

Bolton On-Line Updates

Published on-line by the Michael Bolton Platinum Club

March 2004 – Issue 78 Page 1

Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the March issue of the Bolton On-Line Updates.

Several more dates have come in for the 2004 tour with fan seating info available. Please check this site under Tour Info and also www.michaelboltonclub.com and more will be listed as soon as they are confirmed.

Don't miss out on your fan club priority seats by forgetting to renew your membership. You can get all the info and renew directly from the fan club website located at www.michaelboltonclub.com

The new website is getting close to being published. When it is published this password site and Michael's Place will combine to be part of the new site so you will have only one official site you will need to keep up with all the up-to-date info for members and non-members alike. Members will also have their own area with lots of added features.

Please don't forget to send your reviews and pictures that you would like to share with your Bolton Buddies in upcoming issues of the Online Updates to MBPlatinum@aol.com so they can be included.

Best Wishes,
Gail,
Editor



Photo: Brenda Wood

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Official Fan Club Site:

www.michaelboltonclub.com

Michael's website:

www.michaelbolton.com

Great Fan Photos of Michael:

www.michaelboltonphotos.com

Michael Bolton Charities website:

www.michaelboltoncharities.com

Orrin Bolton's Fan Site

<http://members.aol.com/Anna4374/index.htm>

UK Radio Interview:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/essex/features/essex_c_eleb/index.shtml



Horoscope on February 26th by Jeraldine Saunders

BIRTHDAY GUY:

Songwriter and singer Michael Bolton was born on this day, in 1953, in New Haven, Conn. Along with being a successful solo artist, he has authored songs for such heavy hitters as Cher and Barbra Streisand. He has won two Grammy awards and became famous in the '90s for his renditions of soul classics. On his 2003 CD, "Vintage," however, Bolton sings standards from the '40s, '50s and '60s.

PISCES (Feb. 19-Mar. 20):

Act on your intuitions and have faith in the universe to provide. Today is a great day to make new starts, put plans in motion and manipulate money for your own uses. Acts of kindness will be appreciated.



Newsmakers file

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2004 TOUR SCHEDULE

At the time of the publishing of these Updates, the following dates have been confirmed and the fan seating arranged. Please check the tour section of this site and the tour section of www.michaelboltonclub.com for all the info on ordering fan club seating.

<u>Date</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Venue</u>
Apr. 25, 2004	Green Bay, WI	Oneida Bingo & Casino
May 22, 2004	Reno, NV	City Center Pavilion
May 25, 2004	Mexico City MEXICO	Mexico National Auditorium
June 10, 2004	Mt. Pleasant, MI	Soaring Eagle Casino and Resort
June 13, 2004	Pala, CA	Starlight Theater- Pala Casino



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Memorable Moments

Following are two stories from Paulette DiTizio regarding her experiences with a CD signing and concert last fall:

November 16, 2003----Westfield Works Wonders Fund Raising Event----Westfield -Shopping Mall, Trumbull, CT

The evening began with a welcome from Star 99.9 FM radio DJ Karen. She briefly explained the purpose of the evening, the events taking place in the mall, and gave the names and locations of the special guests. She introduced the president of Westfield Shoppingtowns who went into more detail of the purpose of the evening.

The governor of Connecticut and a Connecticut state representative each thanked everyone for coming, talked about the importance of communities working together, and the positive impact Westfield Works Wonders has had on the community and state.

The president of Westfield Shoppingtowns presented the dignitaries with a check representing proceeds raised through Westfield Works Wonders. The governor praised Michael for the charity work he does and all he has given, and introduced him. Michael took center stage and sang " You Don't Know Me" from his Vintage album. He looked well rested, happy, and gorgeous in jeans, a long sleeve black T-shirt, and a black leather jacket. He thanked everyone for coming, commented that he knew some had come from really far away to support this effort, and said it was greatly appreciated by everyone involved. His sense of humor was brightly shining as he commented about it being really noisy in the mall.

He said he would let the audience decide the second song he would sing. He said, " The choices are When A Man Loves A Woman, " paused for the applause response, then said, " Or Nessum Dorma." The applause was louder for " When A Man Loves A Woman". He said, "Okay, this was your choice," and sang it.

Karen announced that Michael was offering to autograph his Vintage CD and a photo op. He sat at a cafeteria table that was set up in front of the stage. It was very organized and orderly, and from what I could see, went very smoothly.

Now I truly understand why artists develop their own unique form of shorthand. I don't know the exact head count, but I would venture a guess that Michael signed at least five hundred CD's. Bless you, Michael! Hope the knowledge that your signature will be forever cherished by your fans will help ease the writers cramp.

A heartfelt thank you to Michael and all those who participated in this fund raising event. You created memorable moments for all those present.

