Like many little girls, Gina McCann dreamed when she was young of becoming a famous pop singer. Her goal, which may have seemed far-fetched at the time, was to one day win a Grammy.

Fast forward to today and McCann, coordinator of administration and development for the John and Doris Norton School of Family and Consumer Sciences, is part of a classical music group called True Concord Voices & Orchestra, which is nominated for two Grammy Awards: Best Choral Performance and Best Contemporary Classical Composition.

McCann's earliest exposure to music was listening to The Beatles and Top 40 radio, and she has been singing in choir since she was in fourth grade. In high school, she did musical theater, and after graduating with a degree in music from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, she began singing pop music in clubs around Chicago. She later moved to southern California and started singing choral music with companies like the Pacific Symphony, Opera Pacific and the San Diego Opera.

"Other than high school choral music and a few years of voice lessons, I was not familiar with classical music, which made my days as a music major extremely challenging," McCann says.
She moved to Arizona, and after spending time as a stay-at-home mom and then a realtor, she decided she wanted a regular full-time job and applied for a position at the UA. She started in the Norton School in 2010.

In addition to singing with True Concord, she is also a staff musician for St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church on the weekends.

"As a vocalist, I try to sing every day, and often just while in my car," McCann says. "Having a full-time day job while singing professionally can be a real challenge in regards to scheduling, as well as maintaining physical and mental stamina. About five to six times a year I end up working a 73-hour week between the three jobs."

McCann auditioned for the Tucson Symphony Orchestra Chorus in 2009, where she met the director of the Tucson-based True Concord, Eric Holtan, who suggested she try out for the group.

Her favorite music to sing is classical and contemporary small ensemble music, which McCann says is the perfect fit for True Concord.

The group has a roster of 57 singers, but concerts are performed by 16-32 vocalists depending on repertoire and are often accompanied by an orchestra. The singers perform classical standards as well as original compositions.

When it comes to what McCann listens to, she likes more classical pop and jazz. She aspires to be the next Rosemary Clooney, a famous jazz singer.

Although McCann was invited to the Grammys, she wasn't able to get a ticket in time.

"As a new member of the Recording Academy, I was downright giddy when receiving the glossy Grammy Awards invitation in the mail a few days before the nominations were announced in December," McCann said.
Because the event sold out in minutes, she couldn't get tickets but said she's still going to try.

"I was already scheduled to be in Orange County that weekend anyway, so now I'll toss a fancy gown and my checkbook in the car in case any of my ticket-holding colleagues suddenly find themselves dateless and holding an extra ticket," she says.

McCann said she plans to stand in front of the Staples Center on the night of the event to see if someone has an extra ticket.

The categories for which True Concord was nominated will not be announced during the live CBS event, which will air at 6 p.m. Mountain time on Monday. The winners for those two categories will instead be announced at the Premiere Ceremony, which will take place at Microsoft Theater from 12:30-3:30 p.m. Pacific time. It will be streamed live internationally here [4].


Source URL: https://uaatwork.arizona.edu/lqp/ua-employee-sings-grammy-nominated-group

Links:
[1] https://cals.arizona.edu/fcs/
[2] https://uaatwork.arizona.edu/sites/default/files/images/smaller-chorus-group-800x572_0.jpg