

= Bernadette Peters =

Bernadette Peters (born Bernadette Lazzara ; February 28 , 1948) is an American actress , singer and children 's book author . Over the course of a career that has spanned five decades , she has starred in musical theatre , films and television , as well as performing in solo concerts and recordings . She is one of the most critically acclaimed Broadway performers , having received nominations for seven Tony Awards , winning two (plus an honorary award) , and nine Drama Desk Awards , winning three . Four of the Broadway cast albums on which she has starred have won Grammy Awards .

Regarded by many as the foremost interpreter of the works of Stephen Sondheim , Peters is particularly noted for her roles on the Broadway stage , including in the musicals Mack and Mabel , Sunday in the Park with George , Song and Dance , Into the Woods , Annie Get Your Gun and Gypsy .

Peters first performed on the stage as a child and then a teenage actor in the 1960s , and in film and television in the 1970s . She was praised for this early work and for appearances on The Muppet Show , The Carol Burnett Show and in other television work , and for her roles in films like Silent Movie , The Jerk , Pennies from Heaven and Annie . In the 1980s , she returned to the theatre , where she became one of the best @-@ known Broadway stars over the next three decades . She also has recorded six solo albums and several singles , as well as many cast albums , and performs regularly in her own solo concert act . In the 2010s , Peters continues to act on stage , in films and on television , where she has been nominated for three Emmy Awards and three Golden Globe Awards , winning once .

= = Early life and career = =

Peters was born Bernadette Lazzara to a Sicilian American family in Ozone Park , Queens , New York , the youngest of three children . Her siblings are casting director Donna DeSeta and Joseph Lazzara . Her father , Peter , drove a bread delivery truck , and her mother , Marguerite (née Maltese) , started her in show business by putting her on the television show Juvenile Jury at the age of three and a half . She appeared on the television shows Name That Tune and several times on The Horn and Hardart Children 's Hour at age five .

In January 1958 , at age nine , she obtained her Actors Equity Card in the name Bernadette Peters to avoid ethnic stereotyping , with the stage name taken from her father 's first name . She made her professional stage debut the same month in This is Goggle , a comedy directed by Otto Preminger that closed during out @-@ of @-@ town tryouts before reaching New York . She then appeared on NBC television as Anna Stiemann in A Boy Called Ciske , a Kraft Mystery Theatre production , in May 1958 , and in a vignette entitled " Miracle in the Orphanage " , part of " The Christmas Tree " , a Hallmark Hall of Fame production , in December 1958 with fellow child actor Richard Thomas and veteran actors Jessica Tandy and Margaret Hamilton . She first appeared on the New York stage at age 10 as Tessie in the New York City Center revival of The Most Happy Fella (1959) . In her teen years , she attended the Quintano 's School for Young Professionals , a now defunct private school that several famous people , such as Steven Tyler , attended .

At age 13 , Peters appeared as one of the " Hollywood Blondes " and was an understudy for " Dainty June " in the second national tour of Gypsy . During this tour , Peters first met her long @-@ time accompanist , conductor and arranger Marvin Laird , who was the assistant conductor for the tour . Laird recalled , " I heard her sing an odd phrase or two and thought , ' God that 's a big voice out of that little girl , ' " The next summer , she played Dainty June in summer stock , and in 1962 she recorded her first single . In 1964 , she played Liesl in The Sound of Music and Jenny in Riverwind in summer stock at the Mt . Gretna Playhouse (Pennsylvania) , and Riverwind again at the Bucks County Playhouse in 1966 . Upon graduation from high school , she started working steadily , appearing Off @-@ Broadway in the musicals The Penny Friend (1966) and Curley McDimple (1967) and as a standby on Broadway in The Girl in the Freudian Slip (1967) . She made her Broadway debut in Johnny No @-@ Trump in 1967 , and next appeared as George M.

Cohan 's sister Josie opposite Joel Grey in *George M!* (1968) , winning the Theatre World Award .

Peters ' performance as " Ruby " in the 1968 Off @-@ Broadway production of *Dames at Sea* , a parody of 1930s musicals , brought her critical acclaim and her first Drama Desk Award . She had appeared in an earlier 1966 version of *Dames at Sea* at the Off @-@ Off @-@ Broadway performance club *Caffe Cino* . Peters had starring roles in her next Broadway vehicles ? *Gelsomina* in *La Strada* (1969) and *Hildy* in *On the Town* (1971) , for which she received her first Tony Award nomination . She played *Mabel Normand* in *Mack and Mabel* (1974) , receiving another Tony nomination . Clive Barnes wrote : " With the splashy *Mack & Mabel* ... diminutive and contralto Bernadette Peters found herself as a major Broadway star . " Although these had short runs , Peters was singled out for praise by the critics , and the *Mack and Mabel* cast album became popular among musical theatre fans . She moved to Los Angeles in the early 1970s to concentrate on television and film work .

