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Brian Wilson will bring 'Pet Sounds' to Keith-Albee on Tuesday

By DAVE LAVENDER The Herald-Dispatch
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- -Text: Former Beach Boy Brian Wilson sings Thursday, Sept. 30, 2004, in Minneapolis, where he began a tour to showcase album, "Smile." (AP Photo/Jim Mone)

Jim Mone

HUNTINGTON — We may be heading into the heart of fall, but it will feel like an endless summer over at 4th Avenue on Tuesday night as the warm, breezy, timeless pop sounds of the Beach Boys come crashing in like waves of good vibrations.

The 82nd annual Marshall Artists Series continues at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6, as Beach Boys co-founder, Brian Wilson and his band — featuring long-time Beach Boys members, Al Jardine and Blondie Chaplin — celebrate the legacy of The Beach Boys' iconic record, "Pet Sounds" that featured four hit singles including "Sloop John B," "God Only Knows," "Caroline No," and "Wouldn't It Be Nice." And, of course, the "Pet Sounds" famous out-take, "Good Vibrations" that would get polished over a dozen sessions into The Beach Boys first No. 1 hit.



Tickets for "Brian Wilson Presents Pet Sounds: The Final Performances" are \$60, \$82, \$98 and \$120. Contact the Marshall Artists Series Box Office at 304-696-6656 or order tickets online at Ticketmaster.com. You may also visit the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse Box Office between noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The concert is one of the last legs of Wilson's "Pet Sounds" tour that began two years ago celebrating the ground-breaking album that Rolling Stone ranked as the No. 2 album of all times in 2003, in its list of the "500 Greatest Albums of All Time." In 2004, Pet Sounds was preserved in the National Recording Registry by the Library of Congress for being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

Interestingly, Wilson, who was a 2008 Kennedy Center honoree, plays the famed Kennedy Center on Monday, a night before the Huntington show. Monday night is a make-up date for a May date that had to be canceled because of emergency back surgery.

During this concert tour, Wilson, a Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee, and two-time Grammy Award-winner, and his band perform "Pet Sounds" in its entirety as well as classics from throughout his remarkable 54-year-long career with the Beach Boys as well as a solo artist.

Billed as the most progressive pop album ever, Wilson, who was 23 at the time, took a year off from touring with The Beach Boys, to record what he hoped would be the greatest rock album of all times.

Widely considered to be among the most influential albums in the history of music, "Pet Sounds" was produced, arranged, and almost entirely composed by Wilson with lyrics by Tony Asher. Most of the recording sessions were conducted between January and April 1966, a year after Wilson had quit the road with the Beach Boys to focus on writing and recording what would be the 11th album for The Beach Boys.



Wilson did just that and did it his way. Accompanied by his two dogs, Banana and Louie, and with nothing but time on his hands, he directed arguably the greatest L.A. studio musicians of all time, a.k.a. "The Wrecking Crew," (including Glen Campbell and nearly 50 more musicians) and a 15-person string section to accompany the six Beach Boys in an experimental pop record well ahead of its time. Wilson's orchestrations mixed conventional rock set-ups with elaborate layers of vocal harmonies, found sounds, and instruments never before associated with rock, such as bicycle bells, French horns, flutes, Electro-Theremin, string sections, and Coca-Cola cans.

"It was an adventure," Wilson said by phone of those sessions. "You just have to learn to combine instruments, and yeah, I learned how to do that. I learned how to blend guitars and piano. I just got inspired by my friends in the Wrecking Crew."

"Pet Sounds," released May 16, 1966, only went to No. 10 in the Billboard 200 album charts (not as high as the Beach Boys previous records), it was immediately embraced in England where it peaked at No. 2, and according to The Beatles producer, George Martin, it was a direct influence for The Beatles to make their own experimental record, "Sgt. Pepper's."

In fact, Paul McCartney is quoted as saying, "I figure no one is educated musically 'til they've heard 'Pet Sounds.' I love the orchestra, the arrangements- it may be going overboard to say it's the classic of the century- but to me, it certainly is a total, classic record that is unbeatable in many ways. I've often played Pet Sounds and cried."



Although the album could not be at first replicated live and was the first time a group departed from the usual small-ensemble electric rock band format for a whole LP, the influence of the album became particularly over time, undeniable. "Pet Sounds" is regarded by musicologists as an early concept album that advanced the field of music production, introducing non-standard harmonies and timbres and incorporating elements of pop, jazz, exotica, classical, and the avant-garde.

It has also been an album Wilson, who is now 76, has revisited through the years during his recording career that includes 11 solo albums in addition to his body of work with The Beach Boys.

In 1997, Wilson oversaw a "making-of" version of "Pet Sounds" and released as "The Pet Sounds Sessions," containing the album's first true stereo mix.

