

ROCKBILL

A TRUSTED ROCK RESOURCE SINCE 1967

REO *Speedwagon*

A photograph of a man in a blue shirt leaning over a pool at night, with a cityscape in the background. The man is in the foreground, looking down at something in the pool. The background shows a city at night with lights and buildings.

An Evening Of
hi fi DELITY
...AND MORE

NOVEMBER 10 & 11

THE VENETIAN RESORT
— LAS VEGAS —

LIVE NATION

ticketmaster

Performance Dates: November 10-11, 2023



THE VENETIAN®

— LAS VEGAS —

PRESENTS



**An Evening of
Hi Infidelity**

...and more

Starring

Kevin Cronin

Bruce Hall, Dave Amato, Bryan Hitt, Derek Hilland

Executive Producer

Creative Director

Content Editor

Business Manager

Tom Consolo

Paul Dexter

Haydon Lane

Diane Ricci

THE STORY OF REO SPEEDWAGON

Step back in time to the early days of rock & roll, where the story of REO Speedwagon and their 1981 masterpiece, the chart-topping album “Hi Infidelity,” unfolds like a true American dream. It all started in 1967 when Alan Gratzner and Neal Doughty founded the band in the heart of the Midwest - Champaign, Illinois. With their eyes fixed on the future and a firm belief in staying true to themselves, REO embarked on a musical journey of endless possibilities.

In 1981, this local phenomenon transformed into a force to be reckoned with, as they released “Hi Infidelity” with its unforgettable power ballad single, “Keep On Loving

You.” In the blink of an eye, REO Speedwagon became a household name, their album dominating the coveted number one spot on the Billboard Hot 200 Chart for an astounding 14 weeks, a record that still stands to this day.



Yet, beneath the surface, few realized that “Hi Infidelity” was, in fact, the band’s ninth album on the

renowned Epic Records label. REO had been

tirelessly touring since 1970, creating regional radio hits and delivering spirited live shows, setting the stage for their meteoric rise to fame. And so, the stars aligned, and “Hi Infidelity” became the catalyst for REO Speedwagon’s global sensation, with a fan base multiplying by the day.

“Hi Infidelity” wasn’t just another rock album; it was a deeply personal

journey for the band members. Penned during trying times in their relationships, the songs spoke of the complexities of love and the struggle to stay true to oneself. Life on the road, the demands of touring, and the pressures of writing and recording took their toll on home life. These emotions and experiences were channeled into the music, creating a powerful and visual story that resonated with their fans and touched the hearts and minds of future generations.

And so, the story of REO Speedwagon and their monumental album “Hi Infidelity” continues to shine brightly as an enduring icon of American rock & roll history. It’s a tale of perseverance, belief in one’s art, and the transformative power of music, reminding us all that with dedication and authenticity,

dreams can come true!

ALBUMS		WEEKS ON CHART	
TITLE	ARTIST, Label, Number, (Distributing Label)	WEEKS ON CHART	LAST WEEK
1	6 HI INFIDELITY REO SPEEDWAGON Epic FE 36844	10	H
2	1 DOUBLE FANTASY JOHN LENNON/YOKO ONO/Geffen (Diamond)/Capitol SWAN 12120	11	H
3	3 THE JAZZ SINGER (ORIGINAL SOUNDTRACK) NEIL DAMON/Dorland SWAN 12120	12	I
4	4 PARADISE THEATER STYX/A&M SP 3719	5	H
5	2 KENNY ROGERS' GREATEST HITS Liberty LOO 1072	18	H
6	5 CRIMES OF PASSION PAT BENATAR/Chryslis CHE 1275	26	H
7	7 GUILTY BASSA STREISAND/Columbia FC 36750	19	H
8	8 BACK IN BLACK AC/DC/Atlantic SD 14018	27	H
9	10 AUTOAMERICAN BLONDE/Chryslis CHE 1290	11	H
10	11 GAUCHO STEELY DAN/MCA 6102	11	I
12	12 ZENYATTA MONDATTI THE POLICE/A&M SP 4931	17	G
12	12 CELEBRATE KOOL & THE GANG/De-Line DSR 9518 (PolyGram)	17	H
13	9 HOTTER THAN JULY STEVIE WONDER/Tamla TB 373M1 (Motown)	15	H
14	15 THE TURN OF A FRIENDLY CARD ALAN PARSONS PROJECT/ Arista AL 9518	14	H
14	14 FOOLISH BEHAVIOUR BOO STEWART/Warner Bros HG 3485 11	H	H
10	22 CAPTURED JOURNEY/Columbia KC2 37616	2	I



CAST



Kevin Cronin is a Chicago native, a life-long musician, singer, and songwriter, as well as co-producer on all of REO's highest selling albums. Cronin joined REO Speedwagon as lead vocalist and rhythm guitarist in 1972 and was a key member of the line-up that recorded nine consecutive platinum-plus albums from '77 to '89. As the songwriter responsible for many of REO Speedwagon's most famous and successful songs, "Keep on Loving You", "Time For Me To Fly" and "Roll With the Changes", Cronin's identifiable vocal style and dynamic stage presence have been a big part of REO's inimitable sound and live performances over his five-plus decades with the group. He continues to lead the band to this day.



