: "To preserve and perpetuate the legacy of Patsy Cline and her music."

Celebrating Patsy Cline's vision is to create a self-sustaining living tribute museum and theater, dedicated to commemorating the talent and tenacity of the music industry's longest running female artist on the charts, Patsy Cline. When achieved, this all-inclusive museum will be a lasting tribute to Patsy and a benefit to our community.

**Who is Celebrating Patsy Cline, Inc. (CPC)?** We are a volunteer board, committed to establishing a museum dedicated to Patsy Cline in her home city of Winchester. As with any volunteer organization, we welcome the contributions of those whose energy will bring our project forward.

**What is the current status of the museum?** Through a grant given by the City of Winchester, CPC investigated possible locations and entered into a ten-year lease for a 14,000-square-foot building in historic downtown Winchester. This location offers ample space to house the museum and gift shop on the first floor with room for expansion on the second floor.

Currently CPC is in negotiations for a longer-term lease or purchase option. We want to provide assurance to financial contributors that after needed renovations are made to the building, we will be staying there. Additionally, other locations are

being investigated, in case a longer lease for the current property cannot be secured.

**Is this a good location?** Our location, on the pedestrian mall in downtown Winchester, is at the city's tourism center. Just one block away, the historic George Washington Hotel is being fully restored to its original charm. Popular restaurants and specialty shops are located just doors away. Additionally, the City of Winchester recently approved construction of a multi-story parking garage within walking distance of the museum.

There is no other area in the City of Winchester or Nashville where Patsy spent so much of her time. And, her home on Kent Street is just a few blocks away.

**What happened to the Patsy tins?** Route 11 Potato Chips sold out of the commemorative tins and is temporarily suspending production while the company moves to a larger facility. As soon as new tins are made, the public will be notified.

**What is the difference between Celebrating Patsy Cline and the Always Patsy Cline Fan Club?** The mission of Celebrating Patsy Cline, Inc., is to preserve and perpetuate the legacy of Patsy Cline and her music. CPC collects and preserves personal objects, costumes and memorabilia for display when the museum opens. The Patsy Cline Museum is being designed to create a place where many people can discover Patsy Cline and her music by celebrating her legacy, her culture and her community.

The Always Patsy Cline Fan Organization's mission is to unite Patsy Cline fans. It is a membership organization with members from all over the world. The Always Patsy Cline Fan Organization traditionally meets once a year on Labor Day weekend, which coincides with the anniversary of Patsy Cline's birthday. The organization holds various functions during the annual gathering that are exclusive to organization members.

**How is the project progressing?** Ralph Appelbaum Associates (RAA), a world-renowned museum design firm and exhibition designers for the acclaimed Country Music Hall of Fame and The U.S. Holocaust Museum, has completed the first phase of its development, a visualized concept study. As we conclude negotiations for our building, RAA will undertake the second phase, construction of the exhibits, and the third phase, placement of exhibits in the museum and opening to the public. Having Ralph Appelbaum Associates on board is another tribute to the

tremendous vision, courage and character of Patsy Cline and the success of CPC in attracting world-renowned talent.

**How is the collection of Patsy's personal items being conserved?** Patsy's home, located at 608 South Kent Street in Winchester, is owned by CPC and currently has tenants who maintain the house and whose rental fees pay for insurance and upkeep. The remainder of the collection is stored in climate-controlled conditions until it can be placed in the museum for viewing.

To have proper insurance on the collection, CPC has hired a qualified museum curator to make an appraisal. We are also in constant conversation with family members and other individuals concerning items which can be purchased or placed on loan. Past fund-raising activities and donations have been used to purchase these items as needed.

The majority of these items will be exhibited in the museum consistent with professional museum standards. At a later date, Patsy's home at 608 South Kent Street will be open as part of the museum tour.

**Now is the time!** Help make the Patsy Cline Museum happen. Join CPC in honoring and celebrating this enchanting, daring icon whose voice and life continue to fascinate us. The Patsy Cline Museum cannot come to be without the participation of Patsy's biggest fans. Help us with the project and secure the opportunity for generations to come and enjoy the brilliance of Patsy Cline.

**More information?** Please contact us with any questions we haven't answered here. We look forward to bringing Patsy's story to you.