= = Film appearances = =

Peters has appeared in 33 feature films or television movies beginning in 1973 , including Mel Brooks ' 1976 film *Silent Movie* (for which she was nominated for a Golden Globe Award) , the musical *Annie* (1982) , *Pink Cadillac* (1989) , in which she co @-@ starred with Clint Eastwood , and Woody Allen 's *Alice* (1990) .

Peters starred opposite Steve Martin in *The Jerk* (1979) , in a role that he wrote for her , and *Pennies From Heaven* (1981) , for which she won the Golden Globe Award as Best Motion Picture Actress in a Comedy or Musical . In *Pennies from Heaven* , she played Eileen Everson , a schoolteacher turned prostitute . Of her performance in *Pennies From Heaven* , John DiLeo wrote that she " is not only poignant as you 'd expect but has a surprising inner strength . " Pauline Kael wrote in *The New Yorker* : " Peters is mysteriously right in every nuance . " Kael further noted that " The dance numbers are funny , amazing , and beautiful all at once ; several of them are just about perfection . " A review of the DVD reissue noted , " Peters brought a cocky attitude and a sexy exuberance to the musical numbers . "

Peters appeared with three generations of the Kirk Douglas family in the 2003 film *It Runs in the Family* , in which she played the wife of Michael Douglas 's character . In May 2006 , she appeared in the movie *Come le formiche* (*Wine and Kisses*) with F. Murray Abraham , filmed in Italy , playing a rich American who becomes involved with an Italian family that owns a vineyard . The DVD was released in 2007 in Italy . She starred in a film titled *Coming Up Roses* , playing a former musical comedy actress with two daughters . The movie , directed by Lisa Albright , was released in 2012 .

= = Theatre roles , 1980s to present = =

In 1982 , Peters returned to the New York stage after an eight @-@ year absence in one of her few non @-@ musical stage appearances , the Off @-@ Broadway Manhattan Theatre Club production of the comedy @-@ drama *Sally and Marsha* , for which she was nominated for a Drama Desk Award . She then returned to Broadway as *Dot / Marie* in the Stephen Sondheim ? James Lapine musical *Sunday in the Park with George* in 1984 , for which she received her third Tony Award nomination . The New York Times theatre critic Frank Rich called her performance " radiant " . She recorded the role for PBS in 1986 , winning a 1987 ACE Award . Her next role was in Andrew Lloyd Webber 's *Song and Dance* (1985) , winning her first Tony for Best Leading Actress in a Musical for her performance in the role of Emma . Frank Rich wrote in an otherwise negative review of the show that Peters " has no peer in the musical theater right now . "

She then created the role of the Witch in Sondheim @-@ Lapine 's *Into the Woods* (1987) . Peters is " considered by many to be the premier interpreter of [Sondheim 's] work , " according to writer Alex Witchel . Raymond Knapp wrote that Peters " achieved her definitive stardom " in *Sunday in the Park With George* and *Into the Woods* . Sondheim has said of Peters , " Like very few others , she sings and acts at the same time , " he says . " Most performers act and then sing , act and then sing ... Bernadette is flawless as far as I 'm concerned . I can 't think of anything negative . " Peters

continued her association with Sondheim by appearing in a 1995 benefit concert of *Anyone Can Whistle* , playing the role of Fay Apple . Additionally , she appeared in several concerts featuring Sondheim 's work , and performed for him at his 1993 Kennedy Center Honors ceremony .

She next starred in the musical adaptation of Neil Simon 's *The Goodbye Girl* with music by Marvin Hamlisch (1993) . Peters won her second Tony for her performance as Annie Oakley in the 1999 revival of *Annie Get Your Gun* opposite Tom Wopat . Among many glowing notices for this role , critic Lloyd Rose of the *Washington Post* commented : " [Peters] banishes all thoughts of Ethel Merman about two bars into her first number , ' Doin ' What Comes Natur 'lly . ' Partly this is because Merman 's Annie was a hearty , boisterous gal , while Peters plays an adorable , slightly goofy gamine ... For anyone who cares about the American musical theater , the chance to see Peters in this role is reason enough to see the show . " *Playbill* went even further : " Arguably the most talented comedienne in the musical theatre today , Peters manages to extract a laugh from most every line she delivers . "

In 2003 , Peters took on the role of Mama Rose in the Broadway revival of *Gypsy* , earning another Tony nomination . Ben Brantley in his *New York Times* review wrote , " Working against type and expectation under the direction of Sam Mendes , Ms. Peters has created the most complex and compelling portrait of her long career , and she has done this in ways that deviate radically from the Merman blueprint . " In 2006 , she participated in a reading of the Sondheim - Weidman musical *Bounce* . In 2007 , Peters participated in a charity reading of the play *Love Letters* with John Dossett .

