

RONNIE LEIGH

For the past five decades, he's wowed audiences everywhere from Istanbul to Winnipeg and from Detroit to Philly to the Big Apple, in theaters, arenas, stadiums, gazebos, concert halls, nightclubs, and dance halls.

He's also played a balcony over a bowling alley, and a sandwich shop opening on a converted gas station's rooftop. If you can imagine a venue, Ronnie Leigh has probably played it.

And over the course of those five decades, at thousands of gigs, concerts and performances, Ronnie has never come up short. If this was baseball, this guy's the musical equivalent of Hank Aaron,.... a guy who hits it out of the park every night, and never fails to delight audiences wherever he performs. His multiple-octave vocal range, engaging stage presence, singular style and his love of the music always comes across, and whether he's interpreting Monk, Al Jarreau or Duke, the man's consistently sensational!

After 40 years in the music biz, working with everyone from Smokey to Aretha to Ray Charles, and after 30 years of watching this guy, all I can tell you is that he's one of the finest song stylists working in jazz today. But it doesn't stop there. He's also one of the finest Soul and R & B stylists I've ever heard and an amazing entertainer. The guy's the complete package. And it's not even remotely hype to mention him in the same sentence with the great Lou Rawls and the amazing Donny Hathaway.

In Ronnie's first CD, Live at Apple Jazz, Leigh puts his signature spin on 11 classics from the Great American Songbook that you know and love.

If you're wondering who the incredible vocalist is on these tracks, his name is Ronnie Leigh. And if you're wondering why you've never heard his CD's before, I've been wondering about that very thing for the last 30 years. Some debuts obviously take a bit longer than others. Not sure why that is, but the wait has been worth it.

~ Frank Malfitano, founder, Syracuse Jazz Fest