In the summer of 2000, Wilson began a series of "dreams come true" events when he kicked off his acclaimed "Pet Sounds" symphonic tour, taking that studio creation to concert halls around the world (from the Hollywood Bowl to London's Royal Festival Hall to the Sydney Opera House), giving audiences the opportunity to experience Wilson's production masterpiece as a living, breathing work of art.

In 2001, during his induction to the "Songwriters Hall of Fame"), he played the album start to finish at Radio City Music Hall as Sir Elton John, Billy Joel, Paul Simon, Carly Simon, David Crosby, Vince Gill, Jimmy Webb and Sir George Martin were some of the greats who assembled to honor Wilson.

In 2016, to celebrate "Pet Sounds," 50th anniversary, Wilson began a tour of "Pet Sounds: The Final Performances," with long-time Beach Boys Al Jardine and Blondie Chaplin, and seven more ace musicians and vocalists.

Now, two years into the tour, Wilson is wrapping up that tour as he's only got a few of those dates left. He also has a Greatest Hits tour, and a new Christmas tour that runs for a month from late November through Dec. 23 performing "The Beach Boys' Christmas Album" in its entirety along with cuts from his solo Christmas album, "What I Really Want for Christmas."

Wilson, whose "Pet Sounds," re-wrote the rules of what a pop and rock album or single could be, said it feels great to take that magical studio album back out for a spin with such incredible musicians like Jardine, who literally has been making music with him since their high school days.

"We are all proud of our music and we are all great musicians so we are able to really play it well," Wilson said of the complex record.

If You Go

WHAT: The 82nd annual Marshall Artists Series continues at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6, as Beach Boys co-founder, Brian Wilson and his band - featuring long-time Beach Boys members, Al Jardine and Blondie Chaplin - celebrate the legacy of The Beach Boys' iconic record, "Pet Sounds" WHERE: Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center, located at 925 4th Ave., Huntington.

WHEN: 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 6

GET TIX: Tickets for "Brian Wilson Presents Pet Sounds: The Final Performances" are \$60, \$82, \$98 and \$120. Contact the Marshall Artists Series Box Office at 304-696-6656 or order tickets online at Ticketmaster.com. You may also visit the box office in the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse on the Marshall University campus. Box noon to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

PET SOUNDS SONGS: 1. "Wouldn't It Be Nice," 2. "You Still Believe in Me," 3. "That's Not Me," 4. "Don't Talk (Put Your Head on My Shoulders)," 5. "I'm Waiting for the Day," 6. "Let's Go Away For A While," 7. "Sloop John B," 8. "God Only Knows," 9. "I Know There's an Answer," 10. "Here Today," 11. "I Just Wasn't Made for These Times," 12. "Pet Sounds," 13. "Caroline"

SPONSORS: Sponsors of this Artists Series concert are: City National Bank, Community Trust Bank, Merrill Lynch, Jeff & Amber Biederman, The Chirico Family, Steven Miller, M.D., Kevin and Rebecca Craig, KEE 100, B97, WSAZ, The Herald-Dispatch, Marshall University, and the Marshall Artists Series.

ON DECK @ ARTISTS SERIES:

"Jersey Boys:" At 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, The Tony Award-winning Broadway musical, "Jersey Boys" at the Joan C. Edwards Playhouse. Get a glimpse inside the story of Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons as these four guys from New Jersey try to make it in the world of music. Featuring hit songs such as "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like a Man," and "Can't Take My Eyes off You" you'll love watching this journey from the streets of New Jersey all the way to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Tickets are \$98. This is SOLD OUT.

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Gregory Porter with full orchestra: At 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 4, Cabell Huntington Hospital presents soulful jazz vocalist Gregory Porter, along with a full orchestra in a tribute to Nat "King" Cole at the Keith-Albee Performing Arts Center. Influenced by the music of Nat "King" Cole since childhood, two-time Grammy winner, Gregory Porter's album, "Nat King Cole & Me" is a heartfelt tribute to the legendary singer, pianist, and Capitol recording artist. Porter and his orchestra will also perform some holiday favorites. Tickets are \$76, \$57 and \$38.

Welcome to the discussion.

Keep it Clean. Please avoid obscene, vulgar, lewd, racist or sexually-oriented language.

PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CAPS LOCK.

Don't Threaten. Threats of harming another person will not be tolerated.

Be Truthful. Don't knowingly lie about anyone or anything.

Be Nice. No racism, sexism or any sort of -ism that is degrading to another person.

Be Proactive. Use the 'Report' link on each comment to let us know of abusive posts.

Share with Us. We'd love to hear eyewitness accounts, the history behind an article.