

Patsy Cline: Clearing the Path for Women Country Artists

Hannah Donnell
Senior Division
Individual Performance
Process paper: 492 words

Process Paper

In my presentation I chose to relate this year's theme of breaking barriers to the life of a woman commonly known to the public as Patsy Cline. After searching for a couple of weeks for someone to create my project about, I heard Patsy's song "Crazy" on the radio. It stood out so much that I immediately began researching her life. She was a bold female icon that was not afraid to put herself out there, even if that meant she would fail. I thought to myself that she is the exact type of woman that we need more of in this world. Patsy is someone who set a path for women country artists to be themselves, unapologetically.

I knew very soon after choosing Patsy that performance would be the best option to portray this message because Cline herself was an outstanding performer! She portrayed her emotions so incredibly through each of her songs and you can truly feel the emotion seeping through her music whenever it is being played. I added the point of view of Loretta Lynn giving Patsy's obituary because it brought the opportunity to show how loved she was and how she affected Loretta's life and career.

When choosing between an individual and group performance I chose an individual. This was because Patsy was a woman who did it all. She supported her family growing up by working to help them survive, made it to Nashville despite everything that could've held her back, and through her career she always cared deeply for quality time with her family. Patsy was a woman who was able to juggle everything life threw at her and still succeed. I knew that if I was going to be portraying Patsy in a performance, I needed to act as she would. Patsy would take that risk, and make every aspect the best she can. Being an individual performer acting as a narrator, Loretta Lynn and Patsy Cline seemed overwhelming at first. However, with time I grew stronger as Patsy did and overcame any obstacles that were in my path.

When researching this piece I first went to online sources to get a general timeline of Cline's life. I then dove more into detail by reading in books and on websites about how she rose to fame and the things that she had to overcome to succeed. I watched several YouTube videos repeatedly to get an idea of how Patsy sang and put emotion through her lyrics. While Patsy had a complicated life, it never stopped being interesting to learn more about her growth.

Patsy was a trailblazer for women that are country music artists. She did this by presenting her songs in a way that people weren't used to. Mixing country and pop music allowed her to clear the path for women of the future who want to dare to try new things. That makes her the woman that broke those barriers for the women of the country music industry.

Bibliography

Primary Sources

0721busman. "Patsy Cline Plane Crash - Interview with Jerry Phifer." YouTube. Friends and Company. July 1996. 18 February 2016. https://youtu.be/3isb_QN3VP4

- This helped me learn more about the tragic plane accident that ended Patsy's life and what was going through people's heads during that time.

Discobar80. "Patsy Cline- Crazy (1961)." YouTube. CorbiOnn. 12 April 2013. <https://youtu.be/MbnrdCS57d0>

- Listening to Patsy Cline's "Crazy" gave me a chance to understand why she was idolized by many. It will also be helpful because I am choosing to present this information in a performance.

Gertie Music. "Loretta Lynn on Nashville Now 1985 Talking about Patsy Cline!." YouTube. Nashville Now. 31 December 2019. <https://youtu.be/5Z2ey3DEIEU>

- This interview helped me learn how Loretta viewed Patsy. She mentions her as her best friend and agrees that Patsy took her under her wing. It also let me know early on of false stories that were put in movies related to Patsy's life.

Patsyfan1. "Julie Fudge Interview on Patsy Cline." YouTube. Crook and Chase 5 March 1990. 19 October 2009. <https://youtu.be/K-nfQ1A0yRg>

- Listening to an interview involving Patsy's daughter and husband allowed me to see a bit in to how they viewed their family member and how realistic the stories of Patsy really are. It helped me learn more about Cline's family.

Mdoelle. "Patsy Cline — I Fall To Pieces." YouTube. 3 October 2007. <https://youtu.be/iuZTk1hdpMs>

- Although I didn't end up using this song in my performance, it gave me an even better idea of what a unique vocal style Patsy had.

Muzfen. "Patsy Cline - Dear God." YouTube. 27 December 2012. <https://youtu.be/rzFgK16IFMg>

- This helped me realize how Patsy was a believer in Christ. She cries out to God in this song and it helped me develop the religious aspect of my performance.

Shane8mm. "Patsy Cline Singing Crazy 'Live' on the Grand Ole alley." YouTube. 15 July 2011. <https://youtu.be/FYtrGjJOMpE>

- Hearing yet another video of Patsy singing crazy allowed me to truly imagine her singing live on the Grand Ole Opry. This helped me better perform her while using a mindset similar to hers.

Throwaway111. "Patsy Cline - Walkin' After Midnight." YouTube. 10 August 2013.

<https://youtu.be/xiKsAuv7O7c>

- This was a song I used in my performance, and listening to it often helped me work on capturing her vocal techniques.

VA HOSS. "'Sweet Dreams' PATSY CLINE - 1963." YouTube. 13 April 2013.

<https://youtu.be/imafHIq2210>

- This song is one I used during the end of my piece and I found that this song of hers can provide a sense of closure if used in the right context. I cut the song appropriately to fit the sadder tone near the end of my piece.

Secondary Sources

Biography.com Editors. "Patsy Cline Biography." A&E Television Network. 17 October 2019. 7 November 2019. <https://www.biography.com/musician/patsy-cline#citation>

- This biography gave me a starting knowledge of the different aspects of Patsy's life and her accomplishments. It also gave me information on how she died.

Cesario, Guy. *Patsy backstage at the Opry*. Date unknown.

<http://www.patsyclintribute.com/pictures.htm>

- This photo gave me an idea of the length of dress to use when costuming.

Gomery, Douglas. *Patsy Cline: The Making Of An Icon*. Bloomington Indiana: Trafford Publishing, 17 March 2011.

- This e-book helped me more clearly understand Cline's rise to fame.

Jones, Margaret. "Patsy Cline." In *The Encyclopedia of Country Music*. 1998 ed.

- This encyclopedia article establishes what struggles Patsy Cline had to overcome to grow as an artist as much as she did.

Malone, Bill C. *Country Music USA*. Austin and London: University of Texas Press, 1968.

- This book assisted me in collecting information about Patsy Cline not only being a country artist, but she also achieved success in country-pop music.

Schultz, Barbara. "Patsy Cline's 'Crazy'." *MIX*, August 2003 128-134 PRIMEDIA Business Magazines & Media, Inc. Database MasterFILE Complete 11381918.

- This article was useful when learning the basics of Patsy Cline's career. It gave a general timeline of outstanding events in her life.