


The official magazine of  THE DEAN MARTIN ASSOCIATION

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JUST DINO

SPECIAL EDITION

THE DEAN MARTIN *HOMETOWN* FESTIVAL 2025

INSIDE:

A HISTORY OF THE FESTIVAL

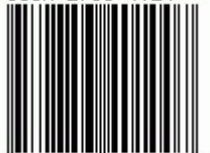
UNSEEN PHOTOS OF DINO'S HOMES

WHY WE LOVE DEAN MARTIN

AND MORE..!



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JUST DINO - SPECIAL EDITION CONTENTS

THE DEAN MARTIN HOMETOWN FESTIVAL 2025

- 03** A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR
Mayor Jerry Barilla
- 04** SCHEDULE OF FESTIVAL EVENTS
- 06** WELCOME TO STEUBENVILLE
Cindy Williford
- 10** KEEPING HOUSE
Daniel Bertenshaw
- 16** SWINGIN' WITH DEAN AND FRANK
Karen Morris
- 19** DINO AND US
Mike Zinno
- 21** MAKING US SWAY: WHY WE LOVE DEAN MARTIN!

are
you
ready?

About THE DEAN MARTIN ASSOCIATION

Founded in 1960 and now in our seventh decade, we are proud to be the first and only officially authorized independent, flagship organization dedicated to Dean Martin in the world. We are non-profit: we receive no funding or donations.

Our Chairperson until his sad death in December 1995, Dean personally sanctioned our creation 65 years ago, enabling us to be ambassadors of his career and honor his talents as one of the world's greatest entertainers. Dean was the driving force behind the formation of what eventually became The Dean Martin Association and he maintained direct, close contact with us and co-founder Bernard H Thorpe over the decades, giving us a unique insight into this otherwise elusive figure.

We have worked with EMI/Capitol, Warner-Reprise and other labels from as early as 1964 as consultants or co-producers on a number of officially-licensed compilation albums and re-releases of Dean's studio recordings (one even gaining him a Gold award in 1976). Since 2024 we have been the leading organization for *The Dean Martin Hometown Festival* in Steubenville, Ohio. In 2025 we became a member of The Jefferson County Chamber.

The Dean Martin Association continuously strives to respect, promote and support the legacy of Dean Martin at all times with the patronage of members of his family, and the support of admirers and members all around the world.

Founders: BERNARD H THORPE, DEAN MARTIN; **Honorary Chair:** JIMMY BOWEN; **President:** ELLIOT THORPE; **Vice President:** CINDY WILLIFORD; **Association Consultant:** RON IVESON; **Researcher & Social Media:** THOMAS BRADY; **Researcher & Co-Producer (YT):** MARISA LAVINS; **Researcher/Networking:** ED KRZAN; **Executive Producer (YT):** KENT EDENS; **Secretary and Administration:** JOSEPH VERRECHIA; **Honorary Members:** MARK ADAMS, MARK HALLIDAY, GEORGE DANIEL LONG

'Just Dino is the exclusive and fully-authorized magazine published and distributed worldwide since November 1960. The Dean Martin Association is totally lionized to the man himself, his life and career. Wherever you live, whoever you are, I dedicate your Association to Dean Martin and to you - as you support us by being a valued member. For Dino. For you. For the good times.'



Bernard H Thorpe, Co-Founder, President (1960-2015) and Chief Executive (1960-2015)

A MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

As Mayor of Steubenville, Ohio, I welcome you to our celebration of "The King of Cool", native son Dean Martin.

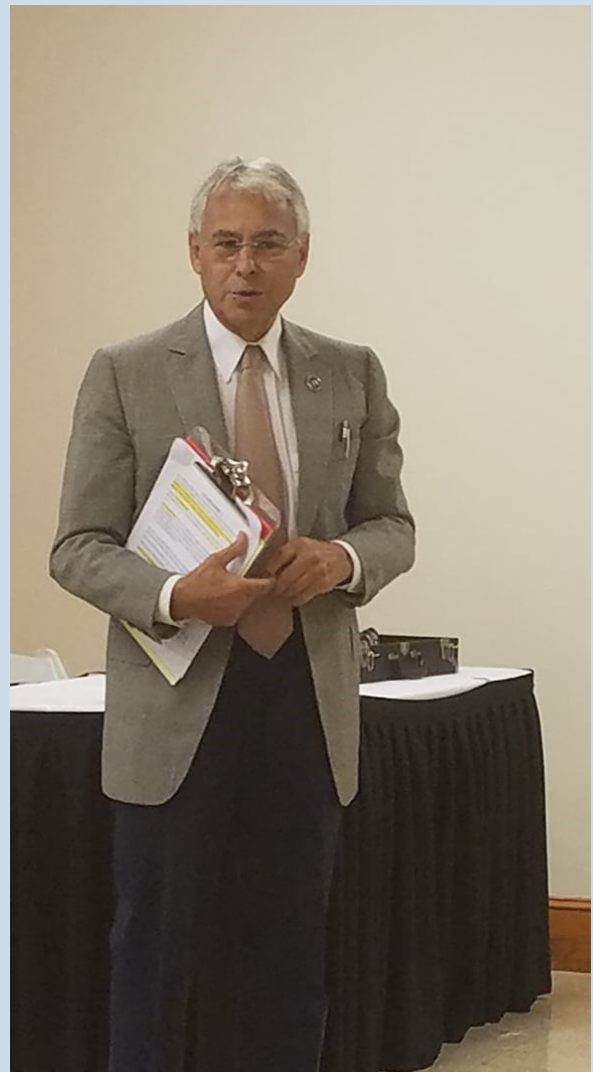
Born Dino Crocetti, he became a world-renowned singer, actor and entertainer in movies and television, bringing humor and light to the world.

This year, through the efforts of Cindy Williford and The Dean Martin Association in collaboration with The Harmonium Project and the City of Steubenville, the Dean Martin Hometown Festival has expanded to include (Dean's favorite pastime) a charity golf scramble, a car cruise-in, a 5k run/walk, live entertainment at various venues, a 50s dance, street fair, parade, and a MDA & Martin and Lewis Telethon Reunion Show.

We hope you will enjoy this tribute to an American Entertainment Icon and will take home an appreciation of Dean's hometown...because "memories are made of this!"



Mayor Jerry Barilla
Steubenville, Ohio
May 12, 2025



The Dean Martin Association



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deanmartinassociation.com



Get in touch.

