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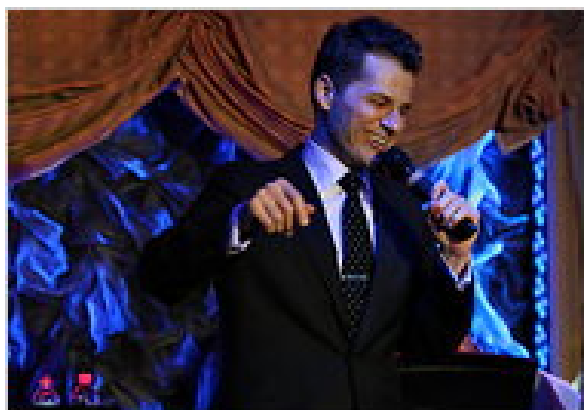
MUSIC REVIEW

Finding His Inner Sinatra, the Always Charming One

By STEPHEN HOLDEN

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Tom Postilio, a suave, witty Frank Sinatra acolyte with a mischievous twinkle in his eye, remembers the epiphanic moment when he first saw his idol in June 1984 at Carnegie Hall. He was 14 years old.



His dreamy-eyed reminiscence of that discovery on Tuesday evening at Feinstein's at Loews Regency, where he opened his new show, "This Time Around," was followed by his hard-swinging deadpan rendition of a bizarre oddity from Sinatra's 1974 album, "Some Nice Things I've Missed." The song, "Satisfy Me One More Time," written by Floyd Huddleston, is a lover's plea to be attacked, assaulted, abused,

barricaded, invaded, vandalized and smothered "in a good old stranglehold." Among its many funny lines, one stands out: "Let your dimples put those pimples on my toes." There is also a reference to "corpuscles" (rhymed with "muscles").

The show's title (from a Peter Allen song) alludes to Mr. Postilio's several-year hiatus from nightclubs while building a career as a real estate agent; he can be seen on the HGTV reality series "Selling New York." His real estate career inspires a suite of New York-related songs that culminates with Cole Porter's crow of municipal pride, "I Happen to Like New York."

The high point of a show that balances straightforward traditional pop singing with humorous asides is his rendition of Noël Coward's withering assessment of Americans abroad, "Why Do the Wrong People Travel," embellished with Mr. Postilio's own observations. He is especially scornful of the "feeding frenzies" on cruises in which the guests arrive as passengers and "get off as cargo."

The brooding saloon side of Sinatra is nowhere in sight in a program that is more interested in evoking the Rat Pack cutup than the existential loner. A solid "I've Got You Under My Skin" is perked up with a samba beat. "Me and My Shadow," in which he is joined by Mickey Conlon, playing the Sammy Davis Jr. role, resurrects a Rat Pack-era duet.

Mr. Postilio, who starred in the Off Broadway musical revue "Our Sinatra," is a more than able swinger in the classic lounge tradition. But unlike Sinatra, there is no hint of menace in the background, of friendly cuffs that could turn into brutal punches: just good times, camaraderie and charm.

Tom Postilio's show runs through Saturday at Feinstein's at Loews Regency, 540 Park Avenue, at 61st Street; (212) 339-4095; feinsteinsattheregency.com