

arts & entertainment news

PASADENA, CALIF.

PBS to Celebrate Its 50th Anniversary With 'American Portrait'

PBS will mark its 50th year with an exploration of what it means to be an American in a rancorous period. "PBS American Portrait" is the network's most ambitious multi-platform project yet and aims to foster a nationwide discussion about America and its people, programming chief Perry Simon said. It will encompass a variety of working parts, starting with video, photo and other content.

— *The Associated Press*



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BACKSTAGE PASS

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Righteous Brothers Rock The Sharon Performing Arts Center

BY KRISTEN FIORE
Daily Sun Senior Writer

Bobby Hatfield might be in rock 'n' roll heaven, but Bill Medley is keeping the Righteous Brothers' name alive.

Medley and his new musical partner, Bucky Heard, performed concerts Thursday and Friday at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

At 79 years old, Medley still has a lot of energy and an obvious passion for performing.

The sold-out crowd at Friday night's show was so enthusiastic that they applauded at both the beginning and end of songs like "Just Once In My Life," "Little Latin Lupe Lu" and "Young Blood."

"Thank you so much for coming," Medley said at the beginning of the show. "We love you for it. Some of you have been coming to see The



Michael Johnson | Daily Sun

Bucky Heard, left, and Bill Medley sing the classic hit "Soul & Inspiration" as the Righteous Brothers performed at The Sharon L. Morse Performing Arts Center.

Righteous Brothers for 50 years. And don't we miss my little brother Bobby Hatfield."

The audience applauded and Medley gestured to Heard and said, "But this guy is doing a great job."

Heard accepted another round of applause and said that as a longtime fan of The Righteous Brothers, it is an honor to

perform alongside Medley.

While Heard and Medley have been performing together for five years, they've been good friends for about 15, Medley said.

Either way, Medley's low, smooth voice blends well with Heard's high and clear one.

Lynne and Jim Byers, of the Village of Mallory Square, came to the concert at the invitation

of a friend.

"We love a lot of the Righteous Brothers' songs," Lynne said.

Tom and Vicky Griffith, of the Village of Caroline, saw the Righteous Brothers perform years ago in Miami and enjoyed the show.

"The music is mellow," Tom said. "There's no sharpness. It just makes you feel pretty dang happy and good."

When it came to "Unchained Medley," Medley joked that the audience wouldn't be hearing

it, and was drowned out by laughter and shouts of "Boo!"

"Boy, you turned on me quick," Medley said.

But the rendition he gave was more than anyone could've asked for.

"I put together a video," he said. "This is my sneaky way of spending a few minutes with Bobby."

And he sang the hit by himself, as images and videos of Medley and Hatfield flashed on a screen behind him.

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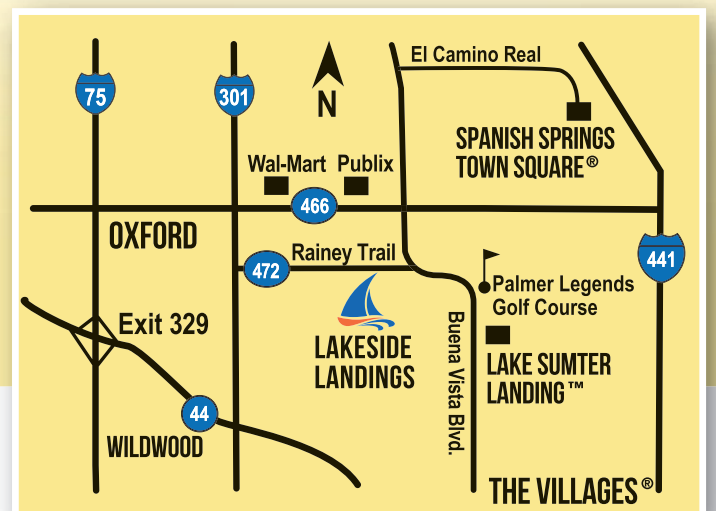


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