After an absence from the Broadway stage of six years (*Gypsy* closed in 2004) , Peters starred in the Broadway revival of Sondheim 's *A Little Night Music* , as Desiree Armfeldt from July 2010 to January 2011 . She replaced Catherine Zeta @-@ Jones in the role . The *New York Times* reviewer wrote of her performance ,

[F] or theater lovers there can be no greater current pleasure than to witness Bernadette Peters perform the show 's signature number , " Send In the Clowns , " with an emotional transparency and musical delicacy that turns this celebrated song into an occasion of transporting artistry . I 'm not sure I 've ever experienced with such palpable force ? or such prominent goose bumps ? the sense of being present at an indelible moment in the history of musical theater .

Peters next appeared in the role of Sally Durant Plummer in the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts production of the Sondheim ? Goldman musical *Follies* in May and June 2011 . Of her performance , one critic wrote : " Peters may not be the most traditional casting for Sally , now an ultraneurotic housewife in Phoenix , but she exquisitely captures the character 's unfathomable sadness and longing . It 's a star turn , for sure , but one that brings attention to itself because of its truthfulness . Not surprisingly , her rendition of ' Losing My Mind ' is simply shattering . " She reprised her role of Sally in the Broadway limited engagement , at the Marquis Theatre , from August 2011 to January 2012 . She received a nomination for the Drama Desk Award , Outstanding Actress in a Musical , for this role .

Peters starred in the Sondheim and Wynton Marsalis staged concert revue titled *A Bed and a Chair : A New York Love Affair* at New York City Center in November 2013 . This collaboration between *Encores !* and *Jazz at Lincoln Center* was directed by John Doyle , with jazzy arrangements of Sondheim 's songs . It also featured Norm Lewis , Jeremy Jordan and Cyrille Aimée . Peters sang " *Broadway Baby* " , " *The Ladies Who Lunch* " , " *Isn 't He Something ?* " , " *I Remember* " and " *With So Little to Be Sure Of* " , among others . Jesse Green , in his review in *New York Magazine* 's *Vulture* site , commented : " [W] hat a wrenching (and funny) actress Peters remains , not on top of her voice but through it . " Brantley , in his *New York Times* review wrote : " As a singer and actress , she just can 't help being ardent , full @-@ throated and sincere . She also reminds us here of her considerable and original comic gifts . "

= = = Theatre awards = = =

Peters has been nominated for the Tony Award seven times and won twice . She has also been nominated for the Drama Desk Award nine times and won three times , for *Annie Get Your Gun* ,

Song and Dance and Dames at Sea . At the 66th Tony Awards (2012) , Peters was presented with the honorary Isabelle Stevenson Award for " making a substantial contribution of volunteered time and effort on behalf of one or more humanitarian , social service or charitable organizations , regardless of whether such organizations relate to the theatre " , specifically for her work with Broadway Barks . In making the announcement for this award , the Tony official site noted " With a rich generosity of spirit , Bernadette Peters ' devotion to charitable causes is perhaps only outweighed by her much fêted dedication to performing Peters ' efforts are held in the highest regard on Broadway and beyond . To quote BC / EFA 's Tom Viola , ' Bernadette 's boundless compassion and generosity represent the best in all of us . ' "

= = Television appearances = =

Peters was nominated for Emmy Awards for her guest @-@ starring roles on The Muppet Show (1977) and Ally McBeal (2001) . On The Muppet Show , Peters sang the song " Just One Person " to Robin the Frog . She was one of the Muppets ' guests when they hosted The Tonight Show in 1979 , again singing " Just One Person " to Robin , and she appeared in other episodes with the Muppets . Peters was also nominated for a Daytime Emmy Award , Outstanding Performer in a Children 's Special , for her work in the 2002 made @-@ for @-@ television movie Bobbie 's Girl . She won the 1987 " CableACE Award " for her role as Dot in the television version of Sunday in the Park with George .

She has appeared in many variety shows with stars such as Sonny and Cher and George Burns . She has both performed and presented on the Academy Awards broadcasts in 1976 , 1981 , 1983 , 1987 and 1994 . Peters has been a presenter at the annual Tony Awards ceremony and co @-@ hosted the ceremony with Gregory Hines in June 2002 . She also hosted Saturday Night Live in November 1981 . She made 12 guest appearances on The Carol Burnett Show as well as appearing with Burnett in the made @-@ for @-@ television version of Once Upon a Mattress and the 1982 film Annie . She also performed at the Kennedy Center Honors ceremony for Burnett in 2003 . Peters appeared on The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson and on the day @-@ time talk show Live with Regis and Kelly , both as a co @-@ host and a guest . Peters voiced Rita the stray cat in the " Rita and Runt " segments of the animated series Animaniacs in the 1990s . Peters , as Rita , sang both original songs written for the show and parodies of Broadway musical numbers . She appeared on Inside the Actor 's Studio in November 2000 , discussing her career and craft .

