



PIANIST IS IN TUNE WITH MEDIUMSHIP

DONNA LIPARI: "Facing the trials that blocked my voice allowed me to free it and embrace the gift of mediumship." (Photo: Daniel Kwak)

This month's interview with a serving medium is with multi-talented Donna Lipari, who lives in Deer Park, Long Island, New York. Before delving into her psychic story, Donna describes her professional background.

I AM an accomplished singer/songwriter pianist, who has entertained in the metro-area for 40 years. I've also been a private voice teacher on Long Island for the past 25 years.

One of my students recently starred on Broadway in *School of Rock* whilst another was on *The Voice*, an American singing competition television series broadcast on NBC.

I have had many struggles with my own singing voice, which led me to famous teachers all over the United States. I studied with Michael Jackson's teacher and Cher's teacher.

Having studied everything from classical music to jazz to pop, I have developed a very unique technique, which I now share through my teaching.

A Woman's Own, my CD of original songs, is available on iTunes. So are several songs on YouTube.

I have also written customised poems, songs and parodies for many people

throughout the country using the name *Specialty Serenades*. I have even written three times for the National Bulldog Convention. The bulldogs love me!

Early on, I was a teacher with a master's degree in special education. At that time, I wrote an original children's musical that was published and performed throughout the US.

I have also undertaken cabaret shows, had my own jazz trio and was a featured singer with bands for many years.

Can you tell readers something about your autobiographical musical "The Medium... The Music... and ME!"?

My show is a one-woman autobiographical musical about the many voice lessons that surrounded my outer physical voice.

At the age of twenty, I haemorrhaged my vocal cords. This left me with no speaking voice for several months and no singing voice for several years, which

caused me to connect with my "inner" spiritual voice.

Facing the trials that blocked my voice allowed me to free it and embrace the gift of mediumship. This is a show about overcoming painful experiences and finding the courage to live an authentic life.

Portraying my medium self, the play unfolds as I "read" myself. Through this process, the audience visually sees how I work whilst learning about my various life experiences.

In addition to playing myself at different stages, I also play my mother and a few other characters. This is supplemented with a visual presentation and audio segments. The show includes thirteen original songs.

As each "lesson" is revealed and insight given from many sources – physical and spiritual – I learn the "Why?" of each lesson and its relevance to my personal growth.

There is also a short segment in the last section where I undertake a live audience reading.

Inspiring for the audience, this show is about forgiveness, gratitude and my own healing, and is hopefully a healing spark for many who are present.

My show premiered in 2018 at the

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”

United Solo Theatre Festival, which is the largest solo festival in the world. The show won “Best Premiere” at the festival. This year I was invited back to perform as part of its “Best In 10 Years” featured shows.

How did you first come across mediumship and Spiritualism?

It was a very gradual process. How do we know if we're mediums? I just assumed that everyone heard voices in their heads!

In my 20s, I began to realise that this wasn't the case and started to read books about the metaphysical world, Spiritualism and mediumship.

I also started attending a Unity Church. Many Unity principles overlap with Spiritualism. For instance, they speak of the “Christ consciousness” within each and every one of us.

Then I heard that British medium Doris Collins was visiting Long Island to undertake a public demonstration. I felt very drawn to attend and found myself in an audience of over 200 people.

Doris picked me out almost immediately and told me that I had the gift of mediumship and there was healing power in my hands. She asked if I played the piano.

When Doris added that one day I would write my life story and combine music and

mediumship, I thought she was out of her mind!

It took another twenty years until I had a reading with another famous British medium, Robert Brown, who basically told me the same things.

I had been working on a CD at the time and stopped before it was finished. Robert brought it up almost immediately in our sitting. He also spoke about my other gifts.

I said to him that I was aware that I had some of these abilities, but didn't know what to do with them.

“You develop them!” he said.

“How?” I asked.

Well, the rest is history. I started to attend Robert's mediumistic bootcamps in the Bahamas, England, France and in the United States, and have never looked back. I have now been giving healing for over thirteen years.

What psychic gifts do you have?

My main gift is clairaudience. I think that because of my musicianship this is the clearest way I receive. I hear voices in my head speaking to me, which provide specific evidence.

At times, I can also be shown a picture or an image, so have some clairvoyance as well.

As regards energy healing, I have played the piano for years and believe there is a connection with that.

Is it correct that you give private and group sittings? On average, how many sittings do you give a month?

I give private, phone and group readings. My schedule always varies, as I have three careers – as a performer, a singing teacher and a medium.

My mediumship is not full-time. I rely completely on word of mouth for readings. Robert Brown always said: “If you're good, you won't need to advertise. The word will spread.”

In the last thirteen years, I have read for over 1,000 people. During the week, I read for about four to six people and will often take a group reading at the weekend.

Is there a typical sitter or do they come from all ages and backgrounds?

I find that my sitters come from all ages and backgrounds. Recently, a whole group of Russian immigrants came to see me.

Regarding phone readings, I have a following on the island of Jamaica. It is always so fascinating to me!

Although I have been reading for more men lately, the majority who come to me for readings are female.

Can you recall a couple of really unusual spirit messages you have relayed?

There are so many... and I love it when the evidence is so specific that it cannot possibly be denied. I pray for that kind of evidence at every single reading!

