



LEE HARTGRAVE TONIGHT

LORENSEN TRIBUTE ROCKS THROUGH THE MUSICAL CAREER OF BOBBY DARIN

By Lee Hartgrave, January 9, 2012

Russ Lorenson highlights many of Bobby Darin's songs with sensitivity and stunning musical arrangements. Every number that he sang in this show is so well done that you will swear that Bobby Darin is up on that stage. Lorenson belts out all the great standards including "Mack the Knife" and "Beyond the Sea."

Lorenson gives this show a great treatment of the pop classics. The strong vocals are put right in the spotlight where they belong. The Band (who I will mention further on down) along with Russ creates a show with upbeat gusto and immense pleasure. Lorenson has that certain force that few entertainers can impart to their audiences - but this guy's got it!

Lorenson went into musical territory to which I didn't know his talents extended - like country music and rock 'n' roll! For the rock 'n' roll, I had to slap myself to keep from thinking that I was in Elvis's world at times. Will Russ make a move into Elvis's territory with a tribute to him in the future?

As for the Country music, he told the audience: "If you don't like Country music -- It'll be over before you know it." But, gee gosh -- I not only liked it, I was mesmerized by it. There are lots of fun songs in the show like "If I Had My Druthers" (lyrics by Johnny Mercer and music by Richard Whiting), sung as a duet by Russ and his musical director, Kelly Park. The audience loved "You're The Reason I'm Livin'," a Country tune written by Darin in 1962. Brendan Getzell (in the band) arranged the gorgeous "Eighteen Yellow Roses" - it is more fantastic than anything else I have ever heard.

Kelly Park worked on the original musical arrangements to keep the show as close to Darin's as possible. Of course, we all know that Kelly Park is one of the best musicians in town, if not the best. What would San Francisco do without him?

Here are the excellent musicians: Kelly Park, piano/musical director - Daniel Fabricant, bass/guitar - Kent Bryson, drums - Brendan Getzell, guitar/vocals - Tony Malfatti, Sax/clarinet/flute - Max Perkoff, Trombone - Rich Armstrong, trumpet. Also -- to take us back to the 60's there are the backup singers: Jennifer Essex, Alyssa Stone and Sheelagh Murphy.

All in all this was an enormously satisfying and astonishing evening of music and Darin history. Russ told very interesting stories about the famous singer that I didn't know. This is a huge evening of breathtaking songs with non-stop sensational musicality. It was a magical experience.

If you're not exhilarated and rejuvenated at this show -- then you might want to check your pulse!