We'd love to hear your views on our latest articles, as well as your own ideas for future stories you'd like us to cover, or even just your thoughts about Dean! Simply use the contact form on our website: deanmartinassociation.com/contact or send an email to the editor: justdino2017@gmail.com

THE DEAN MARTIN HOMETOWN FESTIVAL 2025

 Tripadvisor  @deanmartinhometownfestival



THURSDAY, JUNE 12

10am – 3pm	OPEN HOUSE AT JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM WITH DEAN MARTIN ROOM (refreshments for visitors)	426 Franklin Ave
10am – 4pm	HISTORIC FORT STEUBEN FOR TOURS (\$1 discount)	120 South 3rd Street
7pm – 9pm	THE DEAN MARTIN HOMETOWN FESTIVAL 2025 KICK-OFF with FRANKIE SETA, LEE DEAN, GEORGE R. SNIDER III and THE VINCE VILLANOVA BAND	Berkman Amphitheater
8pm	KARAOKE CONTEST	The Spot Bar 217 South 4th Street

FRIDAY, JUNE 13 - browse our food and craft vendors on 4th Street...all-day from 9am

8:30am*	THE FIRST ANNUAL DEAN MARTIN ASSOCIATION CHARITY GOLF SCRAMBLE (*7.30am registration)	Steubenville Country Club 413 Lovers Lane
10am – 3pm	OPEN HOUSE AT JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM WITH DEAN MARTIN ROOM (refreshments for visitors)	426 Franklin Ave
10am – 4pm	HISTORIC FORT STEUBEN FOR TOURS (\$1 discount)	120 South 3rd Street
12 noon	MEMORIES OF DINO: A VIRTUAL WALK THROUGH STEUBENVILLE	426 Franklin Ave
1pm	MEATBALL EATING CONTEST	The Spot Bar 217 South 4th Street
1pm	50s STREET DANCE	4th Street
2pm	CAR CRUISE-IN	Fort Steuben 120 South 3rd Street
3pm*	JOE SCALISSI SINGS DEAN MARTIN (*cocktails from 3pm, dinner served 3.30pm, show commences 5pm)	Undo's Italian Restaurant 350 Three Springs Drive, Weirton, WV 26062
8pm	TOM STEVENS & FRIENDS	The Spot Bar 217 South 4th Street

SATURDAY, JUNE 14 - browse our food and craft vendors on 4th Street...all-day from 9am

9am*	DINO DASH 5K (*7.30am registration)	Historic Beatty Park 621 Lincoln
10am – 3pm	OPEN HOUSE AT JEFFERSON COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM WITH DEAN MARTIN ROOM (refreshments for visitors)	426 Franklin Ave
10am – 4pm	HISTORIC FORT STEUBEN FOR TOURS (\$1 discount)	120 South 3rd Street
12 noon	DEAN MARTIN HOMETOWN FESTIVAL PARADE	down 4th Street
1pm	DAVE SALERA AND BOB MORELLI LIVE	The Spot Bar 217 South 4th Street
2pm	MDA & MARTIN AND LEWIS: A TELETHON-STYLE REUNION	Franciscan Square
7pm	DEAN MARTIN MEMORABILIA AUCTION	The Spot Bar 217 South 4th Street
8pm	JOE SCALISSI SINGS DEAN MARTIN	The Spot Bar 217 South 4th Street

Trolley rides are planned for the Saturday (times/locations TBC). Some events and appearances may be subject to last minute changes.

deanmartinassociation.com/festival-2025

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THE AUSTRALIAN BING CROSBY SOCIETY

The club was formed in 1977, just two months before Bing died. It has been operating continuously ever since, offering movie nights and a bi-monthly newsletter. Most of their members are based in Melbourne, Australia, but they also have some interstate and international members. They would love to welcome new Bing fans. Contact the club secretary Peter de Ryk, at: deryk@net2000.com.au

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Sinatra Music Society

www.sinatramusicsociety.com

The Sinatra Music Society was founded in 1955 and is an independent non-profit making organisation, dedicated to one aim; the deeper understanding and greater enjoyment of the best in popular music synonymous with the name FRANK SINATRA.

SMS is the largest quality popular music organisation in the UK and does not devote itself to one entertainer or group, even though the person who lent his name to the Society was a legend in his own time.

It produces a quarterly, digital magazine, *Perfectly Frank*. Subs are £5 for the digital issue. Postal members' subs are £15 for UK, £19 for Europe and £23 for the rest of the world.

Contact: Marilyn O'Neill, 30 Heatherleigh, St. Helens, Merseyside, WA9 5SU, UK, phone: 07969 251389 email: sms.perfectlyfrank@yahoo.com

The Spot Bar
217 South Fourth Street

Steubenville, Ohio
740.283.9164

The
SPOT
BAR

BING magazine - www.bing.magazine.co.uk.

Dedicated to the life and times of the incomparable Bing Crosby, the magazine is a 56 page glossy publication which is a must for anyone interested in one of the most important and influential entertainers of the twentieth century.

The magazine is issued in spring, summer and winter each year and is a publication of the **International Club Crosby** (the ICC). The ICC was founded in 1936 and is the world's longest running fan club - as recognised by the Guinness Book of World Records.

Contact Michael Crampton for further details.

Email: mdecrampton@gmail.com, Phone 0113 268 9556.

In the USA, please contact Perry Huntoon, email: phuntoon38@gmail.com, Tel. (630) 357 5374



★★★★★
'If you love Sinatra, this is unmissable.'
Hollywood Fringe Award Winner 2023

★★★★★
'Terrific versions of Sinatra's greatest hits.'

The Spectator

SINATRA: RAW

Richard Shelton is SINATRA

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A Highfield Productions presentation.

CINDY WILLIFORD, DMA
vice president and architect of this year's event, traces the history and evolution of Dean's very own festival.

When I was approached to lead the annual festival for Dean Martin in his hometown of Steubenville, Ohio, I accepted the role with heartfelt honor and a steadfast commitment to celebrate Dean's legacy. I endeavored to bring renewed energy, purpose and vision to this cherished yearly event.

For three decades, Steubenville has embraced its most famous native son with heartfelt devotion, civic pride, and a deep sense of cultural heritage.

The Dean Martin Hometown Festival, which began in 1996 as Dean Martin Day, has blossomed, drawing fans from around the world to the Ohio Valley each June.

As of 2025, the festival celebrates its 29th year – no small feat in the ever-shifting landscape of small-town America. The longevity of the event is a testament not only to Dean's enduring popularity, but also to the dedication of Steubenville's citizens, organizers, volunteers, and loyal fans.

Dean grew up on the working-class streets of Steubenville's South End. His rise from a local boy of Italian descent to a world-famous singer, actor, and television icon has long been a point of pride for Steubenville residents.

When he passed away on Christmas Day in 1995, his death reawakened interest in his life and work everywhere, and nowhere moreso than Steubenville.

While there had been smaller, informal efforts to honor Dean in the past, Mayor Domenick Mucci Jr recognized the deep connection between Dean and his hometown upon his death.

To honor Dean's legacy and celebrate his ties to the city, Mayor Mucci initiated the establishment of The Dean Martin Festival Committee (DMFC), which was led by Deana Martin and her husband, John Griffith. He also connected with Rose Angelica to assist with the planning of the 1996 event, that was to be held at St. Anthony's Church. This inaugural celebration would be the catalyst of what would become The Dean Martin Festival and now, from 2025 onwards, The Dean Martin Hometown Festival.

Mayor Mucci's vision was to create a festival that not only paid tribute to Dean's career, but would also be instrumental in bringing the community together.

The festival had a modest beginning in 1996, sparked by a combination of grassroots efforts and civic support.



Those early supporters included city leaders and devoted fans who believed Dean's name should live on in a tangible, hometown way.

Though early versions of the event were simple, the community's passion and consistent support has allowed it to flourish.

It was through the leadership of Rose Angelica during those formative years which laid a solid foundation for what would become an annual tradition, attracting fans from around the world to celebrate Dean's legacy.

Rose was hugely instrumental in transforming a local tribute into a celebrated event that honors Dean's legacy and enriches the cultural history of Steubenville.

