

Bolton On-Line Updates

Published on-line by the Michael Bolton Platinum Club

October 2003 – Issue 73 Page 1

Hello Everyone,

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

Michael's album, Vintage, is out and doing very well. At this time, the first single to hit the radio. "When I Fall In Love," is number 16 and climbing on the Radio and Records AC charts and the Billboard AC Charts have him at number 17. The album, Vintage, is on the Billboard Independent Album charts at number 9! Don't forget to call your radio stations and request music from the new album!

This year's concert tour is almost over but we have heard that there will be a bigger tour next year. We will get that info as soon as possible!

If you haven't checked out the new fan club site (<http://www.michaelboltonclub.com>) don't forget to do so and soon it will have even more exciting media for members. Michael also has his own website located at <http://www.michaelbolton.com>, please check this out as well!

Enjoy this issue and e-mail me at MBPlatinum@aol.com with any questions, stories or photos for the Updates!!

Best Wishes,
Gail,
Editor



Photo: Sharon Oyster

One from Days Past



www.musicacc.com/Item54.htm

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Official Fan Club Site:

www.michaelboltonclub.com

Michael's Own site:

www.michaelbolton.com

Great Fan Photos of Michael:

www.michaelboltonphotos.com

Michael Bolton Charities website:

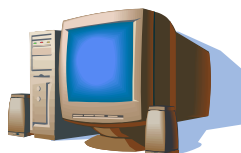
www.michaelboltoncharities.com

Orrin Bolton's Fan Site

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

Ad for Vintage

<http://www.michaelboltonvintage.com>



Blazing Golden Sun Denim Shirt

You can now purchase this great denim shirt from the fan club mall at www.michaelboltonclub.com

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Following are the concerts left on this fall's concert schedule. All of the fan club seats at the venues have been sold and the sales closed. Please check the tour section of the password site or the new fan club site at www.michaelboltonclub.com for further information on venue on sales and links to venue info. If you have any questions, please e-mail info@michaelboltonclub.com or MBPlatinum@aol.com.

Date	City, State	Venue
October 16, 2003	Joliet, IL	Rialto Square Theater
October 18, 2003	Jackson, MI	George E. Porter Center
October 19, 2003	Indiana, PA	Fisher Auditorium - IUP Campus



Photo: Linda McRae

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Photo: Gail Atkinson

AN INTERVIEW WITH MICHAEL

By Meri K. Ross

I am a journalist. In theory journalists are supposed to be objective and detached, simply observing the world and reporting on the facts and the truth and never really letting their own opinions leak through into their stories. That doesn't always happen, but it is the theory. I am also a Michael Bolton fan, a fact and a truth and something that, in my life, just is.

That's why, when my editor emailed to see if I'd like to cover the 11th Annual Michael Bolton Charities Dinner/Auction and Celebrity Golf Tournament, the first thought I had was one filled with panic and dread. How was I ever going to merge the two and be both the Bolton fan and the journalist at the same time?

Thankfully I had a couple days to prepare. And although at first I couldn't think of one serious question to ask the man, by the time I stepped up to the registration desk I was ready, nervous as heck, but ready to interview Michael Bolton.

I've attended the MBC Gala as a guest several times and had even bought tickets for this year's event. Even though I had attended previously, it was very interesting this year to see some of the behind the scenes work that is going on while the guests are browsing the auction items and preparing to eat dinner.

The other members of the press and I were taken to the area just outside a reception for the VIPs and sponsors. Michael seemed very busy juggling his time between the demands of being host for the event and taking care of his guests and talking to or posing for pictures for the press. I did get to say hello, but the interview would have to wait until "later" because of Michael's busy schedule.

The Gala was fun and interesting as always. I took a lot of notes and pictures that night as the promised interview was eventually pushed back to take place during the golf event the next day. I will admit to putting down the shield of the journalist while Michael was on stage. The fan in me just had to come out and rock a little and so rock I did.

