

GAIL FARRELL

GAIL FARRELL is the vivacious singer and pianist from *The Lawrence Welk Show*, the 2nd longest-running entertainment program in TV history, after *I Love Lucy*.

Millions of Americans grew up with the iconic Welk show, which debuted in the mid-50's on ABC, soon knocking Emmy-winning forefather of sketch comedy, Sid Caesar, out of his #1 Saturday night time slot. In the early 70's the Welk show became a pioneer of 1st run syndication, where it gained more viewers, with more stations airing new weekly episodes until Mr. Welk retired in 1982. Since 1987, re-broadcasts of the original shows have been highly rated on PBS, while new specials have been top pledge-drive programs.)

GAIL FARRELL grew up an only child on a cattle ranch in Oklahoma and started singing in church at the ripe old age of 6. Her dad taught her to ride, her mom took her to piano lessons. Gail's Okie roots take center stage in her live shows today when she burns up the keys with a country rag that brings down the house.

After winning talent and swimsuit competitions in the Miss Oklahoma Pageant and graduating with honors from the University of Tulsa, **GAIL** went to Los Angeles and talked her way into auditioning for Welk, who was playing at the Hollywood Palladium with his TV big band. He gave her 3 guest spots on his show, then promptly invited her to become a regular.

For the last 2 seasons on ABC, then throughout the syndication years, **GAIL** showcased her versatility singing solos, playing piano, doing duets with Dick Dale (including, incredibly, "One Toke Over the Line", which has 2 million views on YouTube), as well as writing the vocal arrangements for "Sandi, Gail & Mary Lou" and later for the mixed trio she created for the show with her husband Ron Anderson and tenor Michael Redman.

GAIL guested on *Match Game*, *Dinah!*, and *Mike Douglas* and was an opening act for Bob Hope. The lieutenant governor of Oklahoma christened a new road in her hometown of Durant "Gail Farrell Drive".

Her song "You Can Do Anything" was a finalist in the *American Idol* Songwriter Competition, and three of her originals were featured on *Knots Landing*. She's recorded with Garth Brooks, Dolly Parton, Kenny Rogers, Lee Greenwood, Ray Stevens, Andy Williams and Amy Grant and sung on a long list of commercials and film / TV soundtracks, including *The Little Mermaid*, *Beaches*, *Scooby Doo*, *Smurfs*, *Jetsons*, *Flintstones*, and *Yogi Bear*.

Gail & Ron live in the San Francisco Bay Area and have twin daughters – Erin, an actress in New York City, and Lauren, who lives in Colorado Springs and has 5-year-old twins of her own.