

LOCAL

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REVIEW

Kingston Trio's new folks worthy heirs to harmony

BY ROBERT WILSON
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Three things about the Kingston Trio:

- The songs are all familiar.
- The instrumentation is the same.

- There's still three of them. But this ain't your father's Kingston Trio. None of those guys are still with the group.

No matter, this iteration of the KT is just as entertaining as the earlier versions, even without Bob Shane's guy-comes-into-a-bar jokes.

The Kingston Trio joined the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra last night for the first of two Pops concerts before a nearly full Civic Auditorium.

Hard-core KT fans could have closed their eyes and known that this was not the original group, but most everybody else probably could not tell the difference.

It doesn't matter anyway, because the current Trio, made up of Bill Zorn on guitar, Rick Dougherty on tenor guitar and the venerable George Grove on banjo, gave the Friday night crowd everything they came for.

The Trio didn't open with "Hard, Ain't It Hard" as it used to, and there are divergences from some of the arrangements the earlier group used. But hey, these aren't the same guys, so they shouldn't be expected to be a musical mirror image of the original.

However, all have played with the Trio in previous years, and Grove has been with them longer than any other banjo player.

All three are dedicated and experienced folk musicians, having played with some of the biggest names in the genre.

This Trio has the same drive and tight vocal harmonies for which the group is famous. And

if there is a detectable difference, it showed most in Zorn's rendition of Shane's bluesy "Scotch and Soda." Zorn pulled it off admirably, but his voice has a more powerful character compared to Shane's velvety breathiness.

The original Trio's uniqueness surfaced in the harmonies of the haunting "Chilly Winds," written by former Trio banjoist John Stewart and the late John Phillips of the Mamas and the Papas.

The KSO accompaniments, written by Grove, were superbly applied under the baton of Associate Conductor Cornelia Kodkani Laemml, all including a symphonic prelude to Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" that could have served as the theme to a space flick.

All in all, the fact is that the Kingston Trio has undergone a perfectly natural evolutionary process, and the result is still one fine folk group.

The Grand Rapids Press:

Music review: Kingston Trio keeps folk alive

Friday, July 20, 2007

By Jeffrey Kaczmarczyk
The Grand Rapids Press

Where have all the years gone?

Enough time has passed that most have forgotten Woody Guthrie's "This Land Is Your Land" was written as a protest against class inequality.

Enough years that folks singing "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?" have forgotten that Pete Seeger's song was, and still is, an anti-war statement.

But not so many years have gone by that people have forgotten the Kingston Trio.

The proof was 3,574 people at the Grand Rapids Symphony's Chase Picnic Pops on Thursday evening at Cannonsburg Ski Area.

Still, 50 years is a lot of years since 1957, when the Kingston Trio first put folk music on the map, garnering the success denied Seeger's quartet, the Weavers, in the McCarthy Era, while paving the way for Peter, Paul and Mary and others who followed in the 1960s.

And enough years have gone by that the trio's last founding member, Bob Shane, retired three years ago. But George Grove, Bill Zorn and Rick Dougherty are keeping the folk music revival revived with such rollicking tunes as "M.T.A." and ballads as "Tom Dooley." The group's skill as entertainers has sustained it through the lean years that followed. When Grove introduced "Greenback Dollar" as the group's most recent hit -- from 1963 -- it wasn't far from the mark.

Nor was the age of many in the audience who happily sang along with the trio.

"Looks like most of you learned it from the original records," Grove deadpanned to the audience.

In fact, fans of all ages were out in force.

Zorn, who snapped not one but two guitar strings during the show, filled Shane's shoes, singing "Scotch and Soda" with his stentorian baritone.

Dougherty, a former second-generation member of The Limeliters, gave the Kingston Trio its signature three-part harmony with his gravity-defying tenor voice.

Associate conductor John Varineau and the Grand Rapids Symphony opened the program with music from TV, movies and musicals that first became famous in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

Plenty in the audience sang along, in place of Doris Day, on "Que Sera, Sera," and shouted on "Tequila" on The Champs' one-hit wonder, "Tequila."

Where have all the years gone? At least for a couple of hours, they melted away.

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BOZEMAN DAILY CHRONICLE

Monday, July 21, 2008

News

Legendary folk group caps Livingston festival

published on Sunday, July 20, 2008 9:45 PM MDT

By DANIEL PERSON Chronicle Staff Writer

LIVINGSTON - Ken Kastelitz proudly pointed to the crowd gathered at Sacagawea Park Sunday as evidence of the success of this year's Summerfest, which has been held here on the banks of the Yellowstone River annually for nine years.



