

## 'Keep on Rollin'

### Styx, REO & Journey come to Joe Louis Arena



Kevin 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.

#### IN CONCERT

**Who:** REO Speedwagon, Journey and Styx  
**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) 645-6666.

**'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.'**

Kevin Cronin  
REO Speedwagon singer

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

"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 whole 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 Tommy 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. Neil Schon and Ross Valory are the only original members with the band.

#### PERSONAL

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

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Still, some of the hits might sound different when performed live. "I could do an acoustic version of *That Ain't 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 plant named Lucky, which Cronin says has helped their lives fall into interesting places. (Cronin's complex feel-

ings about Lucky the Bamboo can be visited on [www.speedwagon.com](http://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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