

Heart By Heart comes straight on for you

Original Heart members perform at Liberty Theatre on March 10

By **DON FRADES**
FOR COAST WEEKEND

Hear, one of the most famous and successful rock bands of the late 20th century, rose to fame with hits like “Crazy on You,” “Barracuda” and “Magic Man,” as well as softer songs like “Dog and Butterfly.” Their sound was defined by the powerful vocals and guitar stylings of the Wilson sisters, Ann and Nancy, backed by a versatile core of musicians.

Founding members Steve Fossen on bass and Mike Derosier on drums played with the band from its earliest incarnation in 1967 until 1982, and again when the original Heart lineup reunited for a single performance at their 2013 induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Fossen and Derosier have formed a new tribute band, Heart By Heart, which Fossen said in an interview with Coast Weekend is “the next viable choice to recreate the excitement of when Heart first came out.”

The band will play Astoria’s Liberty Theatre 7 p.m. Saturday, March 10, with acclaimed vocalist Somar Macek. Other members include Lizzy Daymont on guitar, vocals and keyboards; and Chad Quist on guitar, filling in for Randy Hansen. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Fossen, who lives in Seattle, where Heart was founded, said the idea for the new band came about a few years ago when he and Macek began performing Heart songs as a duo in bistros and clubs in the city. As they became better known and offered more gigs, they decided to fill out the band, inviting Derosier and



TODD W. HOBERT PHOTO

Heart By Heart, which Steve Fossen called the “second generation of Heart”

IF YOU GO

What: Heart By Heart concert, with original Heart members and Rock & Roll Hall-of-Famers

When: 7 p.m. Saturday, March 10. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Where: Liberty Theatre (1203 Commercial St., Astoria)

General admission tickets \$28; seniors and active military \$24. Tickets can be purchased at the box office or online at libertyastoria.org.

For more information about Heart By Heart, visit heartbyheart.com.

guitarist Randy Hansen to join. “One thing led to another, and we started getting bookings,” Fossen said.

Joined hearts

The name “Heart By Heart,” Fossen said, comes from the “joined hearts” of himself and Macek, whom he married two years ago. “We were in love, and having the word ‘heart’ in there seemed like a no-brainer. First and foremost was that our hearts were joined — heart by heart.”

The band has been touring the country recently, playing smaller venues like the Liberty Theatre and interacting with fans after the show. Fossen said there are a lot of younger people familiar with Heart

songs who show up to see the concerts. “In Klamath Falls, a couple came up and said they had conceived their child to (1975’s) ‘Dreamboat Annie.’”

Though Fossen and Derosier left Heart during a shake-up in 1982, before the band’s big-hair power-ballad phase, Heart By Heart does a 12-minute medley of ’80s songs. “I like playing all of them,” Fossen said.

What’s their favorite song to perform? Both Fossen and Derosier have a fondness for 1978’s “Mistral Wind.” “I really love Mike’s drums on that,” Fossen said, “It’s fun to play, and it has a lot of meaning to it.”

One legend holds that the two founders



COURTESY STEVE FOSSEN

Steve Fossen, a founding member of Heart, which was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2013

created a “poor man’s copyright” for Heart in the band’s early days by creating the name, signing a letter and mailing it back to themselves. Fossen chuckled, “Yes, that’s true. I still have the envelope, but I’ve never opened it. I’m curious to see what it says.”

Heart By Heart encourages fans to bring albums, photos and memorabilia for autographs after the show. 