

## STREET SCENE

## Singer lovin' every minute of sticking with Loverboy



CHRISTINA FUCCO

Loverboy singer Mike Reno guarantees that his band's show at The Palace of Auburn Hills on Friday will be "a total blast."

"We play all the hits. We can't get away without playing the hits. We get yelled at so we play 'Working for the Weekend,' 'Lovin' Every Minute of It,' 'Hot Girls in Love,' all of it. We've been working this same act for the last few years. We have a pretty good show down, if I may say so myself," said Reno via telephone from a taxi cab in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Loverboy will also work some new material into the set list.

"The (new) stuff that we've been playing live is a little more blues based with slide guitar and everything," Reno said.

The new album, due out in the spring, may also include a song that Reno co-wrote with David Foster that he's been "kicking around." He's also talking with his machine Diane Warren, who penned "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing" for Aerosmith, as well as a slew of other hits about writing a song for Loverboy.

For Loverboy fans who can't wait that long, there's a live record on the horizon.

"We recorded it this summer. We've got live performances in six venues. We did a couple in Texas, a couple in Myrtle Beach, and one at the House of Blues. There's a lot of good places."

The "good places" did not include Pine Knob Music Theatre, but Reno is looking forward to returning to the summer shed's sister venue The Palace of Auburn Hills.

"We're going to play all the

classic hits and the group takes a little bit of solos here and there. It's an hour and a half to 2-hour show, depending on how many encores we get. It's right-in-your-face Loverboy."

Loverboy and Blue Oyster Cult perform at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, at The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills. Tickets are \$10 and \$15. For more information, call (248) 377-0100 or visit <http://www.palacenet.com>.

## Resting at home

Singer/songwriter Stewart Francke has been released from the Karmanos Cancer Institute in Detroit after undergoing a stem cell transplant for the treatment of chronic phase leukemia. His sister was his donor and preliminary testing shows the transplant is successful. Francke spent 40 days in the hospital.

Two projects close to Francke have been released recently.

Francke's latest CD "Sunflower-Soul Serenade" has sold more than his three previous albums despite his inability to play live.

Also in stores is "Two Guitars, Bass and Drums ... Songs for Survival," a compilation CD that includes performances by Days of the New, Billy Mann, Francke, Kevin Sanderson, Jill Jack, the now-defunct Chirn Farm, and Mary Cutrufello. Sales of the CD benefit the Stewart Francke Leukemia Foundation, which has raised more than \$75,000 through a fundraiser at the Fox Theatre and donations. For more information about Francke, visit <http://www.concentric.net/~francke>.

## Mise.

Radio station WCSX has released "Parodies for Charity II," a collection of 30 songs and commercial parodies from JJ and the Morning Crew.

Included on the CD is "White

House Nights," "C-C-Coleman," "Ballad of the Dark Heret," "Father's Little Helper," "Frank Turner Overdrive," "Mainstreet: Royal Oak," "Bomb Iraq" and "Olie The Goalie." The CD, which retails for \$10, is available at all Harmony House stores or by visiting <http://www.wcsx.com>.

A portion of the proceeds from the sale of "Parodies for Charity II" go to the Gleaners Community Food Bank and The Food Bank of Oakland County.

The alternative rock band Conception has signed a three-year contract with Stryker Records of Green Bay, Wis. The band, featured on the Detroit Red Wings CD-ROM yearbook, will record a follow-up to its debut album "Tame" in February at Smart Studios in Madison, Wis.

In the meantime, you can catch the band at The Heidelberg in Ann Arbor on Dec. 19, Grift's Grill in Pontiac on Dec.

26, The Blind Pig in Ann Arbor on Jan. 1, Lili's in Hamtramck on Jan. 16, and Cross Street Station in Ypsilanti on Jan. 20.

Tickets for "The High Mileage Road Show" with Alan Jackson, Sara Evans, Chad Brock, Clint Daniels, Danni Leigh and Andy Griggs, at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, at The Palace of Auburn Hills, 2 Championship Dr., Auburn Hills, go on sale at 10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 19. Prices are \$25.50 and \$32.50. For more information, call (248) 377-0100 or (248) 645-6666.

Christina Fucco is the pop music reporter for The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers. If you have a question or comment for her, you can leave her a message at (734) 953-2047, mailbox No. 2130, or write to her at The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia, Mich. 48150, or [cfucco@ec.homecomm.net](mailto:cfucco@ec.homecomm.net).

## Musical brings Peanuts gang together

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown," continues through Sunday, Dec. 27, at the Fisher Theatre in Detroit. Tickets \$25.50 to \$49, call (248) 645-6666.

BY KEELY WYGONIK

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"Happiness is — two kinds of ice cream, finding your skate key, getting along."

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown," now playing at the Fisher Theatre, captures the magic of childhood through the eyes of the Peanuts gang. "Happiness," "Supertime," and "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," are among the memorable songs in this musical that's not just for kids.

"We're catching people by surprise. They're not expecting a fulfilling show," said Anthony Rapp who plays Charlie Brown.

"Happiness is finding a pencil," one in particular, said Rapp. "Charlie Brown finds the Little Red Head Girl's pencil and it has teeth marks on it. He discovers that she worries too. All the different characters are five, but they really view the world through adult eyes with a mixture of innocence. It's a day in the life of the characters, a series

of vignettes."

Rapp, who created the role of Mark Cohen in the Off Broadway, Broadway and London productions of "Rent," portrays Charlie Brown in show, which features book, music and lyrics by Clark Gesner. "He's the kid who's always sitting alone at lunchtime. He loses baseball games, but the thing I love about him the most is he never gives up. He always gives his heart and soul, and that's admirable."

Originally designed with minimal sets and costumes, the new production, which stops "in Detroit as part of a six-city try-out before opening on Broadway in mid-February, has some surprises. "When you see Snoopy's dog house, it looks like a dog house," said Rapp.

Rapp is enjoying the show, and has fond memories of Michigan. "Two of the most amazing summers of my life were spent at Interlochen," he said. "It's an incredible, supportive atmosphere. People can go and meet other people who are like themselves. It's a beautiful setting, but they really view the world through adult eyes with a mixture of innocence. It's a day in the life of the characters, a series

in four different shows."

For those who have seen "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," besides sets and costumes, there are some other new things too. "The songs are great, and they've been slightly updated," said Rapp. "They've been given a little more energy and a

boost. They're absolutely memorable songs."

"Beethoven Day," one of the new songs, which debuted when the musical opened in Detroit on Dec. 16, was written by Andrew Lipka of Oak Park, the show's musical supervisor. The song is sung by the character Schroeder.

## "A BLOCKBUSTER ADVENTURE!"



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