The festival went from being a gathering of local people who knew and loved Dean, to an event which expanded its offerings to include a variety of activities that appeal to a broad audience. These activities range from parades to musical performances to karaoke contests to meatball-eating competitions.

Such diverse programming not only observes Dean's multifaceted career but also provides entertainment that resonates with attendees of all ages.

As it was the vision of Mayor Mucci for the festival to be more than a tribute to Dean, so it was the same for Rose, who served as chairperson of the DMFC for several years.

From the very beginning, the fans and community stepped up – not just to attend, but to actively build the festival year after year.

As The Dean Martin Association has worked over the past year planning the upcoming 2025 festival, we have become very aware of what Dean meant to Steubenville.

One of those individuals who has been instrumental in the building of the festival is Lou Martini Jr. where he has served as Master of Ceremonies, a position he has held for over 15 years. His presence has significantly enriched the festival's offerings and strengthened its connection to Dean's legacy. He is also key in hosting events, introducing performers, and engaging with the attendees, thereby ensuring the festival's smooth operation and vibrant atmosphere.

In addition to these duties, Lou frequently serves as the Grand Marshal of the festival's parade, leading the procession and symbolizing the spirit of celebration. Beyond the ceremonial duties, Lou actively participates in various festival events. His presence at such events enhances the festival's appeal and offers attendees the opportunity to interact with a seasoned actor who shares their admiration of The King of Cool, Dean Martin.

It is through Lou's consistent involvement that has helped maintain the festival's prominence, attracting visitors from various regions and ensuring that Dean's legacy continues to be celebrated with enthusiasm and respect. The many attributes of Lou have significantly enhanced the festival's appeal and ensures its ongoing success as a cherished community event.

The heart and soul of the festival has always been its people.

While some festivals are corporate-led and funded, the Dean Martin Hometown Festival has remained volunteer driven, created and sustained by people with a deep love for both Dino and Steubenville, as well as raising funds for local charities. From teachers and retired steelworkers to young volunteers and lifelong fans, individuals have poured their time, resources, and creativity into making each year's event a success.

One such volunteer is lifelong resident of Steubenville, Joe "JoJo" DiAlbert who is the owner of The Spot Bar. JoJo has been instrumental in the Dean Martin Hometown Festival for nearly 3 decades. Again, what began as a modest gathering in 1996 of those folks who gathered at St. An-

thony's for the first Dean Martin Day, through the combined efforts of other enthusiasts, initiated gatherings to celebrate Dean's music at The Spot Bar as well as at other venues in and around Steubenville.

These gatherings were nothing more than people singing Dean's songs over cassette tapes, reflecting a deep appreciation for Dean's contribution to the music industry.

It was this small beginning which paved the way for it to become a significant annual event attracting visitors worldwide. Soon, under the leadership of the DMFC, the event attracted Dean Martin impersonators, big band performances and various tribute acts.

The expansion not only honored Dean's legacy but also proved a boost to local tourism.

The festival had a long history of successful years. However, in 2021, it also faced some challenging periods when it faced uncertainty.

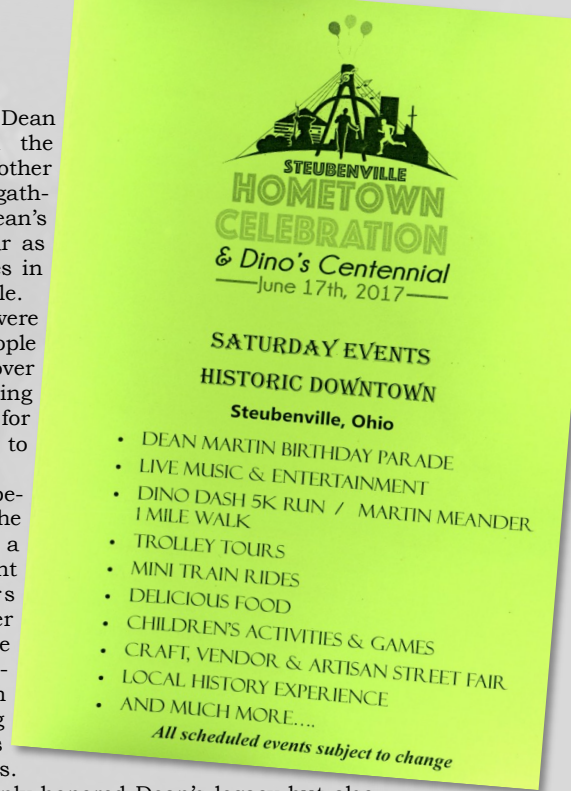
It was during those challenging periods that JoJo stayed a steadfast supporter and armed with determination to continue the tradition regardless of the uncertainty they were facing. It was his resilience that ensured the festival's future when it seemed uncertain.

JoJo's contagious dedication is manifested in many ways: the folks who decorate trailers and cars for the parade, the small business owners who decorate shop windows, sell Dean Martin themed merchandise or sponsor festival events... There are tribute artists and musicians, some traveling from hundreds of miles away, who perform simply out of love for Dean's music. Civic groups provide venues, volunteers, and promotional help. And let us not forget the generations of families who return year after year, teaching their children and grandchildren about this fellow named Dean Martin and what he means to Steubenville.

The festival is a deeply interactive community-created event. It embodies a rare form of civic storytelling. Every year the town collectively retells the story of Dean Martin through its own voice, lenses, and heart.

While Steubenville provides the backdrop and the foundation, it is the Dean Martin fans from across the country – and even around the world – who are essential to the festival's success.

Many of these people return year after year, not just for entertainment, but for the camaraderie and personal connection they feel for Dino's legacy. Some have even become honorary citizens of Steubenville in their own right, known by name among locals for their loyalty and support. →



ABOVE: festival guide from 2017 [DMA Archives]

OPPOSITE: candid shot of Dean c1967

OPPOSITE (INSET): Detail from Steubenville signage

BELOW: Mayor Mucci with Tina Baker [Mary Wise]





→ These fans often contribute more than their attendance. Some donate to festival causes by promoting the event on social media or serve as unofficial ambassadors. Others bring gifts, memorabilia or help drive turnout by inviting new fans to discover Steubenville.

The comm on thread?

A shared reverence for a man whose voice, humor and presence left a lasting imprint on American culture.

This two-way bond between city and fan base has kept the festival energized. It is more than nostalgia, more than a traditional convention so prevalent in other media circles (such as Marvel, DC, Star Wars, ComicCon etc) – it is an evolving relationship between a town and the world, united by one man's legacy.

Each June, the festival breathes life into the community. Hotels are filled. Restaurant's bustle. Local artisans sell their wares. Out of towners discover Steubenville's other charms, from its historic murals to its scenic hills. For a town that has been in decline because of the steel industry and population loss, the Dean Martin Hometown Festival remains one of the most visible and vital sources of positive identity.

No 29-year journey is without its challenges. In recent years, questions emerged about whether the festival could remain sustainable as founding organizers aged or stepped back. Financial hurdles, volunteer shortages, COVID-19 and changing cultural trends occasionally posed threats. The pandemic itself brought unprecedented revisions to in-person events, requiring the festival to pause and/or reimagine certain traditions.