Paulette DiTizio
Westville Grove, New Jersey



Photo: Denise Park

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" Rolling High" With Michael

Trump Taj Mahal--Atlantic City New Jersey, September 27th, 2003

Anticipation is one of those human emotions that is both a blessing and a curse. It felt like a lifetime between the time the concert was announced and the arrival of September 27th, but it was finally here!

The gloomy, stormy weather was of no consequence. My heart and spirit were filled with the radiance of the sun at high noon. I knew I'd find "a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow" when I attended Michael's concert that evening, and I was not disappointed.

As usual, the show did not start at the scheduled time. I wonder, does this add to the enchantment for Michael, or is it something that just happens inadvertently? The lights in the arena do eventually dim. The band members take their places. A spot light illuminates Michael who has appeared on center stage, looking absolutely gorgeous in a suit.

I do need to remember to bring a notebook and pen to Michael's concerts. His incredibly powerful mystic combined with my bouts with "mental pause" make recalling the exact order of events exceptionally difficult! Although it may be a tad jumbled, this was the concert in Atlantic City New Jersey:

" Said I Loved You...But I Lied"

" Time, Love, And Tenderness"

" Soul Provider"

Michael talked a little about classic songs and the artists that inspired him to record " Vintage", and he sang " You Don't Know Me". He asked how many of us have children and how many have parents, then said his next song was between a parent and a child. He sang " If I Could" with the ower and sentimentality that is Michael. He sang " Steel Bars", talked about having the honor to perform with Luciano Pavarotti, then sang " Nessun Dorma" which earned him a well deserved standing ovation. One of my friends had never heard Michael sing opera and was extremely impressed with his range of musical ability.

After Michael sang " Go The Distance" (one of my favorites), he went to change. As the band played you could feel the anticipation in the air as everyone was waiting for his return. I was silently praying that he'd return wearing jeans and a T-shirt, and it was answered. Have Mercy!! He sang " When A Man Loves A Woman", and I found the courage to give him the lily I brought for him. Did you know two simple words can cause volcanic emotions? Well, they can.

He said this song is also from " Vintage" and sang " Summertime". Michael, Skylar, and Chris? (sorry if that's the wrong name) sat on stools, played guitars, and sang " To Love Somebody" and " Sitting On The Dock Of The Bay", showcasing a very talented trio.

Also performed was another of my favorites, " Drift Away", which I'm sure everyone in the arena had already done. Michael and the band took us all on a fantastic journey where we were all " high rolling" winners.

And just when you think it couldn't get any better, Michael and the band return for an encore with " Rock Me Baby". Everyone was on their feet and dancing (finally!! I wonder how many broken chairs we left in there!) .Michael and the band appeared to be having as much fun performing this song as we were having hearing it, and I hope with all my heart they had a wonderful time the whole night. I often wonder what we, the fans, can do to return the enrapturing joy they so passionately give. Until we can answer that question, we offer all of them a deep, sincere, heartfelt Thank You and our unending support and gratitude, and our never ending love. Paulette DiTizio

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A Day with John Pisto

Just finished shooting a great show with Michael Bolton. He got me to play the straight man while he talked about things like "goats - man's best friend..." (we wouldn't let him finish that joke). Funny guy, that Michael. We cooked 10-minute eggplant Parmesan, two ways. He wondered if I could cook for him when he starts touring in April. He was such a good sport, we'll see. By the way, if anyone was wondering where all the celebs were last Thursday night (Andy Garcia, Kenny G, Mr. & Mrs. Clint Eastwood, William Devane, George Lopez, Joe Pesci, Ray Romano, Kevin James, Michael Bolton, Lynn Swan, Huey Lewis), I'll never tell, but check out the photos - boy, what a blast! Thanks again to David, Lindsay and Terice Clark, who also managed to get me to cook dinner for Harry Crosby (son of Bing) and Greg Penske of the legendary family of racing, after taping with Michael Bolton. Harry watches the show in New York and says he is a fan - all right!

<http://www.restaurateur.com/pisto/2004feb11.htm>



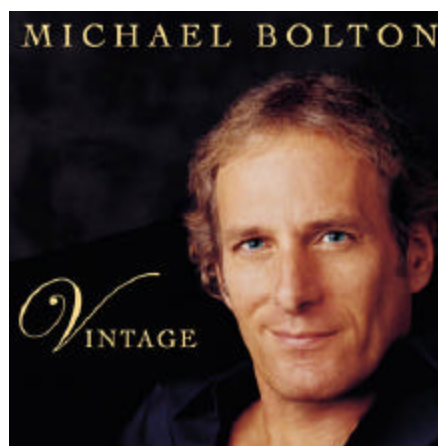
Michael and John Pisto

Alternative Distribution Alliance - Independent Music Distribution Album Title: Vintage

This is an eleven-song collection of classic American standards, created by George Gershwin, Sammy Cahn, Michele Legrand, and Alan and Marilyn Bergman. A wonderful vehicle showcasing the vocal talents of two-time Grammy winner and six-time American Music Awards winner, Michael Bolton. Long considered by many to be one of the great singers of our time, this recording will undoubtedly be considered a high water mark in an already illustrious career.