I told a woman whose husband had passed on that actor Patrick Swayze of *Dirty Dancing* fame was dancing around my living room and showing me a photograph.

It turned out that she had a photograph on the wall of Patrick Swayze with his arm around her husband. They met when her husband's construction crew pulled over to watch a movie being filmed in which Patrick appeared.

At another reading, I described a building in Manhattan and “saw” the street and the address. The gentleman was dumbfounded. He had just put in a bid to purchase that exact building the day before.

I once told a woman sitter that I saw her sister who had passed on standing with Audrey Hepburn. They were both holding a poster of the 1961 film *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, in which Audrey Hepburn was one of the stars.

It turned out that she and her sister watched that movie together many times. When her sister passed, she got a poster and hung it on the wall. She spoke to her sister through the poster of *Breakfast at Tiffany's* every morning!

I could go on and on. Sometimes I pinch myself at what comes through, although I think most mediums can be very hard on themselves.

I want to hear everything. However, if I heard everything for a client they wouldn't be fulfilling their soul contract and learning the lessons they need to.

Does American TV give much coverage to

mediumship and the paranormal?

There is definitely more coverage in the past few years. It began with John Edward, but now there are several television shows featuring mediums.

Unfortunately, they are more about "entertainment" than the "healing" aspect of mediumship.

However, I do find that a lot of people have been exposed to the idea of life after death and there are many more believers.

Do you think that the average American accepts survival after death?

Yes, I do, but mainly because even in organised religions there is a belief in survival after death. However, more people are tapping into their own spirituality rather than finding comfort from an organised religion.

I find most people are very curious and want to know more about mediumship.

When in my show I do short "live" readings, when it ends, you can hear an audible, "Ahhh," as so many want to hear from their loved ones in Spirit.

I do wish there were more development circles in the United States. There really is no organised way to develop, as there are relatively few Spiritualist churches.

I get upset about online classes that "certify" people as mediums. Really? I believe that this is a gift, but it must be honed and cultivated before delivering messages to others. Integrity needs to be front and centre.

I feel the same about most gifts. As a voice teacher, I notice some coming to me with a natural ability, but they still need lessons to bring their voice to its highest potential.

There are others who cannot really sing at all. I can teach them how to be better singers, but they will never have the ability to make a living as a professional singer. This is where I feel the problem lies with the online development of mediums.

You are also a spiritual healer. What are the most common complaints you treat?

Many people seem to have problems with their digestive systems. I believe that stress is a big contributor. Others come with problems with joint pains in their knees, shoulders, back, etc.

How can people help speed their recovery?

Believe that it is possible for the healing to occur. They must also listen to their own intuitive voice for guidance.

I often tell clients that they have free will, but it is empowered free will when they tap into the Other Side for guidance.

Departed loved ones, spirit guides and angels are all available to assist in our healing. We just have to ask.



DONNA LIPARI: "I write with God or Spirit and serve with gratitude in my heart." (Photo: Daniel Kwak)

British medium Ann Burbedge once told me, "Spirit guides never let us down!" I have found that to be the case over and over again.

We must remain open and receptive to messages and then have the courage to act on what we are receiving.

Do you ever give healing to animals?

I have, but not very often. I would like to try more in that vein. I love animals and have always had pets – originally dogs, but now cats. I have done some healing on my own animals.

When writing songs, do you think you are assisted from the spirit world?

Without a doubt. I can actually feel my "writers" stepping in and taking over. Sometimes I can be given a song in fifteen minutes – both lyrics and music!

I have a friend who asks me over and over about my process when I write a song. He spends hours laboriously going over every single lyric and chord when he writes, and has written some beautiful songs. I write with God or Spirit and serve with gratitude in my heart.

Are you aware of a specific spirit guide?

I believe that I have a few. I am aware of three who are always present. However, I also believe that when I am writing or creating other guides will step in.

Why are so many theatres apparently haunted?

That's an interesting question! I think that most actors are very spiritually directed people and receive inspiration as to how to play certain roles, etc.

As creative people, they are working with Spirit and are very comfortable

doing so.

When you work in a theatre, it becomes your "home" in many ways – a place of comfort and a place of pride. Perhaps that's why many souls don't want to leave.

A lot of actors are fairly superstitious. Why do you think this is so?

I find that most actors are complicated people. Oftentimes, they are very insecure. They are always auditioning and being rejected.

Perhaps that's why they adopt certain routines, have "lucky" charms or need a tangible way of controlling an often uncontrollable environment.

Are you at all superstitious?

I am to a certain extent. I used to wear a special necklace whenever I did readings, but decided to let that go a while ago so that I wouldn't depend on anything outside my "inner" voice.

I love the numbers 7 and 11, and see them all the time. I will often set my clock to wake up at 7.11 am hoping to start the day off on a good note!

In a nutshell, what's your philosophy of life?

I believe that we come to Earth to love and serve. We are all blessed with different gifts and abilities, but when we share them with others, it is a form of sharing our love.

When we share them in the service of others, we make the greatest contribution we can to our world. I wrote a song many years ago entitled *Share Your Love*. Part of it reads:

"Share your love, let it flow, it will always find the place it's meant to go! Make a choice, take a stand, we can build a better world for every man!" That is what I hope and pray to do. ■