

# Noone's career 'Something Good'

Legendary Herman's Hermits singer performs in free Laconia concert today

By **ED PIERCE**

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LACONIA — With millions of devoted fans across the world, and a career spanning more than six decades, Peter Noone is no stranger to the spotlight and the adoration of those who enjoy music.

As the lead singer of the popular 1960s English band Herman's Hermits, Noone has recorded dozens of hit records that have become the soundtrack to the lives of the baby boomer generation. At 7 p.m. today, Herman's Hermits, starring Peter Noone, will appear in a free concert at Laconia Middle School sponsored by the Putnam Fund.

In a telephone interview with The Citizen on Thursday, Noone discussed his career and some of the songs that have endeared him to global audiences since he was 15.

He said he developed a passion for music from accompanying his grandparents to church as a boy growing up in Davyhulme, near Manchester, England.

"I was always with my grandmother, who was a choir mistress in church, and my grandfather played the organ there," Noone said. "One day, my grandmother took me to a show and I got up to sing, and the crowd loved it. I enjoyed the buzz I received from the audience."

Noone went on to study voice and drama at the



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**RENOWNED 1960S BAND HERMAN'S HERMITS, starring legendary singer Peter Noone, will appear in a free concert sponsored by the Putnam Fund at Laconia Middle School at 7 p.m. today.**

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## NOONE

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Manchester School of Music, where he won the Outstanding Young Musician Award. That was followed by appearances on television in Great Britain before he signed on to front the band Herman's Hermits.

In 1964, Herman's Hermits became an international sensation with their first worldwide hit "I'm Into Something Good," a tune written by Gerry Goffin and Carole King. It skyrocketed onto the charts, and cemented the band as one of the cornerstones of the "British Invasion," along with The Beatles, The Rolling Stones and The Dave Clark Five.

"Years later, I was invited to do the BMI Tribute to Carole and Gerry," Noone said. "When I got on stage and started performing the song, I looked over at their table, and they smiled and held hands. It was something personal to them."

Working under the direction of producer and longtime friend Mickie Most, Noone and Herman's Hermits released an impressive string of hits that included classics like "I'm Henry VIII, I Am," or "Mrs. Brown, You've Got A Lovely Daughter," and "There's A Kind of Hush."

Teens couldn't get enough of the band making their songs "No Milk Today," or "Silhouettes," and "This Door Swings Both Ways," along with "Wonderful World," and "Leaning on a Lamp Post," and "Can't You Hear My Heartbeat" or "My Sentimental Friend" and "Listen People" or "A Must To Avoid," some of the best-selling records of all-time.

Devoted fans tuned in as Noone and Herman's Hermits appeared on television, headlining popular programs such as "The Ed Sullivan Show," or "The Smothers Brothers

Comedy Hour," or "Hullabaloo" and "The Jackie Gleason Show."

Noone says he cherishes his own memories of that time.

"My best memory from that time is the show we played with The Beatles in London with the Stones," he said. "We were at the top of our game, and you can't get any better than that. I also fondly remember touring the U.S. with Little Anthony and the Imperials in 1965. It was a great experience."

Of all of the band's hit songs, Noone said he never tires of singing "I'm Henry the VIII, I Am," because it really seems to engage the audience wherever he performs it.

"I also love 'I'm Into Something Good' and 'A Kind of Hush,' Noone said. "Really, all the songs are fun."

He says the band never really passed up recording songs that later became hits for others, but sometimes their version wasn't as popular as when someone else recorded it.

That was the case with "Bus Stop," later turned into a smash hit by The Hollies, or "For Your Love," that later sold a lot of records for The Yardbirds.

These days, Noone splits his time between California and London, and hosts a popular Saturday radio show called "Something Good," a nod to his band's first big hit, on Sirius Satellite Radio's 60s on 6 channel.

He said his personal favorite Herman's Hermits song is "I'm Into Something Good" because it was genuine.

"If you listen to the record, it's a group of 16-year-old boys making their mark on the world," Noone said. "We never thought of making a hit record, we just recorded it as it happened. All of our hit records were of the moment. We talked about it for a minute, and then recorded it in two minutes. These great songs really stand the test of time."