



T.G.I.F.

Liverpool Legends

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Bring the Beatles to Bloomington



The opportunity to see the Beatles play live in concert can no longer arise.

However, the shaggy haircuts, psychedelic clothing and harmonies from "Hey Jude" may still be heard by Liverpool Legends, a Beatles tribute band which started in November.

They are managed by (George Harrison's sister) Louise Harrison, and partner Michelle Dwoskin. Harrison and Dwoskin aid the Liverpool Legends in successfully impersonating each Beatle member.

"They are wonderful, wonderful guys and they do about the very best job that I've ever heard of presenting the Beatles' music as it should be heard," Harrison said.

"We're all musicians," Marty Scott, George Harrison's impersonator, said. "We all sing and play and do everything."

The other band members include Davey Justice (Paul McCartney), Joe Bologna (Ringo Starr) and Kevin Mantegna (John Lennon). A fifth member, Bob Dobro, is responsible for all the extra orchestrations.

"It's like finding pieces of a puzzle because you have to find a person that looks a certain way, plays a certain way and sings a certain way," Scott said. "We are lucky we have found the pieces of the puzzle."

"We've all been involved in other Beatles' shows," Scott continued. "Half of this band came from American English, which was another Beatles show. The fellow who plays John Lennon, and myself, split from that band to form this band."

"We have a Paul McCartney impersonator from Las Vegas and we have a Ringo from Michigan," Scott continued. "So, it's kind of like we are from all over the country."

Justice, who impersonates McCartney, played McCartney in a large scale Las Vegas show called "The Legends in Concert," and continued to play McCartney on five different continents.

"I've known Marty and Kevin for a long time, and they had interest in putting this group together," Justice said.

"I was quite far away and I had some downtime, so I thought, 'Maybe I will relocate and get a second play in Chicago,'" Justice explained. "Louise Harrison welcomed me to the group and they really wanted me to be a part of it."

"The first song we sang together was incredible," Justice continued. "The harmonies were right on. The tone and everything was just right."

Although all members of the group listen to the Beatles' music, influences do not only come from "Strawberry Fields Forever" and "Penny Lane."

"Most of us have all kinds of different influences," Scott said. "They come from all over."

"I'm a huge, crazy, hillbilly Hank Williams fan, and everyone else thinks I'm crazy but we get influences all over the place," Scott explained.

Liverpool Legend's show consists of a chronological history of the Beatles' music.

"We start out doing the era where they have the funny haircuts," Scott said. "Then we change into the psychedelic era where, if you are familiar with the Sargent Pepper album, we wear those crazy costumes."

"Then we morph again into the later hippie Beatles and play all the [songs] that they were doing at the end of their career," Scott added.

In its infancy, Liverpool Legends performs their debut concert this Friday in Schaumburg. With previous bands, however, the members have played nationwide.

"We've played in Japan, Australia and England," Scott said. "We've played at all these venues that the Beatles have played."

Liverpool Legends' goal is to keep the message of the Beatles alive and keep the music alive, Scott said.

"It's a great job to have, so we want to travel the world and play all of our favorite songs," Scott continued. "Let's face it - we have so many great songs to choose from."

"There are certain acts that do tributes where the bands they are tributing have five good songs," Scott added.

"The Beatles have hundreds and hundreds, so we can make our shows different all the time."

"If you look at our shows, we have seven-year-olds, 17-year-olds, 27-year-olds, their parents and their parents and grandparents," Scott continued.

"It's amazing that somehow the Beatles have carried on to generations," Scott said. "There is not really another group like that."

The members of Liverpool Legends pride themselves on the chemistry of the group as people and as musicians.

"Everyone has a kind soul," Justice said. "It's an interesting group of people. A lot of times you have to deal with egos, but this group doesn't have it."

"We're in the crowd before we even do the show, shaking people's hands, saying 'Thanks for coming out,'" Justice continued. "Without our fans we have nobody."

Liverpool Legends is performing in Bloomington Saturday night at Daddio's. Attending will be all members of the group, along with manager Harrison.

The band is planning on performing many fundraising concerts, because the Beatles were good about being "compassionate and caring about humanity," Harrison said.

For more information on the band, access their Web site at www.liverpoollegends.com.

"I really want to see the very best of the Beatles entertainment out there," Harrison said.

"I think it's especially important for that message of love and peace to keep on being heard."