KRISTA MILLER-LARSON/CHRONICLE George Grove, Bill Zorn and Rick Dougherty, of the Kingston Trio, play old folk songs at Summerfest along the Yellowstone River in Livingston Sunday afternoon for a crowd estimated at over 3,000 people.

“On normal Summerfest Sundays, you can look through the crowd and see the other end” of the park, the director of the festival said.

But this Sunday afternoon, the crowd was a dozen people deep in any direction, feet tapping to the tunes of the biggest act to ever grace the festival's program, the Kingston Trio.

For a couple of hours the group, broadly credited with bringing folk music to a mainstream audience in the late 1950s, sang homey tunes about nights in Tijuana jails and life on the road. Their show was the last performance at the three-day festival that raised money for the Livingston Recreation Department.

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The trio, which actually consists of four players, n George Grove, Rich Dougherty, Bill Zorn and Paul Gabrielson n took the stage to rowdy applause. Their coordinated outfits spoke to an earlier time in popular music, as did their songs, which remain faithful to the original tunes, some recorded decades ago.

Zorn interspersed the songs with stories, jokes and band history.

“Looking at this crowd, you all probably remember that one from the album,” Zorn said after one tune, taking a jab at the age of many of the concertgoers.

None of the four musicians on stage Sunday was a part of the original Kingston Trio, which came onto the national stage in 1957. As the original players stepped down for various reasons, other players took their place, slowly morphing it to what it is today.

But these players weren’t new to the group, either. Zorn first played with the group in 1972. Grove has been a member of the group continuously since 1976.

Dougherty, the newest member of the group, said during a break that Livingston was a smaller venue than the group is accustomed to, but playing beneath the Absarokee Mountains beat playing in any indoor concert venue around.

“Some of the performing arts centers are very beautiful, but when you come to a small town, it’s like a vacation,” he said.

An estimated 3,000 passes were sold for this year’s Summerfest, which should bring in about \$10,000 for recreation programs in the coming year, Cathy Bergsing, Livingston’s recreation department director, said.

“We’re putting a lot of money in to the recreation department,” Kastelitz said. “It’s all for the kids. That’s why we do it.”

Kastelitz said the having the Kingston Trio as the headliner certainly brought more people out for the Summerfest, as did sharing the weekend with several Park High School class reunions.

“Stores downtown couldn’t close on time because there are so many people in town,” he said.

But if there was anything problematic about having the Kingston Trio for the fest, it was that it set the bar for future events.

“If we do it another year, we have to have a big-name band,” he said. “We can’t go back.”

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Kingston Trio songs evoke memories

The Republican.

Springfield, MA
February 6, 2006

Monday, February 06, 2006
By CLIFTON J. NOBLE Jr.

2372 Symphony Hall concertgoers took a trip down memory lane to the heady days of the mid-20th century Saturday night, as George Grove, Bill Zorn, and Rick Dougherty, aka The Kingston Trio, along with bassist Paul Gabrielson, brought their hybrid of high-balling bluegrass and fifties folk classics to a salubrious collaboration with Maestro Kevin Rhodes and the Springfield Symphony Orchestra.

Rumor had it that some folks decided against attending when they found out that none of the original trio members would be performing. Their loss! Grove, Zorn, and Dougherty are splendid stewards of the repertoire. They played and sang with the energy of conviction and love of the music, and the warmth of their engagement spread over their audience like sunrise over a midwestern cornfield.

Grove turned in better banjo playing than you'll ever hear on the original records, and served admirably as the trio's jester and spokesperson. A former music major, Army band member, and Nashville studio musician, Grove created all the trio's orchestral arrangements. The finest of these was built around Woody Guthrie's anthem "This Land is Your Land." With the American sound of Copland's music in his mind's ear and an understanding of orchestral color at his fingertips, Grove crafted an exquisite introduction to Guthrie's famous sing-and-clap-along travellin' ballad. Other clever orchestrations were applied to the classic "Tom Dooley" and John Stewart's "Chilly Winds."

Grove also paid the orchestra a heartfelt and appreciated compliment when he praised them for their fine music-making

but also for making the trio feel at home during their collaboration. Indeed, many of the SSO instrumentalists were singing along during their measures of rest (some string players sang along while playing).

Nearly every number the trio essayed was greeted with warm recognition and applause. Surveying the crowd, Grove quipped, "looks like most of you learned these from the original records." "MTA," recounting the misadventures of Charley on the Boston subway system (they updated the "sandwich" that Charley's wife hands him through the car window to a "Starbucks") ignited one of the most earnest ovations.

Close on its heels in popularity came "Tom Dooley," and "Worried Man," but we had to wait for the encores to hear the poignant and timeless "Where Have All the Flowers Gone" (deliciously orchestrated by Grove), and a raucous ramble through "California (I'm Going Home)."

