



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rock-A-Bye Baby

Beaumont, CA — Michael McDonald, who thrilled audiences with such Doobie Brothers hits as “Takin’ It To the Streets,” “Keep This Train A-Rollin’” and “Real Love,” will honor his childhood babysitter on August 4th by performing a live concert in Stewart Park, located at the intersection of 9th Street and Orange Avenue.

Back when she lived in St. Louis in the mid-1950s, Pass area resident Pat Maloney bounced the future superstar on her lap and dreamed about what lay ahead for him.

“I just thought Mike was the cutest thing that ever happened,” said Maloney, who eagerly shared babysitting duties with one of McDonald’s aunts. “He was just a sweetheart, no matter what.”

Life long bond

Over the decades, their bond grew, starting when the teenage McDonald played in a series of St. Louis area bands with names like Mike and the Majestics, Jerry and the Sheratons, and Blue. Maloney also recalled how excited the singer was in the mid-1970s when he was asked to replace a member of the Doobie Brothers rock band just before the group began a tour. Maloney still remembers McDonald saying confidently, “Just wait until you hear us.”

And soon after that, hits like “It Keeps You Runnin’” exploded over the airwaves. The blue-eyed soul singer with the husky, soulful baritone had captured the attention of fans worldwide.

“I was so happy for him,” Maloney said.

As he toured the globe, won Grammys and raised his own family, McDonald never forgot about his childhood babysitter, a woman who still means so much to him. Despite a hectic tour schedule, McDonald found time to call Maloney and make sure that she and her husband, Ed, had front-row seats at Inland area concerts, including their wedding anniversary. The couple, now retired, moved to the San Geronio Pass 30 years ago.



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Rock-A-Bye Baby (*continued*)

The making of a concert

About three years ago, while Pat Maloney was having her nails done, Lisa Sherwood, owner of Touch of Distinction Hair and Nail Design in Beaumont, mentioned Michael McDonald. Maloney said proudly, "I used to babysit him when he was little."

From that chance conversation, arrangements began for what promises to be a poignant concert for everyone involved. Lisa Sherwood quickly told her husband, Bob Sherwood, Beaumont's director of Community Services, who books the acts for the city's famed Summer Concert Series at Stewart Park. This summer's concert series has included Dennis DeYoung and The Music of Styx, LeAnn Rimes, and Joan Jett and the Blackhearts. The legendary singer who has teamed up for hits with James Ingram, Patti Labelle and toured with Cher, agreed to put on a public concert to express his gratitude and love for a woman who nurtured him when he was so young. "It's so kind of him," Maloney said. She will be sitting in a reserved seat on stage at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 4th, when McDonald performs the final show in Beaumont's 2010 Summer Concert Series.

"He's never forgotten about Pat," Lisa Sherwood said. "That's the kind of person Michael McDonald is."

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Beaumont, a progressive city with a small town feel, is located 78 miles east of Los Angeles. The city of 34,000 will celebrate its centennial in 2012.