
2003 Special Tour Issue

Published on-line by the Michael Bolton Platinum Club

Special Tour Issue – November 2003



Photo: Beth Kind

Bolton On-Line Updates

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Hello Everyone,

Welcome to the Special Tour issue of the Bolton On-Line Updates. We have some great stories and pictures submitted by you, Michael's fans, for you to enjoy!

2004 looks to be an exciting year with another tour, golf appearances and in a few weeks the beginning of a promotional tour that will take Michael to mall's all over the country to do CD signings.

Don't forget to check out the new fan club site (<http://www.michaelboltonclub.com>) soon it will have even more exciting media for members.

Thank you to all of you who submitted your stories and pictures for this issue it couldn't have been done without you!

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: Phyllis Jensen



Photo: Kay Lester

One from Days Past



1996 CMA Awards

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

Official Fan Club Site:

www.michaelboltonclub.com

Michael's Own site:

www.michaelbolton.com

Great Fan Photos of Michael:

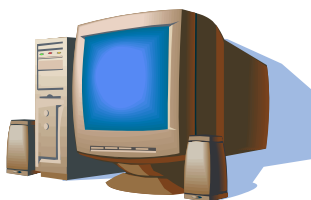
www.michaelboltonphotos.com

Michael Bolton Charities website:

www.michaelboltoncharities.com

Orrin Bolton's Fan Site

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



Blazing Golden Sun Denim Shirt

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

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**ELMIRA, NY
CLEMENS CENTER
SEPTEMBER 20, 2003**

I Was a Michael Bolton "Virgin"

It was September 20th and I was headed on the Bolton Buddies Bus for the Elmira, NY concert. I can remember it all like it was yesterday... and it was (almost).

I had arrived in Stamford the night before and had been anticipating the concert since I purchased my 3rd row center ticket. I had never been to a Michael Bolton show before and had heard he was a very good performer. On the four-hour ride to the Elmira venue (I won't ever do that again, not even to see Michael), we all (except for me) related previous encounters with the man himself. Some of the other fifteen ladies had brought with them photo albums stuffed with their glossy treasures from past Michael encounters ranging from concerts to golf tournaments. We passed them around and I was amazed to hear some of the stories that went along with the pictures - especially the one of Meri with Orrin, but that's another story. Although the stories were different as were the people recounting them, the theme was all the same: Michael had touched all of these people in a way that was special to them, and Michael was one heck of an amazing guy.

With what seemed only minutes to spare, our driver (awesome guy, by the way) pulled into the Clemens Center and right next to Michael's tour busses. We were fortunate enough to see Tre outside and with very little persuasion, Meri had Tre step into the bus and greet us all. What a gorgeous smile he has!

Okay, so on to the show already, right? There I was sitting in my 3rd row seat waiting for Michael when the chanting started... MICHAEL.... MICHAEL.... WE WANT MICHAEL... You name it. And then the lights went out...

Out comes Michael in, what else, the suit he looks so stunning in, and starts belting out the music for which he is so famous. As I sat there (I still can't believe people just sit there while he's performing) I listened intently to every note he sang. Although I couldn't tell you in what order he sang all the songs, nor could I give you a complete song list, I can tell you that he is so much better live than recorded - and he's awesome on disc. A few times I heard someone yell out, "LOSE THE JACKET", or "TAKE IT OFF", and had to laugh. I had heard about the banter between Michael and the audience but never believed it until that moment. Another lady yelled out, "NO ONE'S DANCING UP HERE", and so in classy Michael style with a smile from ear to ear, he replied "AND WHAT DID YOU WANT ME TO DO ABOUT IT? I COULD COME UP THERE..." and the audience burst into applause. He then got on with the show. More great music and more fun - I was having a blast.

Then he had to run backstage to change into the ever-popular jeans and t-shirt and when he came back on stage, the audience roared their approval. He went right into song, gave everyone a nice view of his backside (I'm starting to think he enjoys that), put on the FDNY hat and rocked the venue.

In the end, the show was phenomenal, the vocals were better than perfect, the band was awesome, the dancers worked their butts off and I didn't take a single picture (I was too busy watching the show). I have NEVER been more impressed with a live performance. I'm very critical when it comes to music but I would give Michael a perfect 10!! Bravo, encore, and all that jazz... :

Jennifer Gilbert/Orlando, FL

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ELMIRA PHOTOS



Photos: Georgia Palmatier



Photo: Barb Canonico



Photo: Yvonne Shah



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BLOOMSBURG, PA BLOOMSBURG STATE FAIR SEPTEMBER 24, 2003

Fortunes, Friends and Fun at the Fair

By Meri Ross

I love fairs. The food, the rides, the crafts, the animals, I love it all. But I think the biggest reason I love fairs is that I've been going to them for concerts since my first Osmond concert in 1975. These days I'm at a fair about once a year for a concert.

This year was no different. My friend Debra and I chose the Bloomsburg Fair in Pennsylvania as one of the places we would go to see Michael. The concert was just a couple days after the Michael Bolton Charities Gala and Golf Tournament, so we knew there would be plenty of our Bolton fans there.

The drive to Bloomsburg was even more fun than usual because our friend Robin was joining us for the trip. We chatted all of the way there and the nearly four-hour drive went very quickly and we were soon at the fair.

The Bloomsburg Fair is huge and has everything you need to have a great fair. There were rides, games of chance, stands selling everything from farm equipment to cheesy souvenirs and knick knacks, politicians trying to get some votes and every farm animal known to man. We made our way past the games and food vendors and headed for the grandstand. We were meeting another friend who had our tickets, so we didn't want to stray too far from the box office area.

