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Jim Rice & Valerie Roy perform a Tribute to Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme @ Mechanics Hall - Wed, July 25, 2023 @ 2 p.m.

WORCESTER, Mass. (July 26, 2023) - There are very few married couples who have reached the rare air of the entertainment world's pinnacle of success. George Burns and Gracie Allen come to mind, and Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne.

But one couple stands above them all in the music sphere: Steve Lawrence and Eydie Gorme.

On Wednesday, August 16th @ 2 p.m. at Mechanics Hall, 321 Main Street, Worcester, MA, you would not be blamed for thinking that dynamic duo is somehow standing on The Mechanics Hall stage when singers Jim Rice and Valerie Roy bring Steve and Eydie back to life in their sensational musical tribute, "Celebrate Steve & Eydie". It is a FREE show. This concert is supported in part by a grant from the Worcester Arts Council which was made possible with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Jim Rice is arranging and orchestrating the show for an 8-piece Las Vegas style band to back him while he performs. Joining him will be Valerie Roy, a lauded singer on her own, and one of Rice's closest friends. "We've known each other over 30 years," Rice said recently. "I've done a lot of her arranging work, and we're so attuned to one another now – on stage and off – that it's like we're married. Like Steve and Eydie, we're on the same page every moment, and it's obvious on stage."

That tight friendship and musicality serve Rice and Roy. Hit songs like "This Could Be the Start of Something Big", "Make Someone Happy", "A Lot Of Living", "What Did I Have", and "If He Walked Into My Life" complement the easy and entertaining banter Steve and Eydie had on their many network specials and appearances on "The Tonight Show".

Steve Allen's version of that show is where Lawrence and Gorme met, in fact, when she was hired as a solo performer and ran into the show's staff singer and co-star. "I fell in love," Gorme has said. "I fell madly in love with him instantly."

They were inseparable after that night, married soon after, and began their remarkable run of Grammy and Emmy awards, a hit Broadway show, and tours with their mentor and close friend, Frank Sinatra.

"Steve Lawrence was a really fine singer," Rice said. "In fact, Sinatra said many times that Steve Lawrence was a much better singer than he was. And Eydie was a perfect match for him."

This is a ONE SHOW ONLY performance at Mechanics Hall, 321 Main Street, Worcester, MA 01608 on Wed, August 16 at 2:00 p.m. Tickets are FREE and reservations recommended online at www.mechanicshall.org or call 508-752-5608.

ABOUT JIM RICE & VALERIE ROY

Valerie Roy has won awards, collected rave reviews from critics across the country, sung with Broadway stars, and performed on stages from the Grand Ole Opry to theaters and nightclubs in New York and Boston. A belter *and* a soprano — with a nearly three-octave range — Valerie Roy can just as effectively whisper a lilting ballad as knock a show tune out of the ballpark.

Jim Rice is an accomplished and diverse music director, arranger, conductor, singer, and pianist of many styles. He has performed in hundreds of theaters and concert halls throughout Europe and in every state except Hawaii. Jim Rice has received great critical acclaim for his work. His arrangements have been described as "marvelous" by the *Boston Herald* and "sophisticated and richly crafted" by *Cabaret Scenes* in New York City.