



SWEET BABY JAMES: The Music of James Taylor

~ PRESS/REVIEWS/ENDORSEMENTS ~

On January 26, 2010, Englewood Area Performing Arts Association presented "Sweet Baby James"-a tribute to the music of James Taylor, starring Bob Stillman. Bob presented both a matinee and evening show to a sold-out attendance of 950 for each performance. Given the demographics of our audience (average age in late 70's) and the fact over 50% had never heard of James Taylor, we were uncertain of their reaction to the show.

Bob Stillman engaged our audience with his first song. He shared stories of James Taylor and anecdotes about each song he presented. Along with guest vocalist, Connie James, and four musicians, Bob Stillman put on a first-class performance. Our audience became a fan of the music of James Taylor, but more so, a fan of Bob Stillman.

We look forward to presenting Bob Stillman again in the future - the next time with his tribute to the music of John Denver. Bob is not only a very talented singer/ performer; he is also a pleasure to work with and present.

Judy MOORE, President
Englewood Area Performing Arts Association
Englewood, Florida
(941)473-2787

Sweet Baby James: The Music of James Taylor

These superb vocalists and musicians do an outstanding job of paying tribute to one of the greatest troubadours of our generation. An evening of pure Joy from start to finish.

Lee BELL, Program Director
Raymond F. Kravis Center for the Performing Arts
West Palm Beach, Florida
www.kravis.org

Music by the Lake engaged Bob Stillman and his "Sweet Baby James" concert, a James Taylor tribute, to close our 2009 season. This top quality production by Ligeti Artists was a "class act" experience from start to finish. Stillman's marvelous vocals and Taylor look-alike presence, along with partner Connie James, mesmerized our audience. This unforgettable evening of great hits and sweet nostalgia left many in the audience raving that this was one of the finest concerts ever offered at Music by the Lake. All went home charmed and warmed by the memories evoked during this terrific concert.

Christine FLASCH, Executive Director
Music By The Lake
Williams Bay, Wisconsin
www.musicbythelake.com

Sweet Baby James - A Tribute Concert to James Taylor was well received by our audience here on June 14, 2008. Bob Stillman was great performing James Taylor's hits. Mr. Stillman sold several CDs afterwards and the audience loved him!

Judy DRISCOLL
Philharmonic Center for the Arts
Naples, Florida
www.thephil.org



coverstories

SWEET BABY JAMES: The Music of James Taylor

~ PRESS/REVIEWS/ENDORSEMENTS ~



Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

JoAnn Falletta, Music Director | Matthew Kraemer, Associate Conductor

Daniel Hart
Executive Director
Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra

10-October-2009

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Our orchestra just premiered a brand new concert that was received very enthusiastically by the audience, titled "Sweet Baby James: A Tribute to James Taylor." This concert is part of a series of concerts called "Cover Stories" that was conceived by a Producer I met earlier this year, Peter Ligeti. Each concert celebrates the album that launched the career of a major singer/songwriter of our age. "Sweet Baby James" was the first of these to be presented in a symphony pops format. Other shows in the series include "Country Roads: A Tribute to John Denver & Dan Fogelberg" and "Blue: A Tribute to Joni Mitchell."

The show is faithful to the spirit of the original recording, but features new vocal, back-up band and symphonic arrangements and is performed by first-rate New York performers and musicians. Bob Stillman, a featured performer in the show, is a two-time Tony-nominated actor. The second half of the show is a "best of" segment.

I am attaching the link to a review below. It is really excellent. Peter has created a first-class show with singers and musicians that work very well with orchestras, but the best thing is that the audience responded strongly to it.

MYBUFFALO.COM
POPS REVIEW: SWEET BABY JAMES ROCKS KLIENHANS
www.mybuffalo.com/_Sweet-Baby-James-rocks-the-BPO-at-Kleinhaus/blog/18773/85283.html?b=

I hope you might consider Sweet Baby James for your Pops or specials or summer performances. If you could pass this on to the appropriate staff person or let me know who that is I will put Peter in touch with them.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me by email at dhart@BPO.org or call 716-885-0331 ext 407.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Hart
Executive Director
Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra
499 Franklin Street
Buffalo, NY 14202
716-885-0331 ext 407
716-885-9372 (fax)
dhart@BPO.org



SWEET BABY JAMES: The Music of James Taylor

~ PRESS/REVIEWS/ENDORSEMENTS ~



"Sweet Baby James" Rocks Kleinhans

sweet baby James
The Music of James Taylor
Thursday, September 24, 8pm



You've got a friend in Bob Stillman. His "Sweet Baby James" music of James Taylor concert at Kleinhans Music Hall on Thursday showed not only can the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra rock, they draw a pretty good crowd to do it.