Bruce Hall is the only true Champaign, Illinois "townie" in the band which also calls Champaign its hometown. Before joining REO Speedwagon, Bruce was a bandmate of Gary Richrath in local band Feather Train, and when REO needed a new bass guitarist, Hall was the obvious and only choice. A true musician's musician, Bruce is best known for his solid bass playing, raspy/cool vocals, and dependable songwriting. Hall joined the band in 1976 for the "Live, You Get What You Play For" tour, and has been with the group ever since. Bruce's powerful voice and joyful stage presence have been a key part of REO's live performances, and according to Cronin, "... Bruce was the final piece in the REO puzzle. When he joined, I felt we were unstoppable.



Dave Amato, born and raised in Framingham Massachusetts, grew up playing guitar in the local Boston music scene. After moving to Los Angeles in 1980, he sang in studio sessions before joining Ted Nugent, Jimmy Barnes, and Cher. Dave got the call in 1989 to take over where Richrath left off in REO Speedwagon. He has been with the group on lead guitar and harmony vocals for over 34 years as an essential part of the band. Dave is still fondly referred to as a "new guy". Amato is an ambassador of humor and good vibes on tour, and was described as "the kind of guy who would help you move". Dave still retains the team mentality that is crucial to the survival of a touring band and continues to rock hard every night.



Bryan Hitt, originally from Joachin, Texas, moved to Anchorage as a teen, and eventually landed in Los Angeles. Brian played with Cher, Graham Nash and the Spencer Davis Group until being discovered by Wang Chung at a TV shoot, and was immediately recruited to join them on drums. Wang Chung disbanded in 1989, and through a happy coincidence, Bryan would try out for REO. He was one of the first of twelve drummers to audition, and

Cronin says, “Out of respect, we listened to the other eleven guys, but I immediately knew that Bryan was our guy.” Bryan is the youthful wonder in REO Speedwagon, and plays with the same power and energy today as he did on that first audition.



Derek Hilland is the newest REO member. After Neal Doughty, retired in late 2022, the band cast a wide net to find someone to continue the tradition of fine keyboard work in REO Speedwagon. Derek’s name came up from multiple sources, not the least of which was Rick Springfield. Cronin recalls Rick’s immediate endorsement, “Derek is an amazing Hammond organist, an awesome piano player, sings great harmony. . . and is one of the

sweetest, most decent, and gifted humans ever.” And Rick had it right on all counts. Derek “Captain Caffeine” Hilland has fit perfectly into REO both musically and personally, and remains the “happiest man in rock and roll”.

Former REO Speedwagon Members Originators and Contributors



Gary Richrath hails from East Peoria, Illinois where he learned guitar from his uncle LeRoy. A unique guitarist soulful songwriter, and sensual performer, Gary was best known for his scorching solos, including a nightly ten minute instrumental, which he performed alone on stage with only a vintage Les Paul, a coil cord, and a Marshall amp stack. Richrath joined REO in 1970 and was considered by many to be the force behind the band being signed to Epic Records. He was one of the group’s primary song-

writers, a co-producer, and responsible for REO favorites such as “Ridin’ the Storm Out”, “Take It On the Run”, and “Golden Country”. Richrath was admired for his distinctive guitar playing style, which blended elements of blues,

rock, and country music. He left REO Speedwagon in 1989 but continued to perform and record music as a solo artist. Richrath passed away in 2015, but according to Cronin, “Gary’s spirit lives on through his music, and in that way, he is with us onstage every night”.



Neal Doughty, born in Bellville, Illinois, spent his “wonder years” in Evansville, Indiana. The only member to have played on every REO Speedwagon album, Neal formed the band in the fall of 1967 with original drummer Alan Gratzner. Neal named the group after an early 1900’s delivery truck that he learned about in a history of transportation class at the University of Illinois. He is considered one of the pioneers of the the use of synthesizers in rock music, and his piano, Hammond organ, and synth work have been a key part of REO Speedwagon’s sound. Doughty played in REO until his retirement in late 2022 after 55 years on the road. He remains close to the REO camp and is currently living happily with his family in Minneapolis.



Alan Gratzner is the original drummer and co-founding member of REO Speedwagon. Gratzner started the band with his dorm mate Neal Doughty in 1967, and was part of the line-up during what has been called the Golden Age of REO. His solid drumming, leadership abilities, sense of humor, and business acumen helped establish REO Speedwagon, and moved them forward to become one of the top bands of the ‘70s and ‘80s. Alan co-produced some of the best-selling albums the band recorded. Gratzner left the band in 1987 to spend more time with his young family, and remains part of the REO extended family.



Gregg Philbin was the original bass guitarist for REO and performed on the group’s first seven albums. A smart, savvy, and funny guy, Gregg encountered health issues which led him to leave the band in 1977. Philbin’s prog-rock leanings were a big part of the sound of the band’s first album, the self-titled REO Speedwagon. Sadly, Gregg passed away in 2022.

