



## Orchestral Rock Odyssey, January 18, 2020

### Concert Review by Anita Perry — Excerpts

Versatility was the catchword this weekend as the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra presented *Orchestral Rock Odyssey*, a collaboration with Gary Cable featuring the Gary Cable Project band and the Spectrum Singers choir. It is no wonder that all three concerts were sold out from Penticton to Vernon: the evening was unforgettable, high-energy, and highly entertaining—well worth the ticket price.

Versatile describes the musicians in the Gary Cable Project, a pop/rock band comprised of “A-List” session musicians... the caliber of musicianship and in-depth understanding of the music was exceptional. Their performance was tight, their vocals even tighter with the amazing ability to craft their voices to sound like the original artists.

Undoubtedly, the highlight of the evening was the jaw-dropping performance of Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody.” This is a song that even Queen didn’t perform live because of its technical difficulty, and yet the Gary Cable Project musicians sang it in exquisite acapella harmony. A devilishly challenging piece with wildly changing speeds, keys and styles, the performance was brilliant and brought the audience surging to its feet.

Ever gracious, the Okanagan Symphony Orchestra and the Gary Cable Project provided not one, but two encores... in which the versatile OSO audience participated. There is something quite wonderful about singing “love is all you really need” at the top of your lungs with 500 people, a live orchestra and a top-notch band. All faces were wreathed in smiles as the audience filed out into the chill winter night.

### Concert Review by J.P. Squire (Special to The Daily Courier) — Excerpts

The Orchestral Rock Odyssey — three performances in the Okanagan's three major cities last weekend — was a superlative treat unlike anything ever seen in the valley.

The Okanagan Symphony Orchestra's visionary conductor Rosemary Thomson teamed up with The Gary Cable Project, a pop-rock band comprised of A-list live and session musicians who have performed and recorded with music legends from Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand and Ray Charles to Joe Cocker, Nickelback and Sarah McLachlan.

Words cannot fully describe the audience reaction to the Friday night concert marathon at Kelowna Community Theatre. Out of this world, fantastic, amazing, fabulous, exceptional and spectacular were just a few of the accolades posted on the garycableproject.com website overnight.

Many rock fans will think of the Moody Blues's 1967 Days of Future Past album as the perfect fusion of orchestral and rock elements but Orchestral Rock Odyssey was a re-education on how many different bands brought in symphony orchestras for extraordinary performances.

Classical and pop music "are not that much different" and share many elements, noted Cable on grand piano after the ensemble recreated Conquistador from the English band Procol Harum Live: In Concert with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (1971-72).

What followed was not a symphonizing of pop and rock hits from that era but a dizzying series of band/symphony collaborations...