Peters has co @-@ starred in a number of television movies , including The Last Best Year (1990) with Mary Tyler Moore , Rodgers and Hammerstein 's Cinderella (1997) with Brandy (receiving a nomination for the " Golden Satellite Award " for her role) , and Prince Charming (2003) with Martin Short . She co @-@ starred in her own television series , All 's Fair , with Richard Crenna in 1976 ? 77 . She played a young , liberal photographer , who becomes romantically involved with an older , conservative columnist . Although Peters was praised for her charismatic performance , the show ran for only one season . Peters was nominated for a Golden Globe award as Best TV Actress ? Musical / Comedy . In March 2005 , she made a pilot for an ABC situation comedy series titled Adopted , co @-@ starring with Christine Baranski , but it was not picked up . Peters appeared in the Lifetime television movie Living Proof , which was first broadcast on October 18 , 2008 . She played the role of Barbara , an art teacher with breast cancer , who is initially reluctant to participate in the study for the cancer drug Herceptin . Andrew Gans of Playbill wrote , " Peters is able to choose from an expansive emotional palette to color the character , and her performance ... is moving , humorous and ultimately spirit @-@ raising " .

Peters ' television work also includes guest appearances on several television series . She appeared as the sharp @-@ tongued sister of Karen Walker (Megan Mullally) on the penultimate episode of the NBC series Will & Grace , " Whatever Happened to Baby Gin ? " (May 2006) ; as a defense attorney on the NBC series , Law & Order : Special Victims Unit (November 2006) ; as a judge on the ABC series Boston Legal (May 2007) ; and as an accident victim in Grey 's Anatomy (September 2008) . Of her role in Grey 's Anatomy , TV Guide wrote : " Peters is especially fine as she confronts a life spinning out of control . I 'd make her an early contender for a guest @-@ actor

Emmy nomination . " In January , February and May 2009 , she appeared in the ABC series Ugly Betty in five episodes as Jodie Papadakis , a magazine mogul running the YETI (Young Editors Training Initiative) program that Betty and Marc are in . Her appearance at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival in June 2009 was filmed and broadcast in Australia later that month .

Peters first appeared in the NBC series Smash in the March 2012 episode " The Workshop " , as Leigh Conroy , Ivy 's mother , a retired Broadway star , who feels competitive because of her daughter 's blossoming career . She visits the workshop and sings Everything 's Coming Up Roses (from Gypsy) at the urging of the workshop cast . She also appeared in the season 1 finale , " Bombshell " (May 2012) , to celebrate Ivy 's presumed role as Marilyn , in " The Parents " episode (April 2013) , where , as Leigh , she sings an original Marc Shaiman and Scott Wittman song , " Hang the Moon " , and in the episodes " Opening Night " (April 2013) and " The Phenomenon " (May 2013) .

Since 2014 , Peters has played Gloria , the chairwoman of the orchestra board in Mozart in the Jungle , a web video series by Amazon Studios based on Blair Tindall 's memoir of the same name . The show was picked up for a second season . She was a guest star in the 2014 Bravo television series Girlfriends ' Guide to Divorce , playing the mother of the character played by Janeane Garofalo . The episode she appeared in is titled " Rule # 21 : Leave Childishness to Children " .

= = Recordings = =

Peters has recorded six solo albums and several singles . Three of her albums have been nominated for the Grammy Award . Peters ' 1980 single " Gee Whiz " , remaking Carla Thomas ' 1960 Memphis soul hit , reached the top forty on the U.S. Billboard pop singles charts . She has recorded most of the Broadway and off @-@ Broadway musicals she has appeared in , and four of these cast albums have won Grammy Awards .

Peters ' debut album in 1980 (an LP) , entitled Bernadette Peters contained 10 songs , including " If You Were The Only Boy " , " Gee Whiz " , " Heartquake " , " Should 've Never Let Him Go " , " Chico 's Girl " , " Pearl 's a Singer " , " Other Lady " , " Only Wounded " , " I Never Thought I 'd Break " and " You 'll Never Know " . The original cover painting by Alberto Vargas , pictured at left , was one of his last works , created at the age of 84 . According to The New York Daily News , Peters " persuaded him to do one last ' Vargas Girls ' portrait ... She just went to his California retreat , asked him to do one more , he looked at her and said , ' You ARE a Vargas girl ! ' " She kept the original painting . The original title planned for the album was Decades . Rolling Stone wrote of her debut album :

