

# A Doo Wop III CELEBRATION!

Starring The Drifters, Gene Chandler and The Tokens!



## NEWS RELEASE

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[High-resolution images available at WesternReservePBS.org/press.htm](http://WesternReservePBS.org/press.htm)

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Western Reserve PBS to Host "A Doo Wop Celebration III!"

*Popular event featuring doo wop stars will come to Kent  
on Saturday, May 30, 2009 for two performances*

KENT, Ohio – March 13, 2009 – Western Reserve PBS (formerly PBS 45 & 49) will host a live "Doo Wop Celebration III" concert on Saturday, May 30, 2009, featuring the "Duke of Earl" and the groups who made "Under the Boardwalk" and "The Lion Sleeps Tonight" famous.

Tickets for "A Doo Wop Celebration III!," with performances at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. at The Kent Stage in downtown Kent, are now on sale. The event stars Gene Chandler, Charlie Thomas' The Drifters and The Tokens featuring Jay Siegel.

Tickets are \$35 each and a limited number of Gold Circle tickets are available at \$65 each. The Gold Circle level includes best-in-house seats, plus a private dinner reception and meet-and-great session with members of the group. The reception will be held from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Western Reserve PBS, which is located just 10 minutes from The Kent Stage, south of the Kent State University campus, at 1750 Campus Center Drive.

Building on two years of sold-out shows, Western Reserve PBS's popular "Doo Wop Celebration" concert features classic doo wop numbers performed up close and personal. "In a venue that holds just 640 people, everyone gets a great seat at the Kent Stage," said Lisa Martinez, vice president of marketing and development at Western Reserve PBS. "This year, we're presenting three of the best doo wop acts of all time for a very affordable ticket price."

To order tickets, call Western Reserve PBS at 1-800-554-4549 or order online at [www.WesternReservePBS.org](http://www.WesternReservePBS.org). Proceeds will benefit Western Reserve PBS.

Presented by



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### **Gene Chandler**

Gene Chandler was born Eugene Dixon in Chicago, Ill. He is best known for his 1962 smash “Duke of Earl,” though he wrote and performed many more songs and collaborated with many of the greats in the soul and R&B world, including Curtis Mayfield and Jerry Butler. “Duke of Earl” sold a million copies in just over one month. When it became a hit, Chandler got a cape, monocle, top hat and cane and literally “became” the Duke of Earl.

After a number of years on the road, Chandler became more involved with the business end of the music industry. He produced, wrote, arranged and started his own record label, Bamboo Records. In 1970, he won the National Association of Television and Radio Announcers Producer of the Year award (beating out the likes of fellow nominees Kenny Gamble, Leon Huff and Norman Whitfield). In the late 1970s, while still producing, he joined Wolfman Jack’s traveling show of “oldies” acts. He still performs in Chicago, Las Vegas and elsewhere.

### **Charlie Thomas’ The Drifters**

The Drifters’ Charlie Thomas began his career in the 1950s with the vocal group the Five Crowns. Lover Patterson, manager of the Crowns, once said Charlie Thomas’ voice “is a voice that the world will enjoy forever,” and he was right. The Five Crowns first experienced success with the recording of the song “Kiss and Make Up.”

Soon after, George Treadwell, manager of the famous Drifters, decided to fire the original members of that group and recruit the members of the Five Crowns to replace them. The new Drifters’ first release was in 1959, a song called “There Goes My Baby.” In 1988, Thomas, along with Drifters members Doc Green, Ben E. King and Elsberry Hobbs, were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Thomas also received the Rhythm and Blues Award in 1999 for lifetime achievement and was inducted into the Vocal Hall of Fame in 2000.

### **The Tokens featuring Jay Siegel**

Formed in New York City in 1958, The Tokens are best known for the smash hit “The Lion Sleeps Tonight.” The song is derived from a Zulu folk melody titled “Mbube,” which when pronounced, sounds like “wimoweh.” In the 1950s, the Weavers recorded an English-language rendition of the song and called it “Wimoweh.” However, it was The Tokens’ souped-up version that made this one of the most recognized songs of the doo wop era.

Neil Sedaka and Hank Medress formed The Tokens in 1956, and the group included Eddie Rabkin and Cynthia Zoliton. After the group broke up two years later, Medress formed another group with Jay Siegel, Warren Schwartz and Fred Kalkstein, but it, too, dissolved. Medress and Siegel then teamed up with brothers Phil and Mitch Margo. These four formed the Tokens’ best-known lineup. Their first single was “Tonight I Fell in Love,” which sold 700,000 copies in the U.S.

### **About Western Reserve PBS**

Western Reserve Public Media (formerly PBS 45 & 49) is owned and operated by Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation and consortium of Kent State University, The University of Akron and Youngstown State University. A trusted community resource, Western Reserve Public Media uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. Western Reserve PBS, a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of northeast Ohio. It is available to 1.8 million households and 4.4 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average week, over 500,000 households tune in. Through funding from eTech Ohio, Western Reserve Public Media provides K-12 educational technology training and instructional television programming to 21,500 educators and 256,700 students in eight Ohio counties. For more information about the organization, visit [www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org](http://www.WesternReservePublicMedia.org) or call 1-800-554-4549.