



An Interview with Ken Lavigne - By Kait Burgan April 2018

Inspired by an ability to evolve and grow past already respected careers and repertoires that transcend genres and transformed generations, Canadian Tenor Ken Lavigne is touring a brand new show. Three Knights with a Tenor, an admittedly cheeky title, features the music of Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Sir Paul McCartney and Sir Elton John.

“It’s music I enjoy singing privately and it’s music I don’t get the opportunity to perform outside of my shower,” Ken says from his home studio office in Chemainus. “What makes them stand up is that their music still inspires young and old alike and I want to carry on the tradition.”

Ken has made a career doing classical crossover, using his voice to merge styles in a way that very few can and this, he says, “is a no-brainer.”

Working through bodies of work from one iconic artist, the likes of Elton John for example, would be a daunting enough task on its own. Add two others of the highest calibre and it could be, understandably, overwhelming. “I just put them all in a basket and pick them out,” he jokes.

“It was extremely difficult to choose because all three are extremely prolific and they have a mountain of work,” Ken says. “The conclusion is you want to include them all, but you can’t. I’ve decided to weave them into a medley, with some pieces that will stand alone”.

Ken began to see synergies between Sir Andrew Lloyd Webber, Sir Paul McCartney and Sir Elton John as work on his new show progressed. Paul McCartney began writing simple three chord pop songs but

evolved into working with the London Symphony. Elton John managed to integrate piano into main stream rock and Andrew Lloyd Webber created monumental works that are celebrated as nostalgic tipping

“You don’t have to start out and just be one thing,” Ken says “For me, learning about their process and what caused them to take the path they did, was inspiring.”

While Ken has been singing some of these songs in the shower for years, many have been performed as solos at private concerts where they have been well received. The concept for this show has been developing for many months and Ken was ready to try something new for larger audiences.

Ken is very aware that paying tribute to three of the world’s most celebrated musicians is not a tribute act. “I will perform true and faithfully to who I am and I know the ultimate arbitrators of good taste is the audience.”

Three Knights with a Tenor, which includes a small ensemble of violin, piano and bass debuts at the Sid Williams Theatre in Campbell River on April 27th and moves down Vancouver Island, finishing in Chemainus on May 12th. By the end of the tour, audiences will have provided insight into which are “the best bits” and then they will be included on an album. “They will vote by audience applause.”

Songs performed on this show includes music by the 3 Knights as well as original songs written by Ken Lavigne.

Paul McCartney

I’ve just seen a Face
Penny Lane
Black Bird
Hello Goodbye
Rocky Raccoon
If I fell
Oh Darling
A day in the life
With little help from my friends
Hey Jude

Andrew Lloyd Webber

All I ask of you
Music of the night
close every door
on this night of a thousand stars
Think of me
You must love me
Light at the end of the tunnel

Elton John

Rocket Man
Can you feel the love
Yellow Brick road
Your song
Mona Lisa and Mad Hatters

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