



ONE TALENTED TRIO

Kingston Trio brings ‘absolute joy’ to Villagers at Savannah Center

By MICHAEL FORTUNA, DAILY SUN | Posted:
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THE VILLAGES — The Kingston Trio helped to ignite the folk music scene of the 1950s and '60s, and that fire has yet to be extinguished.

The group recently added a third Grammy Award to its roster, receiving a lifetime achievement award as part of the 53rd annual music awards.

“It feels good to us,” Bill Zorn said.

“It’s recognition for what the Kingston Trio’s done for music history in the past 50 years,” George Grove said.

The Ramones, who also had received a lifetime achievement award, had once told the members of the Kingston Trio that they learned to play guitar from listening to them.

“The Eagles said the same, Fleetwood Mac said the same,” Rick Dougherty said. “(The group) had a huge fan base because they went to colleges. (The music) stayed with them. The songs are fun and energetic.”

The folk trio-plus-one brought their unmistakable sound to life during two sold-out shows Monday night at Savannah Center.

Sporting matching blue-and-white striped shirts and white pants, Grove, Dougherty and Zorn all sang harmony and played acoustic guitar, with Grove picking on a banjo every now and then. Paul Gabrielson kept things rolling on the upright bass.

From the trio’s catalog, the guys played such classics as “A Worried Man,” “M.T.A.,” “Scotch and Soda,” “They Call the Wind Maria,” “Everglades,” “Chilly Winds” and “Tom Dooley.”

During “Greenback Dollar” the audience sang the “dirty word” that had been left off the radio version.

The Kingston Trio closed the first show with “Where Have All the Flowers Gone?” and “Road to Freedom.”

Pam Whalen hadn’t seen the group live before, but Dick Blalock, along with Sandy and John Kelley, had, back in the ’60s. The Village of Briar Meadow South residents all got to see the current membership of the group during the first show of the night.

“It was marvelous,” Whalen said. “Absolutely marvelous. It brought back a lot of memories. Good ones.”

“It’s the same sound,” John said.

“They do more humor than they used to,” Blalock added.

Meanwhile, Judy Dobrowolski brought two Kingston Trio LPs to the show: “College Contest” and “At Large.” After the concert, she had the members sign one of the albums.

She had seen the group during one of their college tours in Ohio, and now she was seeing the trio again. “Oh, it was phenomenal,” Dobrowolski said. “They do a good job. (Their music) was what we grew up with. It’s the music of our generation.”

Zorn joined the trio back in the ’70s then left to pursue other musical interests. He returned to the fold around

2004.

Grove, who joined the group in 1976, learned the guitar and banjo by listening to the Kingston Trio's albums.

"It was simple enough and it was complex enough to grow," he said.

This particular configuration has been together for the past six years, with Dougherty being the newest member of the group.

"Being able to create something that you love is an absolute joy," Grove said.

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