

*Testimonial by Mary Beth Smith*

Dear Pat:

Would love to talk to you about my recital. I am still on energy high 20 hours later. Several very close friends of mine commented: "It's not just that your singing is different--YOU are different." Another friend (and singer) said that she had never seen me perform with so much energy, yet effortlessly. Yeah, Baby! That's what I'm talking about. I did have a few more "butterflies" before the performance that I usually do: In retrospect, I believe my body was just getting ready for things to be different, and I wasn't quite sure in what form the difference(s) would manifest. I was also a little nervous because I just did not feel like following my usual pre-performance routine, and that sort of spooked me. However, I was excited because I knew I was altering a habit to make room for something new----

So----my accompanist and I were in perfect unity. The German set was particularly hot--as we walked off stage, he said he felt like he needed a cigarette. (Stark contrast to my recital in York PA last month.) He and I always have "chemistry" together, but there was a special electricity and energy that was present that we just fed off of each other, to the delight of the audience. I hadn't realized how much I have missed performing, and how hungry I was for the experience. Well, it turned into a feeding frenzy for both the audience and me, as each group of songs built upon the last. The house was packed--the ticket-takers had to turn some people away. I don't think I've ever been able to give more to an audience and receive so much back. My body and breath felt very free--so free, in fact, that I felt a bit distracted at times (but I can definitely get used to it). I'd love for you to hear the recording. Of course, I hear all the imperfections, but I'm also able to be extremely pleased with the result. And of course, the "diva" part of my personality absolutely basked in being able to pull an hour of non-stop adoration from a couple hundred people. (The rational part of my personality is going to have to do a lot more to earn it's keep, I'll tell you.) OK, I'm done rambling and gushing. But Pat, I know that our work together is having a profound effect on me (body/mind/spirit/voice), and I believe my singing/artistic expression has reached a whole new level. Thank you so much for the extra time yesterday, you are so generous; and the good-luck smooch kept me smiling the rest of the day/evening. I'm going to be processing all of this for a while. I have another recital (different program, different pianist) in Waco on Tuesday evening (9/19), so it will be very interesting to see what else happens.

Love you bunches-thank you!

MBS