

**INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PERFORMER, BILLY MCGUIGAN,**

leads the audience through a symphonic tour of some of the greatest hits and most sensitive deep tracks that 1960s British Rock brought to the States. Billy and his band, The Downliners, perform the music of the Beatles, the Animals, the Rolling Stones, Queen, the Who, and more, all backed by the Symphony Orchestra.



**BILLY MCGUIGAN**

Billy McGuigan has received national attention and critical acclaim for his dynamic portrayal of the legendary Buddy Holly in his show *Rave On! The Buddy Holly Experience* and has been recognized for having one of the most innovative shows touring the country, *Yesterday and Today: The Interactive Beatles Experience*. He has sold out theaters all across North America and has broken box office and attendance records in several theaters across the country. Billy's *Yesterday and*

*Today* holds the record for the longest running show in the history of the Howard Drew Theatre at the Omaha Community Playhouse. Billy has won countless awards for his work including the Spotlight Award for Best Actor in a Musical, an Omaha Entertainment and Arts Award, he was the recipient of Midland Business Journals 40 under 40 award, and was awarded the Alumni Award for Excellence in Public Service by the Faculty and Staff at the University of Nebraska.

**QUOTES**

"The 'British Invasion' was a genuine pleasure in every sense of the word. Our audience, both those who were alive during the actual "invasion" and those younger folks who have lately discovered this music, loved it. Billy and the band were a delight, full of energy and enthusiasm. They were easy to work with, and their orchestral arrangements were accessible and effective. We enthusiastically look forward to our next "invasion".

— **George Del Gobbo**, Music Director and Conductor, Columbus Symphony Orchestra.

"The Omaha Symphony continues to bring Billy McGuigan and his band back on our Rocks series for one huge reason: everyone has a fantastic time. It's hard not to when the band is clearly having the time of their lives on stage, the charts are both standard favorites and forgotten gems, and the show is built around a front man who knows how to get the audience to lean in."

— **Danielle Meier**, VP Artistic Administration, Omaha Symphony

# SONGS FEATURING SYMPHONY:

Behind Blue Eyes - The Who  
Who Are You? - The Who  
Mr. Blue Sky - ELO  
Money - Pink Floyd  
Abbey Road Medley - The Beatles  
Something - The Beatles  
Paint It Black - The Rolling Stones  
Nights in White Satin - The Moody Blues  
Somebody to Love - Queen  
The Look of Love - Dusty Springfield  
We Gotta Get Out Of This Place - The Animals  
Space Oddity - David Bowie  
Pinball Wizard - The Who  
Rocket Man - Elton John

---

# SONGS FEATURING BILLY & THE DOWNLINERS:

To Sir with Love - Lulu  
Downtown - Petula Clark  
House of the Rising Sun - The Animals  
I'm Into Something Good - Hermans Hermits  
Time of the Season - Zombies  
Catch Us If You Can - The Dave Clark 5  
Gimme Some Lovin' - The Spencer Davis Group

## ORCHESTRAL INSTRUMENTATION

2 Flutes  
2 Oboes  
2 Clarinets  
2 Bassoons  
2 Horns  
2 Trumpets  
1 Trombone  
2 Percussion  
(Including timpani  
doubling)

## STRINGS:

9 First Violins  
7 Second Violins  
6 Violas  
6 Cello  
4 Double Bass

\*Please note that as new songs get licensed the song list will change. A final set list will be determined no later than 6 months prior to the performance\*

# SYMPHONY THRILLS WITH BRITISH INVASION SHOWCASE

## BY DREW NENEMAN

WORLD-HERALD CORRESPONDENT OCT 29, 2017

---

The British are coming! Or, rather, they did come — at least in spirit — to the Holland Center on Saturday night with Billy McGuigan and the Omaha Symphony.

Audiences were delighted from start to finish as the McGuigan brothers and friends took a symphonic tour of some of the greatest hits and most sensitive deep tracks that 1960s British rock brought to the States.

Enrico Lopez-Yañez conducted the orchestra as it transformed from its classical repertory niche to give a stunning studio-style presentation. Lopez-Yañez is returning to the Omaha Symphony from Nashville, where he is the assistant conductor. He has led more than 100 family, education, community and Symphony Rocks performances with the Omaha Symphony in the past as a conducting fellow.