Her next solo album , Now Playing (1981) , featured songs by Jerry Leiber and Mike Stoller , Carole Bayer Sager and Marvin Hamlisch , and Stephen Sondheim (for example , " Broadway Baby ") . Bernadette Peters was re @-@ released on CD in 1992 as Bernadette , with the 1980 Vargas cover art , and included some of the songs from Now Playing . In 1996 , she was nominated for a Grammy Award for her best @-@ selling album , I 'll Be Your Baby Tonight , which includes popular songs by John Lennon , Paul McCartney , Lyle Lovett , Hank Williams , Sam Cooke and Billy Joel , as well as Broadway classics by Leonard Bernstein and Rodgers and Hammerstein . The live recording of her 1996 Carnegie Hall concert , Sondheim , Etc . - Bernadette Peters Live At Carnegie Hall , also was nominated for a Grammy Award .

Peters ' next studio album , in 2002 , Bernadette Peters Loves Rodgers and Hammerstein , consisted entirely of Rodgers and Hammerstein songs , including two that she often sings in her concerts , " Some Enchanted Evening " and " There Is Nothin ' Like a Dame " . This album , which reached position 14 on the Billboard " Top Internet Albums " chart , was her third album in a row nominated for a Grammy Award . It formed the basis of her Radio City Music Hall solo concert debut in June 2002 . Her last solo album , titled Sondheim Etc . , Etc . Live At Carnegie Hall : The Rest of It , was released in 2005 . It consists of all of the songs (and patter) from her 1996 Carnegie Hall concert that were not included in the earlier recording .

Additionally , Peters has recorded songs on other albums , such as " Dublin Lady " on John Whelan 's Flirting with the Edge (Narada , 1998) . On the Mandy Patinkin Dress Casual 1990 album ,

Patinkin and Peters recorded the songs from Stephen Sondheim 's 1966 television play , Evening Primrose . On the tribute album Born to the Breed : A Tribute to Judy Collins Peters sings " Trust Your Heart " .

In The New York Times review of the 1986 Broadway cast recording of Song and Dance (titled Bernadette Peters in Andrew Lloyd Webber 's ' Song & Dance ') , Stephen Holden wrote that the recording was " a personal triumph for a singer and actress who is rapidly establishing herself as the first lady of the Broadway musical . Performing material whose music borders on kitsch and whose lyrics and story suggest a verbose soap opera , Miss Peters nevertheless projects an astounding emotional generosity and conviction . Almost singlehandedly she turns the inconsequential erotic misadventures of Emma ... into a touching romantic fable about love and its defenses and the loss of innocence Miss Peters has always oozed a cuddlesome Shirley Temple @-@ like sweetness and vulnerability . This quality , which used to seem more like an adorable child @-@ star affectation than a deep @-@ seated trait , has proved to be an essential ingredient of Miss Peters 's personality . A delivery that once seemed coy and cutesy has deepened and ripened into an honesty and compassion that pour out in singing that is childlike but also resilient . "

In 2003 , Andrew Gans wrote in Playbill.com of Peters ' recording sessions for Gypsy : " What is it about her voice that is so moving ? Part womanly and part girlish , it is a powerful instrument , not only in volume (though that is impressive) but in the wealth of emotion it is able to convey her voice ? that mix of husky , sweet , rounded , vibrato @-@ filled tones ? induces a response that spans the emotional scale . " Of her " Rose 's Turn " , Gans wrote : " ... her rendition of this song may be the highlight of a career already filled with many highlights : She has taken a song that has been delivered incredibly by others and brought it to a new level . " Of her performance on the recording of Follies (2011) , Steven Suskin wrote in Playbill.com : " This is a fine Sally , the sort of Sally you 'd expect to get from an actress like ? well , Bernadette Peters . The performance on the CD is compelling ; either this is simply the magic of the recording studio or Peters has changed what she does and how she does it . "

= = Concert performances = =

Peters has been performing her solo concert in the United States and Canada for many years . She made her solo concert debut at Carnegie Hall in New York City in 1996 , devoting the second half to the work of Stephen Sondheim . She performed a similar concert in London , which was taped and released on video , and also aired on U.S. Public Television stations in 1999 . She continues to perform her solo concert at venues around the U.S. , such as the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami , and with symphony orchestras such as the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra , the Dallas Symphony , and the Los Angeles Philharmonic at Walt Disney Hall .

