'Keep on Rollin'

Styx, REO & Journey come to Joe Louis Arena

BY LAKA MINI STAFF WRITER

REO Speedwagon singer Kevin Cronin is experiencing a lot of per-sonal energy these days. It's not surprising since REO is in the midst of a popularity resur-gence. Turn on the radio and chances are a REO Speedwagon consultible on spory.

chances are a REO Speedwagon song will be on soon. If Keep On Lavin' You isn't flowing through the airwaves, songs by Styx or Journey might be instead. It's this three-band concert Thursday, June 12, at Joe Louis Arena that's causing the buzz (originally the show was scheduled for DTE).

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Prime seats cost as much as a Lollapalooza or Pearl Jam ticket and they're selling steadily.
On a break from playing with his young twin sons in California last week, Cronin talked about the tour that he calls an experiment.
We've played with Styx in the past and were friends with the Journey guys, Cronin said. But when you have all three bands playing one concert — and we are all the headliners — you have a great mixture of competitiveness, friendship and positive energy where everyone just plays better. It will be very interesting to hear.
Cronin said heav very sincere when he says the Detroit show is a highlight.

he says the Detroit show is a highlight.

"Every show is going to be different, but Detroit? Cmon, it's Detroit. Detroit is a rock n' roll town and every band out there knows it. It's not a cliche when they say it. It's the audience that gives us such greatenersy and it's the fantastic radio there that helps it all along. Detroit is always a city that bands look forward to."

Cronin wouldn't specify if the three bands will all perform togeth-

IN CONCERT

Who: REO Speedwagon, Journey and

Where: Joe Louis Arena, 600 Civic Center Dr., Detroit

When: 7 p.m. Thursday, June 12 Tickets: \$35-\$57, at the box office or call Ticketmaster (248) 645-5666.

er on stage. However he said the stage is open to improv. Fans of the classies by REO, Styx and Journey should appreciate this tour since it's about the hist.

We're sticking with the big guns: each band only has about 70 minutes to perform, so it needs to be compact. We'll be hitting the gas every single night the witole way through. Cronin said.

And he isn't tired of singing Ridin'the Storm Out.

Believe it or not, I'm still trying to improve it', he said.

Fans will hear songs like Roll with the Changes and That Ain't Love by REO. And they can expect Renegade from Styx and Open Arms by Journey. With Styx will be band members formmy Shaw, James JY Young, Glen Burtnik, Lawrence Gowman and Todd Sucherman.

Dennis DeYoung won't be there. Lead vocalist Steve Perry, won't be with Journey; instead Steve Augeri is the frontman. Nell Schon and Ross Valory are the only original members with the band.

PERSONAL

Cronin knows REO songs were personal for tecnagers who grew up listening the band — those songs personal for him too.

'It's embarrassing to admit, but I was more honest in my music than I was in my real relationships. ... Those songs helped me through a lot growing up ... and I hear they impacted others. Some songs are

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"It's embarrassing to admit, but I was more honest in my music than I was in my real relationships...
Those songs helped me through a lot growing up... and I hear they impacted others. Some songs are timeless if the lyrics are honest."
Still, some of the hits might sound different when performed live.
"I could do an acoustic version of That Aint Love if it seems appropriate for the moment. We can take a song that everyone knows and discover something brand new, sometimes it can take years for a song to grow up. They evolve if you let it happen.

As for the future of REO: Cronin isn't ready to discuss it.
The band has been rolling for 30 years and this tour is taking on its own wild life that will probably be extended beyond the currently 45 scheduled shows.
To maintain serenity on the tour, REO travels with a bamboo plays has helped their lives fall into interesting places. (Cronin's complex feel-



Keyin Cronin, lead singer of REO Speedwagon, said It's not a cliché when musicians praise Detroit as a rock n' roll city. REO's upcoming show with Styx and Journey is a hot ticket.

ings about Lucky the Bamboo can be visited on www.speedwagon.com.) And at the concert, look hard, because Lucky might even be seen somewhere on REO's stage. When the tour is over, Cronin will take time to be alone with his fami-

ly. For the moment, however, his family is his bandmates and the crew from Styx and Journey.

And the wheel in the sky keeps turning and they don't know where they'll be tomorrow.

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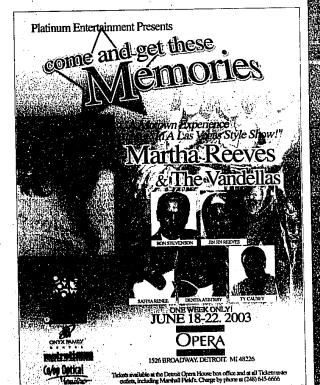
See Pavarotti at The Palace, Sept. 21

Tickets are now on sale for Luciano Pavarotti at The Palace 4 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 21 at Tickets are \$177.50, \$92.50 and \$47.50 reserved. In addi-tion, Michigan Opera Theatre is hosting its annual Opera Ball immediately following the

concert, featuring Pavarotti as the guest of honor. Fremium concert seats in the first twenty rows are available for MOT VIP Patrons and Opera Ball attendees. For tick-ets and information, call (313) 237-0425.

Tickets available at Palacenet.com, The Palace Box Office and all Ticketmaster

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