"Sweet Baby James" carried the nearly-full house of Taylorheads through James Taylor's breakout album in the first set, then conducted a greatest hits jam session throughout the second, culminating in that great link-arms-and-sing ballad, "You've Got a Friend." While the crowd seemed unsure of how to handle themselves in the stately music hall suddenly filled with electric guitars and a full drum kit, a few brave souls clapped along to the catchier numbers, and gradually the audience seemed to relax. Yes folks, it's okay to clap for the BPO. A cello is generally too heavy to throw anyway.

"We've been doing this for almost a year now, and this is our first time playing with a symphony orchestra," said Stillman halfway through his first set. "It's kind of cool to have the full crew behind us."

Indeed, the full orchestra added a full-bodied, almost visual layer of sound to what could otherwise have been a fairly thin band. Where Stillman needed backup on the grand piano, the string section kicked in with lilting threads of melody behind him. Stephen Benson's guitar riffs and Brian Cassier's bass stylings needed little support, but the addition of reedy woodwinds and that big-band sound underneath certainly didn't hurt. As for vocalist Connie James, her smooth, jazzy voice was practically made to pair up with a set of brass.



When people think of the BPO, one thing usually pops into their minds: classical. They expect soft, soothing tones, swelling crescendos, forte and piano, Beethoven and Handel. All that is well and good, but the BPO is breaking out of that box and proving their worth not only as classical [crasfismen](#), but musical masters in all realms of the art. While this upcoming season includes the familiar classical offerings, the BPO also brings such diverse acts as Ben Folds, Charlie Chaplin, and music from the popular Harry Potter movies. Not a fan of Beethoven or Bach? Try on some Star Wars for size.



"Sweet Baby James" demonstrated that not only can the BPO play popular music, but Buffalo audiences love it. The house was almost full, quite a feat for a Thursday night in busy early September. Despite a timid beginning, the crowd quickly warmed up to Stillman and his band, and by the end of the evening, the whole place "rockabye-d" off into the night. Not a bad beginning to what promises to be a season full of surprises. Uploaded by: schumeel



SWEET BABY JAMES: The Music of James Taylor

~ PROGRAM ~

Featuring the U.S. Top Three hit "Fire And Rain" - as much about the suicide of a fellow patient during Taylor's time in a hospital for the mentally ill as the love song it is often taken for - Sweet Baby James served to confirm the singer/songwriter's skills at weaving bittersweet country-rock songs around love, friendship, loss and life. His second album was full of the lilting introspection that had marked his eponymous debut set, recorded a year earlier for The Beatles' Apple label, with beautifully delivered pared back love songs, notably "Blossom." There is country aplenty on the title track and "Anywhere Like Heaven" and even a jazzed up blues tune in "Steamroller," where Taylor is a "napalm bomb/guaranteed to blow your mind." With the Vietnam War still on-going and the hopes of the sixties generation a fading memory, the album tapped into the post-hippy attitudes then prevailing.

Sweet Baby James spent much of the 12 months following its release in the Top Ten of the U.S. charts, and hit Number Seven in the UK. The Sweet Baby James tribute concert stars the multi-talented and multi-faceted Bob Stillman, who has lit up some of New York's best-known stages as writer, musician and actor. He's been nominated twice for Tony Awards - first as actor, composer and onstage pianist in *Dirty Blonde*, and later as one of the songwriters for *Urban Cowboy*. Bob has also brought his uniquely soulful original songs to such popular New York venues as Joe's Pub, The Cutting Room, Wilson's and Elaine's. His debut CD *Come Down Angel*, co-produced with Tom Corwin (whose credits include work with Bonnie Raitt and Stevie Wonder) has been steadily attracting listeners, and was selected as one of host Zoe Montana's "Essentials" on radioio.com's Acoustic channel.

Bob co-starred with Christine Ebersole in the acclaimed Broadway musical *Grey Gardens*. As George Gold Strong, real life friend and accompanist to Big Edie Beale, Bob had the opportunity to combine his piano playing, acting and singing in a brilliant piece of theater. Born in New York City, Bob studied piano and composition at Juilliard and Manhattan Schools beginning at age 9. He went on to graduate with honors in music from Princeton. His other New York stage credits include Molina in *Kiss Of The Spider Woman* (opposite Vanessa Williams) and the dying singer/songwriter in the cult off-Broadway hit *The Last Session*. He's also been featured in some musical theater pieces by such new-wave composers as Adam Guettel (*Saturn Returns* at the Public Theater, released on Nonesuch as *Myths And Hymns*) and Michael John LaChiusa (*Hello Again* at Lincoln Center).