MUZE Notes: Personnel: Michael Bolton (vocals); Dan Warner, Manny Lopez, Michael Thompson (guitar); Ed Calle (saxophone); Jason Carder (trumpet); Mike Levine, Clay Perry (piano); Lee Levin (drums).

http://www.ada-music.com/genericq.asp?module_map_id=1147&view=albumprofile&item_number=PGM%20739732%20%20%20%20%20%20



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Stars answer Player's call: Seve Ballesteros, Bernhard Langer, Shaun Micheel, Julius Erving, Wade Boggs and Ahmad Rashad are some of the top names that turn out for the Gary Player Invitational.

By Bill Hilbig staff writer
March 9, 2004

PALM CITY — Gary Player, the man who has won the British Open and Masters three times, the PGA Championship twice and U.S. Open once, is known as the Black Knight because of his custom of wearing all black when he is on the golf course.

For an ever-growing number of under-privileged children in his native South Africa and around the world who are getting an education because of his generosity, a label with white and shiny armor included would make a better fit. [][][]

In a few weeks, Player will be taking part in The Masters for the 47th time. On Monday, he was at the Floridian in Palm City, enjoying the role as host of the Gary Player Invitational, a celebrity-amateur tournament to benefit his foundation.

This was the eighth time the tournament has been staged at the Floridian, Miami Dolphins owner Wayne Huizenga's private layout. And once again, an A-list of names from sports and the entertainment community helped shaped the day.

"Gary is a man's man," said basketball legend "Dr. J" Julius Erving. "He is a champion on and off the course and has been for a long time. I was honored when he asked me to come here and play the first time. I've been here four out of the last five years and I look forward to playing in it again."

Ahmad Rashad was an All-Pro wide receiver for the Minnesota Vikings during his NFL career but today is a television analyst for NBA games. It was his team which won the tournament title Monday

"I feel it's a privilege for me to be here for Gary, who I think is one of the top humanitarians in the world," Rashad said. "He's a legend in my book ... I have always looked up to him, not only because of golf but also because of social issues. He was way out front (on social issues) long before it was popular."

Singer Michael Bolton was making his fourth appearance in the tournament. He said the tournament is one of the top charity events around.

"It's great to be associated with Gary Player and all the work he does to help under-privileged kids in South Africa and now here in the U.S.," Bolton said. "I can see through the years that he just gets more and more support. This year, they had 24 foursomes and there were plenty of others who couldn't get in. I spoke with some people recently who could afford to buy their way into the tournament and couldn't. That tells you it's a great tournament."

One of the reasons for the tournament's success is the Floridian. The course, which was designed by Player, is considered one of the top golf courses in the nation if not the world.

"Mr. Huizenga must be the care-taker of heaven," said Wade Boggs, who spent time with the Boston Red Sox New York Yankees and Tampa Bay Devil Rays during his major league baseball career. "This course is like paradise. I have riding around here all morning and I still haven't seen a weed."

Of course, there were some ringers in the crowd. Ten-time European Ryder Cup team member Bernhard Langer was one as was Tommy Armour III, who set a PGA Tour record for 72 holes when he posted a 254 at the Texas Open last September.

Two-time Masters champion Seve Ballesteros also was there. He joined Player in a conducting a skills clinic before the tournament, but the back problem which caused him to withdraw from the Ford Championship at Doral over the weekend flared up and he wasn't able to go 18 holes.

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Here is an older interview we thought you would enjoy reading:

10 Pressing Questions: Michael Bolton, you charmer, you!

By GINA VIVINETTO, Times Pop Music Critic

© St. Petersburg Times

published October 18, 2002

Why are people more interested in talking about his hair than his music?

I admit it: Michael Bolton won me over. After playing phone tag with "his people" for nearly two weeks and receiving several gracious voice-mail messages from the man himself, I finally got Bolton, 49, on the phone. He was in Virginia, at a tour stop.

Bolton arrives at Ruth Eckerd Hall Saturday to sing all his hits and also tunes from his new album, *Only A Woman Like You*, now out on Jive -- yes, the label of teen pop stars 'N Sync, Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears.

I explained to Bolton that this would not be like most interviews. We'd tackle 10 Pressing Questions, tough queries about the history of R&B, the ladies and why the critics are so darn mean to him.

Bolton was gung-ho. Within minutes, I adored him. By phone call's end I was thinking: How Am I Supposed To Live Without You?

