

UCSB A&L: Patti LuPone

Matters of the Heart

By ERIN J. SMITH / CASA

THE WOMAN SURE KNOWS HOW TO MILK A CRESCENDO. In true diva style, Patti LuPone soared on clear tones before breaking into wide and powerful vibrato during her much-anticipated appearance at The Granada on Thursday, May 13th.

Known for her iconic roles in blockbuster Broadway productions like *Evita*, *Sweeney Todd*, and most recently, *Gypsy*, Patti LuPone showed a softer, more intimate side during her one-woman show *Matters of the Heart*.

Beginning with her six-year old, sandbox crush, LuPone shared the autobiography of her heart with help from pianist Chris Fenwick and a flirty string quartet.

LuPone took on all the ecstasies of love in a musical songbook that included beloved musical theatre songs like *Not a Day Goes By* from Stephen Sondheim's *Merrily We Roll Along* and *Hello, Young Lovers* from Roger and Hammerstein's *The King and I*, as well as several pop songs including Cyndi Lauper's *Time After Time*.

Despite her signature chocolate-covered-caramel tone, LuPone threatened to blow right through the speakers, which buzzed dangerously whenever she reached full capacity. LuPone was at her best when she sang a moving duet with the lone piano, tearing away the mic to reveal an unfettered

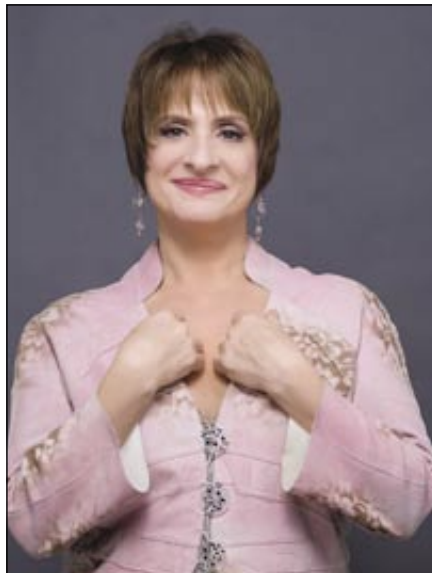


Photo by Ethan Hill

Patti LuPone

and expressive range. Whether singing of the melancholy woes of the heart or the sidesplitting hilarious tales of the bedroom, one thing was clear: it's all about love.

"Love makes the world go 'round," said LuPone, echoing lyrics from *Carnival* as she bade farewell to the audience. "Look for it no matter how it is returned. I wish you love."

If you missed the performance, a selection of songs from the performance can be heard on the musical compilation *Matters of the Heart*.