10-6-2007

Marie Osmond and the Osmond Brothers

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Marie Osmond and the Osmond Brothers
Saturday, October 6, 2007
The Center for Performing Arts 13th Season Opening Night!
Marie Osmond

As a child and a teenager, Marie Osmond endeared herself to an entire generation. That bond with her audience grew stronger through the years as Marie’s career blossomed into hit records, network television shows, Broadway musicals, movies of the week, world-wide concert tours, a top ten New York Times best selling book author, television commercials, lecture tours and an extremely successful Marie Osmond Collector Dolls business. Marie’s legion of fans now spans generations.

Marie was first thrust into the spotlight in 1963 on “The Andy Williams Show” when the host placed the three-year old on his lap and introduced her as “the youngest Osmond Brother.” She began to make a name for herself 10 years later when at 13 years of age she exploded onto the music charts (#1 country / #5 pop) with “Paper Roses,” marking the first time in country music history that a female artist debuted with a #1 record. Her first concert performance soon after was a sold-out date at Madison Square Garden alongside The Osmond Brothers, with whom she now performed, prompting the group’s name to be changed to The Osmonds. Barely a teenager, she garnered a gold record and Grammy nominations for 1974’s Best Female Country Vocal Performance and Best New Artist.

After the Paper Roses album, she released In My Little Corner of the World (1974) and Who’s Sorry Now (1975). Among the many TV guest appearances she made, one featured a duet with her brother Donny of their #4 top selling pop record “I’m Leavin’ It All Up to You” and a guest hosting role with Donny. That, in turn, led to their weekly television variety series “The Donny & Marie Show” (1976-81). During the show’s run, because of her famous “Marie Cut” hairstyle and her stylish wardrobe and keen eye for fashion, she became recognized as a trend setter and a role model for women throughout the world.


In 1985, Marie turned once again to recording country music with the album There’s No Stopping Your Heart, which featured two #1 country hits: the title track and “Meet Me In Montana” (a duet with Dan Seals which won the Country Music Association’s Vocal Duo of the Year award), as well as a third hit from the album, “Read My Lips”, which peaked at #4 as a single. I Only Wanted You (1986) earned her a CMA Vocal Duo of the Year nomination, this time with Paul Davis for the #1 country hit “You’re Still New to Me.” “Cry Just a Little” also reached the Top 20. Two other albums followed: All in Love (1988) and Steppin’ Stone (1989), plus a 1989 nomination by the Academy of Country Music as Top Female Vocalist. “Marie Osmond’s The Magic of Christmas,” a very special holiday concert tour which also featured five of her children, played in major venues across the United States and Canada in the ‘80s and ‘90s. She remembers it as a “totally wonderful and fun time for the family”.

Visit the theater lobby for merchandise on sale tonight!

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marieosmond.com
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In 1973, a new type of hysteria erupted when the Osmonds toured the U.K. and it soon became known as "Osmondmania". Their concerts broke sound barriers as fans rushed the stage to get closer to their favorite Osmond. The Osmond Brothers were voted "Best Musical Variety Act of 1974" in Las Vegas, NV and in 1975 the Osmond Brothers won the "People's Choice Award" as America's "Favorite Musical Group."

With the advent of the "Donny and Marie Show" in 1976, the Osmond Family gained further exposure. Noted for its production quality of material and music, the show attracted audiences of all ages and incorporated all the best the Osmonds had to offer. With the Osmond Brothers as executive producers, the show was a true example of their abilities to project the unified quality of their own family relationship. That quality was taken into nationwide homes on a larger scale when "The Donny and Marie Show" transformed into "The Osmond Family Show" during a 1979 mid-season change.

After the "Donny and Marie Show," Jimmy experienced a great deal of success in Japan, where he starred in his own television show and earned several gold and platinum records. After returning to the United States, he developed his own production company and produced several commercials and shows for television. With his keen sense for business, he has experienced further success in other ventures as well.

In 1982, the Osmonds decided to change their musical direction and sound when they started singing country music. Their transition from pop to country music proved very successful. Billboard Magazine honored them with the "1982 Breakthrough Award" and also acknowledged them as the "Number One New Singles Group of the Year." The Country Music Association recognized them with a nomination for "Best New Group of the Year" as well.

In 1992, after almost 40 years of concert tours, the Osmond Brothers managed to bring their work and home together in one place. With the purchase of a theater in Branson, Missouri, Jimmy persuaded his brothers to move to Branson. This move had the Osmond Brothers performing two shows a day, six days a week, for sell-out crowds at the Osmond Family Theater. The Osmond Brothers continued to experience success in Branson, being recognized as "Best Vocal Group" of 1995, 1996, and 1997, and was voted "Best Show in Branson" for the years 1996 and 1997. In 2002, Jimmy produced and performed in the American Jukebox show in Branson.

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Jimmy appeared in 'Boogie Nights' at the Grand Theater in Blackpool England in 2004, and in 2005, Jimmy brought brothers Wayne and Jay back with him as they performed the American Jukebox in front of sell-out crowds. In 2003, the Osmond Family were honored for their achievements in the entertainment industry with a star on the legendary Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Osmond Brothers are still performing regularly in Branson and also touring the United States and Europe. Now celebrating their 50th year in the entertainment industry, The Osmonds present a knock-out performance of Osmond talent at its finest!