(1) **Describe the perfect sandwich.** This will be really boring to most people. I've been a vegetarian for 30 years. When most people look at my food they think, 'This is all the stuff that goes on the side.' There was a time being a vegetarian, I couldn't even get a sandwich without meat on it. Chefs would get p--- off if you asked for it. But, probably a swiss cheese, lettuce and mayonnaise -- I do eat dairy. It would be on rye, not toasted. Room temperature, let it all kind of melt and get the juices going. That's it. Very simple. I've come a way from a pastrami special, which used to be my favorite.

(2) **What do you sing in the shower?** I don't sing in the shower, but I do vocal warm-ups, which is scales. The natural echo of stone -- because I have stone on the walls -- it's a singer's dream come true. It's like playing a huge hall.

(3) **You're now on Jive, the hippest record label in the world, home to 'N Sync, Backstreet Boys, Britney Spears.** (Bolton laughs) I'm certainly the oldest, I am the veteran artist of that label. Me and Buddy Guy. (Guy's label, Silvertone, is a subsidiary of Jive.)

So, settle it: 'N Sync or Backstreet Boys? Oh, come on, I can't. I know them all.

Do you give them advice on girls or anything, being the elder statesman? Those guys are not at the stage where they need or want advice on girls. They're young. They're kids. I will say this, the 'N Sync work ethic -- according to everyone I've spoken to, including Richard Marx, who wrote one of their biggest hits -- said these guys are always on time, they take their work very seriously. I have a lot of respect for that. The Backstreet Boys -- I don't know people who work with them, so I can't say.

Should we now expect choreography from you, being a Jive artist? Could you do all that, the singing and the dancing? Nope. Never. Never. I can't do the dancing alone. Let alone dancing and singing. Describe your dancing. (Laughs) I like to think whatever I do, whatever movement I do onstage -- or offstage -- has to be at least soulful, or I don't want to do it. I can't stand to do anything even remotely mediocre, so if I think I'm not all that at it, you probably won't see me do it.

(4) **Are you sick of people talking about your hair?** You cut the mullet years ago. Nah, because it's so funny. I just did an interview with a radio station and of course, they go, "Okay, we have to ask you about your hair, we have no choice." I do interviews with people and we're deep into discussing the political landscape of the world and then -- BANG! -- they'll start with, "Okay, we gotta ask you about your hair."

I had long hair for 35 years. I got in a lot of trouble in New Haven, Conn., almost got kicked out of school, could barely walk down the street. People picked fights. I got very attached to my hair symbolically. It was my rebellion, my right to claim who I was as a person. It was a big change for me when I cut it. This guy who does all these Hollywood people's hair -- Brad Pitt and Tom Cruise and Jennifer
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Aniston -- he flew in to do it and he just kept going and going and cutting more and more. After the haircut, I went to the studio and all these girls I work with in Los Angeles starting putting their hands through it, whatever quarter-inch of hair I had left. They were kind of ogling and I thought, "Okay, this will be all right. I can still get a date."

What do you think about seeing so much of your face now, when you look in the mirror? That's the only downside to it. (Laughs)

(5) **Speaking of getting a date** . . . I knew we'd get into this.

You're linked with everyone in the world. Not everyone. Nobody has that much time.

I should just ask you to name two women you're not linked to and we'll save time. That's very sick of you, thank you. (Laughs)

Is there someone in your life now? No. I knew before this tour I'd be going all over the world. Why would I possibly do that to a woman? So, this business about you and (supermodel and rock star aficionada) Naomi Campbell is not true? (Laughs. Pauses.) She's a man eater, Michael! Be careful. I'm at the point where I'm not the one who has to be careful anymore. Usually when I start to see someone I give them my friendly, honest warning: My track record is not great. I spend all my time working, focusing on my next project. It's really tough to get me to focus on a relationship. Dating? No problem. A relationship? Big problem. I was married for 18 years. I raised three daughters. That's like having three wives.

(6) **The album is Only A Woman Like You. And then there are all the tabloid reports about your whirlwind love life. Women, obviously, are a big part of your life. What has raising three daughters taught you about the other sex?** (Laughs) Oh, God. That you can't win. Just surrender. Daughters own their dads, and they know that. I have more tolerance, more patience with them than I do in my relationships. They are still first and foremost with me.

I am surrounded by women, my daughters. All of the people in my office are women. I learn so much from them, about how to communicate.

What do you do when you need a testosterone break? I go to a Yankees game. I live an hour from Yankee Stadium.

(7) **You seem to have a really good sense of humor.** I'm a wise-ass. I got kicked out of school a lot. Ever do anything really bad in high school? High school was a place I would have gone if I hadn't signed my first record deal at 16. My mother co-signed the record deal. I was 16 and just 18 years later I had my first hit. (Laughs) I did perform at a lot of high schools at mixers and stuff. I had a band and most of the guys were about five years older than me. High schools were great because you could go in the bathroom and get high and have sex.

And did you? (Pause) That's all I know.

