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## Vocalist Oprisko presents a musical 'history class'

By **MISTY MAYNARD**

*Staff Writer*

Hailed as the "next Frank Sinatra," Peter Oprisko, the singing sensation from Chicago, will perform in Maysville at the Washington Opera Theater March 24.

Performing the classics from Elvis to Sinatra to Louie Armstrong, and more, Oprisko is a "very accomplished" and "charismatic" singer, according to Joni Powers, who coordinates events for the opera theater.

"He's amazing," Powers said. "Sounds exactly like Frank Sinatra."

Though interested in music since his days in the high school choir, Oprisko did not initially pursue a career in performing. He graduated from Indiana University in 1993 with a degree in radio and television production and presentation.

For 12 years, Oprisko said he worked in radio on local and nationally syndicated basis.

Oprisko said as years passed some people asked him why he did not sing, and so eight years ago decided it might be a fun hobby.

"That was really how it all came about," Oprisko said. "Before I knew it, it really started to take off."

Oprisko decided to take one year to devote to his musical career. The one year passed, but Oprisko said he never looked back.

"I feel extremely fortunate to be able to do what I do," Oprisko said.

Oprisko, who is not a trained singer, said he learned from listening to many of the singers whose songs he now performs.

"I can't read music," Oprisko said. "I've never had a voice lesson."

Oprisko said his favorite performer is Frank Sinatra, whom he gets compared to frequently. Sinatra could not read music either.

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**Peter Oprisko**

## VOCALIST

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Oprisko said he typically tailors his performances to the audience. When he appears in Maysville next week, his performance will be a salute to the great singers.

Oprisko said his performance is something of a history class, American music history 101, because he injects some little-known facts or stories about the songs into his performance. For example, Oprisko said "It Had to be You," is one of his most requested songs, yet few people realize it was a number one hit in 1924. Another song, "The Way You Look Tonight," won an Academy Award in 1936 and was a number one hit for Fred Astaire. Oprisko said many people do not realize just how old the songs they love so much really are. Oprisko considers himself a "modern day torch carrier,"

helping to carry on the tradition of the music.

With a repertoire of about 2,500 songs, Oprisko said he is not able to choose a favorite because his favorite may change during the day. Instead, Oprisko said he has a list of about 50 songs which are among his favorites.

"There's too many great songs out there," he said.

In addition to Elvis, Sinatra and Armstrong, Oprisko will sing songs by Rosemary Clooney, Doris Day, Dean Martin, Nat King Cole, The Beatles, and more during his Maysville performance.

Oprisko's performance is scheduled to begin at 8:15 p.m., Saturday, March 24 at the Washington Opera Theater. Tickets should be reserved in advance and cost \$15 each.

For more information call 606-564-3134 or 606-759-4856.

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