

The Singin' Sixties

Wrapped in political, social and cultural upheaval, the musical revolution of the 1960s was almost inevitable. This month, Akron's Carousel Dinner Theater and the Cleveland Play House each explore how the much-loved music of the times revolutionized an era.

Featuring six women in a high-energy, multimedia production, Carousel's "Beehive" presents 37 songs set against the

backdrop of historical events. "It was the first time in American history when women's music went to the top of the *Billboard* charts," says Eric Pugh, public relations manager for Carousel.

"Motown!" debuting at the Cleveland Play House, is an original revue by Paul Floriano. A record store called No Sound Like Motown is in financial trouble, so in true musical-theater fashion, everyone de-

cidates to put on a show. Three performers sing 40 favorite songs from the '60s, especially music by black artists who brought their music into the mainstream.

"It was the golden era of popular music in this country," Floriano says. "The songs have withstood the test of time."

Here's how the tunes used in "Beehive" and "Motown!" stack up to each other on a variety of topics: —Tori Woods

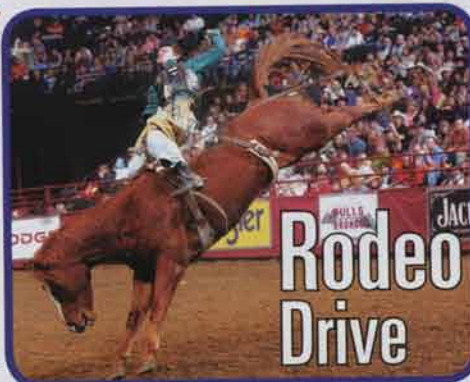
	"Motown!"	"Beehive"	The Edge
Good Advice	"You Can't Hurry Love" The Supremes	"Don't Sleep In The Subway" Petula Clark	Petula Clark's call to avoid subway slumber is timelessly sage.
Climatic Conditions	"Heatwave" Martha & the Vandellas	"One Fine Day" The Chiffons	The Chiffons' patient optimism trumps Martha & the Vandella's overheated hearts.
Makin' Whoopie	"Let's Get It On" Marvin Gaye	"Do Right Woman" Aretha Franklin	Marvin Gaye's sensual ode to "It" is hard to top.
Lucky in Love	"How Sweet It Is" Marvin Gaye	"A Natural Woman" Aretha Franklin	Gaye's saccharine ditty makes it easy for us to give Aretha her respect on this one.
Broken-hearted	"Stop! In the Name of Love" The Supremes	"Piece of My Heart" Janis Joplin	We thought it o-o-ver, but Janis' wailing demands drown out all three Supremes.
Bring the Cheese	"Three Times a Lady" The Commodores	"Where The Boys Are" Connie Francis	The Commodores' single is one, twice, three times as cheesy.
Love by the Letter	"Signed, Sealed, Delivered I'm Yours" Stevie Wonder	"To Sir With Love" Lulu	It'd be a "foolish thing" to choose Lulu's teenybopper ode to love over Stevie Wonder's blistering call for forgiveness.
The Mutual Concern	"Where Did Our Love Go?" The Supremes	"Where Did Our Love Go?" The Supremes	We would usually rather not hear about burning, yearning feelings. But this Supremes single is so catchy neither show could resist its charm.

"This ain't your daddy's rodeo,"

says Tommy Joe Lucia, vice president of events and production for the World's Toughest Rodeo.

Along with 3 million pounds of dirt, 60,000 pounds of corral (gates and fences) and more than 60 head of livestock, a team of cowboys bucks into Quicken Loans Arena Feb. 24.

A centuries-old tradition, rodeo started when cowboys from different ranches competed against each other. It grew to include three specialties: bull riding, saddle bronc and bareback riding. (Saddle bronc and bareback riding take place on feisty horses.) Look for these classic rodeo activities at The Q, but also watch for a new twist — the Toughest Cowboy competition, which pits eight of the world's best cowboys in all three specialties. They've been touring the country, competing for hundreds of thousands of dollars in prize money, belt



buckles and a national title.

"Agility and balance is what comes natural to great cowboys," Lucia says. "You've got an animal that's turning and spinning 25 miles an hour, and the cowboy has to find that sweet spot so that centrifugal force doesn't grab him and throw him in the dirt and a 2,000-pound animal steps on him."

The Cleveland rodeo, which will be nationally televised on Fox Sports Net later in the year, is the "playoffs" of the Toughest Cowboy competition — only four wranglers will proceed to Buffalo to compete for the title.

Rodeo fans and urban cowboys alike will enjoy this rodeo with its pyrotechnics, lighting and music (and not just country) from the '60s to the '90s, Lucia promises. Even "the new, younger extreme-sport fans will be able to gravitate to it," he says.

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World's Toughest Rodeo, Quicken Loans Area, Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.wtrodeo.com.