Featured in the show is CONNIE JAMES who has spent the last 20 years as a club and studio singer in New York. She has also been nominated for a Pixie Award for Best Song/Soundtrack in a Motion Picture for the song "Three Words," which she co-wrote and recorded with Composer/Pianist Onaje Allen Gumbs, for the short subject film *Whoa*. The film received the Angel Award at the Sundance Film Festival in 2003. The film was also screened at the Cannes Film Festival last year. A classically trained singer with a degree in music from the University of South Carolina, Ms. James decided to add acting to her repertoire of talents, landing roles on NBC's *Law & Order*, *Law & Order: Special Victim's Unit* and *Homicide: Life on the Street*.



SWEET BABY JAMES: The Music of James Taylor

~ BIOS ~

Bob Stillman (Lead Vocalist, Band Arrangements) – The Sweet Baby James concert stars the multi-talented and multifaceted Bob Stillman who has lit up some of New York's best-known stages as writer, musician and actor. He's been nominated twice for Tony Awards---first as actor, composer and onstage pianist in "Dirty Blonde," and later as one of the songwriters for "Urban Cowboy." Bob has also brought his uniquely soulful original songs to such popular New York venues as Joe's Pub, The Cutting Room, Wilson's and Elaine's. His just released debut CD "Come Down Angel," co-produced with Tom Corwin (whose credits include work with Bonnie Raitt and Stevie Wonder) has been steadily attracting listeners, and was selected as one of host Zoe Montana's "Essentials" on radioio.com's Acoustic channel. Featuring solid grooves, soaring melodies and biting lyrics, Bob's songs combine folk-rock, jazz, pop and classical influences to create a style that is deeply personal, intimate, sophisticated and emotionally rich. Last season Bob co-starred with Christine Ebersole in the acclaimed Broadway musical "Grey Gardens." As George Gold Strong, real life friend and accompanist to Big Edie Beale, Bob once again has the opportunity to combine his piano playing, acting and singing in a brilliant new piece of theater. Born in New York City, Bob studied piano and composition at the Juilliard and Manhattan Schools beginning at age 9. He went on to graduate with honors in music from Princeton. His other New York stage credits include Molina in "Kiss of the Spider Woman" (opposite Vanessa Williams), and the dying singer/songwriter in the cult off-Broadway hit "The Last Session." He's also been featured in some of the coolest new musical theater pieces by such new-wave composers as Adam Guettel ("Saturn Returns" at the Public Theater, released on Nonesuch as "Myths and Hymns") and Michael John LaChiusa ("Hello Again" at Lincoln) Kids of a certain age (and possibly their parents) will remember Bob as Reed on Nickelodeon's "Allegra's Window," where he learned not only how to talk to puppets, but how to write songs for them as well. (They sing funny...but then, that's the point.)

Connie James (Featured Vocalist) – Connie James has spent the last 20 years as a club and studio singer in New York. She has also been nominated for a Pixie Award for Best Song/Soundtrack in a Motion Picture for the song "Three Words", which she co-wrote and recorded with Composer/Pianist Onaje Allen Gumbs, for the short subject film "Whoa". The film received the Angel Award at the Sundance Film Festival in 2003. The film was also screened at the Cannes Film Festival last year. A classically trained singer with a degree in music from the University of South Carolina, several years ago Ms. James decided to add acting to her repertoire of talents, landing roles on NBC's "9 Law & Order", "Law & Order: Special Victim's Unit" and "Homicide: Life on the Street". Ms. James' voice can be heard as the announcer in commercials for "Partnership for a Drug Free America" and for Denny's "Skillet for Breakfast". *Sweet Baby James Band Members* Tim McLafferty (Drums) – The son of a painter and sculptor, Tim grew up in a free thinking environment where he began playing drums at age four. In the last 20 years he's played in over a dozen Broadway shows, his favorites have been Urinetown and Grey Gardens. This spring he performed in Happiness at Lincoln Center, the summer found him playing in the premier of the Philip Glass score for The Bacchae at Shakespeare in the Park. Active in all genres of music, with a focus on jazz and improvisation, Tim has performed with Karl Berger, Mark Helias, David Liebman, Graham Haynes, Kenny Wessel, Badal Roy, Ingrid Sertso, Mick Rossi, Eric Friedlander, Kermit Driscoll, and many others. Also an active poet, his poems have been set by composers Mick Rossi and Scot Munson. myspace.com/timmclafferty



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~ BIOS ~

Tim McLafferty (Drums) – The son of a painter and sculptor, Tim grew up in a free thinking environment where he began playing drums at age four. In the last 20 years he's played in over a dozen Broadway shows, his favorites have been *Urinetown* and *Grey Gardens*. This spring he performed in *Happiness* at Lincoln Center, the summer found him playing in the premier of the Philip Glass score for *The Bacchae* at Shakespeare in the Park. Active in all genres of music, with a focus on jazz and improvisation, Tim has performed with Karl Berger, Mark Helias, David Liebman, Graham Haynes, Kenny Wessel, Badal Roy, Ingrid Sertso, Mick Rossi, Eric Friedlander, Kermit Driscoll, and many others. Also an active poet, his poems have been set by composers Mick Rossi and Scot Munson. myspace.com/timmclafferty

