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Key of She to appear on "The Jane Pauley Show"

By: Michael Redmond , Lifestyle Editor

Women's singing group has performed widely in area.

Key of She, the locally-based women's singing group which has performed extensively throughout central New Jersey and in Philadelphia, will be heard nationwide the week of Monday, Dec. 20, as guest artists on NBC-TV's "The Jane Pauley Show."

"We're just incredibly thrilled and excited," said Sue Jaques of Skillman, one of six members of Key of She, which has never appeared on television before.

Key of She is one of five a cappella groups to receive solo spots on the show's Monday edition. And the icing on the cake is that Key of She will be singing a holiday song, "See the Light," composed and arranged by two of its members. The group was originally to have sung Adolphe Adam's "O Holy Night."

A cappella singing is voices alone — no instruments, no accompaniment, just the voices. Patty Cronheim wrote the song, which celebrates light, hope and peace, and Ms. Jaques arranged the material for the group's six alto voices.

Key of She [also] includes Amy Raditz of Lambertville, Lisa Ernst of Hightstown, Dyann Mazzeo of Lambertville, and Pat Stearman of Pennington.

According to Ms. Mazzeo, Key of She was brought to Jane Pauley's attention by Ms. Pauley's daughter, Rickie Trudeau, who sings in a Yale University a cappella group. Ms. Trudeau discovered Key of She on the group's Web site, www.keyofshe.com, and ordered the group's compact disk, "Our First Time," which she played for her mother.

"The call came right out of the blue, literally, only eight days before the show was to be taped," Ms. Jaques said. "We jumped and scrambled."

But the group was thoroughly prepared, even for the last-minute change of songs. Key of She was taped "live" in front of the studio audience, meaning that if anything went wrong, there would be no second take. This did not faze singers who routinely perform live — who, in fact, opened for the late Ray Charles at the Union County Arts Center two years ago.

"(The taping) was a great experience," said Pat Stearman. "We were treated like royalty, and we met Jane Pauley and Rickie Trudeau. We just loved all the attention."

"The Jane Pauley Show" airs at 11 a.m. in NBC-TV.

Next up for Key of She is a return engagement for Newtown, PA's First Night on Dec 31, and the release in January of the group's second CD, "In the Key of She."