

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bethany Gauthier  
(269) 387-2245 [bethany.gauthier@wmich.edu](mailto:bethany.gauthier@wmich.edu)

**JUST ADDED: FRANKIE VALLI**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 31 AT MILLER AUDITORIUM**  
***Tickets on sale now!***

**Frankie Valli**...a true American pop music icon. His incredible career as a solo artist and with the Four Seasons has produced 19 top ten hits and sold over 100 million records world wide. He was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1990 and named longevity champ of the rock era by *Billboard Magazine*. Frankie Valli comes to Miller Auditorium for one show only on Thursday, May 31 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are available now by calling **(269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858**, online at [www.millerauditorium.com](http://www.millerauditorium.com), or by visiting the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office.

Possessed of one of the most distinctive voices in all of rock and roll, Frankie Valli continues to dazzle. Inspired by fellow New Jersey native, Frank Sinatra, and such jazz influences as the Hi-Lo's and the Four Freshman, Frankie Valli always knew he wanted to perform. "We used to sing around the Newark area where I grew up." Valli recalls. "I'd always wanted to be a singer, ever since my mother took me to see Sinatra at the Paramount Theatre in New York as a kid. I decided then and there that's what I was going to do...be a successful singer."

Frankie Valli's earliest performances were informal affairs; he sang doo-wop to passers-by on Newark street corners. In the early fifties, Frankie Valli joined Nick Massi and Tommy DeVito in performing with their Variety Trio. The group later signed Valli on as a full member and began making a name for themselves while touring the East Coast. Around that time the Frankie and the group began an association with songwriter Bob Gaudio. That relationship has continued for nearly forty years, and Gaudio remains an integral part of Frankie Valli's career. Their lifelong handshake partnership has been the subject of articles in *Money Magazine* and *US New & World Report*.

In 1962 Gaudio wrote a song called "Sherry." It was written in about 15 minutes. "Sherry" was released in the summer and moved slowly until the group performed on "American Bandstand." "Sherry" sold 200,000 copies the next day catapulting Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons into rock and roll superstardom. Gaudio wrote or co-wrote and produced almost the entire four Seasons catalogue with heavy involvement by Bob Crewe.

With "Sherry," the Four Seasons had crystallized a distinctive musical style...the popular doo-wop music of the 1950's inflected with the rhythm and blues influences that would come to define much of the music of the 1960's. With Frankie's dazzling falsetto as its trademark, the Four Season's sound would become one of the most enduring in all of rock and roll.

At their peak, the Four Seasons made recordings that expressed the tough-but-tender sensibility of their home turf in the Northeast much in the way the Beach Boys encapsulated the world of Southern California in harmony and song. In the words of Billy Joel, a longtime fan who grew up listening to them on Long Island, "The Four Seasons had wonderful chord progressions, beautiful writing, terrific production and fantastic harmony, records that really spoke to us."

Over the next few years the Four Seasons followed "Sherry" with such unforgettable original songs as "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like a Man," "Candy Girl," and "Rag Doll," all of which became rock and roll classics. As the Four Seasons were working to perfect and expand their style, a rock and roll revolution was brewing. In 1964, the Beatles came onto the American music scene, leading a British Invasion that would decimate the careers of scores of American pop music acts. The Four Seasons not only survived the Invasion but continued to thrive; they had three top five hits during 1964, a year in which the Beatles dominated the charts.

While remaining steadfastly devoted to the Four Seasons, Frankie Valli decided to branch out with his own solo record. In 1966 he scored a Top 40 hit with "You're Gonna Hurt Yourself." That same year the Four Seasons reached the number three spot on the pop charts with "Let's Hang On."

The year 1967 saw Valli's "Can't Take My Eyes off of You" rise to number two, while "I Make A Fool of Myself" and "To Give (the Reason I Live)" both became Top 40 hits; the Four Seasons also had three Top 40 entries that year, including the gold selling "C'Mon Marianne." For the next several years Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons continued to tour extensively, playing to packed houses throughout the United States, Europe and Asia.

In 1974 Frankie was back on top of the charts, going platinum with the bittersweet ballad "My Eyes Adored You." "Swearin' to God," with its disco beat and contemporary sensibilities went gold, climbing to number six in 1975. That same year "Our Day Will Come" reached No. 11 on the charts. In March of 1976 "December, '63 (Oh, What a Night)" climbed to No. 1 staying at the top for 3 weeks. Frankie scored another megahit in 1978, with the title track of the best-selling "Grease" soundtrack.

More recently, "December, '63 (Oh, What a Night)" appeared on the soundtrack to *Forest Gump*, and re-entered the singles chart. Owing to its second lease on life, it became the longest-charting single in history with fifty total weeks.

Frankie Valli has continued to woo audiences throughout the world both with his recordings and live performances for almost four decades, truly making him one of rock and roll's most enduring performers.

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**At a Glance:**

**Who:** **Frankie Valli**

**When:** Thursday, May 31 at 7:30 p.m.

**Where:** Miller Auditorium on the campus of Western Michigan University.  
GPS Address: 2200 Auditorium Dr., Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5344

**How Much:** Tickets range from \$38 to \$78 and are available now.

Call the Miller Auditorium Ticket Office at (269) 387-2300 or (800) 228-9858 or visit [www.millerauditorium.com](http://www.millerauditorium.com).

Group discounts available at (269) 387-2312.

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