



Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers: Stan Lynch, Mike Campbell, Ron Blair, Petty, Benmont Tinch.

Tom Petty Summer's Headliner

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The summer months may have started slowly for concertgoers in the St. Petersburg area, but music fans may want to save their money to attend several shows during July.

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, who many might consider the biggest concert draw of the summer, finally confirmed plans to perform in the Bayfront Center July 15. The concert is scheduled in honor of radio station 98 Rock's annual birthday celebration.

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers catapulted to the top of the music industry this year with the release of the band's third album, *Damn the Torpedos*. The group's first two albums had received critical praise, but the new album made the band a top concert act and led to international airwave attention.

Damn the Torpedos has sold more than 2-million copies in the United States, and the album is a product of talented musicianship and Petty's strongest lyrical and musical arrangements to date.

Petty and the members of his band — Stan Lynch, drums; Benmont Tinch, keyboards; Ron Blair, bass; and Mike Campbell, guitar — are originally from Gainesville. The group's music has not changed radically since its first album, but the waning popularity of disco has led to a rebirth of interest in Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers' brand of rock 'n' roll.

Several successful singles have been released from the *Damn the Torpedos* album, including *Don't Do Me Like That* and *Refugee*.

Tickets for the 8 p.m. July 15 concert are \$7.98 general admission and are available at Peaches and Stereorama in Clearwater, Asylum Records in St. Petersburg, Disc Records in Tyrone Square Mall and the Bayfront Center box office.

Soul fans may want to welcome the **Isley Brothers** to the area July 5 in the Lakeland Civic Center. The real-life brothers are veteran performers on the soul music scene, as they have been performing for more than two decades.

The Isleys were one of the early groups influencing the Britishers who made such an impact on American music in the '60s. One of the Beatles' early hits, *Twist and Shout*, was a remake of an Isley Brothers tune.

The group is one of the few who have been able to change with the times while keeping their originality and mass appeal. Their newest album, *Go All the Way*, includes the hit song, *Don't Say Goodnight*. Other hit songs for the group have included *Who's That Lady?*, *I Wanna Be With You*, *Voyage to Atlantis* and *Groove With You*.

Concert Connection

Tickets for the Isley Brothers performance are \$8 advance and \$9 general admission and can be purchased at the Lakeland Civic Center. For other ticket outlets, check with the center or record stores in your area.

Alice Cooper checks back into St. Petersburg July 16 for a concert in the Bayfront Center. Cooper fans may want to see what he has in store for them theatrically with the release of his newest album, *Flush the Fashion*.

Cooper has been in the news in recent months in reference to his successful fight against alcoholism and a Lee Marvin-type palimony suit filed against him by former live-in girlfriend, Cynthia Lang.

While Cooper, whose real name is Vince Furnier, is a "regular guy" offstage — he's straight, married, does not use drugs, and loves golf and television — his shows are known to be highly theatrical with a generous amount of special effects and dance segments.

Audiences at previous shows have been treated to glimpses of Cooper's pet boa constrictor, Angel; doll-chopping to his song, *Dead Babies*; a modern version of the "electric chair;" spiders chasing Cooper around the stage; and even a mock hanging.

The Alice Cooper group has had several hit albums and singles, including *School's Out*, *I'm 18*, *Only Women Bleed*, *You and Me*, *I Never Cry* and the latest single from *Flush the Fashion*, *Clones*.

Tickets prices for Alice Cooper have not been set yet, but tickets will be available at Peaches and Stereorama in Clearwater, Asylum Records in St. Petersburg, Disc Records in Tyrone Square Mall and the Bayfront Center box office.

Devo will perform in the Bayfront Center July 31. The group describes its music as "the sound of things falling apart," and performs in bright yellow chemical wetsuits while making their music with electronic effects.

The band is actually an unlikely mix of gimmickry and rock, and many people think it is one of the most entertaining groups on the music scene. Devo began playing regularly in 1976 at a club in Akron, Ohio, drawing an audience of around 200 for each show.

While Devo's music sounds suspiciously like New Wave, the group's members insist it is exclusively "Devo." A performance on *Saturday Night Live* last year

increased the group's cult following.

Devo's new album, *Freedom of Choice*, is more commercial than the group's previous efforts and is likely to gain the band more airplay.

Tickets for Devo are \$8 general admission and are available at Peaches and Stereorama in Clearwater, Asylum Records in St. Petersburg, Disc Records in Tyrone Square Mall and the Bayfront Center box office.

Hard rock fans should be delighted to hear that **Van Halen** is scheduled to perform Aug. 8 in the Lakeland Civic Center and Aug. 12 in the Bayfront Center.

The group, led by the Van Halen brothers, recently released a new album, *Women and Children First*. Although the album was panned by most critics, many of the group's fans think it is Van Halen's finest release yet.

Former hits for Van Halen include *Runnin' With the Devil* and *Dance the Night Away*. A single, *And the Cradle Will Rock*, has been released from *Women and Children First*.

Tickets for Van Halen's performances are available at Peaches and Stereorama in Clearwater, Asylum Records in St. Petersburg, Disc Records in Tyrone Square Mall and the Bayfront Center and Lakeland Civic Center box offices.

Johnny Winter, sometimes referred to as America's premier electric-blues guitarist, returns to the area in a July 6 appearance at the Agora Ballroom in Tampa.

Winter's voice is not smooth, but it is perfect for the blues numbers he performs energetically. He has acquired a sort of cult following and is an "original" in his field. The July 6 concert marks the release of a new album, *Raising Cain*.

Winter gained national attention as the result of a *Rolling Stone* article published about Texas music in 1968. Larry Sepulveda described Winter as a "cross-eyed albino with long fleecy hair, playing the gutsiest, fluid blues guitar you ever heard."

Tickets for Winter's performance at the Agora are \$8.50 and can be purchased at Stereorama in Clearwater, Disc Records in St. Petersburg and the Agora box office.

Johnny Van Zant, brother of deceased Lynyrd Skynyrd member Ronnie Van Zant, will perform at the Agora Ballroom Thursday. Van Zant is a former member of the **Austin Nichols Band**.

Tickets for Van Zant's appearance are \$3 and are available at Stereorama in Clearwater, Disc Records in St. Petersburg and the Agora box office.

Orleans will put in a July 20 performance at the Agora Ballroom for a \$4.50 advance and \$5.50 general admission ticket price. Tickets are available at the Agora box office, Disc Records in St. Petersburg and Stereorama in Clearwater.