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By Breanna Pizzoloto  
Photos by Ace Sylvester

# Pat Wattam

True Love, Art &  
**ROCK N ROLL**

**For over 40 years, Pat Wattam has blazed a trail in the local real estate industry by leveraging her creativity, embracing technology and pouring into the Greater Baton Rouge real estate community.**

Pat shines brightly as a star in her own right - having been named Realtor of the Year and Most Cooperative by the Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors, where she also served as past Board President.

While her reputation as a Realtor often precedes her, over the last 12 years, people across the United States have become fans of Pat, the oil painter. And before she ever dreamed of becoming a real estate agent, she was known as Prissy, the flautist at Opryland USA.

Pat is a true star - multifaceted and bright with a gravitational pull you can't resist. Her creativity, authenticity and dedication to informing, guiding and entertaining have established her as a beloved figure in music, real estate and art.

#### **Inspiration is Everywhere**

Pat Wattam's journey into the world of art began unexpectedly during one of her first among many trips to Orange Beach. After purchasing their first beach condo, she headed out with her longtime friend and fellow Real Producer Linda Gaspard to spruce up the place.

"It came furnished, and I told my husband Roger I would leave it," she said, smiling. "But I just couldn't," she

whispered. "While out shopping, Linda and I saw these paintings of fish with big lips, but they wanted \$25 for a painting like that!" Linda looked at Pat and said, "We can do that."

At Christmas, Pat purchased \$10 paint kits from Michaels for Linda and herself. Soon, Pat had painted several of the fish with big lips and moved on to picturesque landscapes of palm trees.

Her talent didn't go unnoticed. Debbie Denstorff, a local friend and professional painter, recognized Pat's potential. "There's true talent here!" she told Pat. So, she embraced this new passion and enrolled in painting lessons to hone her skills.

That was 12 years and dozens of art shows ago.

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IF YOU  
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Today, oil paintings adorn every wall in her Bocage Square art studio, and each subject is as unique as the next - ballerina, horse, rock star, waterfall.

While Pat primarily participates in art shows in Baton Rouge and Orange Beach, her work has gained recognition and found its way into galleries across the United States.

For Pat, the thrill of competition is her driving force. Winning ribbons - and the cash prizes that come with them - is a source of pride and motivation. Her competitive spirit is a consistent thread in all her endeavors, from art to music and, of course, real estate.

**A Flautist's Melody**

Before embarking on her illustrious real estate career, Pat was a professional woodwind player who, along with Roger, was hired as a musician at the Opryland, USA Theme park in Nashville. She and Roger spent years performing there, making lifelong friends and cherished memories.

But don't let her classical training fool you. Pat's musical tastes are as diverse as her painting subjects. She's a fan of the Beatles, Styx, Bluegrass and Hair Bands. "Metallica absolutely kills at concerts," she said.

She combined her love of music and painting to create one of her most famous pieces, a shot of Tommy Shaw, guitarist and co-lead of Styx,



performing on stage with "a look only a rock star or musician can truly feel." Shaw's Realtor saw the painting in a show in Annapolis, Maryland and showed him a picture. During a meet-and-greet before a concert, Pat brought a copy of a magazine article on the painting for him to keep.

"I love him and Steve Vai, which you have to be kind of hardcore for his music," Pat explained. She's traveled all over to see Vai perform and hails him as a guitar genius. "My husband is a great sport as long as he doesn't have to go to the concerts," she said, laughing.

Her love for music began at an early age, and in high school, she was recruited to join the marching band at Arkansas Tech University.

Pat vividly remembers her first day in the band room and the moment she first laid eyes on Roger - the famous senior oboe player. "There was no assigned seating, so I didn't know where to sit. But I found a spot, looked across the room, and there was this gorgeous guy. It just came into my head, 'I'm gonna marry him.' Now, I was dating someone else, but I heard it clear as a bell."

Weeks passed before Roger finally noticed her, too. "There was no air conditioning in the marching band room, so the windows were open, and a bee flew in," Roger recalled. "I didn't know she was terrified of bees, but she grabbed her music sheet and swatted it," he said, looking at Pat. "You thought I was cool, didn't you?" Pat asked. "Mhm, yep," Roger said with a smile.





A year and a half later, the two exchanged vows. This year, they celebrate 52 years of marriage.

The Wattams have a special place in their hearts for the Arkansas Tech Band. They give back to the music program through the Wattam Band Endowment and the Wattam Recording Series, providing financial support for band equipment and operational expenses.

After graduating college, Roger taught music at universities in Oklahoma and then Tennessee, where they began performing at Opryland. When Roger received an offer for a position at LSU, Pat continued to commute to Opryland in Nashville, sure they would wind up in another city soon enough.

“When we decided to sell our house in Nashville, that’s when Roger suggested I would be pretty good at real estate,” she said. “I said no way and laughed.” But she kept the idea in the back of her mind, and soon, she couldn’t help but give it a try.

A few years ago, Roger retired from his position as an instrument technician at Louisiana State University after 29 years and became a member of the Wattam Five Star Team.

### **Excellence & Innovation**

Pat was known as the woman with the Sony Mavica camera in her early real estate career. She captured moments at parties and events, providing floppy disks with her contact information to friends, family, and even strangers. “Ask anyone,” she said with a smile. “People still ask me about that Mavica!” In the era of dial-up Internet, she was one of the first local realtors to have a website.

Technology and mentorship are vital to Pat’s approach to real estate. She believes in sharing her knowledge and expertise with fellow real estate agents, both locally and nationally.

“I never mind sharing what I know with other real estate agents because the better they are, the easier it is for me to do my job,” she said with a smile.

Through the Star Power program, she’s a frequent panelist at national real estate conferences and shares insights on leveraging technology and how a small, close-knit team can achieve monumental success.

Over the years, she’s become a prominent figure in the Greater Baton Rouge real estate community. And she and Roger are just as dedicated to promoting the arts through volunteerism and supporting the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge. Her dedication and contributions have earned her numerous accolades and board positions, most recently with Arkansas Tech University.

Pat loves leading with efficiency and is an entertainer at heart. You can catch her playing the flute many Sundays at Broadmoor United Methodist Church.

The Wattam Five Star Team with RE/MAX Select Realtors are all friends she has met while playing music, which means the team also doubles as a band. Keep an eye out around holidays like the Fourth of July, St. Patrick’s Day, Christmas and Easter for stunning performances by the team on Pat’s Facebook page.

“When I became a Realtor, I set three pillars for my business: inform, guide and entertain,” she said. “And heavy on the entertain!”

In addition to musical performances, she shares videos with valuable insights on topics like recovering from knee surgery and the occasional cooking video. “I don’t cook, so it’s more comedy than cooking,” she said. “I try to channel my mom in those videos.”

While cooking is not one of them, Pat is a multi-talented professional with a contagious spunk and a penchant for seeing others smile or experience an aha moment. Whether it’s her vibrant oil paintings, enchanting flute melodies, or her outstanding real estate career, Pat gives her all and leaves a lasting mark on every endeavor.

“If you can see it, you can make it happen,” she said.

