

# Doo-wop showcase to benefit Bethany

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David Burke | Posted: Sunday, June 7, 2009 2:00 am | 1 Comment



The Drifters are part of The Ultimate Doo-Wop Show," which is coming to the Adler Theatre in downtown Davenport.

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**What:** "The Ultimate Doo-Wop Show," featuring The Drifters, Jimmy Clanton, Kathy Young, The Spaniels, The Eldorados, Daddy G & the Church Street Five, The Edsels and The Flat Cats

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Saturday, June 20

**Where:** Adler Theatre, Davenport

**How much:** \$67, \$40 and \$27; benefits Bethany For Children and Families

**Information:** (563) 326-8555 or [AdlerTheatre.com](http://AdlerTheatre.com) on the Web

**Also on the Web:** [Bethany-QC.org](http://Bethany-QC.org); [CanterburyProductions.com](http://CanterburyProductions.com)

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The eight-act show includes soloists and groups, the latter of which must maintain their integrity, he said.

"We will never book an artist that doesn't have any original members," Farag added. "Unless the groups have a foundation of the originals, they're just impostors. We don't use them."

Each act performs for about 15 to 25 minutes, he said. The performance follows the lead of rock 'n' roll promotion pioneer Alan Freed and his road shows.

Doo-wop, Henry Farag says, is in a small showbiz circle of music that has made a comeback — but didn't.

"It's never gone away — it's been used in the soundtracks of movies and TV shows through the years — but it has seen a definite increase in popularity, particularly in the last few years," explained Farag, the producer of "The Ultimate Doo-Wop Show," which comes to the Adler Theatre in downtown Davenport later this month.

The show is a benefit for Bethany For Children and Families, a nonprofit organization founded 109 years ago that works with children and parents.

Doo-wop — vocal-based rhythm-and-blues music — came back into the limelight after a series of successful Public Broadcasting System, or PBS, TV specials that began in 2000, Farag said.

The specials were the biggest fundraisers in PBS history, "even beating out the Three Tenors," he said.

"It was finding a gold mine in that sense."

Baby boomers who first discovered the songs remained loyal, he said.

"This music was their first love and they're attached to it to this day."

Younger audiences are discovering it as well, he said, thanks to swing dancing and the popularity of vocal-rich acts such as Amy Winehouse.

"Young audiences are more amenable to the sound."

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"People want a lot more for their money these days," Farag said. "One, two or three acts doesn't cut it."

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