



news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## A Doo Wop Celebration VI! Concert Coming to Akron Civic Theatre

*Western Reserve PBS event on Sunday, June 9, 2013,  
to feature doo wop greats*

NORTHEAST OHIO — Thursday, April 25, 2013 — Enjoy an entertaining evening of oldies but goodies at “A Doo Wop Celebration VI!” on Sunday, June 9, 2013, at 4 p.m. at the historic Akron Civic Theatre in downtown Akron. The concert will feature an impressive lineup of renowned doo wop performers: Charlie Thomas’ The Drifters; Shirley Alston Reeves, original lead singer of The Shirelles; The Coasters; and Sonny Turner, former lead singer of The Platters. Their many hits include “Up on the Roof,” “Soldier Boy,” “Charlie Brown” and “Only You.”

“For even the most casual doo wop fan, this is a great line-up,” said Lisa Martinez, Western Reserve Public Media vice president of marketing and development. “We’re especially pleased to partner with the Akron Civic Theatre, which offers the perfect venue for a trip down memory lane.” Proceeds from the event will benefit Western Reserve PBS and the Akron Civic Theatre.

Tickets are on sale at the Akron Civic Theatre Box Office by phone at 330-253-2488 or online at [www.AkronCivic.com](http://www.AkronCivic.com). Prices are \$25, \$45 and \$65. A limited number of Gold Circle packages at \$90 include best-in-house seating, a post-concert reception and a meet-and-greet with the performers.

### **Charlie Thomas’ The Drifters**

The Drifters’ Charlie Thomas began his career in the 1950s with the vocal group The Five Crowns. Lover

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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.

### **Shirley Alston Reeves**

Co-founder of The Shirelles, Shirley Alston Reeves was born in Henderson, N.C., and moved to Passaic, N.J., at an early age. While attending Passaic High School, The Shirelles with Reeves as lead singer were discovered and recorded after performing in an auditorium program. Their first single release, "I Met Him on a Sunday," was an instant success. The Shirelles recorded for the New York-based Scepter label from 1959 to 1968 and enjoyed sustained success from 1960-63, during which they charted a dozen Top 40 singles. The Shirelles were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1996.

### **The Coasters**

Atlantic Records acquired The Robins in 1955, when the Leiber & Stoller composition "Smokey Joe's Cafe" became successful. The Robins split up that fall and lead tenor Carl Gardner formed a new group named for its West Coast base, The Coasters. The group's first single, "Down in Mexico," became a hit in 1956 and was followed in 1957 with the double-sided smash "Young Blood"/"Searchin'." The Coasters then moved to New York and in 1958 released "Yakety Yak," with King Curtis on tenor sax, which became a number-one pop hit. The hits kept coming with "Charlie Brown," "Along Came Jones," "Poison Ivy" and, in 1961, "Little Egypt." The Coasters, who were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987, have sold more than 24 million records.

### **Sonny Turner**

The Platters were one of the top vocal groups of the 1950s, delivering smooth, stylized renditions of pop standards. Their sound was crisp and clear and, above all, understandable. They specialized in adult ballads and soulful renditions of pre-rock standards. In late 1959, Sonny Turner was chosen out of 100 hopefuls to be the group's new lead singer. Turner breathed new life into The Platters with three hit singles; "I Love You 1000 Times" in 1966, "With This Ring" in 1967 and "Washed Ashore" in 1968. He also re-recorded many of The Platters' hits of the 1950s, and it is Turner's vocals that are heard on the soundtracks of films such as "The Nutty Professor 2" and "Hearts in Atlantis."

### **About Western Reserve Public Media**

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. It serves the largest population (5.13 million people) of Ohio's eight PBS member stations.

Western Reserve PBS (WNEO 45.1/WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of Northeast Ohio. It is available to 5.13 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates three standard definition channels: Fusion (WNEO 45.2/WEAO 49.2), MHz Worldview (WNEO 45.3/WEAO 49.3) and V-me (WNEO 45.4/WEAO 49.4).

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.

### **About Akron Civic Theatre**

Long recognized among the community's cultural landmarks, the Akron Civic Theatre has a rich and spectacular history. It has provided the community with a venue for quality entertainment and live performances.

The theater was built in 1929 by Marcus Loew and designed by famed theater architect, John Ebersson. The interior structure was fashioned after a Moorish castle featuring Mediterranean decor, including medieval carvings, authentic European antiques and Italian alabaster sculptures. Among facilities of its size, the Civic is one of only five remaining atmospheric theaters in the country where patrons experience a twinkling star-lit sky and intermittent clouds moving across the horizon, all while sitting inside the auditorium.

In June 2001, the Akron Civic Theatre closed its doors for a 16-month restoration and expansion project. Just over \$19 million was spent bringing the theater up to modern performance and patron standards, and to restore its infrastructure.

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