

# The Pink Floyd Experience delves deep

Mendel Center concert will feature wide repertoire from influential band's catalog

By **RALPH HEIBUTZKI**  
HP Correspondent

**BENTON HARBOR** — When you're paying tribute to another artist, it helps to have a single-minded vision — especially in tackling the epic sweep of Pink Floyd, long regarded as one of rock's most influential bands.

However, after dedicating 20-odd years to the task, it's fair to say that The Pink Floyd Experience's founding guitarist, Tom Quinn, has a few strong ideas about how to approach the mission.

"In standard touring productions of Pink Floyd, a lot of times, they're constrained by their overhead and (the cost of) three female singers," Quinn says. "So they skew the material toward the popular things."

While fans can expect to hear standbys like "Comfortably Numb," "Money" and "Wish You Were Here" during Saturday's show at Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center, the concert will also feature a good portion of material that hardcore Floydians will enjoy, too.

That means playing tracks from the first and second albums — "The Piper at the Gates of Dawn" (1967) and "A Saucerful Of Secrets" (1968) — which bear the distinct imprint of lead guitarist-songwriter Syd Barrett, who died in 2006.

"We're doing a couple numbers for a full-on Syd Barrett tribute, which is pretty special and something you don't see every day," Quinn says. "It's nice to have the flexibility to be able to tease, taunt and sat-

## IF YOU GO

- ▶ **WHAT:** PFX: The Pink Floyd Experience
- ▶ **WHEN:** 8 p.m. Saturday
- ▶ **WHERE:** Lake Michigan College Mendel Center Mainstage, 2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor
- ▶ **HOW MUCH:** \$32, \$38, \$42, \$46
- ▶ **CONTACT:** 927-1221 or [www.lmcmainstage.org](http://www.lmcmainstage.org)
- ▶ **ARTIST INFO:** [thepinkfloydexperience.net](http://thepinkfloydexperience.net)

isfy Floyd fans searching for those deeper cuts."

In keeping with the "Greatest Hits and Rarities" tour theme, there's also room for lesser-known songs like "Fearless," from the band's 1971 album, "Meddle," before Quinn and company highlight the

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Photo provided

**PFX: The Pink Floyd Experience and its "Greatest Hits and Rarities" tour make a stop Saturday at the Lake Michigan College Mendel Center Mainstage in Benton Harbor.**

## PINK FLOYD

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conceptual works of “The Dark Side Of The Moon” (1973) and “The Wall” (1979).

As a musician, Quinn’s biggest challenge is capturing Barrett’s lurching, free-form approach as well as the bluesy psychedelic majesty of David Gilmour, who replaced Barrett during “Saucerful Of Secrets.”

“It’s important that you get the attitude, the signature licks, the tonalities,” Quinn says, “and that you really present these songs the way they were designed. There’s a lot of attention to detail. It’s a lot easier to get Syd than it is to get David.”

Quinn’s love of Pink Floyd goes back to 1973, the year of “Dark Side” was released. That’s when he bought his first guitar and started his first band. While Quinn also cites Joe Walsh and Leslie West among his influences, the major musical catalyst came in 1994, when he caught the San Diego tour for Pink Floyd’s last album,

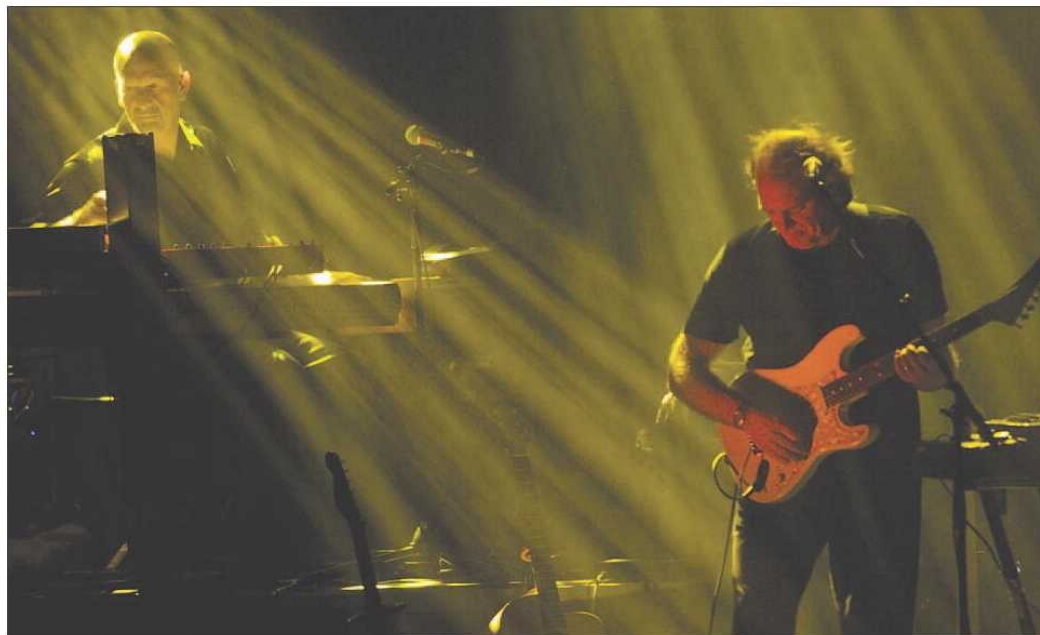


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**PFX: The Pink Floyd Experience will make a stop Saturday at Lake Michigan College’s Mendel Center Mainstage. The show will feature the legendary band’s hits, but founding guitarist Tom Quinn says the show goes beyond that, too. “It’s nice to have the flexibility to be able to tease, taunt and satisfy Floyd fans searching for those deeper cuts,” Quinn says.**

“The Division Bell.”

“That’s when the bands first went in the paper and the local musician referral lists,” Quinn recalls. “We were a regional favorite,

and years later, after a lot of member changes, won the San Diego Music Awards two years in a row.”

The resulting ground-

swell attracted the interest of Annerin Productions, a Calgary, Canada-based company whose funding enabled The Pink Floyd Experience to mount a 10-year mark to be the

band’s real anniversary, because that’s when Annerin entered the picture.

“At that point, we had mastered the music, but we had zero production values,” Quinn says. “They said, ‘Well, we’ll take this band and put them in our huge, mind-bending concept of a Pink Floyd show.’ They certainly had the wherewithal to do it, so here comes the quadriphonic sound up in the rafters. They took it to the next level.”

The current tour covers 27 cities in five weeks – starting in Red Bank, N.J., and winding up in Vancouver, Canada, by the first week in April. Wherever you see the show, however, Quinn vows that the experience will leave a lasting impression.

“My job is to make sure that the integrity of the music is there,” he says. “It’s a full-time job in and of itself. We don’t have any pre-recorded tracks. It’s performed live, and that’s important to the integrity of the band and the music. It’s no Pink Floyd karaoke show. It’s the real deal. We don’t cut corners.”