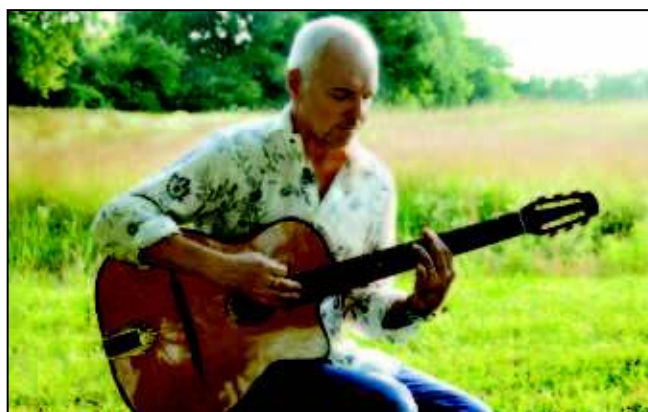


SOUNDS » PETER FRAMPTON



Courtesy photo

A new side of Frampton

By Nancy Dunham
Examiner Correspondent

Peter Frampton seems to be the Forrest Gump of music.

Just as the fictional movie character portrayed by Tom Hanks was involved in milestone events throughout history, Frampton was at many historic rock 'n' roll moments.

Consider: He started his musical career at age 10 playing in a band with schoolmate David Bowie; founded rock-blues pioneer Humble Pie at age 19; acted in the film version of "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band"; played session musician for musical greats; was the mastermind of the best-selling 1976 double album "Frampton Comes Alive" — and those are just some of the highlights.

But in all his years of producing the proverbial something for everybody, this year Frampton finally grabbed the gold ring — his first Grammy, for the pop instrumental album "Finger-tips."

Although Frampton was hailed as a sex symbol, rock god and premier vocalist by the time he was 26, his guitar skills are his proudest achievement.

"Winning the Grammy was very emotional for me," he said. "When I started in music, I got noticed because I was ahead of my years in playing guitar. I didn't want to sing, I wanted to play guitar."

But record company execs pushed Frampton into singing duties, despite his protests. He satisfied his musical hunger by playing as a session guitarist for The Who's John Entwistle, The Beatles' George Harrison and other musical greats.

"It is like my psychologist, my guitar," Frampton said. "We say things to each other that we don't say to anybody else."

Not that Frampton has abandoned his signature sound. He knows his four-generation audience expects classics such as "Do You Feel Like We Do," and he aims to please, mixing those favorites through set lists. His shows, he said, are a "trip back in time for everyone."

While he realizes that his early work brought with it status that few ever realize, his thoughts keep returning to the Grammy for what he considers his best work — guitar.

"I know that awards shouldn't make a difference," he said. "But it's very humbling to have the voters recognize my work."

The award has also sparked even more recognition for his work by fans, including young teens.

"I am thrilled by that," he said. "'Comes Alive' has taken my music through generations."



STANDING ROOM ONLY

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DJ Phil Rigatuso Jr. presents Further Living
XS, 1307 N. Charles St., Baltimore; 8 p.m.; Free; 410-468-0002

Ed Lauer
The Claddagh Pub, 2918 O'Donnell St., Baltimore; 410-522-4220

Jam Session with 347 House Band, Jessie Powers and Spice
Club 347, 347 N. Calvert St., Baltimore; 443-740-4285

Phil Cunneff Jazz Trio
Cat's Eye Pub, 1730 Thames St., Baltimore; 410-276-9866

The Reserve, The Part-Time All-Stars, Blind the Thief
Charm City Art Space, 1729 Maryland Ave., Baltimore; 7 p.m.



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SOUNDS » OZMA



The Pasadena, Calif., band OZMA will play at Sonar in Baltimore on Saturday. - Courtesy photo

OZMA returns to its successful pop sound

By Nancy Dunham
Examiner Correspondent

It's been more than 10 years since OZMA formed, but that hasn't dulled the enthusiasm of the band's lead vocalist and bass player, Daniel Brummel.

Brummel, who joined the earliest incarnation of OZMA when he was a high school freshman, said the bumps that had threatened to derail the band before it found its niche are past, and the members are more grounded musically than ever. He speaks enthusiastically about how the songwriting collaboration he has with the band's founder, Ryan Slegre, has matured in the four years since their last album. A lot of that growth is due to experimentation with various sounds and techniques.

IF YOU GO

OZMA
» **Venue:** Sonar, 407 East Saratoga St., Baltimore
» **Time:** 7 p.m. Saturday
» **Tickets:** \$12
» **More info:** www.ticketmaster.com; 401-547-SEAT

"We had a kind of revolving door into the studio, and we kept going there whenever we were home," Brummel said.

The result is "Pasadena," an 11-track CD the band released last month. It builds on the pop strength of OZMA's previous albums with plenty of synthesizers, energy and bouncing vocals mixed in. The sound seems to suit the five-member band (yes, it's from Pasadena, Calif.), which boasts a loud, energetic on-stage persona that integrates backing tracks and heavy vocals up front.

Fans' disappointment and critics' thumbs down about the band's

previous album, "Spending Time on the Borderline," caused the band to rethink its entire sound during the four-year hiatus, Slegre said.

How had a band many thought was the heir apparent to Weezer gone so far off track?

Slegre and his band mates knew the answer wouldn't be simple, so they took some time to sort it out.

"We definitely took more time off between records" than most bands do, he said. "Some of it was looking at our past work. We had 20 things we liked about the past work and a lot we didn't like."

The process took the band back to the musical drawing board, where members experimented with keyboards, vocals and other elements to regain its signature sound. The result is a back-to-its-roots sound that OZMA hopes its fans will embrace.

"I learned a lot about writing during that time," Slegre said. "That gives this album a solid sound and connection."

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Beginning Ballroom
Towson YMCA, 600 W. Chesapeake Ave., Towson; Session \$85, members \$75; 410-323-3262

EXHIBIT

Faces of India, photography by Sayra Wells Meyerhoff
An die Musik, 409 N. Charles St., Baltimore; 410-385-2638

Photography exhibit
Daedalus Books and Music, 5911 York Road, Baltimore; 410-464-2701

Portrait of a People: An Intimate Look at Life in Afghanistan
Enoch Pratt Free Library, 400 Cathedral St., Baltimore; 410-396-5430

BOOK TALK

SLAMicide — 7:30 p.m.
Xando, 3003 N. Charles St., Baltimore; \$5; 410-889-7076

IF YOU GO

Peter Frampton
» **Venue:** Rams Head Live, 20 Market Place, Baltimore
» **Time:** 8 p.m. Tuesday
» **Tickets:** \$40; \$45 day of show
» **More info:** 410-244-8854