Stephen Benson (Guitar) – Stephen Benson is very active on the New York City freelance scene. He is comfortable in a variety of musical settings from jazz and classical music to Broadway, rhythm and blues, bluegrass and klezmer music. He has performed and or recorded with people as diverse as Phoebe Snow, John Sebastian, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Natalie Cole, Jessica Simpson and Nick Lachey, The Metropolitan Opera Orchestra, The Philadelphia Orchestra, Orchestra of St. Lukes and the American Symphony Orchestra. He currently performs on Broadway in the orchestra pits of *The Lion King*, *Chicago*, *Mary Poppins* and *Hair*. He is on the jazz faculty at Montclair State University and lives in NYC with his wife and 12 year old twins.

Brian Cassier (Bass) – Brian Cassier has performed in numerous chamber music ensembles, chamber orchestras and orchestras throughout the United States, Europe, South America and Asia with such noted artists as José Carreras, James DePriest, Lucas Foss, Kurt Masur, Mstislav Rostropovich and Robert Shaw, and with ensembles such as The American Symphony Orchestra, and The Orchestra of St. Lukes. He has performed with the Festival of Baroque Music with Robert Conant. He is active as a jazz and studio recording musician for record, film, television, Broadway and has performed and recorded with Metallica, Björk, Clark Terry, Liza Minelli, Andrea Bocelli, Enya, Alana Davis, Audra McDonald, Pat Metheny, Antonio Banderas, Ciaran Sheehan, Chita Rivera and Steve Ross to name a few. Brian has been orchestra contractor / music coordinator for ABC, CBS, Atlantic, Ligeti Artists and Warner/Electra. He most recently was performing in the Broadway show "Gypsy" with Patti LuPone.

Cellist Christopher Glansdorp (Cello) – Cellist Christopher Glansdorp began studies in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1975. After receiving performance degrees from the Eastman School of Music and the University of Akron, he joined the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, Florida. As co-principal cellist for three years Chris performed on their tours of Japan and the United Kingdom and their first three CD releases. Currently in his tenth season as Principal Cello with the Palm Beach Opera Orchestra, Chris also maintains an active freelance schedule performing regularly across the entire South Florida region with ensembles including the Palm Beach Symphony, the Boca Raton Symphonia, the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra, and the Southwest Florida Symphony. Chris has performed with the Akron Symphony, the Des Moines Metro Opera, the Florida Philharmonic Orchestra, the Palm Beach Chamber Music Festival, and in local stops of Broadway touring productions including *The Light in the Piazza*, *The Producers*, *The Lion King*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Showboat*, and more. A prolific studio musician, Chris is active in South Florida's recording industry and is a member of The National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (The Recording Academy). He can be heard on hundreds of albums including those of Busta Rhymes, Barbra Streisand & Barry Gibb, Scott Stapp (from the band Creed), Julio Iglesias, Plácido Domingo, Michael Jackson, and Gloria Estefan. He also has solo credits on recordings of Shakira, Cristian Castro, Clay Aiken, JD Natasha, Juan Luis Guerra, the 2000 & 2001 Latin Grammy Record of the Year winners Alejandro Sanz and La Ley, and is a featured guest artist on the 2007 Latin Grammy winner Ricky Martin: *MTV Unplugged*, playing four songs with string quartet and three songs as solo cellist.



SWEET BABY JAMES: The Music of James Taylor

~ BOB STILLMAN ON BROADWAY ~

for GREY GARDENS

"In a pitch-perfect supporting cast, Bob Stillman deserves a special shoutout as George Gould Strong, whose song, "Drift Away," brings depth to what could have been a stock character." -Travers, Rolling Stone

"Stunning...First-rate" -Feingold, Village Voice

"Sterling" -Dziemianowicz, NY Daily News

for DIRTY BLONDE

"Excellent...invaluable...a dream of a chameleon" -Brantley, NY Times

"Awe-inspiring" -Variety

for THE LAST SESSION

"Bob Stillman's nery performance is like a live wire that both holds the show together and electrifies it." -Feingold, Village Voice

"The standout performance comes from a multi-talented Bob Stillman, whose skills both as actor and musician not only make the death-bent musician credible but enable you to care about him as much as the fictional people around him do." -Barnes, NY Post

"Performs with unusual power and grace" -Kissel, NY Daily News

for AS YOU LIKE IT

"Bob Stillman sings the play's songs with great eloquence" -Daily News

.'...It's a pleasure to hear a true singer, Bob Stillman as Amiens, handling Shakespeare's songs.' -Backstage

"But perhaps the most striking element in this production is the music composed by William Finn for the songs. As sweetly rendered by Bob Stillman's engaging Amiens, Shakespeare's lyrics at last sing." -Hartford Courant