

THE COUNTRY CROONER

Country tunes here in America surprisingly date back to 1922. The birth place was actually Bristol rather than Nashville, TN, where Appalachian mountain folk music is still popular, and has been for generations.

While in WV, Valerie's all-time favorite moment with the only countryman she had ever dated was when they were choosing which video to rent. She walked around and kept looking at different parts of the ceiling and he wondered why. She told him she was looking for the speakers because she really liked this great music she had never heard before.

He laughed, took her hand, and guided her to a tiny room into this general store. Yes, it was actually called a general store in 1996. When he opened the door, to Valerie's utter shock she saw a tiny room with four musicians playing music live. He told her it was bluegrass.

She loved what she heard, and they even let her sing a song with them. Not knowing bluegrass at all, she told them what she did know, and to her sheer delight, they were able to all jam to "Walkin' After Midnight."

Several years later in Apache Junction, AZ, Valerie once heard a colleague playing a CD of great music and asked who they were. She was thrilled when the young man told her it was recordings of the Dillard's from the 1960s, the latter half of which were done live. Valerie knew their claim to fame were as the Darlings on *The Andy Griffith Show*. Two of the four were brothers.

Different styles will be heard in this revue, from country to western to bluegrass to honky tonk. There is also a particular 'type' of singing you'll hear in a category all its own - yodeling.

Listen to all the fascinating facts about where the music first came from and what instruments were played in the different genres of country music. Compelling information will also be shared about the musicians and composers themselves.

Enjoy listening and watching Valerie Saunders as your own, *The Country Crooner!*