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL

PRODUCER • PROMOTION • PRODUCTION



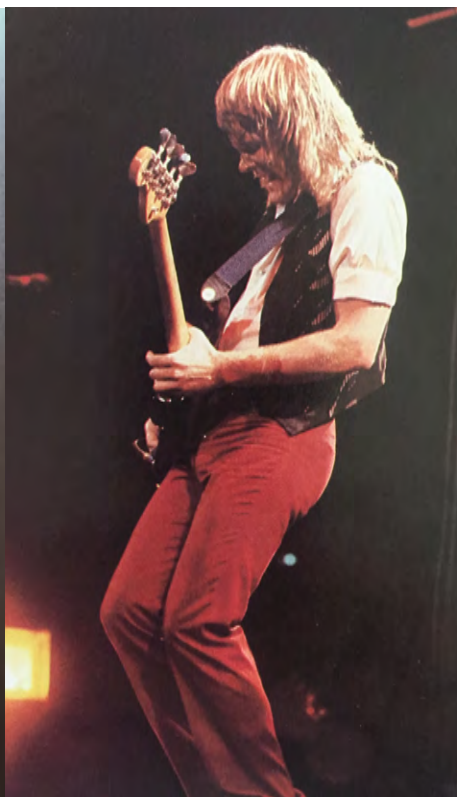
Tom Consolo came up in the Cleveland music scene as lead singer of local soul band, the Cellmates. He would escape to LA and take his first tour management job with Dan Fogelberg and Fools Gold. In 1976, Consolo moved to another of Irving Azoff's management clients, and became the tour manager for REO Speedwagon. After guiding the band through the Hi Infidelity years and beyond, Tommy took a position in Live Nation's rock touring department, where he was responsible for managing REO, as well as Journey, Meat Loaf, and others. In Tom ventured out and opened TCManagement, where he currently manages the careers of Sammy Hagar, Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo, and of course REO Speedwagon. Tom's hands-on, personal approach suits his style, as his roster all consider Tommy not only a manager, but a friend. And in the case of the Cronins, Tom is literally part of the family, as he is Kevin's son Josh's godfather!



Billy Conn currently serves as Vice President -Talent Buyer for Live Nation Las Vegas, where he is responsible for agent and management relationships, as well as for booking artists at premier concert venues across the Las Vegas Strip. Over the past 30 years, Conn has booked hundreds of shows at venues all over Vegas, and has set up residencies for Billy Idol and Blink 182 at Pearl Concert Theater at the Palms, and Styx, ZZ Top, Chicago and Foreigner here at The Venetian Theater. Throughout his career, Conn has worked with some of the most iconic names in entertainment, including REO Speedwagon, Marc Anthony, TOOL, Anita Baker, Ringo Starr and many more. An Evening of Hi Infidelity...and More is Billy's most recent residency project.



Paul Dexter; Beginning in Los Angeles when he was sixteen, Paul made 42 Hawaiian Pineapple cans into lights and operated them with crude double pole switches. At 18 he was asked to tour with Elvis, which began a colorful history of worldwide concert touring as a lighting and stage set designer with the likes of Motley Crue, DIO, Ozzy Osbourne, Black Sabbath, Aerosmith, Elton John, and for the past 19 years, REO Speedwagon. Paul was the lighting designer and director for the movie "Rock Star", has written over 100 industry articles, and co-wrote two books on Concert Lighting, published for worldwide distribution on Routledge/Focal Press. Paul has played an indispensable leading role on the production team and performed above and beyond to make An Evening of High Infidelity...and More the special event you are about to experience.















MUSICAL NUMBERS

ACT I

Don't Let Him Go
Keep On Lovin' You
Follow My Heart
In Your Letter
Take It On The Run
Tough Guys
Out Of Season
Shake It Loose
Someone Tonight
Wish You Were There



ACT II

Music Man
Back on the Road
In My Dreams



ACT III

Time For Me To Fly
Poor Man
Live Every Moment
Keep Pushin'
Golden Country
Ridin' The Storm Out

Can't Fight This Feeling
Roll With The Changes

👉 **BAND AND CREW** 👈

Kevin Cronin
Bruce Hall
Dave Amato
Bryan Hitt
Derek Hilland

Lead Vocals / Guitar
Bass Guitar / Vocals
Lead Guitar / Vocals
Drums / Percussion
Keyboards / Vocals

Tom Consolo
Ken Denson
Michael Richter
Marie-Claire Cazorla
Chris Maguire
Paul Dexter
Peter Roberts
Joe Walsh
John Aldridge
Tony Byrd
Paul Karoutas
Sean Dylan
Ricky Lathrop
Bob Scheel

Manager
Tour Manager
Production Manager
Production Assistant
Stage Manager
Lighting Director
Monitor Engineer
FOH Engineer
Drum Tech
Guitar Tech
Guitar Tech
Bass/Keyboard Tech
Merchandise Manager
Truck Driver





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