Continued

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The next day at the golf event showed just how glamorous the life of a reporter really is. Ha ha! The first part of the day was spent waiting for the PR person to arrive and then waiting in between photo opportunities and running around hoping to find someone who was available and willing to be interviewed. If I had a dollar for every 10 minutes I've waited for an event to begin or an interview to happen, I'd be a rich woman.

Finally, as Michael stepped off the green at the 18th hole I saw my opportunity and asked him if I could ask a couple questions for the newspaper. Graciously and with a twinkle in his eye he agreed and the long-awaited interview began. Before going to the event I had decided that I wanted the article to be about Michael's vision for his charity and how that is panning out instead of the less serious, 'look what celebrities and fans showed up at MBC event this year' side to the story. So, my questions were more serious and I think Michael was a tiny bit surprised because he may have been expecting questions about the new album or the fans.

Journalistically speaking Michael is a very good interview. He is smart, witty and doesn't make you pull each answer out of him with a crow bar. He is very passionate and knowledgeable about the subject of his charity and the issue of domestic violence and he has a lot of interesting ideas and opinions on the subject. I would have loved to have several hours to discuss the issue with him.

As it was Michael gave me (according to a friend in the gallery) 17 minutes, an eternity in Michael time and I truly appreciate every second. He exceeded every expectation I had and I hope I was able to share with the people in at least one little corner of the world more of what he wants them to know about his vision and his mission to help women and children at risk of poverty and abuse. I hope I remained relatively objective when I wrote the story. My editor liked it, so I guess I succeeded. The following is the story I wrote initially for the Greenwich Citizen. The Citizen only had room for a photo so they gave the article to a sister paper, the Westport News for publication on 10/1/03.

Finally I want to say thank you to Michael. I know you didn't have to spend any time with me at all that day and I truly appreciate how much time you gave. Thank you so much.



Photos: Meri Ross.

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BOLTON CHARITIES STRIKES CHORDS OF INSPIRATION

Westport News
by Meri K. Ross

Michael Bolton hosted his annual benefit gala and celebrity golf tournament Sept. 22 at the Stamford Marriott and The Wee Burn Country Club. For the 11th year the famous and not-so-famous showed up to support the Westport singer and activist and his fight for women and children at risk of poverty and abuse.

"I am fortunate to be around a lot of people who get the concept that you can have fun and make a difference in other people's lives, people who are living in circumstances that make our bad days look like nothing," said Bolton.

"The people keep coming back because we've been successful at giving people a great time," he noted. "With great music like this year's performer, Richard Marx, it doesn't have to be a heavy, intense evening. It can be a lot of fun and still make a difference in people's lives."

Besides the fun, the focus of the gala dinner and auction was to raise funds and to celebrate this year's Lifetime Achievement Award honorees, Frances W. Preston, president and CEO of BMI, and Greenwich's Bobby Valentine, longtime pro baseball player, coach and manager.

"It's always special to support the Michael Bolton Charities," said Preston, who along with running a music company with more than \$500 million in revenues, is an activist well-known in Capitol Hill for her support of songwriters' rights.

"We also honored Bobby Valentine, who is our local hero," said Pari Kreutter, event chairman. "He gave such a wonderful speech about the meaning of life. It really put the entire event into perspective."

"And Joan Lunden's twins were wonderful," Kreutter added, saying that Lunden's repeated service as mistress of ceremonies is always a highlight of the dinner and auction.

To date, the Michael Bolton Charities has raised more than \$3 million for 20 charitable organizations providing assistance to children and women at risk from poverty, violence, homelessness and abuse. But according to Bolton, the focus on women and children wasn't the initial reason for his charity.

"I started out simply wanting to help people who had nothing," Bolton said. "It wasn't until I found that [the domestic violence abuse and poverty] was what drove most of the women into the shelters and into situations of dire poverty that the focus changed."

Now, added Bolton, he is trying to bring a male voice to the issue of domestic violence and violence against women.