Our only slight detour was to walk through the vendor area underneath the grandstand to look at the wares. There we walked past two women telling fortunes. Debra decided to have a bit of fun and have her palms read. She still won't tell me all the woman predicted, but I'm sure she told Debra she'd soon be seeing some wonderful entertainment and hearing some great music.

Of course the prediction came true. Minutes later we were in our seats listening to some fantastic music by the man we've all come to know and love, Michael Bolton. The show was wonderful. The night was cool but not cold and with the heat coming from the stage the nice breeze made it a perfect night for a concert.

Michael was in top form as he performed all of our old favorite Bolton tunes and three off the new album "Vintage." I just love the new music. The bluesy, torchy numbers are just perfect for Michael's range and style. He adds such passion and soul to each song. And even though he says the songs are the "stars", his renditions are simply just gorgeous. Not only were the songs wonderful, Michael seemed to be having a fantastic time on this tour. He laughed and joked and really connected with the audience. I can only assume he had as much fun as we did watching him.

The concert ended as all Bolton concerts do, too soon, and after visiting with our Bolton friends we soon headed home. I still love fairs, and if they include a Michael Bolton concert I'm sure I'll be at a lot more in the future.

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BLOOMSBURG PHOTOS



Photo: Sharon Oyster



Photo: Meri Ross



Photo: Barb Canonico



Photo: Gail Atkinson



Photo: Sharon Oyster



Photo: Michelle Cooper

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ATLANTIC CITY, NJ TRUMP TAJ MAHAL SEPTEMBER 27, 2003

Atlantic City A nightmare...or was it a dream!

By Meri K. Ross

Did you ever have one of those dreams (or should I say nightmares) where you are searching and searching for something important and you can't find it? You know, the kind where a teacher asks for your homework and it's not in your backpack or the police office wants the driver's license and you just don't have it? Our trip to Atlantic City to see Michael was in a way a nightmare come true.

Usually when Debra (my best friend and fellow Bolton fan) and I leave for a trip we go over the standard list of things we need. Someone always asks if the camera, tickets, directions, ID and even snacks for the road have been packed. For some reason our trip to Atlantic City this year was different.

Maybe it was because we've gone to so many places together that we both just forgot. Maybe it was because we were leaving hours and hours early to meet our friends for lunch. Maybe it was because we were both in just a wonderful, carefree mood that day that we just didn't think to go through the list of must haves. Whatever the reason, it wasn't until we were riding the escalator down to the lower level of the Trump Taj Mahal that I even thought to look in my purse for our concert tickets. It was at that moment that time stopped and the awful reality sunk in. I had forgotten our tickets.

It's amazing that I didn't fall down the escalator when I realized the tickets weren't there. Debbie said that my face lost all color and I looked as if I was going to be sick. She said that at first she thought I was kidding when I nearly screamed the news of the forgotten tickets, but when she looked at my face she knew I was telling the truth.

A small flame of hope ignited and then died, when Deb said she could go home and get the tickets. No, that wouldn't work we decided, the trip to Connecticut and back was more than six hours total and even though we were at the casino early, there still wasn't time to get all of the way to Connecticut and back in time for the show.

As we slowly walked down the hall of the casino all I could think of was that unless the box office had some record of our purchase we'd have to buy tickets and our sixth row fan club seats would be empty as we sat way in the back of the venue. Then an angel appeared in the guise of a box office clerk. I told her I had forgotten our tickets. At first she looked skeptical until I told her that we bought them through the fan club and asked if they had some record of the sale. She asked my name and took my ID and then disappeared around a corner. We stood there for what seemed like hours when she suddenly reappeared and slid a pair of tickets through the hole at the bottom of the window. "There you go," she said with a smile. I couldn't believe it! It seems that because of the fan club seating they had a record of the sale and exactly where we were sitting and she simply reprinted the tickets for us.

Several hours later we were sitting inside the venue watching Michael perform. The show was wonderful. Michael was at the top of his game and so many of our Bolton friends sat around us as we watched the phenomenal show Michael and the band performed. Within seconds of the first note the memory of the missing tickets had faded like all nightmares should do and all that was left was the dream of good friends, great seats and a wonderful performance. And the best part...it wasn't a dream.

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ATLANTIC CITY PHOTOS



Photo: Gail Atkinson



Photo: Gail Atkinson



Photo: Linda McRae



Photo: Laurie Schoenberg

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**VERONA, NY
TURNING STONE CASINO
SEPTEMBER 29-30, 2003**



Photo: Phyllis Jensen



Photos: Laurie Schoenberg

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**MASHANTUCKET, CT
FOXWOODS RESORT AND CASINO
OCTOBER 3, 2003
AND
WESTBURY, NY
WESTBURY MUSIC FAIR
OCTOBER 4, 2003**

...I think Michael always has a little extra energy when he's performing in CT. He had quite a few friends and family members in the audience and I think that gives him a little extra "boost". His voice sounded phenomenal and I just think he seemed to enjoy himself more at this show than some of the others. The set list was the same as the last few shows...still no "Georgia".

As for Westbury, that show was a bit different. First of all the theatre is in the round, and to the best of my knowledge, this was the first time Michael has performed at this type of venue. It was so strange to see all the band's equipment packed so closely together...no risers, no backdrops...just the equipment, the band and Michael. Made it a little interesting for Dani and Monique since they didn't have nearly the room they are used to for dancing, but they did a pretty good job of it!

The stage rotated slowly throughout the show...first clockwise, then counter clockwise, then back, etc...I think Michael was kind of getting a kick out of it...kept making comments about seeing people sitting on one side of him one moment and then they were on the other side:)

The best surprise of the evening was a slight change in the set list. Instead of doing "Reach Out" Michael performed "Hold On, I'm Coming". The only other time I saw him perform that live was back in 1992 when he was taping "This is Michael Bolton" so it was really a lot of fun to see him and the band performing it!

