

POMPANO FORUM

January 10, 2008

PEOPLE

Jan Hinton

Occupation: Music teacher

With a lifetime supply of musical experience, Pompano Beach resident Jan Hinton used every bit of it to create a song to be entered in the "Just Sing, Florida" competition sponsored by the Florida Music Educators' Association to select a new state song.

Hinton decided a week before the deadline to write and compose the song, and she used her musical expertise to create "Florida (Where the Sawgrass Meets the Sky)."

Her dedication paid off when she was chosen as one of the three finalists for the new state song. Residents can vote at www.justsingflorida.org by today.

What do you like about Pompano Beach?

I just love the location. We're not that far from the ocean. It's very accessible to other places, there's a lot



going on, and I wouldn't want to live anywhere else.

What's your favorite part of teaching music?

I love the contact with little kids because it's the younger ones I'm with. They're so enthusiastic about everything. It's wonderful.

What are your thoughts on the current state song?

Well, it's a good, old historical

song, but I feel it's a bit outdated. I know a lot of people believe it's racist in different ways but, yes, I think it's outdated.

What does your song entail?

I see it as a tribute to Florida. I just tried to think of all the wonderful things that I love about Florida and maybe what other people think of. The inspiration was Florida itself. I love Florida; that's why I live here. So, it wasn't difficult to be inspired.

Was there anything difficult about writing and composing the song?

I knew what I wanted to say, but I just didn't know quite how to say [it]. That was the hardest thing, try-

ing to find just the right way to say what I wanted to say.

Did you ever think your song would make it to the finals?

I didn't know. I just didn't know. I didn't know how many people would have applied. I didn't know what the standards of the song would be ... so it was a pleasant surprise.

Have you thought about what would happen if you won?

I think it's going to create a lot of feeling. I know a lot of people don't want the old song changed. I would imagine it's going to be a big mixture of positive and negative reaction.

– Sean d'Oliveira

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