"There is a strong similarity between the civil rights movement and the whole issue of domestic violence and abuse of women," he said. "It gets to a point when if it's women talking to other women about the issue, they are preaching to the choir. "If you really want to break the cycle," he continued, "you need men to step over and join in the discussion and the fight. Just as you needed white people to step up and take on the fight in the civil rights movement."

"There is an extreme male attitude of competition and hitting harder and being stronger," added Bolton. "A lot of times guys can't focus on going beyond those limits until they succeed at whatever they are trying to do. If we as men don't get past our own limitations in our thinking we will never grow and evolve."

Continued

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Some men, like former professional football player Don McPherson, are helping to add the male voice to the issue, said Bolton. "Don is a great example of someone who gets it. There are some people who are just more self-aware and they can show the rest of us how to serve the greater needs of mankind."

In addition to Don McPherson, other sports figures and celebrities enjoyed 18 holes of golf with Bolton at The Wee Burn Country Club in Darien Monday. Some included actors Jamie Farr, Richard Roundtree, John Callahan and Kevin Dobson and athletes George Foster, Scooter McGruder and Gary Waslewski.

"It's a fun tournament to do," said Jamie Farr, best known for his role as Corporal Max Klinger on the television series, MASH "I'd do anything for Michael. He's such a gentle soul. He's a real inspiration."



Meri finishing her interview with Michael. Michael is acknowledging the fans watching!

Photo: Sally Freeman

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BOLTON BELIEVERS: FANS FLOCK TO SINGER'S CHARITY TOURNEY

By Joy Woodson
Staff Writer

September 23, 2003

DARIEN -- About 30 of Michael Bolton's die-hard fans eagerly waited behind security guards yesterday for the singer's appearance at his 11th annual celebrity golf tournament at the Wee Burn Country Club.

Skies were overcast, but the fans said they didn't mind so long as Bolton at least nodded and waved to them. Mostly women, they said they fell for the crooner more than a decade ago. During that time, his album "Soul Provider" reached Billboard's Top 10 chart and the single, "How Am I Supposed to Live Without You," won Bolton a Grammy Award.

"When a Man Loves a Woman," a track on "Time, Love and Tenderness," earned Bolton another Grammy in 1992.

Fans yesterday came to the Michael Bolton Charities Golf Classic from around the nation and England, Canada and Germany. One woman said she had driven from her home in southern Illinois to Kentucky to pick up another fan, back to Illinois for a rest, then off to Pennsylvania before heading to New York City -- all in the name of Bolton. Yesterday, they turned a regular round of charity golf into a photo and autograph-signing opportunity.

"We build our annual holiday around this," said Donald Allen, a bus driver from Essex, England. Allen came with his wife, June, who has been a fan for 12 years.

Michael's fans said they feel a part of something greater than themselves by participating in Bolton's charity events and have raised more than \$6,000 through the fan club to help.

If you ask the fans, the only person worth seeing at the event was Bolton. Nevertheless, other celebrities were on hand as well, including Jamie Farr, who played Max Klinger on television's "M*A*S*H"; Richard Roundtree, who played the original "Shaft"; former New York Knick Herb Williams; and Kevin Dobson, who starred in the prime-time soap opera, "Knots Landing."

Farr, clad in a navy blue University of Toledo sweatshirt, posed for photos after gulping a hamburger for lunch. Though he said he had been playing terribly, Farr joked that at least he still has his Social Security benefits.

Also putting for charity were Paige Sauer, a former University of Connecticut basketball player turned assistant coach at Fairfield University, and Stamford Police Chief Lou DeCarlo.

Michael Bolton Charities Inc. has given nearly \$3 million to more than 20 charities, according to the organization. It was founded in 1993 to draw more attention to violence against women and children and poverty.

"I think it's a wonderful thing what he's doing," Sauer said after reaching par on two of her first three holes.

DeCarlo said the high point of the day was lunch. "I'm a high-handicapped golfer but a scratch eater," he joked.

