

VELVET ROPE MAGAZINE

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JEANS 'N CLASSICS: ELECTRIC THURSDAYS

PETER BRENNAN'S MISSION IS SIMPLE. THE CONCEPT OF JEANS 'N CLASSICS IS TO BRING THE CLASSIC ROCK HITS TO A YOUNGER GENERATION OF AUDIENCE GOERS WITH THE MISSION TO CONNECT THEM TO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS. PERFORMING AT KITCHENER'S CENTRE IN THE SQUARE AS PART OF THE 'ELECTRIC THURSDAY' INSTALLMENTS, THEY'RE PREPARING TO BRING THE MUSIC OF MICHAEL JACKSON TO EAGER AUDIENCES AFTER THEIR WIDELY RECEIVED U2 EDITION "RATTLE AND HUM".

Electric Thursdays are a huge draw for CITS. Tell me about being a part of it.

Peter Brennan: It is an absolute pleasure to be a part of something like Electric Thursdays ... and ET The Wednesday addition. We started about 12 or 13 years ago with a 'tester' show at what had been Lulu's, and then Jamie Grant, Brenda Asselstine and the very creative staff at CITS harnessed us, along with the KW Symphony, and together we started to build the series. We began with the Thursday shows only ...I think three per season, then added the fourth, and after a few seasons we doubled the nights adding the Wednesday edition. A wonderful venue, awesome crew, fantastic staff at CITS and of course a terrific orchestrawe couldn't be happier.....and oh yeah ...what a super crowd to play for and to get to know all these years. They are loyal and we love to give them our best.

Jeans 'n Classics – fantastic title with music people know and love. Why Michael Jackson?

PB: So pleased you like the namethank you. Why Michael Jackson ? Well like most people I was knocked out by Michael's incredible talents from the beginnings with the Jackson 5. We saw him mature and then of course 'Off The Wall' and 'Thriller' and 'Bad' were incredible recordings and his abilities as a writer, singer and performer became iconic. When he died, I felt that all he'd accomplished musically far outweighed the negativity and nastiness that had dogged him for years. Gavin (Hope)- who sings the show – and I felt that we wanted to celebrate his incredible legacy and that it was important to present Michael's music. within Jeans' n Classics...hence we put the show together. It was very poignant at times digging

deeply into the material in order to score it, but the show is pure joy to perform. I think audiences feel the same way as they listen to it.

What can people expect for your ET shows in April?

PB: Our April show is the Michael Jackson night. There will be 8 of us on that concert, along with the KW Symphony of course, and we will go back to the very young Michael and the music of The Jackson 5. We'll slowly 'mature' Michael and get into some of the later 'Jacksons' recordings. We'll play a fair bit from 'Off The Wall' – my personal favourite MJ album, and then cover songs from 'Thriller' and 'Bad' and leave everyone with a little 'Man In The Mirror'. The show, as I mentioned, stars Gavin Hope and features three of our ladies ...Katalin Kiss; Kathryn Rose and Lis Soderberg. Gavin is a fireball on stage at the best of times but he really moves and dances his way through this terrific material beautifully. Lots of energy and a little poignancy as well.

You must be having a blast putting these shows on. Where will we see Jeans 'n Classics in five years?

PB: I am very fortunate to do what I do with all of the singers and players in the 'family. What a way to go! In five years, I would like to see us doing what we do – with some new shows of course and some face lifted productions – having nurtured our relationships with orchestras and venues throughout North America and having expanded into the Far East and more extensively and habitually into the UK and Europe.

Jeans 'n Classics Presents: "For Michael – The Music of Michael Jackson"

April 18 & 19, Centre in the Square

jeansnclassics.com

centre-square.com