

Tom Wopat Bio

ACTOR. SINGER/SONGWRITER. GUITARIST

All it takes is a phrase or two from Tom Wopat's warm, engaging baritone to trigger the desire to hear more. And the more one listens, the better it gets — from the way he finds the heart of a song's story to his lyrical phrasing and his gently swinging, jazz-infused rhythms.

That's a large handful of uniquely appealing qualities, and they're all over the fourteen utterly captivating tunes on *I've Got Your Number*. Tom applies his far-ranging interpretive skills to discovering new, intriguing musical twists in such Great American Songbook classics as "The Good Life," "The Folks Who Live On The Hill," "Call Me," "Born To Be Blue," "I Won't Dance" and, of course, the title track. As if that wasn't enough, he also takes his listeners on adventurous new journeys through contemporary songs from the likes of Paul Simon, Judy Collins, Bruce Springsteen, Bruce Hornsby and James Taylor.

At first glance, that could be viewed as a surprisingly diverse program of material from a performer who may be best known for his starring role in the '80s hit television series *The Dukes of Hazzard*. But his versatility was there from the beginning, and on full display in a career reaching from his television work of the '70s and '80s to high visibility Broadway roles in 1999's *Annie Get Your Gun* and 2008's *Catered Affair* (he received Tony Award nominations for both), as well as *Chicago*, *Forty-Second St.*, *Sondheim on Sondheim* and more.

But with *I've Got Your Number*, Tom's musical expedition has traveled into colorful territory. Backed by a thirty-piece orchestra he fulfills his desire to focus on what he describes as the "orchestra/big band hybrid of the '60s and '70s." "Like the Bobby Darin stuff," he says. "Frank Sinatra did big band stuff then, too. Everybody did. And we really wanted to go for that — in the standards we've done as well as in the contemporary tunes. We've evoked the spirit of the New York supper club era and the cool vibe of the *Mad Men* days, that's really what we're doing. The music swings hard and there's a lot of really, really fine music."

At a time when male vocal artists have been in fairly short supply, his singing is a welcome addition to the contemporary jazz scene.

"Performing these songs the way we do in *I've Got Your Number* is the most creative thing I do," Tom concludes. "It's extremely satisfying and fulfilling. And as long as it feels that way, I'm going to keep right on doing it."

“Tom Wopat, like Sinatra in his glory days, makes it all look easy and perfectly natural.”
Stephen Holden / NY Times

“A category-defying performer.” Rex Reed / The New York Observer

“Hipster-cool... leading-man charisma.” Tom Alvarez / Examiner.com

“A consistently elegant and joyful journey.” Dr. Judith Schlesinger / All About Jazz

BROADWAY

A Trip To Bountiful (2013) Catch Me If You Can (2011) Sondheim on Sondheim (2010)

A Catered Affair (2008) Glengarry Glen Ross (2005) Chicago (2004) 42nd Street
(2002) Annie Get Your Gun (1999) Guys and Dolls (1992) City of Angels (1989) I Love
My Wife (1977)

OFF-BROADWAY

The Guys The Last of the Boys

REGIONAL

The Robber Bridegroom (Ford's Theatre) Carousel (Kennedy Center) The Music Man
(North Carolina Theatre)