She continued her singing and acting career performing the lead role of Maria in the national touring company of "The Sound of Music" in 1994-95. Ever in demand, in 1995 ABC Television asked Marie to star in the sitcom "Maybe This Time" with Betty White.

In 1997, she made her Broadway debut as Anna in "The King and I," opening to rave reviews, and in the spring of 1998, she headlined the show's national touring production in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Then, in the fall of 1998, Columbia Tristar Television Distribution premiered the popular daytime entertainment/talk show "Donny & Marie," which ran for two full seasons. True international icons, NBC Television invited Marie and her brother Donny to perform for the closing ceremonies of the 2002 Winter Olympics, viewed by a world-wide audience. And again, in 2003, Marie and Donny were teamed with the popular Ozzie Osbourne and his family for the hilarious Pepsi Twist television commercial seen world-wide and voted the most recognized commercial spot of Super Bowl XXXVII.

In 2004 she launched into a whole new vista of entertainment with her fun and informative nationally syndicated talk/music radio show "Marie & Friends." After her final broadcast, Marie joked that it was fun for her because with eight children she really enjoyed the adult conversation with her radio "friends" every weekday! In August, 2006, Marie joined the Fox Television Network family as a judge on American Idol executive producer Simon Cowell's newest singing competition "Celebrity Duets." She had a great time working with host Wayne Brady and fellow judges rock 'n roll icon Little Richard and famed producer/songwriter David Foster, "because all the people involved were so talented, quick and bright. And besides, I kind of miss giving my male counter-part(s) a bad time!" Most recently, Marie has been invited to join a competitive celebrity cast of ABC Network's "Dancing With The Stars." "There are worse habits I could take up going through mid-life crisis!"

The proud mother of eight beautiful children, which she considers her greatest achievement, Marie is also a savvy businesswoman. In 1991, she launched the "Marie Osmond Fine Porcelain Collector Dolls" line on QVC and at Disney theme parks. It has become QVC's top selling doll line, was nominated for Trendsetter of the Year in the collectibles industry and has moved into the retail and direct response markets. Marie began sculpting a number of her own dolls in 1993, and has received several Dolls of Excellence and Doll of the Year award nominations. Marie recently was honored with QVC's highest recognition, the coveted Q-Star Award, as well as being the first recipient of the collectible industry's highest honor, the "Crystal" award.

Her business activities also include a wide range of products for the home sewing and crafting market, with national exposure on QVC Network's "Crafting with Marie" programs. But perhaps her proudest accomplishment has been her role as co-founder/co-host, with John Schneider, of Children's Miracle Network, a project of The Osmond Foundation. The largest annual broadcast in fundraising history, it has raised in excess of 3.4 billion dollars since 1983 for children's hospitals throughout the U.S. and Canada, 100% of which has stayed in the local area in which it was raised for medical treatment, research and assistance. In 1989, the Country Music Foundation presented Marie with the prestigious Roy Acuff Award in recognition of her efforts on behalf of children.
The Osmond Brothers

Five decades ago, four young boys were flashed across national television screens on what was meant to be a one-time shot at “the big time.” That single appearance led to such an overwhelming mail response that for the following seven seasons, the Osmond Brothers became regulars on the Andy Williams Show. From that point on, their name alone became synonymous with the “big time” and everything associated with it. Their lives would never be the same, nor would those lives with whom they came into contact.

In 1962, a visit to Disneyland became the start of their professional career. The Osmond Brothers barbershop style of music was recognized by Disney talent scout, Tommy Walker, and he hired them to perform at Disneyland for the summer. During this engagement, Andy Williams’ father heard the Osmond Brothers Quartet, and realizing their enormous potential, arranged to have them audition for Andy’s upcoming television variety series. Andy loved them and the boys became regulars on the show. They also accompanied him on his cross-country concert tours for nearly two years.

In 1969, they started performing on the “Jerry Lewis Show” before rejoining Andy Williams as semi-regulars when he began a new show for NBC. During this era of career growth and development, the Osmonds not only grew up, they grew in scope. They mastered 28 musical instruments, perfected their dance, and learned to handle an audience like pros. By 1970, the Osmonds were perfect candidates for the teenage recording market.

The Osmonds’ recording career has been marked by intelligent risks. They stayed current with music trends without sacrificing the individualism which labeled it “Osmond.” When the Osmonds decided to step into the recording marketplace, they studied the industry and saw that “specialization” was the “key” to success. However, few groups or individuals had the staying power or broad musical range to reach more than one or two audiences. The Osmonds knew variety was their “key”. Their fame in concert and television revolved around their versatility. Rejecting the “pick a style and stick with it” approach, they decided to go against the “specialization” trends and break the barriers. They took the best from whatever style they chose and shaped it to fit their talents.

They signed with MGM records and within months of their first release skyrocketed to worldwide recognition. In 1971, combined sales from the Osmond Brothers’ and Donny’s releases garnished nine gold records - a total that exceeds the Beatles’ and Elvis’ highest single year collection of gold discs.

Since embarking on their prestigious recording career, the Osmonds have sold over 100 million records and have accrued more than 50 gold records. The group’s concert career parallels that of their recording success. Standing room only engagements in Las Vegas, attendance breaking performances from coast to coast, and sellout world tours were the normal pattern in the Osmonds’ career.