



Singer Brian Lane Green enchants audience in Napa Valley debut

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While he's best known for pivotal roles on TV soap operas and as leading man in Broadway shows, Brian Lane Green would rather leave his mark on the Billboard charts.

Green launched his show biz career as a singer and readily admits his heart is in the great American songbook.

Evidence of that conviction was provided in spades Tuesday night as Green made his Napa Valley debut in a cabaret concert, which focused on songs about love won and lost, classics from the Broadway stage and pop treasures.

Green has a commanding voice, an inviting tenor that captivates as it spins a tale of a lover's plea ("Listen to My Heart") or acknowledges bold-faced emotion ("The First Time Ever I Saw Her Face").

He uses his acting skills to bring to life songs from the Great White Way, such as "I, Don Quixote" ("Man of La Mancha"), "Something's Coming" ("West Side Story") and "Kiss Her Now" (from the little known Jerry Herman score, "Dear World".)

But it's inner strength and one of the best voices in the business today that combine to produce unforgettable moments like accompanist John Boswell's sizzling arrangement of "Out of This World," the Harold Arlen/Johnny Mercer classic that Green has made his own torch song. It set a small but appreciative Hatt Mill audience on fire.

Take the Roy Orbison hit, "Crying." Green's rendition easily makes one forget Orbison. Here's a man spilling his guts, and he brings tears to our eyes while he's doing it. When he and incredible pianist John Boswell both reached the final note, there was only silence. I think we were all stunned by the emotion Green generated on both sides of the stage lights. It was clearly the high point of the program for this listener.

But then this initial wine country performance by Green generated many memorable moments. Like the angelic interpretation of "Ten Minutes Ago," taken from the rarely heard Richard Rodgers/Oscar Hammerstein television score for "Cinderella." And the breathtaking version of another popular song from this remarkable tunesmithing team, "Some Enchanted Evening."

When Green took wing with contemporary composer John Bucchino's "Flight," the majority of the audience went soaring right with him -- an emotional high, to be sure.

This remarkable performer -- teamed up with a consummate pianist and arranger who has a remarkable career of his own -- gave Napans a phenomenal performance. If you love music and want to catch entertainers at the top of their craft, don't miss the repeat show tonight.

Green's appearances here are a benefit for the Elaine Mackie Charitable Trust, serving as a fund-raising kickoff to establish a Cancer Research Center to serve the needs of cancer patients. The trust was established after the former executive director of the Napa Valley Vintners Association died of breast cancer in 1995 at the age of 39.

The New York-based vocalist will repeat Tuesday's concert tonight at 8 at the outdoor Riverbend Plaza of the refurbished Hatt Mill in downtown Napa. Preferred seating tickets are \$75, and general admission tickets are \$50. Reservations can be made by calling 258-5643 or logging online at www.elainemackietrust.org. If available, tickets at the door will be \$55 and \$80.

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