But each time, the community rose to the occasion. New generations of volunteers stepped in. Organizers adapted, introduced fresh programming, and leaned on loyal supporters to keep the spirit alive.

In some years, scaled-down events were held – but the message remained constant: *Dean Martin will not be forgotten in Steubenville, Ohio.*

One of the most visible acts of revival came in the mid-2010s and 2020s when efforts were made to professionalize some aspects of the festival while retaining its hometown charm. This included more structured sponsorship campaigns, expanded media coverage, and new digital marketing strategies.

The inclusion of Dean Martin-themed merchandise, commemorative T-shirts, and enhanced social media outreach also helped engage younger fans and spread awareness across various social media platforms.

The live entertainment is still one of the festivals' most beloved aspects, especially performances by Dean Martin tribute artists. These performers, such as Joe Scalissi, Felix Deneau, and Tom Stevens, have given new life to Dino's catalog, not as impersonation but as celebration.

Tribute performances are more than a gimmick; they are emotional experiences. When a singer croons "Everybody Loves Somebody" or "That's Amore" on the streets and in the venues of Dean's hometown, the crowd is not just hearing a song – they are transported to a different time, connected to a common memory. The ongoing support and participation of tribute artists from across the country has allowed the festival to offer high-quality entertainment while reinforcing its core mission: keeping Dean's music alive and accessible.

The most remarkable aspect of the Dean Martin Hometown Festival is making sure community members of all ages and backgrounds can enjoy the event, whether through accessible venues, diverse entertainment options, or activities that reflect the rich cultural heritage of Steubenville.

Though rooted in Steubenville, Ohio, it belongs to Dean's fans across generations, regions, and backgrounds. Whether someone grew up listening to Dean on the radio, discovered him through old movies, or found a personal connection to his smooth, effortless charm, everyone is welcomed to the fold.

Children dance in the street to songs like "Volare (Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu)". Seniors recall their favorite films. Local teens compete for the Dean Martin Association Scholarship. Visitors walk the same streets Dino once did. And through it all, there is a shared joy which binds them

together: Dean Martin.



When the planning for the 2025 festival began in August 2024, the Dean Martin Association connected with businesses, past festival leaders and community leaders and researched into what made the previous 28 years so special.

We listened to what worked in those formative years, as well as what didn't go over well. We gathered old schedules and other documents to review. We chatted with our members on our social media platforms. One by one, we compiled our baseline itinerary of what the festival should look like.

The Dean Martin Association has reintroduced and expanded various events for this year's festival. We have brought back the parade, the 50s street dance and meatball eating contest while adding the First Annual Dean Martin Association Charity Golf Scramble which benefits the Ohio Valley Health Center, as well as the MDA & Martin and Lewis Telethon which will benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

These events and others aim to engage a broader audience and pay tribute to Dean's multifaceted career. Partnering with The Harmonium Project, the DMA has worked to make the festival more inclusive and accessible.

Efforts include organizing live music performances, blocking off Fourth Street for vendors and activities and integrating community groups into the festivities. It is through these efforts that the DMA has significantly contributed to the resurgence and enrichment of the 2025 Dean Martin Hometown Festival, ensuring that the legacy of the "King of Cool" continues to be celebrated with the enthusiasm and reverence it deserves.

As the festival enters its 30th year in 2026, organizers are not only reflecting on the past – we are planning.

One ongoing goal of the city and the festival has been to install a permanent statue of Dean in his hometown. This effort, which was spearheaded by fans and civic leaders, reflects the belief that his legacy deserves a lasting, physical tribute in the town that shaped him. The continuing campaign for the statue highlights the festival's commitment to both remembrance and renewal. Through a connection made with the Italian American Cultural Club in Steubenville, we are now positioned even more so for that goal to be fulfilled. What a tribute it would be to erect this at the Dean Martin Hometown Festival in 2026.

My own vision is clear: to preserve the spirit of Dean while growing the festival into a first-class celebration that honors his music, heritage and enduring connection to Steubenville. The Dean Martin Hometown Festival is more than a tribute – it is a triumph of community, memory, and enduring affection. For 29 years, fans and residents alike have nurtured an event that celebrates not only a star, but a shared sense of identity and joy. They have shown that legacy is not only something we inherit – it is something we create, together.

The Dean Martin Hometown Festival 2025 promises to be one of the most memorable yet. ♦

ABOVE: 2006 festival attendees and organizers with Deana Martin [Mary Wise]

OPPOSITE (CLOCKWISE): memories of past events – Felix DeNeau with Deana Martin and John Griffith; Cindy Williford and Lou Martini Jr; Tom Stevens with Deana Martin; the Scalissi family; Eric Richardson and Matt Macis; Bill Cisario and Gina Cisario; Barbara Bogar and Tom Stevens; Mary Wise with Ricci Martin [Mary Wise; Tom Stevens; E Contcher]

KEEPING HOUSE



DANIEL BERTENSHAW, exclusively shares his family memories and photos of time spent at Dean's beautiful homes.

Daniel Bertenshaw's grandmother Hilda was a housekeeper originally from Middleton, UK, and based in California.

Having worked for an agency, she was assigned to manage the homes for a number of Hollywood stars, and in the late 1970s/early 1980s her job took her behind the scenes and behind the closed doors of the houses of Dean Martin.

Daniel would fly out to visit his grandmother, with his parents, staying in Dean's houses, even on occasion meeting the great man himself. Daniel will always cherish the moment Dean tousled his hair as he wandered by, recalling his kind and gentle nature.

Daniel has very kindly opened up his family archives to exclusively share with us some very rare and never-before-seen photos of Dean and his private residences...



Top: Daniel with mom Margaret, Beverly Hills



CLOCKWISE STARTING ABOVE: Hilda and Daniel's brother, Garry, Beverly Hills (note the Martin girls' family portrait); Daniel's father Dave, Palm Springs; UK newspaper cutting

Blackley couple see the stars

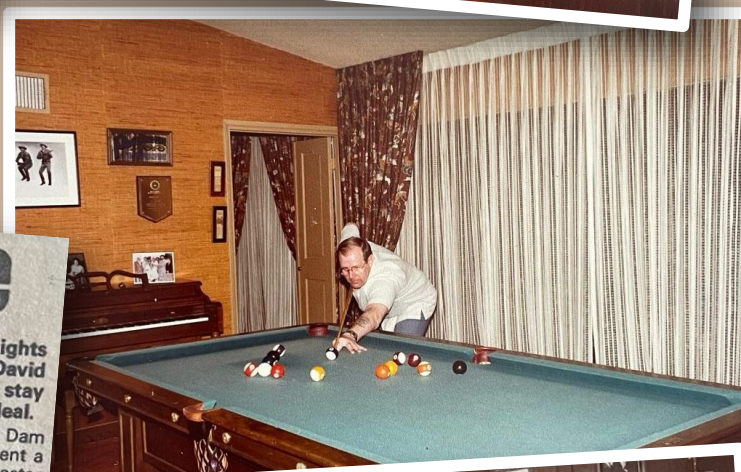
NOT everyone's holiday snaps boast of nights out with Hollywood film legends. But David and Margaret Bertenshaw's month-long stay in America was no ordinary package deal.

The couple from Dam Head, Blackley, spent a week as guests of actor and singer Dean Martin at his Beverley Hills home.

