

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY

Graziadio School of Business and Management

Higher Learning

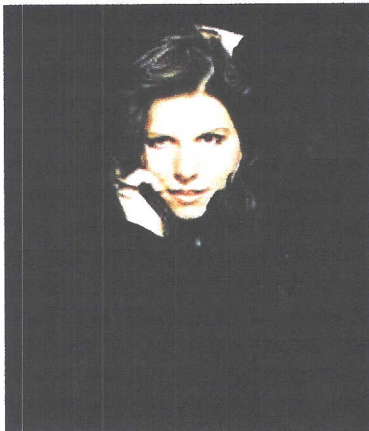
The **MBA** for working
business professionals.

ATTEND AN
INFORMATION
SESSION

A Songbird Alights In Orlando

Updated: 12/8/2009 8:57:18 AM EST

Listen to: [Alan McBride](#) | [Romina Arena, singer and songwriter](#) | [Romina Arena's rendition of 'La Forza'](#)



Romina Arena
Photo: from her website
[Larger](#)

More Florida News

- [Forecasters: Alex Headed Toward Hurricane Strength](#)
- [AAA: July 4th Travel To Increase](#)
- [Florida Food Stamp Program Earns Bonus](#)
- [Attempted Abduction Case Takes New Turn](#)
- [Visitors Complex Offers Astronaut Training Experience](#)
- [Tempers Short In Rays Dugout](#)
- [Sen. Nelson Has Faith In Petreaus](#)
- [Fla. Panhandle Looking For Oil Cleanup Crews](#)
- [Disney Offers Payment Options For Annual Passes](#)
- [Three Injured In Small Plane Crash](#)
- [Street Shootout Leaves Two Injured](#)

Anytime Gardening!



Weather

- [National Hurricane Center](#)
- [Weather Underground](#)

SHARE ...

by **Alan McBride**

ORLANDO, FLA. -- The city of Orlando will play host to an Italian singer and songwriter this week, as she makes a five-show appearance in that city's Plaza Theatre, starting Wednesday.

Romina Arena, a husky-voiced young woman approaching the age of 30, has been well-known in Europe since she was a teenager, though she remains something of a mystery to many audiences in this country.

Arena is not entirely unknown. She has performed in venues as diverse as Las Vegas, public television, and the White House.

"In America, you know, I hear a lot of people pronounce it like 'arena,'" she quipped, "But that's okay, too. You know?"

Where audiences know of this young woman, they know of an energy; a grace and good humor.

They also know a voice that can soar without effort in a range that covers five Octaves, and can carry a melody in any of 10 languages she speaks with facility.

Her rendition of "La Forza," in her native Italian, can make a person catch his breath in amazement; and cause the statues of Rome to change their age-old cool regard to that of wonder.

She can display a depth of emotion that runs from the light touch of pop music to the richly-woven tapestries of the classical. In full voice, her singing can be a haunting but welcome companion to memories.

Not bad for someone whose vocal cords are thick with scar tissue.

Romina was 16, and on the cusp of a singing career, when she was attacked by a rival performer. The performer, who had intended to leave her maimed or dead, was caught and jailed for the crime.

According to Arena, she remembered being beaten unconscious. It was only later that she was told that the other performer had cut her throat, slashing through her vocal cords and leaving her in a coma for nearly 18 months.

After multiple surgeries, she was able to speak again; but never as clearly as before.

"People don't believe, they can't believe, that I'm a singer," she said. "They think I have a cold, a constant cold."

She said she had to learn new vocal techniques, familiar to classical singers but unknown to her.

The episode marked a new beginning for the young woman, who at times seems amused at the turn her life has taken since then.

"My voice came back with a wider vocal range," she said, "So it's kind of amazing. My voice was not as clear before the attack as it was after the attack."

For some, the act of overcoming adversity would be sufficient in and

FREE

Free Samples Printable Coupons

[cookingsavings.com](#)

get AT&T U-verse®

[LEARN MORE](#)

GEOGRAPHIC AND SERVICE RESTRICTIONS APPLY TO AT&T U-VERSE SERVICES. CHECK TO SEE IF YOU QUALIFY.



Expand your \$\$\$ IQ
Smart info on Credit,
Taxes, Real Estate,
Insurance & Retirement

Expand your \$\$\$ IQ
Smart info on Credit,
Taxes, Real Estate,
Insurance & Retirement

Twitter

6/28/2010

Storm Tracker



Sign Up for Email News Updates!

Name:

Email:

Zip Code:

of itself. For her, it marked a new path of inventiveness and creativity.

Romina began working with a singing style she calls "Popera."

"It's a fusion between popular music, pop sounds of music, and classical elements to it," she said, "Which appeals to a younger and an older generation."

She said it just seemed like a good way to pull two diverse musical styles together, and get people to see how they could appreciate both.

The styles are evident in music she has already produced, including a collection of English and French lullabies.

Romina also draws on the visual arts for inspiration, and that is the foundation for her visit to Orlando. She worked with another Italian producer to create a Christmas album inspired by the artwork of American Jim Shore.

The resulting work is a selection of songs in a compilation called "A Joyful Christmas."

She is enthusiastic about the music, but even more animated about how everything comes together in a live venue.

"We have all kinds of surprises," she said. "You're really going to like this. We have music, we have art, we have such an ensemble. You should come. You're really going to like this."

The AAA is helping to support and promote this concert series in Orlando, giving members a 20 percent discount on admission as a way of making sure they get to the Plaza Theatre and see the concert.

Romina said she is thrilled with the concerts, and with the way her music continues to evolve as one idea strikes sparks off another.

If pressed even slightly, however, she admits that she would be just as happy to be singing for one person as for a thousand.

"Writing music, singing music, that was the life I was given to," she said. "Some people sing because they get famous. Some people sing because they get money. I sing because I love to. I sing ... it makes me alive."

Romina will be in concert Dec. 9 through Dec. 13 at Orlando's Plaza Theatre.



Gas Prices

FloridaStateGasPrices	
Today's Local Prices	
Low Price	2.53
High Price	2.99

Click [here](#) for an interactive map!

All Material Copyright © 2010 Florida Broadband News. All rights reserved.

[TERMS OF USE](#) | [PRIVACY STATEMENT](#) | [COPYRIGHT and TRADEMARK NOTICE](#) | [EEO PUBLIC FILE](#)