

Catching up with Billy Joel's musical director David Rosenthal SPECIAL

BY MARKOS PAPADATOS MAR 2, 2020 IN MUSIC

LISTEN | PRINT

David Rosenthal has been an integral part of Billy Joel's live band for the past 27 years. He serves as his musical director and his keyboard player, and he chatted with Digital Journal about his latest endeavors.



On his plans for 2020, he said, "We are still doing the monthly shows at Madison Square Garden. Every show sells out and the crowds are so energetic. We mix up the setlists so each show comes out different. It's really a lot of fun. We are playing in Mexico City this week and there are lots of stadium shows planned for the summer. It's going to be a great year."

This August will be Billy Joel's 125th lifetime concert at the "World's Most Famous Arena" Madison Square Garden. "I used to go to concerts at Madison Square Garden when I was a kid. It's so cool to be part of this record-breaking run," he said.

Each day, Rosenthal is motivated by his love for what he does. "There never seems to be enough hours in the day for me to do everything that I want to do," he said. "There is always something musical going on in my life."

"I am working on correcting Billy's entire sheet music catalog," he shared. "The original printed music had lots of mistakes and inaccuracies and I have been cleaning it all up and redoing it. *Glass Houses* is the latest book to be released. It's the seventh book in the series. I also completed *Piano Man*, *Turnstiles*, *The Stranger*, *52nd Street*, *An Innocent Man*, and *Storm Front*. I am working now on *The Nylon Curtain* and making my way through the whole catalog. It's been an ongoing project."

When asked which is his personal favorite Billy Joel song to play live, he revealed that there are a lot of favorites. "It's hard to pick just one, but in New York, 'Scenes From an Italian Restaurant' is a big favorite to do," he said. "It's such a great song and the audience response makes it a lot of fun to play. On 'Piano Man' I often say 'who would've thought that 'the regular crowd shuffles in' would someday be 19,000 people.' That one is a lot of fun since the whole crowd sings along. It never gets old. The audience reaction is so crazy at Madison Square Garden."

Rosenthal complimented Billy Joel's lighting director Steve Cohen and mixing engineer Brian Ruggles for always making the show look and sound great. "Steve and Brian are a big part of the success of each show," he said.

He also praised the newest member of the band, Mike DelGuidice (who has been in Billy Joel's band since 2013). "Mike is so talented and he has been a great asset to the band," he said.

For young and aspiring musicians, he encouraged them to practice hard while they are young and have the time to do so. "Learn as many different styles of music as you can," he said. "You'll become a well-rounded musician by studying different musical genres such as classical, pop, rock, and jazz. Also, learning about technology is so important these days, it is so much a part of the music. Just dive into it and immerse yourself. "

For fans and supporters, Rosenthal said, "Thanks for coming out to all the shows. It has been an amazing ride at The Garden. Billy has become bigger than ever and it is really fun to be a part of it. We are able to keep doing it because the fans keep coming to the shows. The energy that we feel from the crowd inspires us to give them everything we have at every single show. That's why the shows come out so good each time."

Rosenthal defined the word success as "being able to do what you love in life." "I have been very fortunate to have been able to do that," he said.

To learn more about [David Rosenthal](#), check out his [official website](#).



David Rosenthal, Billy Joel's musical director

Jeff Schock

More about [david rosenthal](#), [musical director](#), [billy joel](#), [keyboard](#), [madison square garden](#)

David Rosenthal + + Create Alert

TOP NEWS

LATEST NEWS

Swiss deny China deal posed threat to dissidents

Like 1 Share

Op-Ed: Trump's last stand – Loses Texan lawsuit against states

Like 2 Share

Peru suspends clinical trials of Chinese Covid vaccine

Like 7 Share

Iran executes opposition figure Ruhollah Zam

Like 0 Share

Caii-Michelle talks Blue Aeris, 'Joy' album, new Christmas song SPECIAL

Like 1 Share

California to bring antitrust lawsuit against Google

Like 0 Share

UK puts navy on standby to protect fishing if Brexit talks fail

Like 0 Share

AI will advance in 2021, but be mindful of the limitations SPECIAL

Like 0 Share

New exile for Eritrean refugees fleeing Ethiopia

Like 0 Share

What we know about Covid-19 vaccines and side effects

Like 0 Share

Digital Journal

61,088 likes

Like Page

CORPORATE

Contact Us
About Us
Advertise
Investors & Partners

HELP & SUPPORT

Editorial Guidelines
Terms of Use
Privacy Policy

NEWS LINKS

Latest News
Live Events
News Alerts
ACCESSWIRE
GlobeNewswire News
Global Press Releases
24-7PressRelease.com
DX Journal
DX Institute