

Sinatra @ 100

From Saturday, December 12, 2015 at 8:00 pm

This was the 568th concert in Koerner Hall

Tom Allen, host

Joe Sealy, piano & Music Director

Justin Bacchus, vocals

Brent Carver, vocals

Matt Forbes, vocals

Barbra Lica, vocals

Jackie Richardson, vocals

Retrocity

Dylan Bell, piano & bass

Jenn Hadfield, vocals

Aaron Jensen, vocals

Art Mullin, vocals

Suba Sankaran, vocals & piano

Lanie Treen, vocals

Jason Logue, trumpet

John Johnson, saxophone

Russ Little, trombone

Ted Quinlan, guitar

Paul Novotny, bass

Daniel Barnes, drums

Singer, actor, lover, cultural icon and lightning rod, fashionista, supreme interpreter, civil rights crusader, Oscar winner, TV pioneer, Italian-American, leader of The Rat Pack, and insider in Kennedy's *Camelot*. Singer. No one touches the impact and influence enjoyed by Francis Albert Sinatra. Not Elvis, not Bernstein, not The Beatles.

I saw him perform twice: once in Carnegie Hall in 1979 when he was at the apex of his resurrected career and once, regrettably, near the end of his days, barely hanging on in a 20,000 seat stadium. I will choose to remember the former ... Tuxedo clad. Gold-plated mic in hand. Tumbler of scotch on a stool by his side begging to be tasted. Fronting a big band and delivering a no holds barred assault on the Great American Songbook replete with anecdotes of his life and loves, peppered with politically incorrect (by any day's standards) comments about certain people in the press and in power. I was 8th row centre and my life was complete!

Through his many incarnations there were always two constants: the sheer beauty, timbre, and range of his instrument, and his impeccable musicianship – often called phrasing. Never a wrong step. He was Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Louis Armstrong, art song and the blues, crooner and swinger all rolled into one. There was nothing he could not sing, almost always in one take. Tonight we humbly try to catch the essence of “The Voice” with a stellar line-up of Canadian singers and instrumentalists. There will never be another to take his place.

- Mervon Mehta

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[Retrocity](#)

Retrocity made its Royal Conservatory debut on September 24, 2012, Joe Sealy and Jackie Richardson on October 19, 2013, and Barbra Lica on December 12, 2014. All of the band members have played multiple times in Koerner Hall.