From the start, Billy McGuigan took the audience on an energetic tour through 1960s British-American pop rock. “Eight Days a Week” by the Beatles, “(I Can’t Get No) Satisfaction” by the Rolling Stones and “Gimme Some Lovin’” by the Spencer Davis Group were some of the titles that set the tone of the evening’s first half.

Tara Vaughan stole the show with her sultry mezzo belt as the band and orchestra covered the Petula Clark hit “Downtown.” The audience was buzzing as these titles provided both fresh entertainment and endearing nostalgia.

The Who’s iconic, rock-operatic hit “Pinball Wizard” opened the second set, and lead guitarist Max Meyer met the challenging standard with inspiring virtuosity. Though musically stunning overall, the production could have benefited from a more leadguitar-heavy sound balance throughout. Meyer gave more than one tremendous solo performance. Devotees of the set list responded with applause each time Meyer was given the opportunity to share the spotlight.

“Ruby Tuesday,” another Rolling Stones favorite, was a highlight of the second act. Principle flautist Maria Harding showed symphony lovers her whimsical side with a charming solo.

Matthew McGuigan was the bass player for the concert and a fine backup vocalist. Ryan McGuigan was an incredible British rock facsimile. During “I Am the Walrus,” a listener might have been fooled into thinking he or she heard an authentic Beatle on stage. Vaughan tugged heartstrings a second time, singing “To Sir with Love.”

Audience members stood up with a cheer for “A Day in the Life” and stayed standing as they danced and applauded through the end of the encore, “Twist and Shout.”

# THE MCGUIGAN INVASION

## BY CHRIS ELSTON

CHRIS'S CORNER JANUARY 2019

---

On Feb 9, 1964, a group known as The Beatles made an appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show*. Their triumphant American debut not only forever altered the course of American music, but triggered an event known as The British Invasion as a slew of English bands would find their way to our shores to dominate the pop charts. Last night at the Wilson Performing Arts Center in Red Oak, IA, people got a chance to either relive that era or experience it for the first time with Billy McGuigan's latest show, *The British Invasion*.

Like the Beatles, Billy McGuigan continues to churn out hit after hit and his latest show is certainly no exception. With his one of a kind energy and ability, Billy and his band, the Downliners, took the audience on a blitzkrieg tour of the British Invasion as they snapped out a wide arrangement of songs from a variety of bands such as The Who, Gerry and the Pacemakers, Petula Clark, The Dave Clark 5, Herman's Hermits, Cream, Them, The Rolling Stones, and, of course, The Beatles.

Billy McGuigan was in especially good voice last night and set the tone for the night with his opening number of The Who's "Pinball Wizard" complete with some pinwheel guitar playing ala Pete Townshend. From there, he gave his rich tenor quite the hefty workout. Whether he was belting out hard rocking numbers such as "Under My Thumb" and "I Can't Get No Satisfaction" from the Rolling Stones complete with Mick Jaggeresque dancing and strutting to singing lighter rock numbers such as Herman's Hermits' "Something Tells Me I'm Into Something Good" to gently emoting tender tunes like Peter and Gordon's "I Go to Pieces", McGuigan could simply do no wrong.

McGuigan also proved his remarkable versatility by tackling The Animals' "House of the Rising Sun" with a take that would make Eric Burdon proud. And he actually made me like a Van Morrison song (my favorite number of the night, actually) with his interpretation of Them's "Here Comes the Night".

Billy McGuigan was powerfully supported by his multitalented band, the Downliners, including his brothers, Ryan and Matthew McGuigan, on percussion, bass, and backing vocals who shined in their own numbers. Matthew worked some magic with The Kinks' "Tired of Waiting for You" while Ryan was in full John Lennon mode with The Beatles' "Twist and Shout" before the two joined forces on the awesome "Revolution". Tara Vaughan tickled the ivories as only she can and was featured in several numbers as her, oh so gorgeous, alto attacked Dusty Springfield's "Son of a Preacher Man" and Petula Clark's "Downtown". Omaha's answer to Pete Townshend, Max Meyer, dazzled the audience with skillful lead guitar playing and solos while Adam Stoltenberg's drumming was the unbreakable foundation for these numbers.

Early in the night, Billy told the audience that for a fraction of the cost of a Rolling Stones ticket we were actually hearing the same songs complete with lyrics and sung in tune. Well, the ticket may have been a fraction of the cost, but the talent is absolutely priceless as Billy and the Downliners make these classic songs their own and you should certainly get a ticket the next time you hear that Billy McGuigan and *The British Invasion* is coming your way.