

For many years, *HELP! A Beatles Tribute*, has a fixture on our Slovenian music scene. Constant concerts, which is not surprising in relation to the playing of the legacy of probably the most important rock band in the history of mankind. Notwithstanding the fact that boys are always on stage, the author of this article, despite his many visits to too many concerts, was prevented from experiencing the Beatles' classics by the band *HELP!* Well, the moment finally came on one of those "fatal" free Saturday nights at a free concert at a renovated public pool in the heart of the Gorenjska region. This new facility is now called Gorenjska Plaza and possesses a beautiful amphitheater, which makes the stage ideal for touring bands of multiple genres.

HELP! A Beatles Tribute is a quartet (anything else is not an option!) that has an American Slovenian line-up, performing and residing in Slovenia for many years. Band leader, Ernie Mendillo (*HELP!*'s Paul McCartney), in conjunction with another American, Robert McKenzie (*HELP!*'s John Lennon) are joined by two excellent Slovenian musicians namely Žiga Stanonik on guitar (*HELP!*'s George Harrison) and drummer Gašper Oblak (*HELP!*'s Ringo Starr). The group came on stage around nine o'clock in the evening, suddenly encountering turbulent emotional reactions from the audience. From a bunch of young grandmothers and grandfathers, to playfully frolicking children who were in the stalls chasing each other to the younger generation, the 'local elders' and twisted armed youths and teenagers and everything in between. *HELP! A Beatles Tribute* brings together everyone under one roof! All the generations. It simply dictates the happiness of the Beatles' legacy.

The first half of the show featured material from the early 'pre-psychedelic' era of The Beatles. The second part, dressed in beige jackets, resounded with classics from a compositionally 'mature' era of the unrepeatable Liverpudlians. If we strike quickly, analyzing comparisons with the original and 'fake', we submit the following observations: The band provide a very nice study in accompanying harmonies, while it is interesting that McKenzie (as a man who performs the function of Lennon) has a basic timbre closer to McCartney than Mendillo, who was swathed in the classic violin Hofner bass guitar (in the role of McCartney). The true vocal intonation is lower than the original. This was occasionally uncomfortable in the highest positions in harmony. Also, Mendillo is not left-handed, like McCartney or the man who could play at the same time a right-handed or left handed bass guitar, which is otherwise a minor observation. At the same time, it is clear that at least the two Americans wear wigs, which is the only correct move (if there is no other). As the performance went, the band was very convincing. Compact implementation. Excellent playing! In particular, the quartet's real magnet for your ears is Žiga Stanonik, who owns an exceptional degree of sophistication and control over the strings. His always clean organic sound and "reverb" sound delivered the execution of top quality replicas of the original solos, and in fact an absolute upgrade. These original solos are no joke! Žiga is definitely the first attraction of *HELP!* in general. Simultaneously playing and tackling the vocal performance of songs like

Here Comes the Sun, Something, and Blackbird, with amazing felicitous vocal characteristics closer to George Harrison.

If you run through the repertoire of the evening's performance, we witnessed the execution of the following The Beatles songs (some definitely escaped my memory): Please Please Me, Eight Days A Week, Slow Down, Please Mr. Postman, All My Loving, It Won't Be Long, A Hard Day's Night, Drive My Car, Day Tripper, I Want To Hold Your Hand, She Loves You, Ob-La-Di Ob-La-Da, Twist And Shout, I Need You, Help!, With A Little Help From My Friends, Come Together, Get Back, Here Comes The Sun, We Can Work It Out, Let It Be, Hey Jude, Yellow Submarine, Revolution, Norwegian Wood (This Bird Has Flown), Can't Buy Me Love, Nowhere Man, Back in the USSR, Yesterday, Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds, and in the first encore Something was touching with a surprising delicacy and even a performance of Harrison's Blackbird. Cover songs were not eliminated either. There were three adaptations of other songs performed The Beatles, namely Rock 'N' Roll Music, Long Tall Sally and Roll Over Beethoven. Special mention goes to the distinguished veteran and experienced sound man, which was none other than Yoda.

All this notice raises a rhetorical question. We know that for several years The Beatles Revival, another tribute to The Beatles has visited the Slovenian metropolis of Ljubljana with concerts in Cvetličarna. They are from the Czech Republic. They are not better and don't offer more quality in their actions imitating The Beatles than the band *HELP! A Beatles Tribute*. Why, then, each year, is the preferred band *HELP!* not placed on the stage of the Slovenian capital? I believe that they are more affordable and travel expenses for them are incomparably lower!

The warm mood to this evening in Bistrica in Gorenjska Plaza showed no end in sight. The audience literally bought *HELP!* whose definitive end made them not want to leave the premises of the amphitheater. They played over two and a half hours, during which the band played about 35+ songs, for sure. Dignified and worthy of a proxy of original sin. Leaving aside the requirements of the highest quality standards, which should be offered as optional of a Beatles replica band by His Holiness "Dr. ProgRocka," missed a sitar, a Leslie amplifier and a Hammond organ which would allow them to also carry out the type of songs like Tomorrow Never Knows, Fool on the Hill, or A Day in the Life. Still, *HELP! A Beatles Tribute* is perfectly suited to meet the requirements of the majority of Beatles' fans, and carries out its work convincingly and with great enthusiasm!

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