

BJ Thomas to headline Rock, Pop & Doo Wop



In four decades, BJ Thomas has sold 70 million records, earned two Platinum and 11 Gold records, won five Grammy Awards and has had 15 Top 40 Pop/Rock Hits. Now he is challenged with headlining one of the most exciting concerts in Baton Rouge, Friends of LPB's second annual doo wop concert **Rock, Pop & Doo Wop**.

Rock, Pop & Doo Wop will be held on Sat, June 28 at the Baton Rouge River Center Theatre for the Performing Arts for two shows.

BJ's most memorable hits include "Raindrops Keep Fallin' on my Head," "Eyes of a New York Woman," "Hooked on a Felling," "Rock 'n' Roll Lullaby," and "I Just Can't Help Believing." Not only is he known for his rock and pop music, he has also had 10 Top 40 Country chart hits. His country fame earned him a spot on the PBS special "Legends of Country" which aired during LPB's Winterfest pledge drive.

BJ will be joined by some of the most popular musicians of the 50's, 60's and 70's including Shirley Alston Reeves, Gene Chandler, The Coasters, Jay Siegel of The Tokens and The Toys.

The Shirelles you may remember, but you will never get their legendary lead vocalist Shirley Alston Reeves. Together the group produced hits including "Dedicated," "Soldier Boy," "Mama Said," "Tonight's the Night" and "Baby It's You." Reeves also sang the lead vocals for "Will You Still Love Me Tomorrow" penned by super singer/songwriter Carole King was featured in the colossal hit movie "Dirty Dancing."

Back for his second year for the Friends of LPB doo wop concert, Gene Chandler is ready to put his audience in a "Groovy Situation." Gene is known by all as the "Duke of Earl" which was his first hit that topped the pop and R&B charts in 1962 and launched his career.

With his other memorable hits "Rainbow" and "A Man's Temptation," Gene has put six songs in the Top 40, earned one Gold record and won the title of "Producer of the Year." His superbly rich voice and outstanding stage performance should not be missed.

The original lead of The Tokens, Jay Siegel will be joined by Jay Traynor of Jay and the Americans to perform The Tokens' classics including "Portrait of my Love," "La Bamba," and "B'Wanina." Nothing could be better than seeing The Tokens perform their smash hit "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," which sold over three million copies and went #1 in 1961, at the **Rock, Pop & Doo Wop** concert.

In September 1965, "A Lover's Concerto" by The Toys entered the charts and in just ten short weeks surpassed The Beatles, The Supremes, Elvis Presley, The Rolling Stones, The Four Tops and Stevie Wonder. The song reached number one and stayed there for six weeks. The Toys led by Barbara Harris became an instant hit selling over a million records.

The final member of the **Rock, Pop & Doo Wop** concert is none other than Carl Gardner and the Coasters. With 10 Top 40 Hits like "Poison Ivy," "Charlie Brown," and "Yakety Yak" it's no wonder The Coasters are labeled "the clown princess of rock 'n' roll." In 1987, The Coasters were the first group inducted into the "Rock and Roll Hall of Fame" in Cleveland, OH. After 50 years the Coasters are still going strong under the leadership of original member Carl Gardner who maintains the same style and quality of the days of rock 'n' roll.

With an all-star line-up like this, no wonder this is the must see concert of the summer. Tickets start at \$45 and can be ordered through the Friends of LPB Box Office at www.lpb.org/friendsboxoffice or by calling the Friends of LPB ticket line at 1-888-769-5000 or 225-767-4214.