As soon as I have a chance, I'll be forwarding some pictures from both concerts on to Jan.

Laurie Schoenberg



Foxwoods – Photo- Meri Ross

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FOXWOODS

By Sylvie Boisvert

The best things in life are worth waiting for. But sometimes, it's a little harder to convince yourself of that... I had purposely held off listening to the sound clips of « Vintage » on the fan club web site, so I could enjoy the album in all its splendor, when I got it in the mail. And for that, I'm happy to say, it worked! But, as I was sitting at the top of the stairs of my house, after I'd hung up the phone from my friend Sue, I had to re-think about that. She had just called to give me a quick run-down of the gala weekend she had just attended with our friend Robin, including the Elmira concert... She had put her cell on speaker-phone and I was torn, listening to the joyous sounds of my friends, as they were telling me how awesome everything had been... The words : « Smile, though your heart is aching... » ran through my head... I wasn't able to attend any part of the gala weekend because of family obligations. As I hung up the phone, I thought : »Only 11 more days till it's my turn! » I had to repeat it a few times before it started sinking in.

When I first heard about the new tour, a few months back, I had to figure out which concert was most doable for me. And since I knew I couldn't make the fan reception, I had to pick one that all my Bolton buddies could come to. Foxwoods was it. It was also the most expansive but, it was a small price to pay to see my friends again. Plans were made long in advance and things were falling into place. Sadly, only two out of three of my initial BB group could make it but, as the song goes : »two out of three ain't bad »... This year, my husband would come with me. We hadn't taken a « couple » vacation in a good while and this was just the right excuse to spend some time together, away from our day-to-day routine with our four kids.

We had a long drive ahead, going from the Montréal area, in Qc Canada to Groton CT so we decided to leave on Thursday night, after tucking the kids in. I knew the kids would be well taken care of during the weekend but, since they're not used to me not being there for a few days, I felt a tug, as they were all clinging for their last hug.

As we left the house, I asked my husband to put on the Delilah radio show in the car so I would still feel like I was home, watching over things. It took us about an hour to get to the border. The lady booth attendant asked us our reason to go to the States and my husband told her that for a belated anniversary present, he was taking me to a concert. She asked which one it was and she went Oh! , when he told her it was Michael Bolton. You gotta love people with good taste! Along the way, listening to Delilah paid off and we heard « When I fall in love ». I knew I could count on her! We got to the Super 8 in Latham N Y around midnight and turned in right away because we knew we'd have to get on the road early.

Early ended up being a quarter to 10. But we knew that after breakfast, we wouldn't have to stop till we got there. We arrived in Groton around 2 :00 p.m. We checked into the Groton Super 8, grabbed a bite and headed for Foxwoods. My friends and I agreed to meet in line there. They would take turns waiting. But I had a dilemma : you see, I'm legally blind and have no pictures of my friends and couldn't describe them much to my husband. What could I do? Thankfully, when we found the line, one of them recognized me and called out to me. I greeted her with a big hug, which I had a feeling was much needed at that point. My friends had both been waiting for several hours already and sounded exhausted, by the time I got there. So we joined the group. This waiting for hours in line thing is all new to me but I really enjoyed the experience of meeting a bunch of Bolton buddies. Several names I heard were familiar to me, because of hearing them at the end of fan articles and such. That was fun. I even reconnected with another Bolton buddy I had met at last year's gala weekend and that was a special treat. We talked about how much we loved « Vintage » and our favorite songs, caught up on the news and I introduced her to my husband. The time when the venue opens its doors got closer and I debated whether to eat or not. My husband wandered off, I assumed he was looking for a quick snack and he came back with a box, handed it to me and said this was my supper. I opened the box and first found an OAWLY T-shirt! I was very happy because I couldn't find one last year. Reaching in, I cracked everybody up, asking what was the dessert? I also got the « Vintage T-shirt and the « Vintage » CD with the bonus track. That would surely fill me up till showtime! (smile) (continued)

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Then the doors opened and we got in. Holding \$110 tickets, we were some of the fortunate ones who were seated in the second row! I couldn't believe it! Not that it changes much my perspective of the show but, it's just wonderful to be able to say : I had second row... Waiting for the show to start, I thought it was neat to hear Scott Mayo's music in the theater. I knew he wasn't in the band this year but I've grown to really enjoy his CD, after buying it last year. I still hadn't heard anything from my friend Sue and was getting worried. I finally decided to ask my girlfriend if I could use her cell to call Sue's cell. They were already playing the announcements as her phone rang. « Where the heck are you? » I asked her as she answered. « Where did you get a hold of a cell phone? » she asked and I told her. She was right outside and was just about to hand her tickets in. Sigh of relief!

