

FIND TRUE LOVE

This game is just like 'real' life. D4

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Bill Kenway/Daily Southtown

Orland Hills resident Peter Oprisko makes a living off of love songs and says he can sing hundreds of them on command.

By Donna Vickroy
Staff writer

The man of
700
love songs

For singer Peter Oprisko,
it's all about bringing
people together

Peter Oprisko is in the love business. Make that the love songs business. The former radio broadcaster now croons what the industry calls "standards" at weddings, ball games and in concert. Though they're not all love songs, a good portion of his business involves bringing people together. He claims he can sing any of 700 love songs at the drop of a request.

He has a regular gig singing at Carmine's Restaurant in Chicago, where many a couple has gotten engaged.

"One night we had seven engagements in a three-hour period," said the Orland Hills resident. "Usually, the guy will call me over and ask me to sing a special love song before he pops the question."

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Oprisko

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What are some of those special songs?

"The Way You Look Tonight," "Can't Help Falling in Love" and "What a Wonderful World."

"There's always a market for love songs," Oprisko said. "Romance never goes out of style."

And he should know. He books singing engagements 350 days a year. This past Tuesday, he sang to a sold-out crowd at Nathan Manilow Theatre in Park Forest.

Oprisko has released three CDs and has another coming out in March.

What makes a standard — which the Grammys categorize as a traditional adult pop song — so special?

Oprisko said there are three criteria that all long-standing classics seem to share:

- 1) They have memorable, well-crafted lyrics.
 - 2) They have memorable, hummable melodies.
 - 3) People from all walks of life can relate to them.
- Songs like "Moon River," "Over the Rainbow" and "The Way We Were" all meet the criteria.

"These are pay dirt songs,

Peter Oprisko's Most Requested Love Songs

- "What a Wonderful World"
- "Can't Help Falling in Love"
- "At Last"
- "The Way you Look Tonight"
- "Moon River"

they're songs that people will get up and dance to," he said.

Does Oprisko have a personal favorite?

"I have a top 100 list on my Web site," he said.

But when pressed, he revealed his top three faves: "That's All," "Ebb Tide" and "The Way You Look Tonight."

Are there any current artists that he thinks measure up to the likes of Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole and Bing Crosby?

"Not really. Today it's all about packaging; there's less focus on quality," he said.

"That's why a lot of the old rock 'n' rollers are now reviving the standards. Rod Stewart for example."

For more information on Peter Oprisko, to book an event or order a CD, go to www.peteroprisko.com or call (877) 474-6287.

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