"We had a fabulous time, one that we'll never forget" said David. The stay in the luxury home of the "little ol' wine-drinker" came courtesy of the superstar's housekeeper, David's mother, Hilda Bertenshaw.

She is a former landlady of the Brewer's Arms, Cheapside, Middleton.

Said David: "We didn't just stay in Beverley Hills, we went everywhere, but I suppose meeting Dean must have been the highlight."



THE DEAN MARTIN HOMETOWN FESTIVAL 2025

CLOCKWISE STARTING
RIGHT: Hilda, Dean,
Margaret and Dave,
Palm Springs;
Dean's pool, Palm
Springs; Daniel,
Palm Springs





CLOCKWISE STARTING
TOP LEFT: Dean's
lounge, Palm
Springs; Margaret
and Dave, Palm
Springs; family
photos atop the
piano, Beverly
Hills; Garry behind
Dean's bar, Palm
Sprigs; Margaret at
Dean's entertain-
ment system, Palm
Springs; Dean's
cigarette packet
collection, Palm
Springs



CLOCKWISE STARTING
RIGHT: Dave in
Dean's walk-in
closet, Palm
Springs; Dean's
lounge, Beverly
Hills; Daniel,
Beverly Hills;
another angle of
Dean's lounge,
Beverly Hills;
Margaret, Palms
Springs (note the
gold discs on the
walls)





CLOCKWISE STARTING
TOP LEFT: Palm
Springs; Beverly
Hills; Dave, Palm
Springs; Margaret
in the dining room,
Palm Springs;
Margaret at Dean's
drinks cabinet,
Beverly Hills;
Margaret, Palm
Springs

RIGHT AND BELOW:
Dave, Daniel and
Margret with
Dean's cars, Bev-
erly Hills (note the
license plates -
"DRUNKY" and "MR
DM")



Dean Martin here we come

A BLACKLEY couple will get the superstar treatment on a Californian holiday of a lifetime.

For David and Margaret Bertenshaw will spend a week with singer Dean Martin.

The stay in his luxury home of the "little of wine drinker" comes courtesy of the superstar's housekeeper, David's mum Hilda Bertenshaw, former landlady of the Brewer's Arms,

Cheapside, Middleton. She has been looking after Dean Martins Beverly Hills home for a couple of years.

Said David before his plane trip early this week: "We've stayed in his house before but never met him. But this time I'm assured we will. Drinks by the pool, meals on the patio, I can't wait!"

The couple's month long stay in America is to celebrate 25 years of happy marriage.





As we launch our very first annual *Dean Martin Association Charity Golf Scramble* in aid of the *Ohio Valley Health Center*, **KAREN MORRIS** heads off to the clubhouse with some tales of golfing moments with legends Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra.

Swingin' with Dean & Frank

Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin have always shared their love of music and performing, but they also had a mutual attraction to the game of golf.

It was golf icon Arnold Palmer who once said, 'Golf is deceptively simple and endlessly complicated; it satisfies the soul and frustrates the intellect. It is at the same time rewarding and maddening – and it is without a doubt the greatest game mankind has ever invented.'

So let's swing back in time when Frank and Dean, and their Rat Pack clan, engaged fully in the game of golf and other Las Vegas fun.

Reporter Mike Jamison of *The Golf Wire*, posted online April 8, 2020 that, 'During the 1960s, The (Las Vegas) National played host to the big names of the Strip. The Rat Pack frequently played golf, then spent time in the bar, entertaining around the piano.'

After their golf outing, gathering in the clubhouse bar was fitting for Frank and his Clan. But perhaps Frank was more interested in the camaraderie of those club moments, rather than actually playing the game.

Some say Sinatra wasn't very serious about the game of golf, but he wasn't lacking the ability, as discussed by Stewart Weiner in the online article, *Swing-A-Ding* (palmspringslife.com, September 30, 2024). Weiner reports, 'It wasn't that he (Frank) didn't have the chops. Ace golf writer Barry Salberg recalled on golf.com that Sinatra was a fair player, with a rhythmic swing and a good short game. Those are descriptions most golfers would like included in their obits. Sinatra had a sense of humor about his game. Lucille Ball's husband, the late Gary Morton, told writer Salberg about a match at Tamarisk Country Club where he watched while Sinatra kept at it, at one point reminding the chairman of the board that, clearly, the ball had no idea whom it was messing with. 'Frank went up to the ball and said *I'm Frank Sinatra. I'm a very big recording star*. The next shot was super.' Perhaps it was that belief that was the genesis for the *Frank Sinatra Invitational*, which took place in November 1963. Sinatra knew golf tournaments were a great way to raise money for charity. They were also a good excuse to fraternize with buddies. As a template, he looked to the *Palm Springs Desert Golf Classic*. It had begun in 1960 and featured major Hollywood celebrities and pro golfers playing together. Sinatra pulled out all the stops for his tournament. At one point he even suggested that each guest receive a gold putter, an idea eventually deemed impractical for play. He invited major Hollywood and sports superstars. His press agent at the time, La Quinta resident Jim Mahoney, remembers assembling the list of the biggest names in show business and athletics and getting 100 percent RSVP acceptance. 'Frank asked you to come, you came,' he says.'

And many superstars came again, years later, on February 29, 1992, for another of Frank's popular and charitable golf invitational.

Howard Murray, son of comedian Jan Murray, sent me a photo of a remembrance from the *1992 Frank Sinatra Celebrity Invitational*. The memento was given to Jan and all attendees, leading Howard to recall that his dad frequently played golf with Dean Martin, as he states, 'Frank had an annual Golf Tournament in Palm Springs for many years that Dad played in. The picture I sent was with a bottle of champagne in the hotel room where Dad stayed. Dad played golf with Dean many times. I don't recall Frank ever playing in the tournaments. I do have some 'swag' somewhere from those times.'



Dean's passion for golf was a bit different than Frank's, as relayed by both his daughters Gail and Deana.

In an article posted online (August 16, 2007) by thestar.com, Gail Martin was quoted as saying, 'mostly dad was just a golfer, who would beg off a night of carousing with Sinatra and Sammy Davis Jr. in order to make an early tee time. He didn't stay up late and carouse. When dad was there with Frank and Sammy and they did the whole Rat Pack (thing) ... he'd hang out with them a little bit but other than that, normally it was no way. He just didn't want to.' A typical Dean Martin day was an early round of golf, an afternoon of gin – the card game – and then dinner with the family, she said. Afterwards, they'd watch television.

Deana Martin confirms her dad's love of golf, sharing her thoughts with the staff of closerweekly.com in an article posted online on December 16, 2020:

After family and performing, Dean's next biggest passion was golf. 'If he wasn't working, he would get up early, have breakfast and go play golf all day,' Deana dishes, noting that even when he wasn't on the links, the sport wasn't far from Dean's mind. 'He would often walk around the house holding a golf club,' she reminisces. 'We had thick green carpets that looked like a fairway and he would practice his swing and his grip.' Dean joked about his obsession with the sport. He told Deana, 'Do you know why I work? It's so I can pay for you kids and play golf.'

The King of Cool was an avid golfer, dedicated to his family and the game of golf. But on or off the links, and especially in Las Vegas, Frank and Dean enjoyed good times together, with perhaps a bit of creative invention on the side! Many may not know this, but sources have stated that the duo were responsible for inventing the beverage golf cart!