The familiar notes of « America the beautiful » sung by Ray Charles started filling the theater. My friends Sue and Dan made it to their seats in the fourth row, as the song was ending and the applause and hollers from the audience grew stronger. Love Is A Wonderful Thing » kicked off the show. I love the energy of that song and I always sing with Michael but it's funny how, in the beginning, I always listen first, to kind of connect with the fact that he's really there... I felt the concert sap mounting and the fan in me overtook the genteel wife! Lol Bless his heart, my husband knows how much I love music and how much I get into it... Then our old friend « Soul provider » came along. Michael said he was having fun on this tour. Someone yelled out : »So are we! » That made him smile... He said he was starting to see some of us at several shows. He always encourages us to make as much noise as we want and most of us obliged!... Then, the ever-popular « Said I loved you, but I lied ». I have to say that at the end, I closed my eyes and indulged in the sweet surrender of listening to the last lingering note... Mercy! What can I say? Michael's voice is my favorite sound... Then Michael sang last year's energetic « I wanna hear you say it », before the Timeless set. He started the set with « To love somebody », which he tests us to sing all the parts. I did sing them all, except the guitar solo! Lol The acoustic rendition is always a sweet intimate experience. Oh, here's a little known fact : Barry Gibb said that the Bee Gees wrote this song and, had he not passed away, Otis Redding himself would have recorded it. I think it's a lucky coincidence that Michael sings it right before »Dock of the Bay ». Michael introduced the old gang; Schuyler, Chris and he underlined the fact that Joey Melotti's back. Moving on to more sure fire hits, Michael sang the beautiful and timeless « Drift away ». This year's Uncle Cracker/Doby Grey version made it to #1 and has so far stayed there for 18 weeks on the Billboards A C chart. Michael knows how to pick 'em! I thought of my friend Robin who was missing from our group... She adores this song... According to Casey Kasem, Uncle Cracker thinks it's a song about nothing... I think he may have missed the boat on a couple of lines like : »...when my mind is free, you know your melody can move me. And when I'm feeling blue, guitars coming through to soothe me... » What else is there to say? The Timeless set ended with another one we hadn't heard in a while; »Reach out ». That was a nice surprise! That is one of my favorite songs live!

Michael then said that as long as we were in a classics kind of mode, it was time for the « Vintage » songs. If there is only one thing Michael Bolton and I have in common, it's the love of music and singing. I just love the way he describes these standards as : »exquisite and brilliant in their simplicity »... not to mention a delight to sing and to listen to. For me, « Vintage » was a love at firstlisten experience. Michael said last year that he loved singing « Only a woman like you » because everything about the song was a joy to sing, as opposed to other times and other songs in which he can't wait to get to the chorus or the bridge for instance. I have a hunch that it might be the same case with the entire new album. I love the fact that for the show, he picked two songs that are close to his heart, because they're Ray Charles songs and the third one, is seemingly as close to his heart, but it's one he could have fun with and really let loose. After the Ray Charles classic « you don't know me », when he introduced « If I could », he started talking about the connection to the song and his daughters. Most specifically Taryn, whose birthday it was, that day. She turned 24, if I'm not mistaken. Michael started singing... I took a deep breath, closed my eyes and went with the emotion... Frankly, I don't know how he can sing this one live. I know all the words but can never make it all the way through... This song is the one I feel the closest connection with, especially at this specific time in my life, for many reasons. I had told my BB Debbie that it was one of my favorite songs on the album and she told me she took a picture of Michael singing it and would send it to me. I thought that was so sweet of her! I know I won't see it but I'll treasure it. The last song of this set was « Summertime ». Lord knows I love the Sam Cooke version of it and can even appreciate the Janis Joplin rendition but I'd never heard it sung with so much gusto! It's a great song and Michael just blew me away!! That was my favorite performance of this particular show, well, new performance anyway...(continued)

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That was followed by the always mesmerizing power-houses of the show : »Go the distance » and « Ness un dorma ». In between those two, Michael said that people who had seen this show before... knew exactly what he was gonna say... That got him a laugh... It's fun to see how quickly he switches from being silly to talking about the continuing exploration of the world of music he's found...

All right, now time for the band jam and break time for Michael. This sounds like it's just a demonstration piece but it's a great opportunity to showcase all the individual talents of this solid group of musicians and they rocked! The melody was led by Jason, the new sax player and judging from the way Joey played that piano, it sounds like he's glad to be back! This was just an instrumental, no written song medley this year.

Breaktime over, time for « When a man loves a woman ». My husband asked me if Michael was doing the up-and-down the isle thing any more. I was told last year that he doesn't. He starts off my appearing on stage, in silhouette and then comes forward. He was still faithful to his « ...turns his back on his best friend... »/buttshot deal, which brought him the usual screams and hollers from the audience! I wouldn't admit that I get a kick out of the mental picture (lol) but I always relish in the way Michael makes this song linger and work it slowly into your soul...

Change of gear, now time for the « stand up from your seat and clap to the beat » Bolton classic set! We heard « How can we be lovers », « Steel bars » and « Time, love and tenderness ». During TLT, which is my friend Sue's favorite song, my husband told me that Sue's husband Dan took her to the stage to shake Michael's hand... Dan told Sue that Michael closes his eyes, when he shakes her hand, as if to embrace her blindness... What a guy! My first reaction was « Oh, lucky her! » but I was happy for her. My sighted friend told me that, if there was a fan rush to the stage, that she'd come and get me. Nothing so far... After the big finale, Michael thanked everybody and left the stage. Everybody joined in the customary call for the encore. Luckily, it didn't take too long before he came back because my voice was pretty much shot at this point! Michael came back and started playing the first rif of « Rock me baby » and paused. Then he revved it up again and rocked me baby! Lol A minute or so into it, my girlfriend came and called me. She didn't need to say more. I jumped up and grabbed her hand. We just stood at the end of the row, clapping, dancing and punctuating the song with hollers... I think it was a great move to start including this song in the show last year because I love the way Michael sings and plays it and it's another great demonstration of his terrific band who were in excellent form! Then, the second big finale...