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Hello Everyone!

Well what a month September was. First, I must say, wow, I had a wonderful time.... Where do I start? I arrived in NYC on Friday September 19. Beth Kind and Leesa Gamble drove to the airport to meet me..Then we headed on our journey to a fantastic weekend in CT. Saturday was spent catching up with everyone arriving. People from FL, MD, MA, the UK, everywhere. I don't want to forget anyone, so I won't go through the names. Elizabeth Davis joined us as we visited a friend of mine who lives in the area. We had a great time catching up on things. Sunday was the fan reception, and what a blast that was. The ladies out did themselves. Thank you Layne and your crew for a wonderful time. We received really neat gift bags. It was a little different than the last reception I went to in 1999. There were all kinds of auction items to bid. It was great to see so many faces from the past and to meet some new ones as well.

It was great to see Orrin again and to chat with him and Helen. Helen didn't think Orrin was coming so what a surprise that was. Joey arrived for a short time and Janis was there as usual and was gracious as always. Connie, Janis, Layne, and Tom Gross did the auction. Boy were they good auctioneers. Many great items were there as well...coasters from Janis' collection, a sword that said "Go The Distance." (You all know I would have loved that one), a picture frame that Michael would give a personalized voice message, and a silver bracelet..Oh let's not forget, Michael's sweaty T-shirt from last years concert tour. Later that afternoon we got the chance to see Richard Marx in the lobby and we took pictures with him. The gala dinner, well, if you have never attended, it's worth going the distance even once....this was my first time attending the actual dinner, and what a great time. We received goodie bags from Sax Fifth Avenue with a CD (Vintage) and a makeup bag filled from Lancome (one of my competetiors). There were cocktails and items galore from microphones to guitars to quilts for auction. Those were outside the ballroom for us all to see and bid. Our Bolton Buddy, Cindy Fox made a beautiful quilt for the auction. It had pictures of Michael from last years tour. During the dinner, they had some real high auction items. Someone paid \$25,000 to have Michael come to his or her house to give a mini concert...how cool is that? Joan Lunden and her husband Jeff, Richard Kind,(no relation to Beth..lol), Rob Schneider were among the guest. Even the governor of CT. Now that's impressive. I hear the govenor is a Republican and we know Michael is not..lol There were jokes told, and songs by Richard. Then it was Michael's turn. Michael sang Love is a Wonderful Thing, Time, Love and Tenderness, three songs from Vintage, and Rock me baby at the end. He asked Richard to join him, but he did not....that would have been great to have both of them jamming. Michael gave a great speech he even thanked Gail for all she's done. I thought that much deserved.

Monday was off to the golf tournament. That was another great day. The weather was perfect as it was neither hot nor too cold and it didn't rain. It was a great time to chat with BBs in the gallery and to see the celebrities. That was the end of our gala weekend. Then it was off to Bloomsburg, PA for Wednesday Sept. 24 concert. It was another great time to meet up with Bolton Buddies who did not make it to the gala weekend and to see those from the weekend one last time before heading home. Michael was a half-hour late but well worth the wait. He started the concert with Love Is A Wonderful thing, Soul Provider, talked and joked with the crowd of approx. 3,000 people, sang a lot of favorites such as Dock Of The Bay, To Love Somebody, Drift Away, Summertime, If I could, The Very Thought Of You, Time Love and Tenderness. Bolton Buddy, Leesa, gave Michael a picture she took last year of him holding a bunny. He made a joke about that and had us all laughing..those of us who knew what was going on really got a laugh. Some one shouted out that is was a girls 21 birthday so Michael acknowledge that.