Imagine that!

Nick Piastowski on golf.com (November 28, 2021) verifies this via Amanda Balionis of the TNT Network: 'The Desert Inn Golf Club, once catered specifically to a few of its higher-end clientele, and golfers haven't gone thirsty since. From here, since this is Balionis' story, it's only right that we quote her directly from the TNT broadcast... 'It has a ton of history on these grounds,' Balionis said. 'But nothing more in line with Las Vegas lifestyle more than this story. Take a listen to this. Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra used to tee it up here, but they would never play an entire 18 unless cocktails were provided. So what happened? Desert Inn, as it was called at the time, said we have a solution for this. We're going to create a golf cart, but stock it full of all of the possible cocktails that Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra could possibly want. So yes, you're hearing this right: You can thank Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra for inventing the beverage cart. And what better place for it to be invented than right here in Las Vegas. Of course, like a lot of great inventions, there could have been another beverage cart or three somewhere else in the world before this. But we oh so want to believe that two of the members of the Rat Pack made it happen.' ●

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Steubenville native **MICHAEL ZINNO** shares how Dean Martin's legacy has influenced and shaped his life, friendships and community.

Steubenville, Ohio - a town rich in history - has always held a special place in my heart. Nestled along the banks of the Ohio River, it's a city that thrives on a strong sense of community, the hard work of its citizens, and a deep appreciation for its heritage comprised of different nationalities.

Perhaps nothing encapsulates this spirit better than our Dean Martin celebrations which are proudly held every year in Steubenville itself.

Born and raised here, I grew up hearing stories about the legendary "King of Cool," a man who rose from our humble streets to become one of the most celebrated entertainers of the 20th century.

Dino Crocetti is not just a faraway icon, but someone with whom I and many others here share roots - his family is from the same part of Italy that my family is from, he worshiped in the same church as my family (St. Anthony), and he is a symbol of what Steubenville represents: perseverance, charisma, and an enduring love for life.

Celebrating Dean Martin began in 1996 as a small homage to honor his contributions to music, film, and comedy.

Thanks to Rose Angelica, The Spot Bar and other organizers, it has grown into an event, a festival, that over the years has attracted fans from around the world.

Each June, Steubenville comes alive with the sound of his timeless melodies. There are live performances, impersonators, and heartfelt tributes that remind us all why his legacy endures.

The festival is so much more than just an event that takes place every Father's Day weekend; it's a yearly reunion with my always-expanding Dean Martin family.

For my wife Tamara, our children Joe and Bella, our parents, extended relatives and me, the Dean Martin festival for these nearly 30 years has been a constant highlight that we discuss and cherish year-round.

This personal reflection on my involvement with the festival would not be complete without a proper and very fond acknowledgement of our dear neighbors, Mike and Mary Vecchione.

Mary was actually a relative of Dean's!

Shortly after Dean passed away in 1995, Steubenville organized the first memorial tribute to him the following year, on his birthday, June 7...giving way to what would become the official annual festival.

At this initial celebration, Mary asked Tamara and me to record in writing some of her sentiments about her cousin Dean.

Oh, how we wish we had a video recording or paper copy of Mary's memories.

Looking back on the event, I think we were hooked from this moment on. (Tamara and I were married in 1996, so our marriage journey is precisely aligned with the Dean Martin Festival timeline; coincidence? I think not.)



RIGHT: The Zinnos' backyard ready to welcome festival guests

BELOW: The Zinnos' Steubenville/Cleveland friends and family



Each year, in between the festival's various events, our backyard becomes a meeting place for so many. Local friends along with a core group of die-hard Dean Martin fans and impersonators stop by for Saturday afternoon dinner. Everyone then heads back to the festival for the evening and the conclusion of the scheduled events. Then, those that are brave enough return to our backyard for a late-night gathering, which we consider to be the official unofficial festival wrap-up.

We have met Dean Martin enthusiasts from Baltimore, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh, Michigan, Nevada, New York, Texas, and Wisconsin, and even Canada - and these friends have become some of our dearest.

Every June, we resume right where we left off a year earlier, as if we have been friends our entire lives.

The festival is an opportunity to connect with people who share a love for Dean Martin and everything he represents. From the cheerful atmosphere of the streets and bars to the nostalgia-filled moments of the performances, the festival always feels like stepping back into a simpler, more elegant era.

This year, 2025, for what is now known as the Dean Martin Hometown Festival, several exciting new dimensions are part of the celebrations.

One key event is the inaugural Dean Martin Association Charity Golf Scramble, which is set to bring together fans, community members, and local businesses in a fun and

meaningful way.

Golf has always been important to Dean Martin. By incorporating it into the festival, we're honoring Dean's well-known love for leisure and fun while also giving back to our community. Proceeds from the event will support the Ohio Valley Health Center, making it a perfect blend of entertainment and purpose.

But that's not all!

This year's festival also introduces the Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) Martin and Lewis Telethon-Style Reunion. For fans of the classic duo of Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis, this promises to be a unique experience. The telethon will not only celebrate their iconic partnership but will also serve as a fundraiser for the MDA. Living in Steubenville, I've always been surrounded by a deep sense of pride in our hometown roots.

The Dean Martin Hometown Festival is an example of how a small town can celebrate its identity while reaching far beyond its borders. It's a testament to the way that Steubenville embraces its past and becomes a welcoming community for all of its guests over the weekend.



For me personally, the festival has always been a source of inspiration. Seeing how one of our own could achieve such greatness reminds me that the values we hold dear—hard work, humor, and heart—can take us anywhere.

Each year, as I walk through the festival's activities, I'm reminded of the power of community and the magic of shared memories.

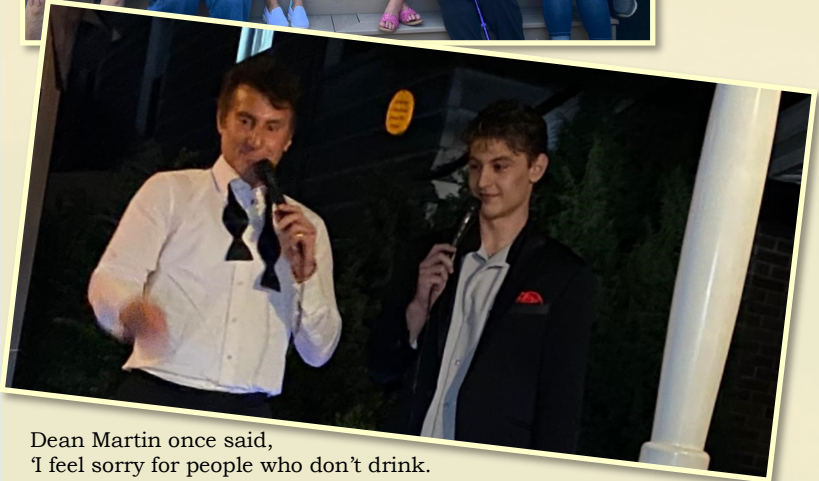
This year, with the addition of the golf scramble and the telethon, the festival feels even more impactful. It's a reminder that while we honor Dean Martin's legacy, we're also creating new traditions and making a difference in the lives of others.



As I look forward to this year's festival, I feel a renewed sense of excitement and gratitude.

