



Love Notes

The ManiLowdown of the Manilow Lovers BMFC

Volume 3

Number 3

The Year 2007

Who would have thought a year could go so fast? Manilow Lovers has come a long way since it's organization in 2005! We can proudly say that Manilow Lovers is now an officially sanctioned fan club of the Barry Manilow International Fan Club.

Thank you to everyone who has made this a success!

The Barry-Frenzy

The Barry-Frenzy continued into 2007 with another great concert at Madison Square Garden on January 18th. Several members and non-members of Manilow Lovers met for dinner beforehand at Mustang Harry's Restaurant. Great food, great company and great music were enjoyed by all. We even had the youngest Barry Manilow fan in our presence – Sing it Zachary!

Here's a brief listing of Barry sightings through the Year 2007 in our area:

PBS Taping – Sept 10 & 11, 2007 (see the attached brief outline of the days)

Barry Manilow: Songs from the Seventies - Aired December 3, 2007

Nassau Colliseum – December 9, 2007

Continental Arena – December 10, 2007

Brian Boitano – Skating Spectacular – December 22, 2007

BMIFC Convention – Back Again July 27 – 29, 2007



See the attached “brief” description of what occurred this weekend.

As the Las Vegas Hilton portrayed the “largest” Barry mural (even seen from the airport), the BMIFC welcomed all to the 2007 Convention. Attached to the newsletter are my convention details.



A few pictures from the weekend.

Garry Keif @ Q&A



Sean (the MC) dressed as Elvis.



Flat Barry made his rounds.

Movie Night at the Convention:



Front Row at Music & Passion - Vegas :



On the airplane:



On Stage (Vegas):



Fund Raising

Manilow Lovers walked in The American Cancer Society 2007 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer on October 21, 2007 in Newark, New Jersey.



Thank you everyone who donated. We raised over \$2,800.00 for the American Cancer Society.

Mark Your Calendars...

...for our next "Barry" special get-together! April 27, 2008. Jackie Lahey will be sponsoring a "Spring Bling Barry Fling". Manilow Lovers will be having a fundraiser for The American Cancer Society with the help of Lia Sophia Jewelry. All proceeds will go toward this great cause! Email Jackie Lahey @ jaclahey@aol.com

Club Officers:

Director: Jackie Hill
Manilowlover1@aol.com
Secretary: Cathy Reilly
reillicathy@yahoo.com
Charity Organizers: Jackie Lahey
Jaclahey@aol.com
Judy Stern
ahsjuly@verizon.net

Membership

If you know of anyone interested in joining Manilow Lovers, please contact any club officer.

Hello everyone!

Well back from Vegas and what a trip it was! Both exciting regarding Barry and exciting traveling on Continental Airlines. Well, that's another story in itself.

The convention was the best so far. Stilletto is getting better and better as the years go on. Unfortunately I did not do the Bonus Night, but I know that must have been awesome. So if anyone who did do it, and wants to share their experience, please do so. I attended the "Legends" performance at the Imperial Palace on Thursday night (sorry Barry) and truly enjoyed that. We saw impersonators such as Elvis, Gwen Stephanie, Ricky Martin, Jerry Lee Lewis, Whitney Houston and the Blues Brothers. Awesome!

2007 BMIFC Convention

Friday:

Convention registration was offered on Thursday and Friday. We registered on Thursday and the entire BMIFC group was there, along with a few new additions. On Friday we had the Pool Party, which they cornered off a section of the pool area for us and played Barry music all day! That was great. The "Copa Cabana Boys" (the new additions to Stilletto) were out squirting water and dancing with all that participated. Lots of fun!!!

After the pool party we had the 60's buffet dinner and let me tell you some of those costumes were great. Barry even commented on them during the show! He had them turn the house lights on to see everyone. As for the show - this man surprises me every time I see him. I honestly think he gets better and better. What a show!

Barry sang "Best of Me" just for us, and messed up the words. During the song he added "I can't believe I forgot the words" and pointed to the funny little cigarette. We laughed!!!

Friday night after the show, we had the 60's Go Go Club. Danced to Barry music until 1:00 a.m. Lots of fun!

Now for Saturday:

A truly fun-filled day this was! The Q & A with Garry Keif was a trip. He kept us so entertained. Although it was only supposed to be an hour, we were there at least 1-1/2 or 2 hrs. Kinda broke into our lunch buffet, but who cared! Anyway, he did give us some important information:

Please anyone correct me on these dates as I didn't write anything down at the time, and my brain is still on Vegas time!