(8) **You have so much respect for the history of rock 'n' roll. You're constantly referring to the pioneers, the artists before you such as Ray Charles and Otis Redding, Percy Sledge. Yet the critics are so nasty to you. They're pretty brutal. It doesn't seem fair, does it?** Thank you for recognizing that. No, I'm serious, I never know what to expect with these interviews.

Well, the upside of all this is I got to sing with Ray Charles, who is the master, as far as I'm concerned, and with Percy, and I got to meet Otis' family. (Redding's widow told Bolton his rendition of (Sittin' on the) Dock of the Bay was the best she had ever heard.)

A lot of critics have a chip on their shoulder because they're not doing it (music). They can't even say, like, "This guy's not doing it for me, but he has a great voice." They can't even give that up to you. But I got to induct Ray Charles into the Jazz Hall of Fame -- that was big for me. Singing with Pavarotti -- that's big. Hanging out with the people who were my heroes, having Otis Redding's widow talk to me, you know? Some day they'll realize they shot the wrong guy and maybe they'll come back and say, "Man, you sang your ass off."

You got to write with Bob Dylan. (Bolton and Dylan co-wrote Steel Bars.) That was huge. Writing with Bob was one of the easiest writing experiences. But, of course, the first day my heart was pounding because you can't look at him without thinking, "Oh my God, this is Bob
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Dylan." That was another high point, but you know, it's also something people don't know and don't care about. I don't know. It's . . . (Frustrated) Ah, you have to just keep on going.

Here's a little secret: Critics are deathly afraid of each other. We know better than anyone how mean we can be. It's like you had just better toe the line and say what the other critics say -- and do it in an even more funny, scathing, bitchy manner, or they'll come after you. That's so interesting. I appreciate that confirmation. I have a friend who is a very scathing critic in New York -- I won't tell you who -- but he called me when he heard Time, Love & Tenderness and he said, "I gotta tell you, it's the best album you've ever made and they are going to crucify you." I said, "Why?" I was so naive. He said, "Because this is going to be the biggest album you've ever had. You're going to become everything they hate, a big mainstream artist." He was so right.

(9) On to more important things: Is there a Sesame Street character you most identify with? (Laughs) Nope.

Bert, Ernie? Oscar the Grouch? That is the first time anyone's ever asked me that. That's hilarious.

(10) Lots of folks don't know you once sang in a heavy metal band. Do you still like the hard rock?

I love Aerosmith. To me, the greatest rock record of all time is (AC/DC's) Back In Black. I still love the early Stones records.

All those guys are still touring. You, too. What's a Michael Bolton concert like circa 2002? The show is very up-tempo with all the hits and some new songs. The energy is very up. But no 'N Sync or Backstreet choreography? Bolton is not choreographed. That's for damn sure. No dangling from wires on the ceiling, flying over the audience? (Laughs) Not on purpose.



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Biloxi concerts February 2004

Hi BBs

Just wanted to give you all a report of the wonderful weekend concerts. I have a bad memory, but I will try to remember as much as I can. We got into town around 4 pm and went to the Beau Rivage to pick up my tickets. I made sure they were the same ones I had been told about in an email from the fan club, and sure enough, they were. First let me tell you a little about the venue. It is very nice, not a bad seat in the house, but then there are some REALLY good seats, and those are the ones the fan club got for us! The seats were on the side, so actually we were facing the middle rows of seats, but it was within reaching distance of the stage. The seats were elevated just a little, so on the second row where I was sitting, when you stood up you were face to face with THE MAN HIMSELF!!! As you all know, at some point you just can't sit anymore, so when I stood up during TL&T I was really blown away how close we were.

The first night the crowd was a bit smaller, though they still said it was a sold out concert. They were not too vocal, but seemed appreciative, standing ovation after Nessun Dorma both nights. Saturday night's crowd was very loud and lots more fun.

Songs included (remember my bad memory, might not remember them all) LIAWT, Soul Provider, SILYBIL, To love somebody, Dock of the bay (which he changed to say Biloxi Bay), Hold on, I wanna hear you say it, Go the distance, Nessun Dorma, If I could, Summertime, You don't know me, WAMLAW, Steel Bars, TL&T, How can we be lovers, Rock Me Baby. Seems like a lot of songs but went by TOO fast. He was only about 7 or 8 minutes late starting on Friday, and maybe 15 on Saturday. Black suit, black shirt for the first part, then jeans and a tshirt for the second.

He only took a very quick break to change clothes. Maybe someone was back there helping :) :) Anyone up for that job?? On Saturday night, a lady from the row I was sitting in started talking to him when he was about to sing If I could, she told him it was her anthem, and he talked with her for a few minutes, and she said "go on, sing it" and he laughed, that smile is SO nice. The venue had big tv screens up at the top on both sides, so if you could not see his face on one side you just had to look at the screen.

