



LEO SAYER

A pop rock legend - 40 years at the top

By Siti Wajihah Kholil

As the gift-giving season approaches, the Leo Sayer concert would make the perfect Christmas present for anyone whose parents grew up with his songs or simply for those who love the melodies of the old-school. Even if you are of the new generation and are not familiar with Leo Sayer, it is about time that you do.

Leo Sayer was born Gerard Hugh Sayer on May 21, 1948, to Thomas Sayer and Teresa Nolan at Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex, in England. He first took a step into the showbiz in the late 1960's where he frequently played

the harmonica in Soho and Kensington folk clubs. Over time, he and his mates formed a group called 'Patches' and as a group, they performed all over the south coast.

In the early 1970's, he was then known as Gerry Sayer, the vocalist and harmonica player of Patches. His career took a pivotal change when he won an audition organised by promoter-cum-songwriter, David Courtney for a talent contest. It was at this point that partnership between them stemmed and the name 'Leo', the horoscope symbol of lion, was given by Courtney due to his distinctive ginger

curls. Despite the difficulties faced, Sayer was then successfully booked into London's Olympic Studios to make his first single. His collaboration with Courtney included works such as 'One Man Band', 'The Hour is Love' and 'Giving It All Away', which marked the beginning of his musical journey as Leo Sayer.

After witnessing Sayer's performance in Brighton, Joe Smith, the head of Warner Brothers records in America signed him up for a 10-album deal in the USA, Canada and South America. Then Chrysalis Records UK signed him up for the rest of the world. He became even more synonymous to the public when he appeared as the Pierrot on a TV rock show, 'The Old Grey Whistle Test'.

It was his major hits such as 'The Show Must Go On', 'One Man Band', 'Long Tall Glasses', 'Endless Flight' and 'How Much Love' that rose him to global fame. The summer of 1976 saw Sayer's collaboration with co-writer, Vini Poncia on his biggest success to date, 'You Make Me Feel Like Dancing', which became Sayer's first number 1 hit in America. However, it was the song "When I need you, I just close my eyes and I'm with you..." that dominated the world charts and brought him to being the number 1 in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and many other countries, and received a coveted Grammy award for best Rhythm & Blues song in 1977. It is a timeless piece that even until today, remains evergreen in the hearts of his fans.

With 25 chart singles and 18 chart albums in almost five decades, Sayer has won awards in Britain (a BPI award and a TV Times award), Canada (a Juno award), and Europe (Belgium's Golden Lion), had his own prime time special on the BBC and played at Windsor Great Park in conjunction with the Queen's Silver Jubilee, where he was presented to Her Majesty. With phenomenal credentials, there is no doubt that Leo Sayer is truly a man with musical sentiments and success that is beloved by many generations and cherished by the music industry.

Presented by The British Theatre Playhouse and HOMME Productions, Kuala Lumpur will be celebrating the New Year with Leo Sayer's Malaysian debut concert for one-night-only showcasing his 40 years of success at the top in January 20, 2015. The concert will be held at 8.00pm at The Plenary Hall, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur.

Tickets are priced from RM141 to RM591, inclusive of a RM3 processing fee, and are on sale from now at <http://www.ticketcharge.com.my/en/component/k2/leo-sayer-live-in-kuala-lumpur-40-years-at-the-top>.

www.ticketcharge.com.my HOTLINE: 03-9222 8811

LEO SAYER
40 YEARS AT THE TOP
TUESDAY
20 JANUARY 2015
Plenary Hall - KLCC
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"MORE THAN I CAN SAY". "WHEN I NEED YOU". "YOU MAKE ME FEEL LIKE DANCING". "THUNDER IN MY HEART".