In a review of her 2002 Radio City Music Hall concert , Stephen Holden of The New York Times described Peters as " the peaches @-@ and @-@ cream embodiment of an ageless storybook princess ... inside a giant soap bubble floating toward heaven . A belief in the power of the dreams behind Rodgers and Hammerstein 's songs , if not in their reality , was possible . " Peters made her solo concert debut at Lincoln Center in New York City in 2006 . Holden , reviewing this concert , noted , " Even while swiveling across the stage of Avery Fisher Hall like a voluptuous Botticelli Venus in Bob Mackie spangles ... she radiated a preternatural innocence For the eternal child in all of us , she evokes a surrogate childhood playmate " . Peters was the headliner at the 2009 Adelaide Cabaret Festival in Adelaide , Australia . The Sunday Mail wrote that Peters showed " the verve , vigour and voice of someone half her age . "

Peters ' concert performances often benefit arts organizations or help them to mark special occasions , such as her performance on an overnight cruise on the Seabourn Odyssey in a benefit for the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts in Miami in 2009 . She was one of the performers to help celebrate the Center 's grand opening in 2006 . She headlined The Alliance of The Arts Black Tie Anniversary Gala at Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza in Thousand Oaks , California , on November 21 , 2009 . She had helped to celebrate the opening of the Arts Plaza with concerts fifteen years earlier . In 2015 , Peters performed in the concert Sinatra : Voice for a Century

at Lincoln Center , a fundraiser for the new David Geffen Hall in celebration of Frank Sinatra 's 100th birthday . She sang " It Never Entered My Mind " . It was hosted by Seth MacFarlane and featured the New York Philharmonic Orchestra , Sting , Billy Porter , Sutton Foster and Fantasia Barrino . PBS plans to broadcast it as part of its " Live from Lincoln Center " series in December 2015 .

Since 2013 , she has been touring intermittently with her cabaret act , An Evening with Bernadette Peters , and a concert series , " Bernadette Peters in Concert " . In April 2014 she gave concert performances in Australia . The reviewer for The Sydney Morning Herald wrote : " Perhaps it is a matter of personality as much as voice : a natural warmth and an instinct for never exaggerating the emotional content of a song . Whatever the case , it is easy to see and hear why , for 30 years , Bernadette Peters has probably been musical theatre 's finest performer She even breathed new life into ' Send In the Clowns ' Rather than make it emotionally swollen (as so many do) , Peters contracted it , delicately squeezing out its essence like toothpaste from a near @-@ empty tube . " Her 2016 concert plans include UK engagements at the Royal Festival Hall , Manchester Opera House and Edinburgh Playhouse .

= = Children 's books = =

Peters sings four songs on the CD accompanying a 2005 children 's picture book Dewey Doo @-@ it Helps Owlie Fly Again , the proceeds of which benefit the Christopher Reeve Foundation . Her co @-@ star from Sunday in the Park with George , Mandy Patinkin , also sings on the CD .

To support the animal adoption charity that she co @-@ founded with Mary Tyler Moore , Broadway Barks , Peters has written three children 's books , illustrated by Liz Murphy . The first is about a scrappy dog , named after her dog Kramer , and the pleasure of adopting a pet . Titled Broadway Barks , the book is published by Blue Apple Books (2008) . Peters wrote the words and music to a lullaby , titled " Kramer 's Song " , which is included on a CD in the book . The book reached # 5 on The New York Times Children 's Best Sellers : Picture Books list for the week of June 8 , 2008 .

Her second children 's book is the story of a pit bull , named after Peters ' dog Stella . The character would rather be a pig ballerina , but she learns to accept herself . Titled Stella is a Star , the book includes a CD with an original song written and performed by Peters and was released in April 2010 by Blue Apple Books . According to Publishers Weekly , " Turning the pages to Peters ' spirited narration , which is provided in an accompanying CD , makes for a more rewarding reading experience . The story and disc end with a sneakily affecting self @-@ esteem anthem , which , like the familiar tale itself , is buoyed by the author 's lovely vocals . " Peters introduced the book at a reading and signing where she also sang part of the song , at the L.A. Times Festival of Books , Los Angeles , California , on April 24 , 2010 .

The third book , released in 2015 , titled Stella and Charlie Friends Forever , is about her rescue dog Charlie joining her household , and how Charlie got along with her older dog , Stella .

= = Other activities = =

Broadway Barks

Peters contributes to various charitable , celebratory and civic efforts . In 1999 , Peters and Mary Tyler Moore co @-@ founded Broadway Barks , an annual animal adopt @-@ a @-@ thon held in New York City . Each July , she and Moore act as co @-@ hosts and presenters for the Broadway Barks event . Peters held a concert , " A Special Concert for Broadway Barks Because Broadway Cares " , at the Minskoff Theatre , New York City , on November 9 , 2009 as a benefit for both Broadway Barks and Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS . The concert raised an estimated \$ 615 @,@ 000 for the two charities . Also in support of Broadway Barks , Peters has appeared on the daytime talk show Live With Regis and Kelly .