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Then came the shouts sing "I Promise You" "When A Man Loves A Woman" and "take off your clothes" (now that was an odd request) He continued with songs like, Go The Distance, Nessa Dorma, then it was time to make the change into his jeans (oh so hot). Michael comes out singing When A Man Loves a Woman, and when he turn his back it was so cute. He did a little shake. I went up to take a picture and the next thing I Michael motioned for us to come to the stage...there we stayed there while he sang, Steel Bars, How Can We Be Lovers If We Can't Be Friends, and Rock Me Baby. He even reached down and shook our hands. Then it was the Encore, Georgia, and the final bow...oh how we all hate that part of the evening. Michael did a wonderful job singing. Well, we all know that.

and remember to "go the distance"
Elaine Blackwell



Raffle table at the Fan Reception. Photo Elaine Blackwell



Ready for the live auction. Photo: Gail Atkinson

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RECEPTION AND GOLF CLASSIC PHOTO GALLERY



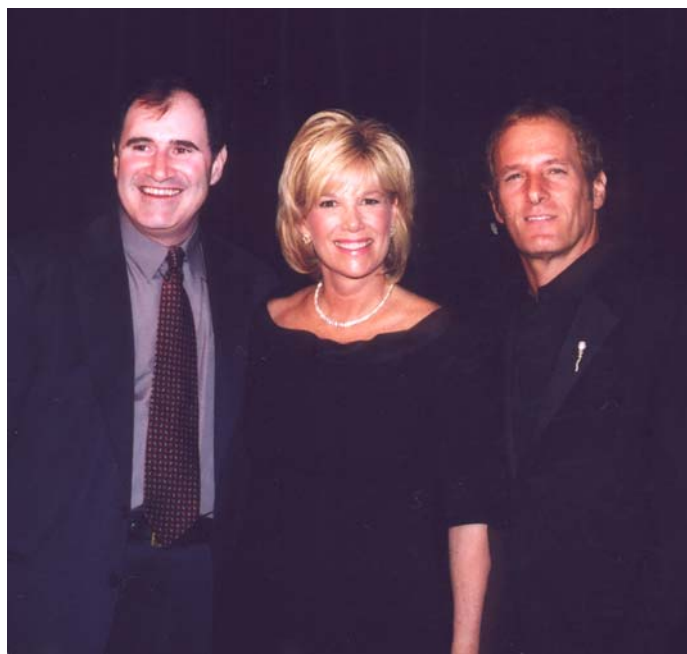
Meri Ross



Sally Freeman



Sharon Oyster



Richard Kind, Joan Lunden and Michael.
Photo: Meri Ross

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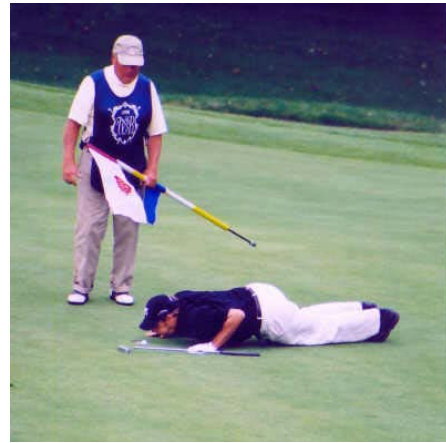
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GALLERY CON'T



Chris and Land with part of the Gallery at the Golf Classic



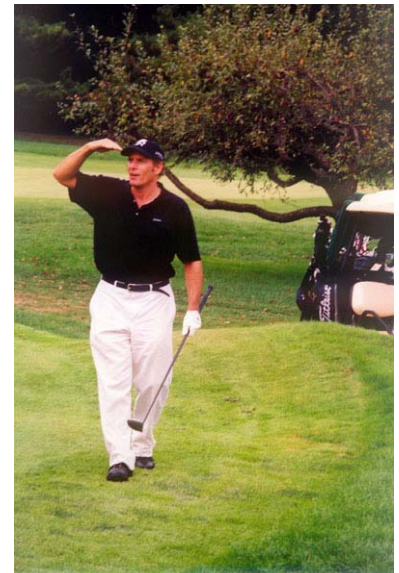
Michael helping the ball a little!
Photo: Sally Freeman



Sharon Oyster



The Shooting Gallery
Photo: Sally Freeman



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THANK YOU FROM THE MICHAEL BOLTON FAN RECEPTION COMMITTEE

Hi Everyone!