Living in Steubenville has always been special, but the Dean Martin Hometown Festival makes it *extra* special.

It's more than a celebration of a legendary entertainer; it's a celebration of who we are as a community.



Dean Martin once said, 'I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning, that's as good as they're going to feel all day.'

While it's a humorous remark, it reminds me of his zest for life and his ability to bring joy to others.

The festival embodies that joy, bringing us all together to laugh, sing, and celebrate.

As we gather this year to honor Dean Martin's legacy and introduce exciting new events, I can't help feel proud. The festival isn't just about looking back; it's about moving forward together as a community, united by our love for one of Steubenville's most famous.



CLOCKWISE STARTING TOP: The Zinnos at home (Tamara and Michael seated, front right) with family (including Tim Traina, behind Michael) and festival guests; entertainer Joe Scalissi and his son Biagio, performing for Tamara, Michael and guests; Tamara and Michael with entertainer Tom Stevens; Tamara and Michael with Vince Vain and the "Baltimore Crew"; Karaoke night at Joe DiAlbert's famous The Spot Bar (L-R, Joe DiAlbert, Joe Scalissi, Dominic Fabian, Lou Martini Jr, Paulie Walnutz, Mike Wiggins)

In the end, living in Steubenville means being part of something bigger than yourself. It means cherishing the traditions that make us who we are while embracing the opportunities to grow and give back.

The Dean Martin Hometown Festival is a beautiful reflection of that, and I'm grateful to be part of it, year after year.

Here's to this year's festival...may it be the best one yet. That's Amore! 🍷



MAKING US SWAY:

Why we love Dean Martin!

We asked DMA members and friends how Dino leaves an indelible mark on all of us...

It's June 2002. I am in a rehearsal room in London's famous West End, attending an audition for a UK and Ireland tour of a show called *The Ratpack - Live from Las Vegas*. I have been asked to prepare a Dean Martin song and be prepared to read.

My knowledge of Dean Martin at that point was that he started out as part of a double act with Jerry Lewis, he was friends with Frank Sinatra and occasionally made films with him. More importantly he was Matt Helm! As 'Dean the singer' I was familiar with "That's Amore" (who wasn't) "Volare (Nel Blu Dipinto Di Blu)" and "Everybody Loves Somebody". That was about the extent of it.

I bought a CD and a book containing some Martin piano accompaniments. I thought I'd avoid the more obvious ones, I'd sing "Let Me Go Lover". I thought it showed his more vulnerable side, a song about a guy who loved this girl but she didn't love him but wanted his love anyway... You don't want me, but you want me to go on wanting you... I knew I did a good job of telling the story of the song and hoped I'd added enough of Dean's instantly recognizable phrasing and low vibrato.

I must have done okay because I was offered the job! About 6 months into the tour and after any many script changes (mostly made by me as the writer hadn't really got a handle on the humor!) we played a Sunday show at the London Palladium, where Dean himself had last played in 1987. It was packed. The show went down really well and

as a result had interest from West End theaters.

An actor friend of mine came to see the show and loved it. He said to me, 'You've got him down, you steal the show, you could be doing this for 20 years!'

That's why I love Dean Martin. My pal was right! His gift to me was his talent, his style, his voice, his easy going personality. I am not a Dean tribute. Although I pay tribute to him. I am an actor who found a guy I could relate to. I loved my sport (played soccer to a high level and took coaching badges); Dean loved his sport.

Do we have anything else in common? Quite a few children, I have four.

I occasionally ask myself, 'Should I have run with this character for so long? Should I have taken a different carter trajectory?' Well, when you love something and someone, it's hard to give it up, especially when it affords you so many opportunities and chances. For instance, I got to meet Sir Geoff Hurst. He's a highly-decorated retired British soccer player. He brought his wife, daughter and grandson to a West End show I had been performing in. I was very surprised when he came to visit me in my dressing room. They say you shouldn't

ABOVE: Shirley Maclaine and Dean Martin, *All In A Night's Work* [Paramount, 1961]

RIGHT: Mark Adams [Libby Christensen]



They say you shouldn't meet your heroes. Well, he could not have been nicer, kinder and more interested in me than me in him! I got to meet him again about a month later at a Lady Taverners ball at The Hilton, Park Lane in London, for Joan Collins. He saw me and came over to me and said, 'Nice to see you again, Mark!' That wouldn't have happened had I not been playing Dean Martin.

MARK ADAMS, London, UK



Sometime in the mid-70s I turned on the TV and happened to see a film starring such a smart, casual, cool looking guy that enthralled me by the minute. It was *How To Save A Marriage And Ruin Your Life*. My father came in and joined me watching. He told me this guy also sings. A week later he brought me the album *FOR THE GOOD TIMES* and from that moment on I became, I'm sure, one of the biggest fans of Dean.

His easy ways, good looks, charm and incredible charisma became kind of a role model for me, to which I try to live up, however knowing how futile that effort is!

Eventually I became an air traffic controller travelling the US and the world a lot.

Everywhere I meet people who love Dean and what he stands for.

FRANZ VANEK, Vienna, Austria



For the past 15 years, I've had the honor of performing as Dean Martin in Rat Pack shows, and the more I immerse myself in his legacy, the deeper my admiration for him grows. Dean Martin wasn't just an entertainer; he was a true artist whose effortless charm, impeccable voice, and natural wit made him an icon.

What I love most about Dean is the way he made everything seem so easy. He had this incredible ability to connect with an audience without ever trying too hard.

Whether he was singing a ballad or cracking a joke, there was a genuine warmth in everything he did. That laid-back, cool demeanor wasn't just an act, it was who he

was. It's that authenticity that makes him such a joy to portray.

Dean's voice, smooth as velvet, holds a timeless quality. When he sang, it felt like he was telling a story, drawing you in with every note. Songs like "That's Amore" and "Everybody Loves Somebody" aren't just hits, they're pieces of pop culture that have stayed with generations. His vocal delivery was never forced, always relaxed, but full of emotion.

Beyond his music, it's Dean's humor and ability to stay grounded amidst fame that I admire. He didn't take himself too

seriously, which is something I've always tried to embrace in my own performances. His charisma, mixed with a genuine sense of joy, made him relatable to audiences everywhere.

Every time I step onto stage as Dean, I'm reminded of why I fell in love with him in the first place. He was a master of his craft, but more importantly, he was a man who lived life with a sense of ease and joy that is still inspiring today.

MARK HALLIDAY, London, UK



Throughout the years
Many marvelous singers have come along
But no one

While they crooned
The audience cried, the audience swooned
All try,
But few succeed
As those that do
Are few and far between
But none were better than you,
our pallie, our Dean
Whether on the stage, or lounging on a stool
With a demeanor so smooth, you'll always be forever,
Mr Cool...
"Everybody Loves Somebody"...and we'll always love Dean
P.S, with every call I receive, I get to hear, as my ringtone:
"Ain't That A Kick In The Head"

Jerry Maffia, Manhattan, USA



Here's a little tale about why I'm head over heels for Dean Martin. Picture this: it's a lazy Sunday afternoon, the kind where the world slows down just enough to breathe. I'm sprawled on the couch, and the needle drops on "That's Amore." Instantly, that velvet voice—smooth as whiskey and warm as a summer night—wraps around me like an old friend. It's not just music; it's a ticket to a world where charm reigns supreme.

