

RAIN

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Tour,' which is one of my favorites actually, and 'Please Please Me,' which was their first No. 1 song in England."

Irizarry, who grew up in Chicago, says he was first exposed to The Beatles thanks to his older siblings.

"I was basically raised on my brother's and sister's records and they were big Beatles fans," he says. "They were always played around the house as I was growing up and fast became my favorites. When I was 12 years old, I started playing the guitar and right away wanted to start playing those Beatles songs. It was the same thing with the piano. I immediately wanted to be able to play The Beatles."

As a professional musician, Irizarry had his own Beatles tribute band in 2000, and played in the Chicago band The Cavern Beat for five years before hearing from a friend in the Beatle business that "Rain" was looking for another Lennon. He joined "Rain" in 2010.

The 2015 show features updated sets that include brand-new LED, high-definition screens and multimedia content. The music itself, however, continues to be performed live by the four musicians who must master the full range of The Beatles' discography, in-

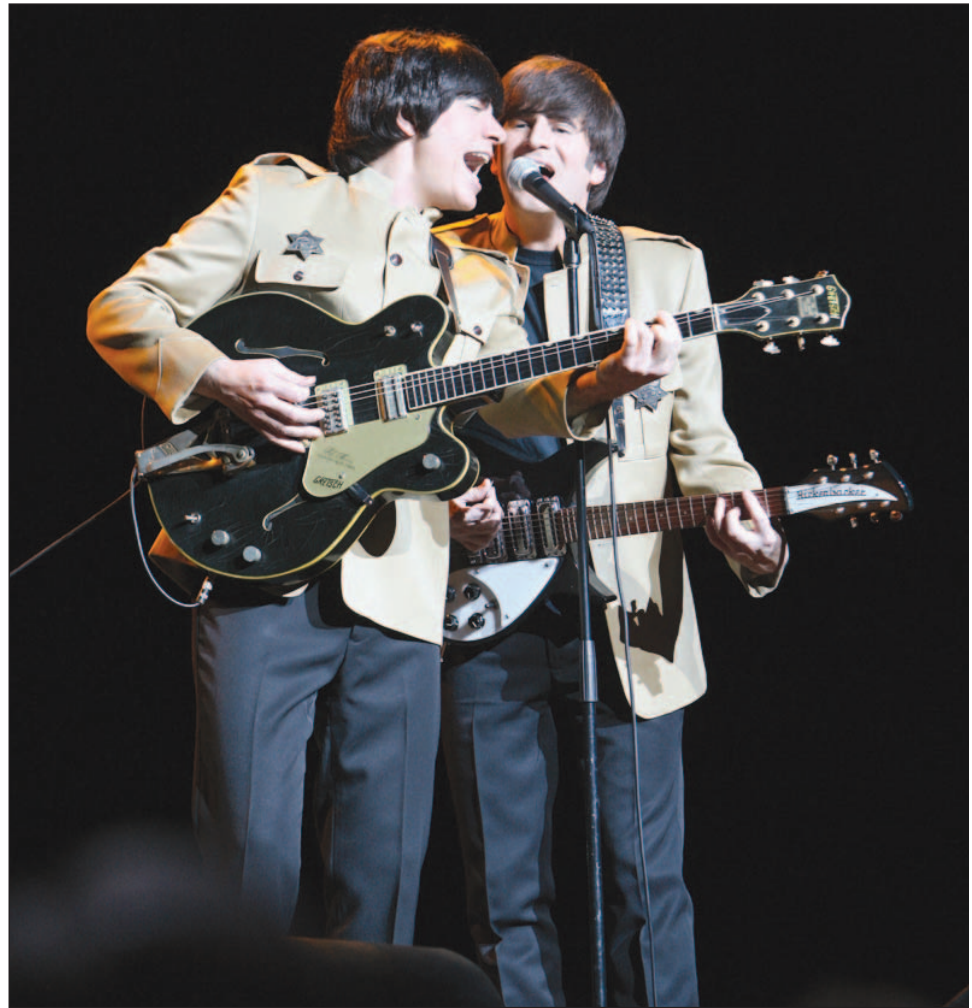


Photo provided

Members of "Rain: A Tribute to The Beatles" will channel the Fab Four when it returns tonight to play at Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center Mainstage Theatre.

cluding favorites such as "I Want To Hold Your Hand," "Hard Day's Night," "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band," "Let It Be," "Come Together" and "Hey Jude." But the ever-changing set list also offers more obscure Beatles tunes such as "Rain" and "If I Fell."

Part of the attraction, Irizarry says, is that shows like "Rain" often play songs The Beatles were never able to play live.

"It's a challenge, but it's a very fun job," Irizarry says. "The early Beatles songs were favorites of mine. So it's just fun to be able to

play those songs and be a part of a big show like this. It also brings the whole era back not only for the baby boomers but for kids just discovering that music. It's wonderful to let them experience that."

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