

# MEGAreviews live

An Evening With Beeb Birtles @ The GC - Grand Central 22/02/2019

by Michelle McGoldrick

## Beeb Birtles comes home at Grand Central

Jetting in specially from Nashville Tennessee, **Beeb Birtles** performed to a hometown crowd at this year's Adelaide Fringe Festival.

Beeb's performance at **Grand Central** mapped the romantic and evocative life journeys of a generation of fans who navigated defining life experiences to the heart-melting harmonies of Beeb's songs. Beeb's fans grew into his songs at pivotal times of their lives - leaving home, falling

in love, having children. The mutual respect and connection between the fans and Beeb's music made for a very sentimental gig.

Beeb's Adelaide fans aren't an average audience - they're more like Beeb's family. "I'm just an Adelaide boy," he told the devoted crowd whose warm applause confirmed their reverence for him.

The vibe at Grand Central felt rhythm and soul. The set contained melancholy hits like "**Happy Anniversary**" and "**Reminiscing**" but the band's unexpected launch into a reworked version of



Little River Band's "Night Owl" hit a definite rock high, lifted by the fabulous backing vocals of **Nanette Van Ruiten**. Beeb's banter with the crowd was relaxed and intimate. He explained how he joined **Mississippi** in Melbourne before Mississippi became the foundation for **Little River Band** in 1975.

Hanging on every word, story and note; maybe the crowd weren't singing out loud but the glow in their eyes suggested their hearts were singing with rapture.

Beeb honoured his former **Zoot** bandmate **Darryl Cotton** as a great friend and inspiration. Zoot songs in Beeb's set included the big 1970 hit "Eleanor Rigby" which was the encore of the night.

**Rob Pippan's** outstanding guitar work on Eleanor Rigby reminded the crowd why the song is a rock classic.

In addition to Beeb's singing, **Dino Jag** rode lead vocals comfortably along with his jivey stage strut. **Craig Holden** joined the band on stage and charmed the crowd with his imposing vocals and relaxed dancing tempo.

Probably the most anticipated song of the night was Beeb's post-LRB hit "I'm Coming Home" which easily peaked as the nostalgic moment of the performance. Beeb's entire performance at Grand Central was a reminder why some musicians are born to write great songs. The gig was also a celebration of Adelaide as a longstanding centre of artistic talent and song writing brilliance.



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Photos by Sue Hedley 22/02/2019