When the song was over, my girlfriend started to move. I held on to her arm and we went to the stage. I didn't know if they'd all left but I nervously followed her. She extended my left hand and called out to Michael... Without a word, Michael came to us and I felt his right hand in mine... Oh my God! He curled his hand into mine and I felt something... My friend said : »He just gave you his pick, didn't he? » He had held it in my fingers until it was secure and then let go... I was in shock! Lol We both thanked him and he left. I heard a Bolton buddy say : »All this and he's a nice guy too! » My friend asked to look at my pick and I reluctantly let her have it... for about 8 seconds! She checked it and sure enough, it was autographed! We gathered up our gang and said our goodbyes. I was really glad we each had our own little special moment with Michael. I don't know if Michael realizes how precious to us these moments are... Whether it's a smile, a handshake, a laugh or for a lucky few, a meeting. The memory of having made contact with someone who gives us so much joy, that's pure Bolton magic! I'll tell ya, I couldn't wipe the smile off my face all night! It's simply the greatest and certainly, well worth waiting for, all the way... Michael, « ...thanks for the joy you've given me... »

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FOXWOODS AND WESTPORT PHOTOS



Foxwoods: Meri Ross



Westport: Meri Ross



Westport: Meri Ross



Foxwoods: Laurie Schoenberg



Foxwoods: Laurie Schoenberg



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WINDSOR ONTARIO CHRYSLER THEATRE OCTOBER 7-8, 2003

I travelled from Santa Barbara, California to Windsor, Ontario to see Michael perform at the Chrysler Theatre two nights in a row. I had quite a time convincing the Border Patrol that I had come so far for these shows, but I would like to share that it was well worth every mile and I am so glad I made the trip!

The shows opened with one of my all time Bolton faves, "Love Is A Wonderful Thing", and I am always so proud when Michael performs that song. It's a great show opener, and I start right away clapping to the beat and enjoying the show! It was so wonderful to see Michael again!

The concerts featured familiar Bolton hits and many of the Classics from Timeless, including one song I'd never seen him perform before, "Hold On, I'm Comin". For those who have attended Bolton shows in the past, the format on this mini tour resembles snippets from previous shows, like a singalong Classics set with Chris Camozzi and Schyler, and a powerful rendition of "Go The Distance" and of course, the aria "Nessun Dorma" brought the house down.

This being the VINTAGE tour, three songs from the new cd were performed by Michael. "You Don't Know Me", a familiar ballad, is one of my favorites from VINTAGE. Then he did a stirring version of "If I Could", relating to the audience that this was his personal expression as a parent.

Then the bluesy, hot, simmering "Summertime" wowed the crowd with classic Bolton style and grace. The VINTAGE cds sold out at the venue on the first night!

The band, Janis and the dancers combined to present a very tight backup to Michael's voice and stage presence. Saxophone was featured prominently in these shows, too. I felt the touch of blues fit well with the VINTAGE theme, and pulled together Michael's work on other songs in the show as well.

The last several songs in the show were all about FUN! Those who follow Michael know to expect to rock to these great songs, when he has traded off his suit for his jeans and the rest is history once again! It was that familiar, versatile, talented VOICE and the beat of our favorite Bolton hits, plus an encore of "Rock Me, Baby" to climax the evening's entertainment!

I want to thank Michael, the band, the crew, and the staff that puts the tours together. I didn't take photos at this venue, but I did come home with yet another Bolton tshirt for my collection, and more great memories of Michael's gift of talent and music. I always feel like Michael sees me in the audience when I attend his concerts, and his smile makes every single mile worth going the distance! It was great to see some fan club members at these shows as well, and I introduced a local friend to her first Michael Bolton concert ever too...and she loved it, of course!

Looking forward to more fun in 2004!

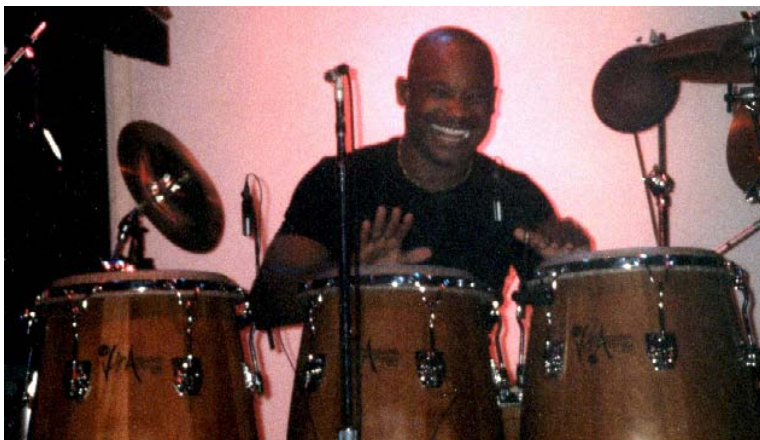
Love Always,
Linda(Live4roses)

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**SANDUSKY, OH
SANDUSKY STATE THEATER
OCTOBER 11, 2003**



Photos: Georgia Palmatier



Photos: Beth Kind

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KALAMAZOO, MI MILLER AUDITORIUM OCTOBER 12, 2003

I had two "newbie to Michael concerts" meet me in Kalamazoo for the Kalamazoo concert. They were both coming from Grand Rapids and I was coming in from the Sandusky concert the night before. Both of these girls have always liked Michael's music, so I thought a concert was in order. They had each attended one with me last year and were very excited to come to another one this year.

We meet up at the venue in plenty of time to drop one car off and venture off for dinner. The girls arrived before I did and when I got there, they were all excited and were telling me "yeah, Michael's here, we saw the busses." I said, "Have you seen Michael???" "Well no," they said, "but the busses are here." Yes, two busses were there so I told them that one was the crew bus and the other was the band bus. They thought I was kidding them and I said, "Nooooooo, Michael's not here yet, it's too early!" So, we went to dinner and came back and WA-LA bus #3 had arrived and I said, "THAT is Michael's bus!!!" And they said, "How do you know that?" I told them after they'd been to as many concerts as several of us had, ya learn to pick up on a few of the details - hehehehehehe.

We head into the venue and our tickets said row BB so I assume that they are second row as the seating map on the website wasn't a very good one. We get ushered down and the woman turns to me and says, "There is no row AA, so row BB is actually front row!" Well, I wish you could have seen the look on these girls' faces. Julie was so excited she said the hair on her arms was standing all up on end.

