

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

From: Sainte Marie Foundation, PO Box 186, Sainte Marie, IL 62459

Contact: Patricia Reis, president of the Foundation 312-350-0041

Dorothy Helregel Mathious 818-845-4858

### **Sainte Marie Concert Features Singers**

Joining former Sainte Marie resident, Dorothy Helregel Mathious, at her concert on Saturday, Sept. 3, will be her daughter Jenny. And Jenny has a story to tell.

Jenny Mathioudakis was born in Burbank, CA, and it was soon apparent that she was musical, like her parents. At 10, she was named “Best Little Singer in Burbank.” She appeared in many musicals and dance performances through high school, attended Pasadena Community College and then the University of South California (on a full scholarship) where she received a BA in opera performance. Then it was off to New York City to sing opera.

Six months later, in Feb. 2001, Jenna passed out on the New York subway and was diagnosed with an inoperable stage 4 brain tumor. After many surgeries and treatments, she was sent home to CA in June 2002 and told that she had four months to live. Nine years later, she joins her mother to sing at St. Mary’s Church in Sainte Marie, a victory celebration of sorts for her long struggle with cancer. The 1 p.m. concert will be a benefit for the Sainte Marie Foundation’s south garden at its historic Foundation House.

The concert will feature a varied selection of music, from opera to a medley of songs from *The Sound of Music*. Other musicians include Karen Sainer of Newton, piano; Monica Hilderbrand, Violin 1 from Robinson; Mikkel Beavers, Violin 2 from Newton; and Ku-Wai Yu, Cellist from Champaign. Samuel Music, Effingham, assisted with grand piano and sound system rental.

The former Dorothy Helregel, who grew up on a farm outside of Sainte Marie, attended Ste. Marie Elementary School, Newton Community High School and Eastern Illinois University. From there she traveled far, singing opera in Chicago, New York City and Los Angeles. She eventually settled in the Los Angeles area where she has continued to sing and teach.

Concert tickets (\$10 adults; \$5 students/children) are available at the Sainte Marie State Bank, the Peoples State Bank of Newton, the First National Bank of Dieterich (Newton branch) and the First Financial Bank (Newton) or send a check to *Sainte Marie Foundation (%Annette Kirts), PO Box 186, Ste. Marie, IL 62459.*

The Sainte Marie Foundation, founded in 2007, is incorporated as an Illinois not-for-profit, founded exclusively for charitable purposes and dedicated to the improvement and historical preservation of Ste. Marie. The Foundation House, which was donated to the Foundation in 2008, is the former Harley and Lena Kirts home, a large prairie house that Foundation volunteers have spent many hours renovating during the past two years. Eventually, it will house a museum dedicated to Ste. Marie history

End

**Picture caption: (l – r) Jenny Mathioudakis and Dorothy Helregel Mathious of Burbank, CA.**