1) Barry will be doing another PBS special in Sept. He gave us the date of Sept 12th, but I'm sure they will confirm that. And too much of our surprise, it will be in the NYC area - Ya Hoo!!! Also, in November or December, there may be some more concerts scheduled, in our area. No dates or venues noted.

2) Barry will also have another Christmas CD released only through Hallmark in November. So keep an eye out for that.

3) A video package of Barry's specials and shows will be released in the very near future.

4) Gary is trying to set up a "movie gig" for Barry. Something like a Frank Sinatra remake. Wouldn't that be awesome?

Okay I'm sure I left something out, but now for lunch:

Buffet lunch, with assigned seating. Hum, wonder why???? Well I'll tell you.

We enjoyed a performance by "The Mentalist". He completely boggled our minds. He chose 2 people from Manilow Lovers, isn't that great, Jackie Lahey and Terri English. We are still trying to figure out how he knew so much about them.

He did however blow the surprise and tell us that Barry was going to join us! After the performance Barry appeared with his entire band! He looked wonderful. Jeans, black shirt and leather jacket, and wearing sunglasses to boot!

He sat and took some questions and shared a song from the new Christmas CD he created. The song was Silver Bells and he sang the entire song as the 36 back-up voices. He was so cute when he played it as his facial expressions were changing every time a certain part of the song came on. He did tell

us it took him 3 days to finish and he's down to 140 pounds. Holy crow!

Someone asked him if they could share a funny story about him or his band. Well Keely had one. She explained which one to Barry and he laughed - you know that laugh of his?! The story went like this:

When the 50's CD came out and they were in NY, they noticed how Barry's picture was plastered all over the place; billboards, sides of buses and even ATM machines. Well Barry's comment on that was "What's an ATM?" He said the band laughed so hard at him. The crowd went wild!

Barry also asked how many people saw the show before. The entire room raised their hands. He asked, how many haven't seen the show, and NO ONE raised their hands. He asked, "Aren't you bored with it?" Can you guess our answer? He asked what we would like to hear and several things were shouted out. Much to our surprise, he listened to us. He sang, "Old Friends" and "Now and Forever".

Well he spent about an hour with us but then had to leave. What a treat that was!

We had an hour to get ready for the Big Band Dinner, which everyone can see our pictures on www.mymanilowphotos.com. We are #200 & #201. You can even see all the other pictures from the weekend.

Saturday night we had the PJ party. Everyone pranced through the casino in their pj's (people were actually surprised even though it was Vegas). The BMIFC set up the room as a movie theater, even served popcorn and candy, and they showed Barry's 2nd TV special. OMG, if you haven't seen it, you really need to! After the "show" they cleared the room and we danced until 1:00 a.m.

Sunday was a sad day as the weekend was about to end. The breakfast buffet was wonderful. Unfortunately we had to leave before it ended, but I was told the whole BMIFC group got up and sang and said their goodbyes.

We were off to the airport at 11:30 a.m. on a flight for 2:00, returned to Las Vegas at 6:00 p.m. because of mechanical difficulties with the plane, and got another flight (on the

same plane they fixed) at 10:30 p.m. and we were in Newark at 6:00 a.m. Monday. Can you say jet-lag!

Hope I gave you all some idea of what we all experienced this weekend. We never wanted it to end, but there is "hopefully" next year. If you've never been to a convention, you really need to try and attend. It is so much FUN!

PBS Taping

September 11, 2007

An event that must not be missed!!!! Well that's what I thought anyway. Although not given enough time to figure out how I was getting there, I responded to the email from the BMIFC with the anticipation of receiving the tickets. Much to my happiness, I received an email on September 10th indicating I was put on the guest list. Not giving a care in the world I told my boss I'd be out on the 11th, still however not knowing how I was getting there.

After several options, I decided to drive. Yes, a Northern New Jerseyite (probably not a word) was going to drive to Brooklyn, NY. So my sister and I got in the car and drove to Woodbridge to meet Cathy, Jackie and Sharon. We all then piled in my car and we drove to Brooklyn. Have I mentioned yet, we never ate breakfast! Our trip into Brooklyn was uneventful until we hit the Brooklyn Queens Expressway (BQE). I don't think we traveled any faster than 5 miles per hour for at least 45 minutes - in the pouring rain. It wasn't that bad in my opinion, since we had great company and Barry blasting from the CD player.

