

Reviews

We've now sent Ken and his band on the road to Quesnel (where they performed last night) and then to points north, we've counted the ticket stubs, and now have time to reflect on a wonderful evening of music and entertainment!!

A full house of 233 audience members in Burns Lake went home very well entertained by Ken's marvellous voice, by his moving and engaging stories and stage presence, and by the musicianship of his back-up band. Ken's stories about making up his mind to perform at Carnegie Hall, how he managed to pull it off, what it was like at this famous venue ... and what he has learned since ... were heartwarming, funny and full of 'life lessons'. His stories about David Foster, and about the bent nail given him backstage at Carnegie Hall by a Teamster stage hand who has 'seen it all', are classics. When Ken came out to the apron of the stage of the high school drama room and sang 'Danny Boy' a cappella, you could have heard people breathing - if most of us had not been holding our breath! When he finished the number, the applause was warm and sustained, as if folks didn't want the moment or the mood to end. One of our audience members said: "I gauge how good a concert is by the number of times I get goosebumps ... this was at least a six or seven goosebump concert." Ken performed in the style of Mario Lanza (complete with cigarette prop!), Robert Goulet (C'est Moi was funny and in its own campy way a tribute to a handsome tenor of an earlier generation) and of course, Luciano Pavarotti. Other highlights included Ken's rendition of Bring Him Home from Les Mis, Granada, Leonard Cohen's Halleluia, Ken's own song Keep Holding On, and so much more. And ... for a few minutes, Elvis was in the building, and the women in the audience went wild!

As presenters, we are thankful we made the decision to invite Ken and his band, and 'The Road to Carnegie Hall', to take the highway to our community. We were confident the show would be very good. It exceeded even our expectations. And so ... we would certainly encourage presenters to consider 'The Road to Carnegie Hall', and audience members to attend the show. 'The Road to Carnegie Hall' is one of those evenings that, if you were to miss it, you can be sure your neighbours and friends would be saying the next morning ... "Ya shoulda been there!"

While we're reflecting on a successful evening, we'd also like to compliment and thank Ken and the band - and Brian, the driver and road manager - for the generosity and warmth with which they treated audience members after the show, taking time to pose for photos, and to talk to each person who wanted to stay around and savour the last few moments of the evening. And in particular, Ken and members of the group were very thoughtful in talking to the LDAC's two teenage directors. These two young people took part in the 'curtain speech' before the show, telling the audience about their musical and life goals, and the 'Road' ahead for each of them. The guys took time to talk to each of these teens, encouraging them to keep following their dreams and pursuing their goals. As parents and grandparents, and former teachers, we know how important and influential such conversations can be, coming from adults who are out there in 'the real world', and who are busy following their own dreams.

We've had audience members stopping us on the street, at the gas station and in the grocery store for the last couple of days, telling us how much they enjoyed the evening's performance. One retired forestry worker (a real no-nonsense, clear-eyed critic) came up to us after the show and said: "Absolutely the best show ever!" That sentiment has been repeated to us many times in the last couple of days. A similar comment heard many times in various versions has been: "We can't believe the high quality of performers you get to come to our little town. We really appreciate it! But how do you do it?" And we tell folks that we couldn't go it without the help of presenters in

communities in our part of BC, without the help of agencies like Caline Artists Management, and without the BC Touring Council. So ... thanks Ken and the band, thanks Margot, and thanks Joanna and BCTC. Take a big bow everyone!

John (and Sandra) for the LDAC in Burns Lake, BC- 2013.11.24

It was an incredible night! Ken and his entourage were wonderful! It was the perfect show to have as the first performance in the new theatre.

If you google www.oliverchronicle.com you will see a picture and an excellent review that says it all.

Janet Marcotte in Oliver, BC 2014.03.04

