

Carpenters tribute show gets 'Close to You' at Shuler

By TIM KELLER — For the Comet | Posted: Saturday, May 9, 2015 1:00 am

RATON – Raton Arts & Humanities Council closes this season's Performing Arts Series Tuesday night (May 12) at the Shuler Theater with a concert of music made famous by The Carpenters. Karen and Richard Carpenter reached world acclaim in the 1970s with their popular albums and songs such as "Close to You," "Rainy Days & Mondays," "Superstar" and "We've Only Just Begun."

In "Close to You: The Music of The Carpenters," Lisa Rock and her six-piece band re-create the songs and performances of The Carpenters in a show that's touring the upper Midwest with a long string of one-nighters. The Raton show is bookended by shows in Kansas and South Dakota.

Lisa Rock—her real name—was 13 when Karen Carpenter died at 32 of heart failure brought on by complications of anorexia. After many other musical pursuits, Rock created her "Close to You" show five years ago and has garnered positive reviews for regular tours. "When she hits the lower range of her marvelous voice," critic Alan Bresloff wrote, "if you close your eyes, you can see Karen Carpenter's face."

"The love of Karen Carpenter's music rang out in her voice," wrote Terry Loncaric in the Northwest Herald. "She is one of Chicago's up-and-coming cabaret divas. Great show."

"This is not a tribute band," wrote Jim Jarvis of Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, "it's a concert of the Carpenters' songs, but what a concert. Lisa sings in the same key as Karen Carpenter. She shares some great anecdotes between songs about The Carpenters and the songs, which the audience loves. We do 50 shows a year and this was one of the best."

"Close to You: The Music of the Carpenters" will be presented at the Shuler Theater at 7 p.m. Tuesday night, May 12. Reserved-seat tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 seniors and \$10 students. Information and tickets are available at Old Pass Gallery, 145 S. First St., 575-445-2052.