Other

Peters serves on the Board of Trustees of Broadway Cares / Equity Fights AIDS and participates in that organization 's events , such as the annual Broadway Flea Market and Grand Auction , and the

" Gypsy of the Year " competition . She is also a member of the Board of Directors of Standing Tall , a non -profit educational program offering an innovative program for children with multiple disabilities , based in New York City . Her late husband was the Director and Treasurer of Standing Tall . The 1995 benefit concert Anyone Can Whistle and Peters ' " Carnegie Hall " 1996 concert were benefits for the Gay Men 's Health Crisis .

In 2007 , Peters helped the Broadway community celebrate the end of the stagehand strike in a " Broadway 's Back " concert at the Marquis Theatre . In 2008 , she was one of the participants in a fund -raiser for the Westport Country Playhouse , and in the opening ceremony and dedication of the renovated TKTS discount ticket booth in Times Square . That year , she also presented New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg with the Humanitarian Award at the Breast Cancer Research Foundation awards . On March 8 , 2009 , she helped celebrate the last birthday of Senator Ted Kennedy (singing " There Is Nothin ' Like a Dame ") in a private concert and ceremony held at the Kennedy Center , hosted by Bill Cosby , with many Senators , Representatives , and President Barack and First Lady Michelle Obama in attendance . On November 19 , 2009 , she helped to celebrate the opening of The David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center .

On February 8 , 2010 , Peters was one of the many to honor Angela Lansbury at the annual Drama League of New York benefit , singing " Not While I 'm Around " . In March 2010 , Peters helped Stephen Sondheim celebrate his 80th birthday in the Roundabout Theatre Company " Sondheim 80 " benefit . She was one of the Honorary Chairs . She had been part of the Roundabout Theatre 's Sondheim gala for his 75th birthday . In 2012 , Peters became a Patron of The Stephen Sondheim Society .

She performed at the Olivier Awards ceremony in 2014 , singing the song " Losing My Mind " . A review in The Arts Desk read : " The tradition of bringing over a Broadway baby or two ... presumably explained a late appearance by a still -luminous Bernadette Peters , who reached the very high note at the end of ' Losing My Mind ' often not attempted by interpreters of that particular Sondheim song . "

= = Personal life = =

Peters and Steve Martin began a romantic relationship in 1977 that lasted approximately four years . By 1981 , her popularity led to her appearing on the cover and in a spread in the December 1981 issue of Playboy Magazine , in which she posed in lingerie designed by Bob Mackie .

Peters married investment adviser Michael Wittenberg on July 20 , 1996 at the Millbrook , New York home of long -time friend Mary Tyler Moore . Wittenberg died at age 43 on September 26 , 2005 in a helicopter crash in Montenegro while on a business trip .

Peters has a mixed -breed dog named Charlie . Her mixed -breed dog Kramer , the model of a character in her first children 's book , died in 2012 , and her American pit bull terrier Stella , the inspiration for her second book , died in 2013 . She adopted all three from shelters .

= = Honorary awards = =

Peters has received many honorary awards , including a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1987 . She was named the Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year in 1987 . Other honors include the Sarah Siddons Award for outstanding performance in a Chicago theatrical production (1994) ; the American Theatre Hall of Fame at the Gershwin Theatre in New York City (1996) , as the youngest person so honored ; The Actors ' Fund Artistic Achievement Medal (1999) ; an Honorary Doctorate from Hofstra University (2002) ; the Hollywood Bowl Hall of Fame in 2002 and the National Dance Institute 2009 Artistic Honoree .

She was the recipient of the " Sondheim Award " , presented by the Signature Theatre in 2011 . In 2012 , New Dramatists , an organization that supports beginning playwrights , presented Peters with their Lifetime Achievement Award , stating : " She has brought a new sound into the theatre and continues to do so , in surprising and miraculous ways . By some sleight of magic , her singularity always manages to bring out the best and richest in the work of her composers and writers . " In

2013 the Drama League gave Peters its Special Award of Distinguished Achievement in Musical Theatre Award for " her contribution to the musical theatre . " Peters was the Centennial Honoree at the Drama League Centennial Gala in 2015 . A musical tribute was presented by many of Peters ' costars over the years , including the original and current casts of Dames at Sea . The League said that Peters " exemplifies the absolute best of what American musical theater can be . " She received the 2016 John Willis Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre , presented at the Theatre World Awards on May 23 , 2016 .

= = Work = =

= = = Stage (selected) = = =

= = = Filmography = = =

= = = Television = = =

= = = Concerts = = =

Major concerts

Various venues , summer of 1989 : 10 @-@ city concert tour with Peter Allen .

Hollywood Bowl , Los Angeles , California on September 6 and 7 , 1996 (solo concert) .

Carnegie Hall , New York City on December 9 , 1996 (solo concert with guest singers / dancers , recorded on CD) .