Anyway, if it's possible, I thought Michael's voice sounded stronger and better in Kalamazoo than it did in Sandusky. Don't get me wrong, he sounded great in Sandusky, but I don't know, it was just better is the only way to describe it. Maybe it's the acoustics in the venue. It was a pretty good crowd but I actually think the Sandusky audience was more vocal as far as fun remarks made to MB during the usual conversation with the audience. Thankfully nobody yelled "take your jacket off!" That one is getting pretty old. At the Sandusky show some guy up in the balcony hollered "Michael - ya want a ride on my Harley?" and Michael laughed (there was some big Harley doings in Sandusky that weekend too). Back to Kalamazoo. This was the same show we saw in Sandusky, I call it a little more laid back. He does several of the slow songs back to back which is okay, but at some point I'm thinkin common Michael, let's pick it up a little!! I do like that he switched some songs around and that some were different than the first show I saw in Elmira. I hope he continues to switch them up a little.

Anyway, the concert is about to end and we go up to the stage at the very end of the last song, right before they came back out for the encore. Michael came back out and us "pocket full of fans" were up there and he says to the rest of the audience, "What are ya doing way out there - - common up!!!" and then it got kinda packed. Of course he did "Rock Me" and the place was really ROCKIN then!!!

Afterwards we went out and stood by the busses. We got to chat with Tre, Janis, Dany and Monique and the girls thought it was pretty cool that these guys came out and walked right up to us and took a few minutes to spend some time with us. They were really amazed at that. Tre had his picture taken with Julie and Tamara, which they thought was pretty cool and oh, they're both smitten with Schuyler and think he is just adorable!!!

The girls have decided they want to go to "at least" two shows next year!!! I believe they're hooked.

Georgia Palmatier

Bolton On-Line Updates

Published on-line by the Michael Bolton Platinum Club

Special Tour Issue – November 2003

KALAMAZOO PHOTOS



Photos: Georgia Palmatier

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YOUNGSTOWN, OH POWERS AUDITORIUM OCTOBER 14, 2003

Brenda Wood

The day of the concert got off to a wet start as it was raining most of the day except for the time for the Auditorium to let all the concert goers inside their doors. Guess the rains must have known the MAN was in town. :-)

The Powers Auditorium is a very nice place and not sure how old the building is but the sounds from the stage sounded very good indeed. The place from what I could tell was a pretty much well packed house for Michael and the band. Thought it was very nice that the National Anthem was done with the vocal done by Louis Armstrong then the man of the hour came out on stage with the first song of the night Love Is A Wonderful Thing. He sang 18 songs three of which he did from the new Vintage CD. It was just so great to get to see and hear Michael in concert again. Did have great seats and was able to get some nice photos as it has been way to long since I had gotten any photos of our guy to share with all of you. Did take my fiance Michael with me and he enjoyed the show very much and was his first time to experience the man in action. Got to see some familiar faces too at the concert such as Micki and Laurie and Brenda Hickman among some others. All in all it was a night to remember and look forward to the next tour and to seeing those all so wonderful faces again that I have missed seeing all too much.



Photos: Brenda Wood

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**JOLIET, IL
RIALTO SQUARE THEATRE
OCTOBER 16, 2003**