I have to say the absolute highlight was when he came back out onstage to do Rock me Baby he came out right in front of where I was standing, it was so close! The second night when he came out, he was joking around acting like he was going to start playing then stopping, then he looked right at me and smiled!!! HOT FLASH!!! It was the icing on the cake!! What a wonderful way to end the weekend for me!!

I did not see him out playing in the casino, but I met another BB who said she saw him at 3 am playing in the private salon. Hope you enjoyed my story, sorry I did not get to meet you Betty, I was on the right side of the stage both nights. Looking forward to Tunica!!

Lynn arney121@aol.com

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Biloxi Concert February 2004

Hi All,
I went to the Biloxi concert Saturday night and what a way to spend Valentine's Day! The concert was a little late starting, people were still being seated at 8 p.m. It had to be a sellout for sure. I got the best tickets ever, thank you MB fanclub. They were right on the side of the stage and you felt like you could almost reach out and touch him (I wish). Michael opened with "Love is a Wonderful Thing". He was dressed in a dark suit and shirt and looked great. He sang several songs from the first Timeless, including "Hold On, I'm Coming". Don't think I heard this one live before. From Vintage, he soulfully performed "You Don't Know Me", "If I Could", (you gotta hear this one live). He puts his heart and soul into this song and went over big with the audience. He then sang "Summertime". Personally, I don't care for this one no matter who performs it. He got a standing ovation after singing "Nessun dorma". No one can sing this like Michael! The second half of the show he was wearing jeans (I was so hoping to see leather), t-shirt and baseball cap backward. He had the place jumping with "When a Man Loves a Woman", "Steel Bars, How Can We Be Lovers", "Time, Love and Tenderness". He got another standing ovation at the end and the crowd kept screaming and clapping til they came back and did "Rock Me Baby". The concert was awesome, but it didn't last long enough. However, it was worth putting up with all the rain on the drive to Biloxi. It rained all day Saturday. Hope Michael wasn't planning on playing golf this trip. The rain did stop for our drive home today. Betty (Louisiana)



Biloxi Concert February 2004

The concert last night was wonderful :) Just too short, only lasted about 90 minutes. He sang Nessun Dorma, which he said he hadn't sang for a while. Nailed it of course, and got a standing ovation. The other songs were pretty much what everyone has been saying, the Vintage songs were If I Could, You Don't Know Me, and Summertime. The encore was Rock Me Baby, and yes, it was just as great as every told me :) Michael looked good, wore the suit and pin to start with, then changed to jeans and tshirt. The Beau Rivage is a beautiful resort, but it's a casino, and I've decided I really don't like casino concerts :) It's much more subdued, and they don't let you take pictures. I had my hand slapped for taking them anyway :) Unfortunately, in trying to take them while hiding the camera, they all came out blurry anyway. Not a decent one out of all of them. I took my digital and regular, but only took pictures with the digital because it was small enough to hide.

Then I drove home through 3 hours of pouring rain! Those 90 minutes were worth it though. Just hoping for a Pensacola date this year though.

I heard that tonight's concert is sold out. Hope everyone that is going has a wonderful time! Happy Valentines Day!

~~Laura~~



Photo: Jim Carney

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Rollingstone.com Poll

The hottest artists at Rollingstone.com for the week of Feb. 22, 2004.



#1 Clay Aiken



#2 Michael Bolton

Post to a Internet Message Board

Michael Bolton?

Let's be honest. Year after year, the Super Bowl gives TV viewers a halftime show that's geared for 13-year-old rock fans. This year's presentation was raucous rock followed by an amateurish attempt to replace true show business skills with virtual reality that was unrealistic.

The fans who are season-ticket holders are not 13 years old, and while they may worship the Grateful Dead, they don't need cheap songs and cheap sex ploys. The NFL deserves criticism for this yearly display, cheapening one of the greatest sports events of all time.

I think a little bit of Michael Bolton would have brought some dignity to the game, and then the NFL wouldn't have to pretend they were horrified, because in show business there's no such thing as bad publicity. The NFL is show business and that's why they don't change.

Fred Langnas, Havertown

This Close For Cancer Research

On September 14, I attended the This Close for Cancer fundraiser in Woodbridge, CT, where I had the pleasure of seeing Michael perform as well as Orin. It was a wonderful event, surprisingly small, but successful. I live in Florida now but grew up in Connecticut. I lost a dear friend from there to cancer two years ago and was pleased to be able to fly up and participate in this worthy cause. Michael is a talented, handsome, gentleman and, being a big fan, I was delighted that he was kind enough to let us take the attached picture (where he looks especially handsome). Many thanks and I look forward to future events and concerts.