Bill Zorn acquitted himself admirably as the singer of "Scotch and Soda," one of the trio's most requested numbers. Nowhere did the trio capture the exultant ring of the original recordings with greater success than in the refrain of "Reverend Mr. Black, hawing "You've got to walk that lonesome valley" with gooseflesh-raising fervor.

Rhodes and the orchestra opened the concert with a rambunctious set including headlong rides through Leroy Anderson's "Chicken Reel" and "Fiddle Faddle," abbreviated versions of three Scott Joplin Rags ("Easy Winners," "The Entertainer" and "Ragtime Dance") popularized in the score to "The Sting," and John Williams' jaunty "The Cowboys" overture.



JIM SHANNON REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

The Kingston Trio played to a large crowd Friday night at the Warner Theatre in Torrington.

'Trio' just terrific in Torrington

Songs bring back a long-gone era for many in the crowd

BY JOYCE PECK
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

TORRINGTON — The 50- and 60-something crowd flocked to the Warner Theatre Friday night and went home happy.

The Kingston Trio was in town.

Yup, the group (albeit with different players) that was, arguably, the most popular folk group in the world from the late '50s into the early '60s.

Their hair was grayer and thinner, but the voices were still strong belting out golden standards like "Tijuana Jail" and

"I ENJOYED THEM WHILE I WAS IN COLLEGE IN THE LATE '50'S."

**FAITH POLIQUIN
TORRINGTON RESIDENT**

"Greenback Dollar."

And the crowd joyfully sang along.

They sang of riding on the (Boston) "MTA," perhaps the group's signature recording, and "Early Morning Rain."

The Kingston Trio was to college kids (and many still in high school) in the '50s and '60s what Green Day and rappers Kanye West and 50 Cent are to today's crop of young folks and under-

See **CONCERT**, Page 2B

Ticket sales hit low note for classic opera at Palace

BY STEVE GAMBINI
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

WATERBURY — Sales for the Palace Theater's production of "La Traviata" were so poor the theater took the unprecedented step of offering patrons two-for-one deals on tickets.

"We're trying to move it along and we're trying to get some people in here," said Frank Tavera, executive director of the theater.

In a city which still retains a large Italian-speaking population and once played host to

To Know More:
www.palacetheaterct.org

great tenors such as Enrico Caruso, the anemic support for a work by one of Italy's best-loved grand opera composers had Tavera stumped.

As of Friday afternoon only 500 tickets had been sold for that evening's performance and sales for the Sunday matinee were approaching 900 in the 2,600-seat venue.

See **OPERA**, Page 2B

CONCERT: Provides blast from folksy past

Continued from 1B

graduates.

They heralded in an era of popular folk music and have left a trail of memorable tunes they continue to perform across the country.

The crowd was mixed age-wise Friday night. But most grew up with the group (and are mostly now in their late 50s or early 60s) and many brought their children and grandchildren.

Holly Trumbull of Winsted was a Kingston Trio groupie when she was 19. She recalled a summer spent trailing the group from Boston to Provincetown at the tip of Cape Cod and back, riding with friends in a pink car.

And Pat Plourde of Torrington first saw them in Jamestown, N.Y., before they made a record.

"They wore khaki pants and light blue button-down shirts. They were very young," Plourde said.

Today's Kingston Trio is a second-generation group. None of the original three were here. The present trio includes George Grove, who joined the group in 1976; Bill Zorn, who replaced Bob Shane; and Rick Dougherty, who came on board last year.

Susan Strand, a Torrington resident, still hears some of the Kingston Trio melodies in her head and can sing "Sloop John B" a cappella to this day.

"It makes me harken back to my earlier days. I came with a group of friends. The words are still going to be in

my head," she said.

Faith Poliquin of Torrington got two special tickets to the performance that included admission to an after-concert meet-and-greet from her daughters as a birthday present.

"I enjoyed them while I was in college in the late '50's," said Poliquin, a graduate of St. Joseph's College in West Hartford.

A retired Wamogo Regional High School English teacher, Poliquin said she especially likes the song, "Tom Dooley," a ballad. She used the song when teaching her English classes.

"There was a section on ballads, and it was fun to bring in (the Kingston Trio) song," she said.

Many old fans called the Warner in advance, asking if Shane, the last member of the group still performing, would be in Friday's concert, said Steve Criss, the Warner's marketing director.

Shane left the trio in March 2004 for health reasons, Criss said. The original group included Shane, Nick Reynolds and Dave Guard, the founder who died in 1991. Reynolds retired in 1999, but Shane kept the group going with new talent.

Their first big hit was "Tom Dooley" in 1958.

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