Just wanted to give you an update on our Seventh Annual Michael Bolton Fan Reception. Your generosity with items donated and monies raised have again managed to amaze and humble us. The grand total from this year's fundraising efforts brought in a whopping \$6166.00! This is an incredible amount for a single year's event and we thank you!

Just under \$3000 of this total was due, in part, to the talents of auctioneer extraordinaire, Tom Gross and his auction cohorts -- Janis Liebhart and Joey Melotti. Thank you so much for all the fun and laughter, you were a comic trio like no other!

To those fans that weren't able to attend this year to share this hilarious auction, I just want to let you in on our little secret, Tom has promised to do our Live Auction again next year!! So start making plans to be there too, you won't want to miss this show!

Thanks again everyone ... you are the best!

With love and thanks,

Layne and the Fan Reception Committee



Tom Gross doing his thing!



Joey Melotti auctioning the Go The Distance sword



Janis and Tom looking at the terrific coasters Janis donated to the fan reception.



The Happy winner of Michael's personalized T-shirt – Sharon Oyster!

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Photo: Sharon Oyster

CELEBS STEP IN WHEN LOCALS NEED THEM

By: Editorial Board 09/25/2003

A few weeks ago, Ray Charles was scheduled to be the featured attraction at the Levitt Pavilion's annual fundraising concert. Ray was forced to cancel on the morning of the concert due to illness.

In a lot of other towns in Connecticut, the cancellation would have spelled disaster for the event sponsor. But at a few hours notice, the Levitt arranged for singers **Michael Bolton**, a Westport resident, and Roberta Flack to replace Charles at the performance. The sold-out event was hugely successful for the Levitt. That's the way it is in our little town - famous people abound here, and they're usually more than willing to share their talents or their thoughts with their fellow Westporters.

A year and a half ago, our own Martha Stewart spoke at length and answered questions at a meeting of the Westport/Weston Y's Men, a group of retired business people who meet every Thursday nine months of the year.

Stewart's talk to the Y's Men, which came just a few weeks before her current legal problems surfaced, was duly noted in the calendar listing of "Martha Stewart Living" magazine. According to the testimony of people who were at the meeting, Martha was informative and gracious. And Martha's guest appearance before the Y's Men was certainly not the first or last time the Y's Men scheduled a celebrity speaker - it happens almost every week. Corporate CEOs, commissioners of state and federal agencies, noted politicians, authors and actors, turn up at Y's Men meetings, Thursday after Thursday.

It's a credit to the Y's Men's speakers committee members that they are able to hook such celebs on a regular basis.

But it also says something about Westport. It's a town where Paul Newman, one of the most famous actors in the world, has lived for four decades and is known simply as a nice guy with blue eyes who has his name and picture on bottles of salad dressing; and where his wife, Joanne Woodward, famous in her own right, is director of the Westport Country Playhouse.

Arthur Levitt, former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission; the Rolling Stones' Keith Richards; famed actors Keir Dullea and Christopher Plummer; singer Jose Feliciano - the list is endless of the notables in business, industry, and the written, graphic and performing arts who make their homes in these parts. And having lived here for so many years, all these folks usually think kind thoughts about Westport, and are ready - sometimes literally at a moment's notice - to step in to help a local organization.

Westporters have long made it an unspoken rule not to bother or call undue attention to the celebrities among us, so they can live their lives as "regular" people. In return, we're thankful that they're willing to lend their time and talents, just in case Ray Charles or Martha Stewart has another commitment.

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A FEW THOUGHTS ON THE 2003 TOUR

By Deb Jaworsky

If you live in New York State, you will often see a commercial for Foxwoods casino on your local television station proclaiming, “Foxwoods...The Miracle in the Connecticut Woods.” So it seems somehow fitting that Michael should bring his miraculous Tour 2003 show to his home State at this particular venue.