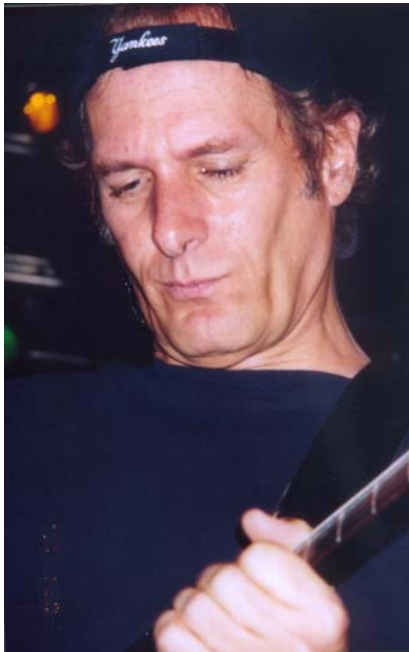


Photo: Dan Brubeck



Photo: Georgia Palmatier

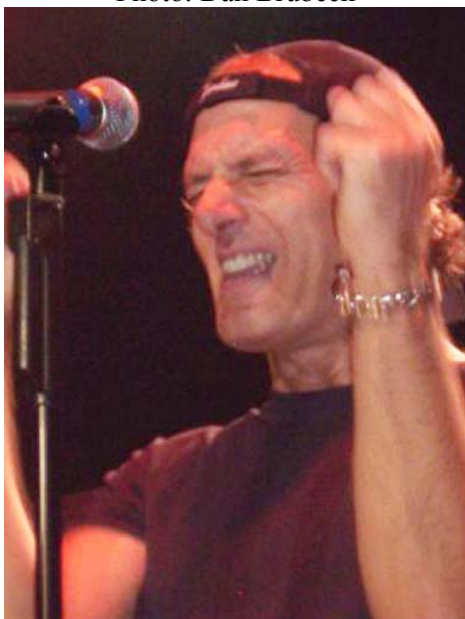


Photo: Beth Kind

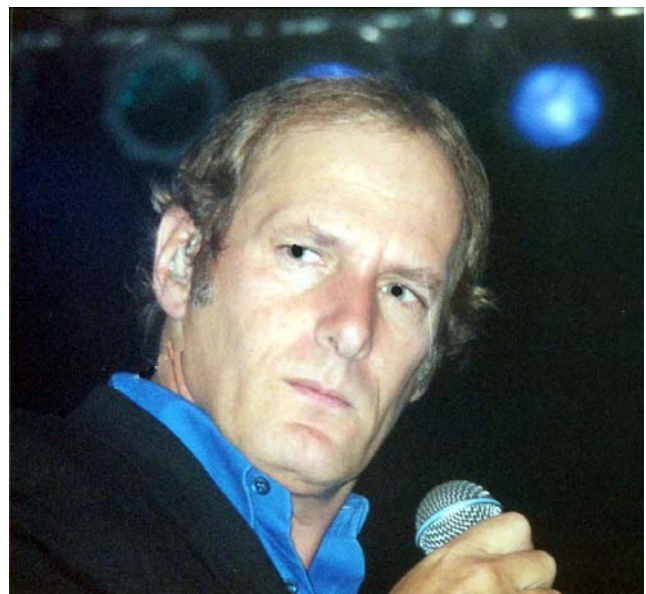


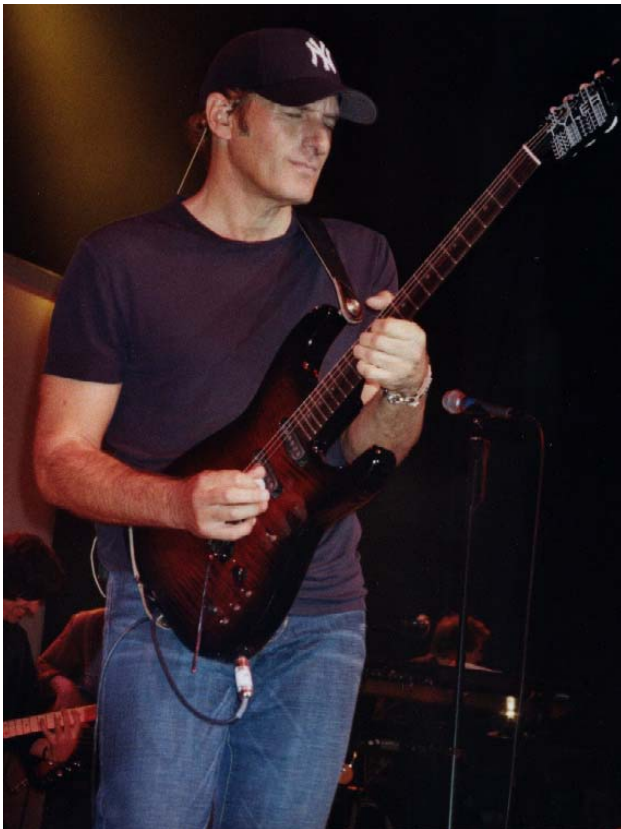
Photo: Dan Brubeck

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**JACKSON, MI
GEORGE E. POTTER CENTER
OCTOBER 18, 2003**



Photos: Georgia Palmatier

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INDIANA, PA FISHER AUDITORIUM IUP CAMPUS

I have seen Michael in concert every year since 1992 and a lot of time when I schedule seeing him perform, I visit friends across the country and it is really neat. This year was no exception. When I saw Michael in Elmira, I loved being with many Bolton buddies--some I've met; others I haven't. His concert there was so awesome. Then when I went to his concert in Bloomsburg Pennsylvania, I was with two other Bolton buddies and met up with others. But what was so cool was when I saw Michael in Indiana Pennsylvania, I met up with a pen/tape pal and we have been in touch 40 years and have never met. I met up with friends and Bolton fans along the way. If it weren't for Michael, I wouldn't have met as many people in my life and we all became friends and we either email, tape, or call. It's great. This may be a strange story but I just love his music. I really enjoy meeting his band members and singers as well. Michael's performances get better as time passes and to Michael, keep up the good work. I want and hope to see you next year and the years thereafter

Robin Rheder



Photos: Michelle Cooper

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DALLAS, TX PRIVATE CONCERT FOR KVIL October 28, 2003

Char Harris

The Vintage Tour was the first time in 11 years that I did not attend at least one concert on Michael's schedule. I handled it fairly well, just a few tears and a tad of depression! So you can imagine my excitement when I heard that KVIL would be hosting a 'Private Concert with Michael Bolton' on October 28th.

The station was going to invite only 200 people to the concert and it would be held at The Intercontinental Hotel here in Dallas. Great news! BUT..... You had to WIN the tickets. I originally heard the announcement on Tuesday, the 14th. So from that moment on, I was glued to the radio. I also checked out the KVIL website. There were two ways to win tickets. First, you had to be a member of the KVIL Listener's Club and there would be an email sent out on Friday morning, inviting you to RSVP. The other way to win was to listen to the radio and call in when the DJ made the concert announcement. The 'call in' started on Thursday. My daughter and I tried many times, using three phones. We never even got the phone to ring.

It quickly dawned on me that my best bet was thru the RSVP email. I did not know what time the emails would be sent, so I decided to sleep by my computer on Thursday night. I woke myself up about every hour and checked my inbox. Around 2:30AM, I decided to register under my Verizon server, just in case AOL was having problems. After I registered with the Listener Club, there was a 'pop-up' asking me which contest I would like to enter. I clicked on the Michael's name, and the next thing that shows up is a confirmation to the concert! I could not believe it! There was a name and number of the person at the radio station that would be handling the tickets and the first thing Friday morning, I called her. Sure enough, my name was on the list. WE WERE GOING!

Tuesday night arrived quickly. My daughter, Jennifer, was going with me and we decided to book a room at the hotel. My husband dropped me off at 3pm. My daughter was coming to the hotel from school and would arrive later. My husband told the bellman that we were there for the Michael Bolton Concert. He said, "How did you get the tickets? We have been receiving lots of calls from people saying they just HAD to have tickets. They did not believe us when we told them the hotel had nothing to do with the tickets." Apparently, Michael is very popular in Dallas!

