

Sounds like summer: Jeans 'n' Classics, KSO unite on Beach Boys tunes

Tuesday, January 18, 2011 — By William R. Wood | Kalamazoo Gazette

KALAMAZOO — In an odd twist, the music of the Beach Boys is going to be performed by a trio of beach girls at the upcoming pops concert “Endless Summer” by the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra.

The group, Jeans 'n Classics, that will perform with the KSO in the Jan. 29 concert at Western Michigan University's Miller Auditorium, has three lead singers, Andrea Koziol, Leah Salomaa and Kathryn Rose.

That's OK except that Beach Boys music is mostly about guys infatuated with California girls, guys infatuated with cars and guys falling in love with girls named “Rhonda.”

Thom Andrews, public relations director of the KSO doesn't think the gender issue will make much of a difference because the Pops concert is all in fun.

“One of the things Jeans 'n Classics does is that they don't try to imitate,” Andrews said. “They are not portraying the artists like the Classical Mystery Tour (the recent Beatles tribute band that played on the pops series). They are engaging, entertaining and designed to connect the orchestra with the rock music of people's past.”

One singer, Kathryn Rose, said the group takes the themes of the songs in stride.

“We don't really worry about the teen-age perspective,” Rose said by phone from Toronto. “We try to get into the spirit of the era, the girls wear some fun clothes from the era. Audiences are usually surprised by the relaxed atmosphere.”

The KSO's last pops show in November with Classical Mystery Tour, drew a good crowd —some were in tears (of joy), Andrews said. Jeans 'n Classics sang the music of Queen with the KSO in February.

“Endless Summer,” will be serving as a benefit fundraiser for six local Rotary clubs raising money to fight polio.

Rotary clubs worldwide has been trying to end polio for the last 27 years, said Matthew Lechel, a local Rotary representative. More than 400 local Rotarians are in support of the fundraiser and have been selling tickets.

Internationally, Bill Gates has put up a matching grant of \$255 million, and the concert is the way that local Rotary chapters are doing their part to match the grant, Lechel said.

A reception for \$25 will follow at WMU's Richmond Center for Visual Arts. The gala will be attended by Jeans 'n Classics performers.

http://www.mlive.com/entertainment/kalamazoo/index.ssf/2011/01/sounds_like_summer_jeans_n_cla.html



Jeans 'n Classics Inc.

265 Ridout Street South
London, ON N6C 3Y7 Canada
(519) 439-1370
jeansnclassics@mac.com