

NOW WE'RE TALKIN'

By Helen Marketti

A CONVERSATION WITH STEVE PORCARO OF TOTO

TOTO will be performing at the Hard Rock Rocksino in Northfield Park on Wednesday, August 31. It promises to be an evening filled with great memories and familiar hits, *Hold the Line*, *Africa*, *I Will Remember*, *Rosanna*, *Make Believe* and many more. Keyboardist, Steve Porcaro recently took some time to discuss his musical influences, inspiration and longevity of the band.

"There was a lot of music in my house when I was growing up. My dad was a musician.

We listened to jazz and classical," remembers Steve. "When my brothers (Jeff & Mike) and I saw The Beatles on The Ed Sullivan Show we freaked out because that was our first band to watch. We were enamored with their presence. It hit us like a ton of bricks; not only their



music but their style, their look and of course all of those screaming girls!"

Steve had an interest and fascination with playing the keyboard. "I was always attracted to playing the organ because it had all of those bells and whistles. I remember as a kid attending an event with my parents and seeing a young guy playing a theater organ. He was playing standards from The Great American Songbook. I thought he was amazing. I was completely taken in by all of the buttons and switches on the organ. I went crazy when I first saw a synthesizer." (laughs)

"Practicing the piano was drudgery unless you're really good. It becomes more of a chore and not enjoyable," said Steve. "When I became interested in playing the keyboard I started leaning towards the other guys out there like Ray Manzarek of The Doors. I had always liked commercial music, Top 40 and songs with a good hook but I was also into Emerson, Lake and Palmer plus the band, YES. I love R & B and the earlier work of Edgar Winter. Some of my other heroes growing up were studio musicians like Leon Russell who went from being a studio musician to an artist."

TOTO has been around for over forty years. Their songs are signature staples. "Our music is strong and has stood the test of the time. You're not going to hear TOTO on Top 40 Radio any time soon but there are people out there who still appreciate good music," explains Steve. "Our band has *never* been in danger of just phoning it in or going through the motions. We play hard and work hard for the people that like our music. We love it."

Inspiration for song writing can come from a variety of sources. "We are inspired by our kids, life and our own mortality," said Steve. "It makes you realize that all of us are not going to be here forever. While we have a gift to give, it should be shared. Adult events happen in our lives. It isn't always a perfect love story, its real experiences. You want to write about what people can relate to and they can identify with certain songs as they get older."

"When I am not working with the band or on the road, I am usually scoring and writing music for films," said Steve. "We are getting ready to go on tour. I am looking forward to it. I love Cleveland and looking forward to playing at the Rocksino. It feels great to be one of the original band members of TOTO. We have had a special bond since the beginning. I took a 27-year break from the band. I needed to take a break. I have been back for 5 years and it feels great. I am glad to get back into the studio with the band. We have more projects coming up and it's exciting!"

For more information: <http://totoofficial.com/>

Traditional Mexican Food & Drinks

Luisa's Mexican Grill

(440) 466-3327

luisasmexican.com

& PONCHO'S CANTINA

OPEN FRI. & SAT. 5-9 WITH A FULL MENU!

Try a **Watermelon** or **Raspberry** or **Mango Margarita** or **Daiquiri**, **Mexican Bull Frog** or **Michilada**.

New....
Meat Lovers **Burrito** or **Chimi!**
and you must try Brittany's own **Handmade Fried Ice Cream!!**

Follow us on Facebook

August 12th • Nick & Rick - Patio

August 13th • Cat Lilly - Cantina

August 19th • Just Gary - Patio

August 20th • TBA

August 26th • Just Gary - Patio

August 27th • Rich Rose - Cantina

LIVE MUSIC 5:30 to 8:30

WE DELIVER! VISIT...TO2U.NET

41 North Broadway • Geneva

Luisa's Hours: Tues & Wed 4-8 • Thur, Fri, Sat-11:30-9

Now accepting applications for all positions.

PATIO IS OPEN!

AIR CONTITIONED!

Briquettes Smokehouse

405 Morton Dr. Ashtabula Ohio 44004

AUG 2016:

12th: Mike Brown (open mic host)

13th: Sean Clark & Brenna Bone

19th: Mike Brown (open mic host)

20th: Tyler Smilo

"Award Winning BBQ, Great Selection of Craft Beers, and awesome Live Music!"

phone: (440) 964-2273

briquettesmokehouse.com

mediamanifesto.info