The doors opened at 6:30 and the concert started at 7. The line stated forming around 4:30. I arrived at 4:45 and was about 8th in line. Once I was registered, KVIL gave me a purple wrist band. About an hour later, they wrote KVIL on the first 40 people in line. We were told that they had reserved three front row tables for us. At 7, the doors opened and Jennie and I got seats by the stage, in front of the microphone.

Michael was in rare form! Very relaxed, friendly and very funny! We knew we could take pictures and that Michael would be doing a Q and A with the audience. The audience was a nice mixture of men and women.

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One of Michael's first questions was about golf. The gentleman wanted to know Michael's handicap. He replied "Ten." Now I know nothing about golf, but I guess that must be pretty good because Michael received a lot of 'ooh's!' One young girl asked if Michael would give her a kiss. He agreed and said, "Do you know I am not Ted Nugent?" Another lady said it was her birthday and would Michael give her a hug. What a lucky lady! Michael was asked if his daughters have taken over his life. Michael said, "Definitely! And my career. My oldest and youngest daughters work for me." One of the ladies from KVIL told me that Isa was there with Michael. Michael did say he would be touring early next year and that Texas was definitely on the schedule.

Now to the songs. Michael sang about 8 or 9 songs. "When A Man Loves A Woman" really got the audience excited. He did three songs from the Vintage album - "You Don't Know Me", "If I Could" and "Summertime", which was excellent! Michael also did "Rock Me"....and did he ever ROCK ME! All I can say about that one was.. WOW!

The high point of the night was when we went to the stage. Michael held my daughter's hand and my hand, at the same time. It was a 'misty moment!'

After the concert, Jennie and I went into the hotel lounge for a bite to eat. Little by little, the band arrived. We spoke to Joey and Chris. I told them that I really missed Janis. They said they did too, but they had a small budget.

It was a great night and I am so grateful to Michael and KVIL!



Photo: Char Harris



Photo: Kay Lester

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Michael's Updated Schedule

11/16/03 – Performance and CD signing at the Westfield Shopping Mall in Trumbull, CT to raise money for the Westfield Works Wonders 2003

11/18/03 – 18th Annual New York Police & Fire Widow's & Children's Benefit Fund. Michael will be performing.

11/28/03 – Tentatively scheduled to begin a promotional tour and will be conducting instore CD signing at malls around the country. Watch your malls in your area for advertising

01/07/04 – 3rd Annual Michael Jordan Celebrity Invitational at Paradise Island, Bahamas

01/19/03 – Bob Hope Chrysler Classic in Rancho Mirage, CA

02/02/04 – AT&T Pebble Beach Classic in Pebble Beach, CA

Keep watch on the fan club sites for info on the 2004 tour schedule when it is made available to us.



Photo: Meri Ross

Post to an internet message board regarding the new American Idol, Clay Aiken...but seems relevant here as well...

I am a "serious" musician who has been writing songs since he was about 14(now 34). I grew up playing electric guitar (lead and rhythm) in hard rock bands and went on to become a "classical" composer (orchestra, piano, strings, and so forth). I am currently a professor of music theory and composition. I still enjoy writing "pop" songs though it is not my focus. Now that you know my background, please consider what I have to say about Clay, his album (which I thoroughly enjoy), and the music critics:

I am sure that there are many of you who are bummed about the bad reviews MOAM is receiving. Even though you probably expected it, it still gets your blood boiling, right? It's like a personal attack--"you like this garbage, so you must be stupid and gullable" seems to be the attitude of most reviewers out there.

PLEASE remember, that musicians and critics are two completely different animals. The reality is this: even the musicians who get rave reviews from critics have very little respect for music critics. Most musicians NEED good reviews, however, and so they court the critics as necessary. Sometimes a phenom like Clay comes along and simply doesn't need the reviews to succeed. The critics become irrelevant, and I imagine they don't appreciate being a footnote(not getting advance copies). I think this does explain some of the "mean" reviews. However, at the same time, I believe that these reviewers are telling the truth when they say they don't like the album. The truth is, critics are usually mediocre musicians and excellent writers(of words). I would rather read book reviews, because at least the critics are writing about their own area of expertise! When you read a pop-music review, the opinion of that particular writer is about as valid as the kid you know down the street who plays in a garage band. You know, the one who can play rhythm okay but isn't good enough to play solos. The one who thinks he is a lot better than he actually is. The one who has about as much chance of making it big as your 86 year old grandmother(unless your grandma knows Clive Davis). (continued)

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MUSICIAN'S POST (continued)

Most excellent musicians (like studio musicians who never get famous, or classical musicians who play in orchestras) are very open-minded about styles of music and wouldn't hate something simply because of the genre. That is because an advanced musician can critique a piece of music of ANY genre. To simply say that a song is bad because it is too "easy-listening" is a ridiculous way to think about music but that is exactly what most music critics do. When musicians listen to music, they say, okay, this is a heavy-metal song so I will listen with those types of ears. Is it a good heavy-metal song? To simply say it stinks BECAUSE it's a heavy-metal song is ludicrous. But that is what most reviewers nowadays do. "It's pop-pablum" they say. Or it's good because it is "edgy."

They also think Clay has no talent because he doesn't write the songs himself. Again, MUSICIANS who know anything know that some musicians are performers and some are composers. Yo-Yo Ma isn't a composer. Does that mean he has no talent? These types of reviewers reveal their mediocrity in the field of music when they make these types of generic statements. They don't know enough about chord progressions, harmonies, how to write a good melody, form, orchestration, etc. to truly critique the quality of the music. So don't get blue about the bad reviews. Laugh them off. Most musicians I have spoken with regard Measure of a Man as a great POP album. The songs are all well-written, the arrangements are strong, and Clay's performances are all outstanding. These are the types of things that MUSICIANS appreciate. Listen to the musicians, not the critics.



Photo: Dan Brubeck

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