



2024 Democratic National Convention

Boomers for Harris/Walz Rockin' Doo-Wop Party Bios

Wednesday, August 21st

3 – 4:45 pm CDT



Johnny Contardo

Former Lead Singer, Sha Na Na

Johnny Contardo is a vocalist who was formerly the lead singer with the musical group Sha Na Na, which he left in 1983. In 1978, he appeared with Sha Na Na in the movie musical Grease as Johnny Casino and the Gamblers. His performance of the song “Those Magic Changes” was featured in the film and on the soundtrack for Grease. Johnny’s mother took him into night clubs when he was a teen to perform for audiences. She discovered that he had stage presence and personality in addition to his singing talent. He joined Sha Na Na in 1971, which included extensive world touring and recording. The television show, “Sha Na Na,” aired from 1977 to 1981 (97 episodes), and went into syndication for three additional years. “Sha Na Na” was the #1 syndicated show in America at its highest point of popularity, and it aired in 32 foreign countries. The group received a Gold Record for “The Golden Age of Rock ‘N’ Roll” in 1973. As of 2023, Johnny performs as a solo artist in various shows and private concerts around the U.S. Contardo also enjoys both Italian and Cajun style cooking, and likes creating new dishes that he shares with friends and fans both on Facebook and YouTube.



Sakinah Muhammad

Lead Singer, The Crystals

La La Brooks’ list of singing accomplishments puts her in rare air in the history of rock and roll. As the lead singer of the 60s girls group The Crystals, Ms. Brooks was the voice on hits Rolling Stone Magazine once declared as two of the “500 Greatest Songs of All Time” – Then He Kissed Me and Da Doo Ron Ron. In addition, the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame has declared Da Doo Ron Ron as one of the songs that shaped rock & roll. After leaving The Crystals, she appeared on Broadway in the original cast of the legendary musical Hair and later in Two Gentlemen of Verona. After partially leaving the spotlight to get married, move to Europe and



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raise her children, La La Brooks is back performing with an energy and sound that takes audiences back in time. In 2010, she appeared on the PBS television special “My Music: Rock Pop, and Doo Wop.” After releasing her 2013 album All or Nothing, Rolling Stone proclaimed “the veteran singer hasn’t lost her touch” and “good things come to those who wait.” Today La La Brooks performs all across the country and the world singing not only The Crystals’ greatest hits but also paying tribute to the legendary Wall of Sound.



Gene Chandler **Singer/Songwriter/Producer, Grammy Hall of Fame**

Gene Chandler is a singer, songwriter, music producer, and record-label executive. Chandler is nicknamed "the Duke of Earl" or, simply, "the Duke." He is best known for his most successful songs, "Duke of Earl" and "Groovy Situation", and his association with the Dukays, the Impressions, and Curtis Mayfield. Chandler is a Grammy Hall of Fame inductee and a recipient of the Rhythm and Blues

Foundation's Pioneer Award. He is one of the few singers to achieve chart success spanning the doo-wop, rhythm and blues, soul and disco musical eras, with some top-40 pop and R&B chart hits between 1961 and 1986. Chandler was inducted as a performer into the Rhythm and Blues Music Hall of Fame on August 24, 2014. In 2016, he became a double inductee in the R&B Music Hall of Fame with his induction as an R&B music pioneer.



Gary “U.S.” Bonds **Singer/Songwriter**

The hits of Gary U.S. Bonds were and still remain an irresistible invitation to an instant party! He is a singer known for his hits “New Orleans” and “Quarter to Three.” The follow-up was the now legendary 'party' record, "Quarter to Three," a number one hit with a spirit and

energy that would eventually inspire and influence a generation. In fact, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame lists "Quarter to Three" as one of the 500 Songs that Shaped Rock and Roll. Over the next three years, Gary co-wrote and recorded hit after good-time hit; "School is Out," "School is In," "Dear Lady Twist," "Twist, Twist Senora," "Seven Day Weekend" and others. A rare distinction for Gary is that he managed to transcend the decades with hits. A true music icon and survivor in the entertainment business, Gary continues to keep the party going. He is as vibrant today as he was when he first started out. Gary tours with his group, the very highly-regarded and powerful



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Roadhouse Rockers, performing his hits, some new songs, some rockin' R&B and Blues and generally thrilling all audiences. The party never stops!



Peggy March Harris **Singer/Recording Artist**

Little Peggy March a/k/a Peggy March was discovered at age thirteen singing at a wedding and was introduced to the record producer duo Hugo & Luigi. In April 1963, her single "I Will Follow Him" soared to number one on the United States charts. Recorded in early January 1963 and released January 22 of that year, it made Peggy March the youngest female singer with a number one hit at age fifteen. The record also took the number one spot in Australia, New Zealand,

Japan, and Scandinavia. Peggy's singles "I Wish I Were a Princess" and "Hello Heartache, Goodbye Love" made the Top 30 in the United States and the United Kingdom. "The Impossible Happened" and "(I'm Watching) Every Little Move You Make" written by Paul Anka also charted in the U.S. From The Perry Como Show in 1963 to Mr. Warmth: The Don Rickles Project 2007, Peggy has appeared in numerous TV shows and movies. Today Peggy travels the world performing her hits for her faithful followers and winning new fans. She can be found on cruise ships, at outdoor festivals and in concert halls around the world singing her heart out.