

Helen Marketti's Music Corner

Bill Medley



Bill Medley of The Righteous Brothers will be doing a show at Hoover Auditorium in Lakeside, Ohio on Saturday, May 24.

As soon as classic music fans hear the name Bill Medley, they are automatically taken



on a musical journey in their mind of the beautiful, soulful hits of The Righteous Brothers as well as their solo careers. A seeming never ending catalog

of hits, You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin', Unchained Melody, (You're My) Soul and Inspiration, (I've Had) The Time of My Life and more!

A career spanning over fifty years is something that Bill feels very grateful. "I started recording in 1962 with Bobby Hatfield. We recorded, Little Latin Lupe Lu and fifty-two years later, I am still singing the song. I sometimes feel as though that part of my life were a dream, similar to an out of body experience. Someone asked me when I was going to retire and I said I would have to get a job first. (laughs) This has been my dream ever since I was fifteen years old. It's still amazing that people want to hear all of these songs. I love it."

Bill continues, "My daughter, McKenna travels with our tour. She sings, (I've Had) The Time of My Life with me. It makes it fun to have her on the road. Traveling can get tough with airport security and all of the steps you have to take. It can wear you down but the traveling is worth it because then I get to do what I love."

In April, Bill's autobiography "The Time of My Life: A Righteous Brother's Memoir" was released by Da Capo Press. "There have been so many incredible stories in my life," said Bill. "The highlights were great and the low points were very dark. I talked it over with my family. I decided I wanted to leave something behind for my grandchildren. It was good to get all of those thoughts and stories out of my head and onto paper. I even came to grips with a few Righteous Brothers struggles that had been on my mind over time."

"One thing that I learned while I was writing the book is that we went through many struggles and it didn't have to be that way. There was a difference of comfort level between Bobby and me. I had later learned that he didn't sign up to be a huge star and take on all of the pressure. He had this amazing gift to sing and it sling-shotted

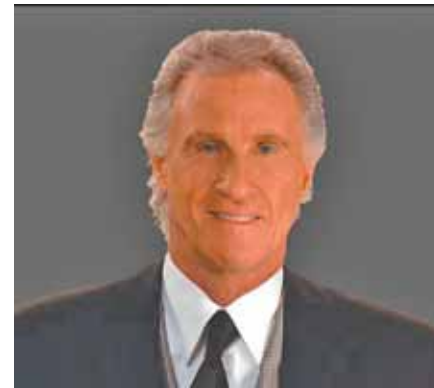
him into an area that he may not have felt comfortable with nor was ready. On the other hand, I had more of a business mind so it didn't bother me. Looking back now, I can see how it affected him. The first three or four years of our career were mostly Southern California based. Once we recorded You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin' and appeared on the TV Show, Shindig, we became a huge, national rock and roll show. Bobby was fine early in our career because there was no pressure but the more popular we became is when things started changing. I was comfortable with what we were doing and I couldn't understand why he was nervous."

"Our come back years were great," remembers Bill. "The movie Top Gun used the song, You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin' and about a year later, Unchained Melody was used in the movie, Ghost. Our career was hotter than ever. At that time, we were passed all of those early days and were able to enjoy our celebrity and do shows for fans who wanted to hear the music. There was no longer any pressure. Bobby passed away in 2003. He was quite a character and a

funny, funny man. Our relationship was like a marriage. It was up and down. We didn't have as good communication as perhaps we should have. We never argued which was good news and bad news. It helped us to stay together and perform but it didn't allow us to grow and when you are without good communication, you start to drift apart and if I had to wish anything, I wish we would have had better communication."

"The 60s was a time for many dramatic events, especially if you were between the ages of 16 and 25. I think Lovin' Feelin' was one of the first, heavy love songs about breaking up. I think young people could identify with such a dramatic love song," said Bill. "Bobby and I met at the age of 21. We both listened to R and B music so it was unusual for two white guys to sound the way we did. We were blue-eyed soul as they called us."

Bill is looking forward to his show at Hoover Auditorium in Lakeside on May 24th. "I will sing all of The Righteous Brothers hits as well as my own. I always incorporate humor and stories into the show.



I have a great band. I think everyone should come on out and see the show because I'm still having the time of my life!"

For ticket information: www.lakesideohio.com

For more information on Bill Medley: www.billmedley.com

"The Time of My Life: A Righteous Brother's Memoir" is available on Amazon.com

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