Best regards,
Theresa Boutin



Theresa and Michael

Bolton On-Line Updates

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Trump Taj Mahal, September 2003

I got to see Michael last Saturday night at Trump Taj Mahal in Atlantic City, NJ. As always he was wonderful. He got started at 9:15p.m. and went to 11:45p.m. He sang a lot of songs from his Timeless, the Classics, a few other songs and then songs from his new Vintage album. I got to meet a few of the other Bolton Buddies who was wearing their pin. One lady, Linda, flew all the way in from Argentina just for the concert. What dedication! I wore my MBPC Alumni blue tee-shirt, and my credentials and pin. (I was the only person wearing that shirt). People that worked at the Trump and even security thought that I worked for Michael because of my credentials. I could of have used that to my advantage, but I didn't. After the concert, I got to talk to Michael's mother. She is just as friendly and sweet as Michael is. In all, the concert was top of the line. I am looking forward to being able to see him again soon (unfortunately it won't be any more on this leg of the tour). Can't wait!!! Thanks for all you all do to keep the fans informed on Michael's doings!

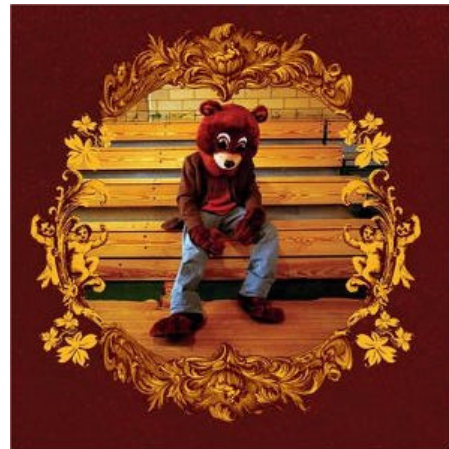
Rebecca J. Austin



Photo: Theresa Boutin

Never Let Me Down

Michael and Bruce Kulick (Blackjack days and Bruce formally of KISS) wrote the song Never Let Me Down 18 years ago and the music is now being used in a #1 selling album released by Kanye West called "College Dropout".



Michael in his Blackjack days

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Michael has spent some time in the UK promoting Vintage which was released there on March 15. Following is an interview done while there:

Michael Bolton Interview with www.virgin.net of the UK.

With a whole host of awards to his name and sales of over 52 million records worldwide, Michael Bolton and his ever-faithful legion of fans are a force to be reckoned with. His latest album, Vintage, pays tribute to pop classics from a golden era of nostalgia, including covers of Ray Charles and Etta James...

VN: Hi Michael, welcome to Virgin.net!

MB: "Hi, thanks!"

VN: So what brings you over to these shores, what's going on for you at the moment?

MB: "Well, I have a new album - and it's funny calling it a "new" album because it's vintage - it's a record I've been planning for about eight years. Through the years I've travelled with a laptop, and I'm always planning and creating future projects. And when I looked back through all the notes, Vintage was the title I wanted to use. Almost all of the songs that I'd listed were used - seven or eight of them - and then my co-producer, Rudy Perez, had about 100 CDs of tracks he thought would be great for my voice.

So we went through the work of listening through these archives - as far back as Billie Holiday, through Sinatra and Bennett and Diana Krall and Rod Stewart - and these songs seem like they were written in a better place and time. They seem like they were written in this place of romantic innocence. They're songs that have already outlived most of their composers."

VN: Do you consciously try to give your own music this kind of timelessness, some kind of legacy?

MB: "I have to be happy in the here and now because I've seen that every time you start focusing on your legacy you're really setting yourself up for disappointment, you're basically presuming too much by even using the word legacy - that someone is going to care, that someone is going to look and to listen. You have a sense of responsibility - and primarily for me that means keeping my voice in shape. Time works against you in this kind of career - there's someone sitting on the bench who's a little better, a little faster. If you do take care of your voice, and you have the good fortune of having enough success for a certain period of time, you can continue doing what you love to do."

VN: So do you feel threatened by younger artists snapping at your heels? How did you feel when you were signed to Jive for instance, alongside Britney and Justin Timberlake?

MB: "I came to Jive because Clive Calder was there, and that was something I was excited about. But I never thought of it as a place to fit in, because you can't and it's worse if you try. Yes, you want to make records that everyone's going to love, make a record that transcends some sort of mixed perception, so that someone says 'Wow, I don't know who that is, I don't know WHAT that is, but I love that!'. But to try to fit into the world of the N'Syncs and the Backstreet Boys - I had already learned too much to try to do that. The Top 40 is geared towards 20 and under, not 20 and up - and that's the audience that I'm geared to."

VN: You've dabbled in opera - how did that go?

