



Walt Sanders (Elvis)



Lee Alverson (Elton)



Terry Lee Goffe (Johnny)

“ILLUSION OF LEGENDS”  
by Tamela Meredith Partridge  
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Artists portraying three rock ‘n’ roll and country music legends – Elvis Presley, Elton John, and Johnny Cash – will come together for one Starved Rock Country “Illusion of Legends” tribute concert on Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup>, at the Ottawa Township High School auditorium, 211 E. Main St.

The fourth in a series of five Starved Rock Country Concerts for the 2014 season – “Illusion of Legends” showcases the individual and group performances of three tribute artists: Walt Sanders (Elvis), Lee Alverson (Elton), and Terry Lee Goffe (Johnny).

“This concert should be a fun evening,” said John Newby, publisher of The Times and founder of Starved Rock Country. “When we pieced together our Legends night, we wanted to see something just a bit unique. We talked with all three and requested that as the final piece of the show, would it be possible for all three to appear on stage together and perform one of each of their hits together. Needless to say, we were delighted when they agreed and it promises to be an exciting conclusion to a great evening of entertainment here in Starved Rock Country.”

“Illusion of Legends” tickets are available at [www.StarvedRockCountry.com](http://www.StarvedRockCountry.com), as are tickets for the 2014 season finale Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> Christmas stage show by “Brule,” a multi-award-winning contemporary Native American musical and dance experience.



## **WALT SANDERS**

[www.OneNightWithYou.net](http://www.OneNightWithYou.net)

Walt Sanders of Bellevue, Ohio, doesn't pretend to be someone he's not. Instead, he performs with a passion from his heart and soul, just as Elvis did.

"I like winning over new fans," said Sanders in a recent phone interview with The Times. "People that weren't necessarily Elvis fans before the show, but might be swayed to become so by a different approach."

Since 1993, Sanders and The Cadillac Band have shared the stage with legendary groups such as the original Comets of Bill Haley and the Comets fame, The Four Lads, and with Elvis' own back-up groups, the Stamps Quartet and Jordanaires.

"Walt is as sincere as I remember Elvis being and works at his craft the same," said Ray Walker, bass singer of The Jordanaires.

A life long Elvis fan, Sanders focuses on Elvis the man rather than the entertainer. Not as concerned with what Elvis did or how he moved on stage, Sanders' main intent is to project Elvis' mood and interpretation of a song with style and respect to his legacy.

"I do wear the jumpsuit, wig, and look the part as close as I can," said Sanders, whose six costumes are made exclusively for him by B&K Enterprises, which own the rights to Elvis' jumpsuit patterns. "But I don't wear colored contacts, makeup, mimic his lip twitch and mannerisms, or go overboard. I just sing the music. Because with Elvis, every show was different and one time in history. He did what he felt like doing at his shows, and that's basically what I do too."

If Sanders could sing one Elvis song perfectly, it would be a traditional choice.

"How Great Thou Art," said Sanders. "Elvis won a Grammy for that performance, and rightfully so."



## **LEE ALVERSON**

[www.AlversonEntertainment.com](http://www.AlversonEntertainment.com)

Musician, composer, and Elton John tribute artist, Lee Alverson, has been entertaining audiences around the world since 1990.

“The Ottawa audience can expect to hear their favorite Elton hit songs including ‘Goodbye Yellow Brick Road,’ ‘Crocodile Rock,’ and ‘Bennie & Jets,’” said Alverson during a recent phone interview with The Times.

Alverson’s showmanship, versatile singing voice, and mastery of the piano has made him a international premiere Elton John tribute entertainer with over 3,000 performances including Hong Kong, Canada, Las Vegas, New York, & Los Angeles.

“I try my best to create Elton’s less flamboyant image of today, articulation, mannerisms, and keyboard playing,” said Alverson, who has been performing his Elton tribute since 2001.

A western Pennsylvania native, Alverson has starred as “The Phantom of the Opera” and shared the stage with such celebrities as Barry Manilow, The Beach Boys, and Joan Rivers.

“A memorable event for me occurred when I was interviewed, as Elton John, by Joan Rivers when she performed at the Grand Opening of a gaming resort in 2012,” said Alverson. “There were a bunch of celebrity impersonators and tribute artists there, and I was one of them. Joan did her red carpet interview of us all, what we were wearing and going to perform. She was a really sweet lady, nice to work with, and will be greatly missed with her recent passing.”

As a composer, Alverson has provided scores for commercial jingles, video, film, and television. He wrote the 2011 official theme, "Flight of the Eagle," for The American Bald Eagle Foundation and the acclaimed score, "Innocence Lost," which was used in The Flight 93 National Memorial 9/11 Anniversary project and a John F. Kennedy documentary film.

"For me, the greatest compliment is when someone comments on my songwriting or keyboard work," said Alverson. "That's always huge to me."

## **TERRY LEE GOFFEE**

[www.TerryLeeGoffee.com](http://www.TerryLeeGoffee.com)

Terry Lee Goffee has used the opening line, "Hello, I'm Johnny Cash," in his tribute show for over a decade while touring in the U.S., Canada, England, and Ireland.

"Hopefully the older members of the Ottawa audience will leave the concert with fond memories of an earlier time," said Goffee during a recent phone interview with The Times. "Maybe some of the younger members will get a small taste of what it might have been like to see Johnny Cash perform live."

The Wellington, Ohio native, portrays Cash in the first person and becomes a character rather than just standing on stage and singing the songs.

"I became a Cash fan when I was 5 years old," said Goffee. "I've had the advantage of several decades of listening to his music, watching him on various programs, and learning how to duplicate his singing and moves. That lifelong training also gave me the ability to interject some historical info into the tribute that gives the audience an insight into the man who made the music as well as the songs themselves."

Among the songs included in the tribute are such Cash classics as, "A Boy Named Sue," "Sunday Morning Coming Down," "I Walk The Line," "Ring Of Fire," "Folsom Prison Blues," and "Hurt."

"Cash's songs addressed a lot of issues common to a lot of people," said Goffee. "Whether it was sensitive social issues or just some slice of life the average person could relate to."

A number of Goffee's "The Man In Black" performance outfits were made for him in 2000 by Cash's wardrobe designer, Manuel Cuevas, in Nashville, TN.

"There are many story versions to how The Man In Black persona actually came about," said Goffee. "According to Manuel, he claims that he created The Man In Black image for Johnny the first time that Johnny asked him to design some stage clothing for him."



In June, 2003, a Goffee tribute concert in Nashville was attended by Cash's brother and sister and received rave reviews by the siblings.

"My brother would be proud," said Tommy Cash, while Joanne Cash Yates added, "You don't impersonate my brother, you pay tribute to him with honor."

Another career highlight occurred in 2009 when Goffee was selected to provide the moves for the Johnny Cash character and lip sync to the song Ring Of Fire in the Guitar Hero 5 video game series.

For Goffee, the tribute show sprang from his appreciation and love, not only for Cash's music, but for the man himself.

"If you come away from the show with better understanding of who Johnny Cash was, I will have succeeded in my vision for this endeavor."