Sydney Opera House , Sydney , Australia on January 7 and 8 , 1998 (solo concert) .

Royal Festival Hall , London on September 17 , 1998 (solo concert with guest singers / dancers , recorded on video) .

Radio City Music Hall , New York City on June 19 , 2002 (solo concert with guest singers) .

Lincoln Center (Avery Fisher Hall) , New York City , on May 1 , 2006 (solo concert) .

Adelaide Cabaret Festival , Adelaide , Australia , on June 6 and 7 , 2009 (solo concert) . Peters headlined , and the concert was televised on June 27 , 2009 on Foxtel . A DVD of the concert was released in Australia in June 2010 .

Benefit concert , " Bernadette Peters : A Special Concert for Broadway Barks Because Broadway Cares " , Minskoff Theatre , New York City on November 9 , 2009 .

Other notable concerts

" Sondheim : A Celebration at Carnegie Hall " ? June 10 , 1992 (broadcast on PBS Great Performances in 1993) , singing " Not a Day Goes By " and " Sunday "

" Hey Mr. Producer ! The Musical World of Cameron MacKintosh " ? June 7 , 1998 , singing , among others , " Unexpected Song " , " Being Alive " and " You Gotta Have a Gimmick "

Hollywood Bowl Sondheim Concert ? July 8 , 2005 , performing in the " Opening Doors Medley " and " Being Alive " .

" Sondheim : The Birthday Concert " , the New York Philharmonic at Lincoln Center 's Avery Fisher Hall , a celebration of Sondheim 's 80th birthday ? March 15 and 16 , 2010 . Peters sang " Move On " with Mandy Patinkin and " Not a Day Goes By " .

= = = Discography = = =

Solo recordings

Bernadette Peters (1980) MCA . Billboard 200 # 114 (retitled and expanded as Bernadette in a 1992 CD reissue)

" Gee Whiz ! " (" Look at His Eyes ") (1980) Billboard Hot 100 # 31 (single)
 Now Playing (1981) MCA US Billboard 200 # 151
 I 'll Be Your Baby Tonight (1996) Angel Records ? Grammy Award nominee
 Sondheim , Etc . ? Bernadette Peters Live At Carnegie Hall (1997) Angel Records ? Grammy Award nominee
 Bernadette Peters Loves Rodgers and Hammerstein (2002) Angel Records ? Grammy Award nominee
 Sondheim Etc . , Etc . Live At Carnegie Hall : The Rest of It (2005) Angel Records
 " Kramer 's Song " (2008) Blue Apple Books (single)
 " Stella 's Song " (2010) Blue Apple Books (single)
 Cast recordings
 George M ! ? Sony (1968)
 Dames At Sea ? Columbia Masterworks (1969)
 Mack and Mabel ? MCA (1974)
 Sunday in the Park with George ? RCA Records (1984) ? Grammy Award winner (Best Cast Show Album , 1985)
 Song and Dance ? The Songs ? RCA Victor (1985)
 Into The Woods ? RCA Victor Records (1988) ? Grammy Award winner (Best Musical Cast Show Album , 1989)
 The Goodbye Girl ? Columbia Records (1993)
 Anyone Can Whistle Live At Carnegie Hall ? Columbia Records (1995)
 Annie Get Your Gun The New Broadway Cast Recording ? Angel Records (1999) ? Grammy Award winner (Best Musical Show Album , 2000)
 Gypsy The New Broadway Cast Recording ? Angel Records (2003) ? Grammy Award winner (Best Musical Show Album , 2004)
 Sherry ! ? Studio Cast Recording ? Angel Records (2004)
 Legends Of Broadway @-@ Bernadette Peters Compilation (2006) ? Sony Masterworks Broadway (Original versions of songs from Dames At Sea , Annie Get Your Gun , Anyone Can Whistle , Sunday in the Park with George , Mack and Mabel , Song and Dance , Into The Woods and Gypsy)
 Follies ? PS Classics (2011)
 Other recordings
 Dress Casual ? selections from Evening Primrose with Mandy Patinkin ? CBS Records (1990)
 Sondheim ? A Celebration at Carnegie Hall (Concert Cast) ? RCA Victor Broadway (1992)
 Hey Mr. Producer ! : The Musical World of Cameron Mackintosh ? Philips Records (1998)
 Flirting with the Edge ? John Whelan ? Narada (1998)
 Dewey Doo @-@ It Helps Owlle Fly Again ? Randall Fraser Publishing (2005)
 Born to the Breed : A Tribute to Judy Collins ? Wildflower Records (2008) ? " Trust Your Heart "
 " Eloise Stories " ? audiobook , Simon & Schuster Audio (2015)

= = Awards and Nominations = =

= = = Theatre = = =

= = = Music = = =

= = = Film = = =

= = = Television = = =

