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American English

Center for Performing Arts

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Governors State University

CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS

Presents

American English



January 24, 2004

Sponsored in part by Ralph W. Ginn, D.D.S., P.C.

2003/2004 Season sponsored in part by a generous grant from:



American English

Let's take a nostalgic trip to the era of mini skirts, go-go boots, transistor radios, flower children, psychedelic colors, and just the pure excitement that was in the air. All of a sudden, the audience is transferred back to the years of 1963 through 1970.

American English offers the chance of a generation to musically and visually re-enter the 1960s. They will take you through the greatest of all music, past and present. A smile is guaranteed on everyone's face who has ever heard a Beatles song, seen a Beatles movie, or actually witnessed a live Beatles concert themselves.

It is quite a sight to see young and old alike crowded in front of the stage to witness this re-phenomenon. To see Paul's left-handed Hofner bass guitar swinging wildly up and down to those classic songs, to then see George and Paul standing together sharing a single microphone blending background harmony to John's lead vocal. For that matter to see Ringo swinging back and forth to the beat on his Ludwig drum kit. To see John strumming his acoustic guitar or banging his Rickenbacker with a passion. Imagine seeing George gliding through his solos on the classic Gretsch guitar. Whether it's Paul at the piano belting out "Hey Jude" with the whole audience chiming in on the end, you and everyone involved will never be quite the same again.

You get the full Beatles treatment with American English. They will take you, with the help of the staging, costumes and sound through the early touring years of 1963 through 1966, the psychedelic era of Revolver and Sergeant Pepper (complete with appropriate costumes) 1967-1968, and clear through the "Abbey Road" and "Let It Be" recording period of 1969-1970.



Kevin Mantegna as John Lennon

Kevin's image has to be witnessed to be believed; the closeness to John is astonishing. In the later part of the show, wearing his white suit, round glasses, and long hair of the "Abbey Road" era, he has people mesmerized. Strumming his classic short scale Rickenbacker guitar and belting out rockers like "Twist and Shout," or sitting at the piano and winding through "I am the Walrus," Kevin makes people want to relive this experience over and over.



Eric Michaels as Paul McCartney

Eric will genuinely turn your head whether he's walking up to the microphone to sing or is playing his left-handed Hofner (500/1) 1962-63 Violin Bass. People are amazed at his close resemblance to Paul and his vocal capacity to scream a song like "I'm Down" or melt the audience with "Yesterday." We must also mention his piano playing skills as well. Watch him play and sing songs like "Lady Madonna" or "Hey Jude."



Dirk McHara as George Harrison

Dirk is unequalled as George Harrison, from the rocking Beatles version of "Roll Over Beethoven," or the smoothness of "Here Comes the Sun," there is none better. Dirk's on-stage Beatles guitar collection is literally unbelievable; people have been known to travel miles just to see it. Watch as Dirk glides through those elastic Harrison solos and licks like classical music. In other words, "excellent."



Tom Gable as Ringo Starr

Tom takes his job so seriously that not only can he duplicate Ringo's voice in those fun loving songs like "Yellow Submarine" or "With a Little Help From My Friends," but can replicate the wild, unorthodox, yet solid and original drumming that Ringo was known for on his Ludwig drums.

Ken Zemanek, the Beatles producer, as George Martin

Ken is the missing ingredient of almost all other Beatles tribute bands. He fills the role of the Beatles' producer George Martin by playing live, and without any tapes or sequencers, all the special effects and difficult instrumentation of the Beatles songs. For instance, those wonderful horn parts of "Got to Get You into My Life," or all the backwards tapes, flutes, orchestra piano, tambourine, organ, etc..etc..etc. It would take a book by itself to list all of the accompanist parts that the Beatles and George Martin invented. Ken is tirelessly working on new sounds all the time and recreates them to perfection with his Korg keyboard.

What People Are Saying About American English...

"American English was the best Beatles tribute band I've seen."—*Terri Hemmert: Chicago radio personality*

"These guys are more than a band; they're a Broadway show."—*Eric Burdon: legendary musician*

"Every one of these guys outdoes anybody I've ever seen doing this kind of tribute. Whether it's the singing, the playing or the look, these guys have the whole act from top to bottom."—*Danny Bonaduce: radio and television personality*