FOR RELEASE WEEKS OF JUNE 24, JULY 1 and JULY 8:

**VOCALIST KELLY BIRD RETURNS**

**TO GARDENWOKS**

SALEM, NY -- Capitalizing on the success of one of last year's entertainment collaborations with Fort Salem Theater, Gardenworks Farm announces the return of Albany vocalist Kelly Bird on Saturday, July 13, featured at the first Farm-to-Table Dinner Theater Cabaret of the season. *Kelly Bird: Songs I Hate to Love* is produced and musically arranged by Jay Kerr, former artistic director of the now shuttered Fort Salem Theater.

Truly the area's go-to vocalist for commercial jingles, CD back-ups, or concert work, Ms. Bird excels at just about every musical style known to man. Or woman. A performer even during her high school and college years, she began a professional career in earnest, before the ink had dried on her Bachelors' of Music from The College of Saint Rose, as a paid soloist with the Lake George Opera. At the same time, she was a vocalist with Happy Rhoads and her heavy-duty rock-and-roll band. Musical Theater leads followed at Park Playhouse and CapRep.

Kelly Bird, who currently teaches in the Recording Industry program at The College of Saint Rose, has fought promoters' efforts to pigeon-hole her into concentrating on just one style of singing. In area churches, she is called upon to sing at both weddings and funerals, where her repertoire runs the gamut from traditional religious pieces to pop and jazz standards.

"I heard Kelly singing a Duke Ellington song at a funeral last year," Kerr notes. "The jazz selection was perfect for the gathering, lending it a musical dignity and an appropriate informality. We booked her for two concerts in our 2018 season; in fact, her show was the last show we produced at Fort Salem."

*Songs I Hate to Love* includes shows tunes by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Cy Coleman and Stephen Sondheim; pop songs by John Mayer, Carpenters and Debbie Harry; jazz standards, and Leonard Cohen's iconic tune, "Hallelujah."

The Farm-to-Table Dinner Theaters began eight years ago, when patrons would drive five miles into Salem for a show when dinner was finished. Four years ago, Gardenworks and Fort Salem started to offer entertainment on premises, creating an intimate cabaret space at the venue. The evening begins at 5:30 PM with a cheese tray appetizer. All the food is locally sourced; wine and beer from local vineyards and breweries are available for purchase. At 6 PM, Chef Rob Southerland's menu includes organic salad, chicken cordon bleu, summer vegetables, and blueberry crumble. Space is limited; advance reservations are required.

The one-time-only performance of *Kelly Bird: Songs I Hate to Love,* on Saturday, July 13, follows dinner on premises at Gardenworks Farm, 1055 County Route 30, Salem, New York 12865. Dinner begins at 5:30 PM. Information and reservations (required) are available by calling Gardenworks at (518) 854-3250.