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Noone, Hermits to play at Honeywell Center

Wabash will be the site of Saturday's 1960s fun concert.

By James Grant of The News-Sentinel
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OK fans of pop/rock music from the 1960s, it's quiz time. Manchester, England, is the hometown to two of the biggest pop stars of the 1960s, Davy Jones of The Monkees and who else?

What British pop/rock group had 11 U.S. Top 10 hits from 1964 to 1967 including the No.1 hits "Mrs. Brown, You've Got a Lovely Daughter" and "I'm Henry the VIII, I Am"? Where will the lead singer of said group from the previous question be performing this Saturday?

Give up? The answers are: Peter Noone, Herman's Hermits and Honeywell Center, Wabash.

Herman's Hermits was one of the most successful British pop/rock groups of the 1960s. Along with The Beatles, the band was part of the British Invasion that took over the American pop charts in 1964. Also, just like The Beatles, Herman's Hermits filled stadiums with screaming girls, sold millions of records, starred in movies and created a loyal fan base that lasts today.

Peter Noone, who's proud of the group's career, says fans who come to see him perform Saturday will get to experience all the hits they recall plus a selection of songs they might not expect.

"Obviously we do 'I'm into Something Good,' 'Wonderful World,' 'Listen People,' 'Silhouettes,' 'Can't You Hear My Heartbeat' ... all the American Top Tens," Noone said in a telephone interview. "And then we throw in some odd ones that we like, like 'Leaning on a Lamp Post' which made it to No. 11.

"And we do a Johnny Cash song, 'Ring of Fire,' and maybe a Stones song and then because I say that Davy Jones is my dad, I do a Monkees song ... basically we've got like about 300 songs in the pot. We have a sheet of paper with all the songs on it and I just look at it and shout them out based on the moment. It keeps everybody fresh."

Besides their well-known hits, Herman's Hermits' catalog has several lesser-known pop gems. Songs like "No Milk Today" (written by the Graham Gouldman who also wrote "Bus Stop" for The Hollies), "My Sentimental Friend" and "Museum" (written by '60s music legend Donovan) were chosen by the band members because they believed they were good songs and they were allowed the creative input to choose them.

"I think the people from the period I (was) in were the first sort of totally independent recording artists," Noone said. "It's probably because of The Beatles. They empowered musicians to the point that we would deliver the finished product to the label and they would put it out. If we'd have had to go through A&R departments, Herman's Hermits wouldn't have existed."

While some people may not have taken the group seriously because of its name and image, Herman's Hermits made some good pop music that has outlasted critics. Noone, who is involved in reissues of the group's recordings, such as a recent box set, "Into Something Good: The Mickie Most Years 1964-72," which came out in England in 2008, feels that people may not be aware of all the good material Herman's Hermits recorded.

"I honestly think that Herman's Hermits sort of didn't capture all the attention," Noone said. "We refused to be part of that Rolling Stone magazine, that generation. We didn't make our psychedelic record to keep up with the rest of the albums. We said, no, no, we just wanna be Herman's Hermits and not pretend to be anything else so people missed a lot of it. We came and went very quickly.

"I think the period where we did 'I'm into Something Good' was the best period," Noone said. "When we first started out in the studio and we were all laughing and having fun. The early days were really good fun. When I hear the songs I remember the activity in the studio. It doesn't remind me of some girlfriend or something. I remember the studio it was recorded in and who was there."

With a career that's lasted more than 40 years, Noone says he really enjoys making music and is enthusiastic about performing and loves sharing that enthusiasm with audiences.



More Information

Something good

What: Herman's Hermits, starring Peter Noone, in concert

When: 7:30 p.m. Saturday

Where: Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St., Wabash

Cost: \$19, \$29, \$50. For more information, call 1-260-563-1102 or go to www.honeywellcenter.org.

Listen in

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