MB: "I'm still studying - I wish that I'd had another year to study before I released that record. When I was invited to sing with Pavarotti, I had about two weeks to learn Italian and I was promoting my Greatest Hits album in Europe at the time. In between every TV show I did I put the headphones on and I started absorbing these works, and the different interpretations - from Caruso to Gigli, and Di Stefano and Corelli - to a lot of people this may sound like Italian dishes or something - to understand the different approaches of the voice. I'd have tears running from my eyes listening to the power and the beauty of these pieces, and the voices that committed and dedicated themselves to being an instrument for the composers who created them. When I started studying for the arias it was like going into training for a heavyweight title fight - there's no way I was going to stand next to Luciano and not hit the notes that were required."

VN: It must have been a little daunting...

MB: "Daunting?! I think my knees were banging together on stage! He was so important in my life at this time - I was having a tremendous amount of success doing my R & B pop thing, having lots of hits and touring, doing what a lot of people really aspire to do - but while studying what he had done I felt like I hadn't even been working on my voice, because I was blown away by the control and the range that I was hearing. I'm listening to Pavarotti and I'm thinking 'What the hell have I been doing with my voice all these years?! Why haven't I taken my voice as far as I can take it as an instrument?'"

Continued...

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Interview con't

VN: So after that experience, and all the other collaborations you've worked on, is there anyone you'd still like to write with?

MB: "I'd like to write again with Bob Dylan again. I have some ideas about where I want to go and I'd love to work with him, at least lyrically. It was a really painless writing experience, again I was intimidated and star-struck - in awe of his brilliance and the music that I loved as a kid, the songs of his I did in clubs. When I was in his presence, I was a kid, trying to quiet my mind from this mantra of 'Oh my god this is Bob Dylan!'"

VN: Do you think modern pop music has a lot to learn from these great songwriters? Is there even such a thing as the perfect pop song?

MB: "It's a good question - it's a combination of melody and lyrics, it's not one without the other. It's some sort of confluence of these different elements, that makes something powerful enough to penetrate all the other information that we're taking in every day. What is it that gives a song this sort of infinite life, infinite breath? For instance The Very Thought Of You - that song has a power that propelled it through 60 years of arrangers, producers, writers and vocalists who all have a different way of expressing themselves. There's a reason that Billie Holiday cut these songs, as well as Sinatra, and all the way through Rod Stewart and Diana Krall.

Considering the amount of information we're bombarded by - the Internet, and the massive amounts of information we have access to at any given time - it's amazing if a song can transcend that. People are addicted to massive amounts of information. When a melody gets through, what did that writer do? I think Shakespeare once said 'This poetry would be infinite' - that's what all writers wish they could do."

VN: So what have you got planned once you've finished promoting Vintage?

MB: "I have some things going on at the moment that are pretty exciting. I have a rap cover where they use my music, and they wrote lyrics - a guy called Kanye West, and Jay-Z is on the record. They used this track of mine that I wrote about 18 years ago, that melodically is so perfect for whatever they're doing - the record comes out and sells 450,000 copies in the first week in the States. I'm visualising this platinum rap album on my wall, and that's cool to me. Cool is good, it makes me want to go into my catalogue, re-demo my songs, re-cut them with some very cutting edge people. Makes me want to revisit all of the music and make it contemporary."

VN: So is the need to reinvent yourself important to you?

MB: "It's a question that I've asked myself a few times. There are certain people who have become better artists, but they're brilliant at marketing. I think someone who's been phenomenal like that is Madonna. I cut things that are 60 years older, instead of the newest freshest thing that I can write. I don't know I'm that kind of artist who can sit down and say 'This is going to be the new manifestation'."

VN: That might seem a little bit calculated...

MB: "I think that's how it winds up. That will work for Madonna because she's so good at it and people respect that she calculated it. You've got to give her credit. I respect it, I just don't think I can carve that out. As a songwriter writing for other people, I have only been able to write something I feel, turn it from a thought into a full song, cut it and find a good home for it."

VN: How are you received in the UK? We're quite a cynical bunch over here - do you get the David Blaine treatment?

MB: "If you look at what happened for me in the UK when I was really taking off in the States, it was pretty much symmetrical. The UK was my biggest market outside of the US - I sold over 5 million albums in this country. It's why I came back here so many times. My grandmother was born in Leeds - I was happy to be accepted here. I grew up on American R & B and blues, and the British invasion completely won me over. I got a four times platinum album in the UK, so I just kept coming back."

VN: We've got a strange fascination with the Eighties and with mullets though - I think that's held against you...

MB: "Sure, I've seen how cynical this crowd can be, in the industry. I have friends who've come here to try to break into the UK, who went back with their tails between their legs, and they were sorry they ever got on a plane to come here. Fortunately I've had the opposite experience. I just feel like the best I can do is step up to the microphone, sing something I can get my vocal teeth into. That must be how Lennox Lewis feels when he gets into the ring. That's my domain. And you can't make everybody love what you do, but you can know how great you feel doing it."

VN: Thanks for joining us today Michael!

MB: "Thank you!"

By Alex Robertson

<http://www.virgin.net/music/interviews/michaelbolton.html>

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