

Heavy dose of Motown will fuel a Rockin' Christmas



By Joe Belanger, The London Free Press
Thursday, December 20, 2012 12:08:24 EST PM



Gavin Hope

A little rock, a little R&B and a band backed by an orchestra and, of course, it adds up to a Rockin' Christmas.

The Jeans 'n Classics crew is back in London Saturday for a show at London Convention Centre, featuring five singers, the band and the rock symphony orchestra.

"It's going to be a really fun night that will put everybody in a really good mood for the holidays," leader and founder Peter Brennan said.

"There won't be any carols, but it's a Christmas show done in a really rocky way, some 40 years of Christmas song re-treatments and a good part of it will be Motown," he said.

And there will be a few surprise tunes song by Jeans 'n Classics singers Andrea Coziol, Stephanie Martin, Gavin Hope, Aaron MacDonald and Kathryn Rose.

Brennan said the show will have a distinct Motown flavour for much of the night and will include many of the classic rock Christmas songs, such as *Merry Christmas Baby* and *All I Want For Christmas Is You*.

There will even be a little Leonard Cohen and something from the stage hit, *Les Miserables*, about to be released on the big screen.

Jeans 'n Classics and Orchestra London parted ways after last season with the orchestra focusing on Red Hot Weekends with a variety of special guests.

Meanwhile, Jeans 'n Classics teamed up with the Rose in My Book charity to raise money for breast cancer research.

This will be the second of a four-concert season in London, presented by Rose in My Book, which hopes to raise \$1 million over the next five years.

The final two shows are Feb. 9 featuring One Vision — An Evening of the Music of Queen, when Michael Shotton teams up with the orchestra and choir to pay homage to Freddie Mercury and Queen, followed on May 4 with The Age of Innocence, a “jukebox” of songs from the early to mid-'60s.

Brennan said the London Convention Centre has proved to be a “great” venue for his show, noting it can accommodate additional tables for last-minute crowds.

Their first show was in late September, called Handstands — The Very Best of Jeans 'n Classics, which featured songs from a variety of artists, including Tears for Fears, James Taylor, Etta James, Lady Gaga and Peter Gabriel, with a few new tunes thrown in.

“All the feedback we got was very positive,” Brennan said. “The room really lends itself to our show. The whole vibe is so magical, with wonderful sight lines and great sound.”

As well, the show includes three cameras filling two large screens to give those at the back of the hall a better look.

joe.belanger@sunmedia.ca

IF YOU GO

What: Jeans 'n Classics Rockin' Christmas show, featuring singers Kathryn Rose, Andrea Coziol, Aaron MacDonald, Gavin Hope and Stephanie Martin.

Where: London Convention Centre, 300 York St.

When: Doors open 7 p.m., show starts 8 p.m. Saturday.

Tickets: \$70, available online at www.jeansnclassics.com

Reader's comments »

If you already have an account on this newspaper, you can login to the newspaper to add your comments.

By adding a comment on the site, you accept our terms and conditions and our netiquette rules.