Finally, we made it to Steiner Studios. We parked the car and made our way to the line, which at the time was not long (this was about 2:30). We stood on line until 4:00 when they started to move the line along and check people in. We moved along into a tent (labeled "fans") and we were checked in again. Once they checked our ID they gave us a little card with a letter on it - "P", "B" or "S". Okay??? Anyway, inside we go, and they put us in a holding area. We referred to it as the "pens", because that's what we felt like, a penned-in animal. Anyway, we stood there for at least 2-1/2 hours - yes stood! Have I mentioned yet we didn't have lunch or dinner. They told us the delay was because they needed to get the stage just right. Don't blame them, since it was TV.

Finally, they escorted us into the studio (yes escorted - even to the bathroom). The letters we were penned up in apparently were certain sections and that is where they escorted us. We were seated in the front section right in front of the stage.

The studio was absolutely beautiful. There were 3 stages all connected with ramps that Barry was to walk on. The front stage had the entire band and orchestra with his black piano. The left stage had his white piano and the right stage had acoustical instruments set up.

Garry Keif greeted us, gave us some instructions and took some questions from the audience. He has such a great sense of humor. He did tell us Barry will be doing more shows here on the East coast, like Meadowlands and Nassau Coliseum, and other places like Ft. Lauderdale, Miami, Detroit. I think there was more, but I don't remember. He told us tonight's taping would be the outtakes for the DVD and tomorrow's show would be the entire concert.

So on to the man. Can you actually believe they instructed us to clap for Barry when he came out on stage?!

Blue suit with black shirt - He looked amazing! He greeted us and thanked us for coming. I'll try and remember exactly what he sang. We couldn't write anything down since they didn't allow anything in with us. Here they are, and not quite in this order:

- Who's Been Sleeping in My Bed
- Looks Like We Made It
- A medley of The Way We Were, It Never Rains and You've Got a Friend.
- All the Time at the white piano.

Much to our acceptance, he did all of these twice, except for Looks Like We Made It.

After all that, it was over. Little upsetting it was, but on to the next night!!!

PBS Taping

September 12, 2007

Well knowing what to expect now, with regards to the lines and food, we brought provisions this time! We were now going into this thing with a full tummy and full hydration!

The lines were basically the same, however, a little more organized. The taping was to start at 6:30 according to the directions, but they allowed the cars in at 4:00; we had to stay in our cars though until 5:00. We met in the tent again and got our "pen" number. Fortunately I got the same letter "P" so my seats were similar and very good I might add. This time I got 2nd row - no complaints (last night was 4th row). We waited about 1-1/2 to 2 hours this time. Didn't matter because we knew we were getting a complete show this time.

After being seated, which seemed to take forever, Garry came out again and gave us instructions and reiterated what he said the night before. This time he gave us a couple of dates - Meadowlands and Nassau - December 9th and 10th. No indication when

tickets will be on sale, but knowing how they work it will be soon. So keep a look out.

Barry came on about 8:15. Again I'm going to try and list what Barry sang, in no particular order:

Mandy (on the white piano) - twice
NYC Rhythm (black piano with Ron Pedley and crew)
He Ain't Heavy
My Eyes Adore You
It Never Rains in California (twice)
Mini VSM (included Vicks Vapor Rub song)
Medley of Even Now, Can't Smile, It's a Miracle (which he forgot the words), Daybreak,
Copa (twice)

A very cute thing Barry did after asking for some water. He started talking to the audience, mentioning some people and saying he has family out there. Then he realized he was talking into his water bottle! It was so funny. The look on his face and the reaction he had was indescribable. He said he wondered why he couldn't hear himself. He laughed and laughed.

At one point he stopped everything and said "I f**d up," followed by, "Oops, I forgot there were kids here," then got down and covered the ears of the little boy.

Barry did have to leave the stage a few times for make-up and wardrobe checks, and every single time he returned, he apologized to us. Can you honestly believe that! What a considerate person he is, apologizing to us for making us wait.

During the last song our good friend Jackie finally got her first handshake in 30 years! Yeah for her!!!!

The show ended about 10:30 and we made our trek back home.

As you can see I truly enjoyed this whole experience. Nevertheless getting to see Barry in an atmosphere where he can show his true personality, I got to spend time with people I truly care for. Thank you to the entire group of people that I got to share this wonderful experience with: Judy, Jackie, Cathy, Sharon, Linda, Annette, Jennifer, Debbie, Diane, Diane, and Glenn. I did meet some other wonderful people and I'm very grateful for that.

On to the Meadowlands, right?