

“Falling In Love With Steve March-Tormé”

Feature by Janice Marie Wilson/Jetsetters Magazine Editor

Falling in love is often a mysterious and serendipitous experience. It can leave you breathless, mesmerized, high on life and quite euphoric. Falling in love is priceless. It makes you feel alive. It makes your heart race for all the right reasons and leaves you with a feeling that life is beautiful and everything is truly miraculous. Falling in love makes everything look and feel extra ordinary. Feelings are deeper, a touch is more sensual, and a song more meaningful. I had forgotten how wonderful falling in love was until last Friday night, when I attended the Steve March-Torme performance at the Smith Center in Las Vegas, Nevada. It's worth coming to Las Vegas just to see him and his musical jazz band.

Because you will surely “fall in love.”

Walking into the Smith Center Cabaret Room is like going back in time when it was easy to fall in love. The room exudes elegance and romance. The small circular dark wood cabaret tables, rounded back chairs, amazing acoustical sound system, and art deco decor sets the stage for that perfect moment to occur. It's an intimate room with every seat being the best in the house. The service staff is impeccable and reminiscent of that bygone era when everyone was treated like royalty. You can order a special cocktail, small plate dinners/appetizers or an elegant glass of wine. The lighting is low and romantic. As a hush came over the room, the lights dimmed even further, I glanced around in eager anticipation. Everyone was clinking glasses and enjoying the ambiance. I felt butterflies in my stomach starting to circle as if I was going on a first date.

Steve March-Tormé casually strolled onto a small stage amidst a band of four musicians. I was happily surprised at

how handsome he was. Dressed in a grey suit with beautiful shoes, his hair was a bit tousled as he took the microphone and smiled with his eyes. The stage lights grew brighter and with an unassuming gesture to the band ... BAM BAM BAM the evening took off the ground never to land until after the last standing ovation. His musical talent and smooth style were authentic, honest and true. The sounds of the evening rang with a clarity and freedom of sheer bliss. He moved on stage with a grace of a seasoned performer and the boyish charm of your first love. He performed all the old jazz melodies with freshness and brilliance that made you feel life was all shiny and new. It was as if he was singing "I Only Have Eyes For You" just to you!

Steve March-Tormé is a singer/songwriter who captured everyone's heart that night with an "emotionally honest" evening of artistry. His original songs painted a picture with musical notes that made us laugh out loud, get misty eyed, and kept our toes tapping. As a story teller, he invited us to partake in all the fabulous places where only jazz lives, like "Swingin' at the Blue Moon Bar and Grille."

Steve claims he's more of a jazz-pop singer. Yet, he main stages his performance with his "Scat Dat" jazz improvisation that brought the house down. His perfect pitch blended with the rhythmic spontaneity of the single rapid fire notes was hep-cat. His performance bridges a few generations of music and goes back to the "Great American Songbook." His repertoire includes some great old tunes from Tony Bennett to Frank Sinatra to Mel Tormé, who by the way is Steve's father. He expertly segues into some Broadway tunes with a jazz waltz arrangement of "I've Grown Accustomed to Her Face," that has a lilt and freshness that made everyone smile.

The way he sang Stevie Wonder's, "Creepin'", I gained a whole new appreciation for the art of song writing and Steve

March Torme's mastery in musical arrangements. His Ray Charles inspired, "You Don't Know Me" had impeccable phrasing, which he followed with "The Way You Look Tonight," and then the upbeat syncopation of "Lover Come Back To Me." His musical medleys make the evening an odyssey that snaps, sizzles and pops.

His vulnerability to his music and his audience is a perfect compliment for the intimate setting of the Cabaret Room. His candid banter about his family, his life and his heritage made you feel like a new best friend. He told us he wanted to be a baseball player but it didn't quite work out. I immediately counted my blessings that music became his calling.

Being the son of the great talent, Mel Tormé who wrote the song "Born to Be Blue" at age 19, could be intimidating but Steve graciously honored his Dad's achievements and sang the song with soul. He then sang his own original song "A Lotta of Love for You" (I'm not sure what age he was when he wrote this). As I listened to both, I learned genius can be inherited.

His band is amazing. Their individual solos were out of sight but together they took the evening over the top. His bass player, Bob Sachs, highlighted Steve's original song "A Different Time" like poetry. Steve Rawlins on the piano was playful, artful and quite debonair. Joe Lano on guitar gave the evening the pop that struck all the right chords. Mike Mechem on the drums kept the beat going with just the right rhythm and sensual sizzle.

Steve says, "Sometimes you only need to change ONE note to make a good song great." He went to the piano and showed us how simple it could be. One note was changed in "Oh What a Beautiful Morning" and made that song great. It took this "one" night with Steve March-Tormé's mythic charms, and musical talents to change my good life... to great! The

evening was filled with many dazzling moments, one more exuberant than the next. His performance makes you realize how beautiful it can be to let go and be in “Sweet Surrender,” It was Steve’s first date at the Smith Center in Las Vegas. I hope we don’t have to wait too long to see Mr. Steve March-Tormé again. Sometimes one night isn’t enough. Everyone needs to experience how wonderful it can be “to fall in love.” I did.

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