

**Cathe Jones, *personal blog***

BUT, when he finally DID introduce the act, Stringfever, I was stunned.

There came out four young guys, about 20 -28. They're in tuxes but they're kind of modern'd out... With a wildish look! The instruments were electric violins, viola, and cello that looked like modern art, piped and chromed. Two younger guys, a balded older one, each had the exact features of sad eyes, queen of hearts nose, and slightly impeded ears. The Viola player was more of the burly bald clown, with a comic appearance, but definitely of the same foppishness. These are the Broadbents, Giles, Ralph, Graham and Neal,... Brit names.. all of 'em, and just all get out... The lights hit, and the REAL show started. Floored! Jaws dropped and the crowd went from this little family audience, to what-the-hell-is-this? I mean, they started with a little bit of everything from 007 themes to Stravinsky to Bulgarian Folk music to The History of Music in 5 Minutes, and even Elvis Presley stuff. You have NEVER seen anything like it in your life. You couldn't possibly have, because they've never been to the United States before!

They did about an hour or so, and had audience interactive pieces. One in particular was a stunning bit of the Bolero... All four men have taken over the cello, so they have two members of the audience assist them. One, a stunning blonde, pregnant, mind you, has a violin, and a kid, about 13, and 7 feet tall, has a viola, are standing on stage the entire time as the men create the entire piece running on and off stage in search of the correct bow for the correct sounds and making it perfect each time.. not missing a beat.. Just perfection! At the very end there's a silent bit as they all point their bows to the volunteers who are now plucking the single note to end the piece. Unreal!

The one piece of where one of the violinists makes his way through the audience kissing the women throughout the song was just as fun as the competition where three of them try out shining each other not so much by playing. One-by-one they make their way off stage, coming back with a beverage, (ahem), and downing it in without stopping. The glass of course gets larger each departure. The third gent, the viola player, comes back with a stein, and certainly wins the contest hands, and bar tab down. Another bit is a 20-movie-theme songs spin around, where the group dares the audience to name all the tunes from the Theme of the Life of Brian to Titanic to Star Wars, with not only the music, but little hints such as comical lines from the movie played out. Also, the cellist does a few numbers as a beat box player. Ralph narrates the entire show, serving not only to instruct but to amuse as the clown and mug behind him.

They did a history of music as a closing piece. Well, sure, it was great, it covered everything from

chorales to Cage, to punk to show tunes. But it did something better, it showed just how well versed in their own instruments these guys are. These little electric toys stopped being the product of the 21st Century and truly sounded like classical instruments and these wild children took the whole history of sound and turned it into an appreciation of every hour spent behind every note. It was priceless.

Of course they had several encores. The place wasn't about to let them free. We couldn't. It was a spectacular event, and it wasn't one that would be repeated but one more time, tonight, until we weren't sure when. They did a little tribute to the US, with some Americana tunes. And one of the bits I mentioned above, but they were so much fun and so bright and alive. I just can't believe they aren't world known already!

<http://www.stringfeverusa.com>