Miraculous is a gaudy adjective and I’m not generally fond of gaudy adjectives. But then Foxwoods is a gaudy place, as casinos tend to be. The theater itself is drenched in red from carpet to seats to pleated satin stage curtains. It made a nice foil for the simple stage decoration and straightforward presentation that is the Bolton live performance this year.

This was my third and final show and by this time I had come to the conclusion that the decision to keep things simple this time around was a wise one. Now granted we have a couple of familiar and shall we say...energetic...dancers, who I think do a very good job of punctuating the joy when they are on stage...but the real star of this tour has been Michael’s voice. The richness and control of it really doesn’t require much dressing up and is difficult to describe. You really have to hear it.

I’m not unlike most of the rest of you. I’ve spent years listening to the recorded tracks and been to dozens of concerts so it seems to me that it’s a very special thing when the artist can still surprise. I heard something new in old favorites, something unique in the familiar songs from Vintage and there is a command of the phrasing now that I think only comes with experience and confidence.

The set list was like a little time capsule of Michael’s career with all it’s fascinating twists and turns. I often found myself wondering that evening about the reaction of the first time Bolton concert goers in the audience. Were they expecting to see a singer, songwriter, musician who could successfully maneuver his way through rock, pop, blues, Motown and opera all in one show? I suspect they were dazzled...I know I was...and very grateful to have been there.



Photos: Deb Jaworsky

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This is from the 9/21/03 issue of the Chicago Tribune, in a column called "Armour & Co." written by Terry Armour:

SOUND BITE

"My stats, eventually, will speak for themselves -- my success will speak for itself. And the only people you have to satisfy are the people that buy your records and go to your concerts."

--That's Grammy-winning crooner Michael Bolton telling Armour & Co. how he feels about his critics.



Photo: Gail Atkinson

TOUR ISSUE IN NOVEMBER

The November issue of the Bolton Online Updates will be the tour issue for the past concert dates. Please send any reviews or pictures you would like included to MBPlatinum@aol.com and if you have any questions, please write to the same address to the attention of Gail! Even if you have a short paragraph, please send it to be included!!

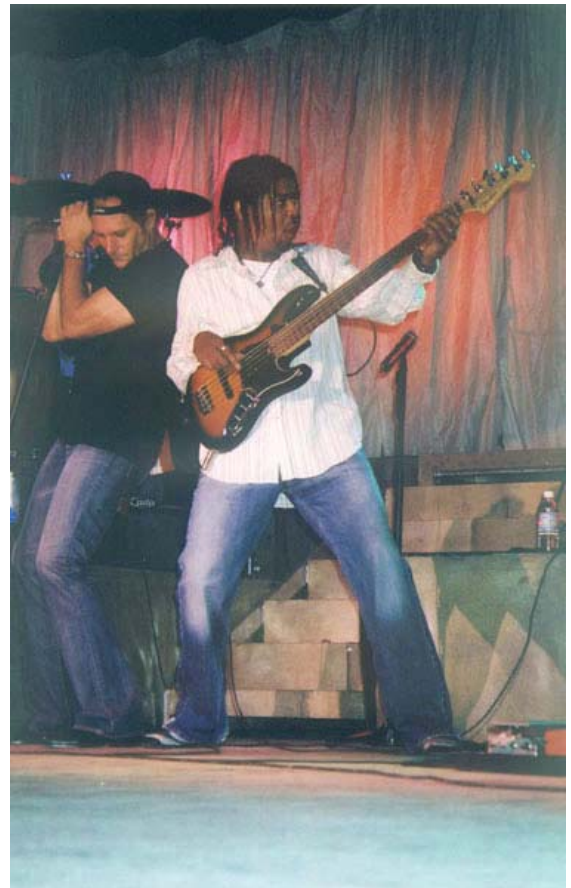


Photo: Gail Atkinson

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