Dean's style? Pure class. The guy could rock a tuxedo like it was a second skin, cigarette dangling, martini in hand, looking effortlessly cool. He didn't try, he just *was*. That laid-back swagger, the way he owned every room without breaking a sweat; it's the kind of vibe I'd kill to bottle up. I mean, who else could make sipping a drink look like an art form?

Then there's his humor. Dry, sly, and delivered with that trademark wink, like he's letting you in on the joke. Watching him roast Sinatra or stumble through a bit on his variety show, you can't help but grin. He's the guy at the party who doesn't need to yell to be heard; he just leans in, cracks a line, and the room's his.

His music, though? That's the heart of it. "Ain't That a Kick in the Head" kicks up my pulse every time, and "Sway" makes me want to dance with someone, anyone, even if it's just the lamp.

Dean Martin's magic is that he makes life feel lighter, looser, like the rules don't apply.

He's my escape, my mood-lifter, my reminder that cool doesn't fade.

That's why I love him: he's timeless, and I'm hooked.

Steven Lott, Minnesota, USA



I've loved Dean Martin since the day I met him in his kitchen in 1981. My late Grandmother used to be his housekeeper in the late 70s early 80s. She emigrated to America mid 70s first starting out working for Jaqueline Smith, then on to Robert Wagner and Natalie Wood before finishing up with Dean himself.

I was only born in 1971 so a lot of the stories I had to get from either my grandmother or my parents.

My first trip over to America (from the UK) was for 3 weeks in 1981. During this time Dean was living in Beverly Hills and my grandmother lived in his quarters.

On one of my visits there I was eating strawberries and cream in his kitchen when the great man himself walked in and roughed up my hair!

During the 3 weeks I spent time playing on his pool table and helped putting his gold discs into cardboard boxes as he was moving into a property in Palm Springs.

DANIEL BERTENSHAW, 53, Manchester, UK
You can see Daniel's photos of Dean's homes from page 12



I grew up listening to all manner of music via my parents, particularly my dad who loved all types. He would play Strauss one moment then move to an album from The →

LEFT: Mark Halliday [Veritas, 2024]



Why we love Dean Martin!

→ Who the next, all the while interspersed with songs from Dean Martin. It was quite an eclectic range.

Dean really stood out for me as someone who was able to transcend genres and demographics. I love his voice, the way he expresses himself through singing, the way he holds his own. My friends used to think me odd when they were listening to Lee Aaron or whoever and I would reach for a Reprise album of Dean's from say 15 years before!

I didn't really know much about him, only that he sang, so for me it's Dean's music that makes me feel comforted and content over anything else he's done. I have since of course found his TV series and movies on-line. I'm not a follower of modern music, or even music that was contemporary as I was growing up. It's always been Dean, and by osmosis Frank Sinatra and Bing Crosby. They hark back to a time that seemed less intense, more carefree - perhaps it wasn't, perhaps that's my rose-tinted shades I'm psychologically wearing...but however I'm interpreting the bygone era of Dean Martin, I long for it. He's magical, soothing and brings a smile to my face every time I hear his music played. And that he's also a fine-looking man helps no end!

PEARL O'MEARA, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

Dean Martin holds a special place in my heart, not just for his incredible talent but because he hails from my favorite city - Steubenville, Ohio.

Through him I have formed friendships that I would never have had otherwise, bonding over a shared appreciation for his timeless charm.

Dean was the original "King of Cool". His effortless singing, charismatic acting, and playful humor made him a joy to watch and listen to. He came from an era long past, one that can never be recreated, yet his legacy continues to shine. His songs of love and joy, along with his beloved holiday classics, will remain cherished long after my time on this earth. Dean Martin wasn't just an entertainer, he was an icon whose influence endures, bringing people together through music, laughter, and the magic of old Hollywood.

MICHAEL ZINNO, Steubenville, Ohio, USA

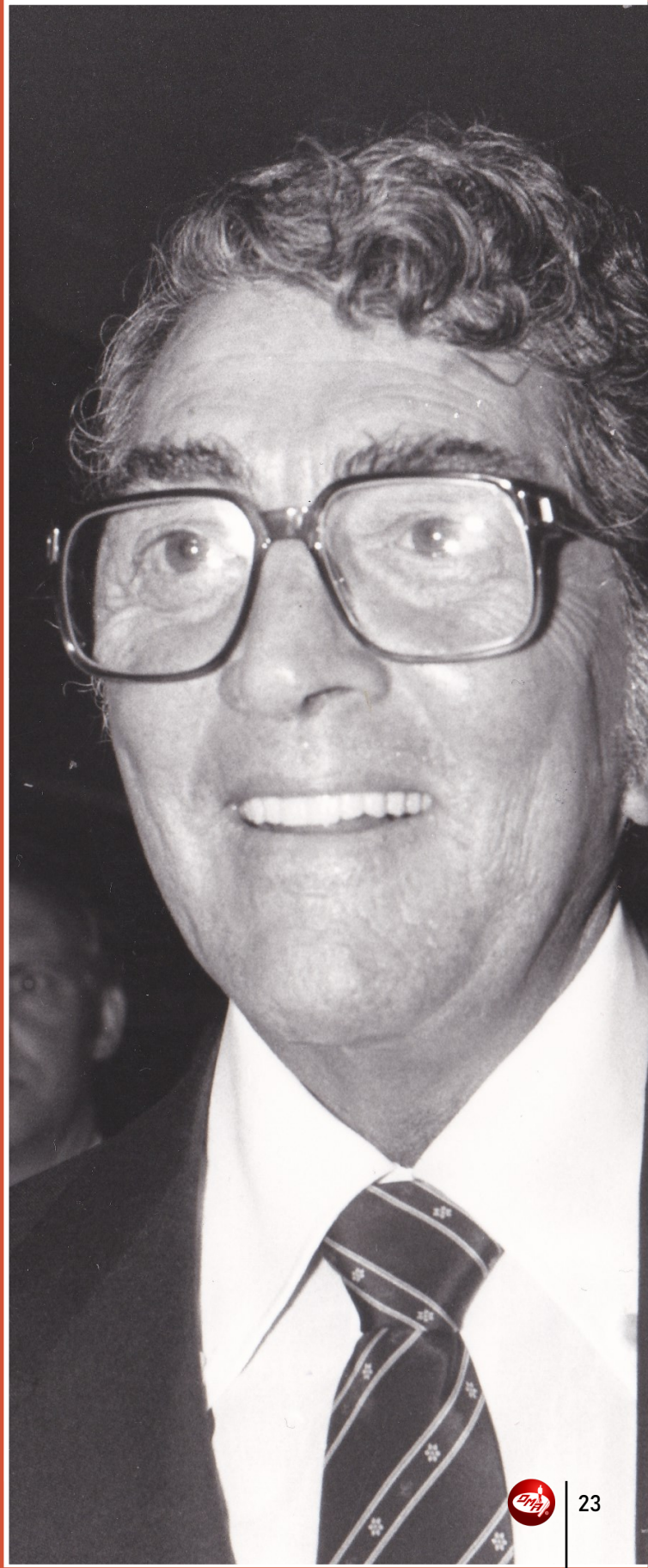
Oh, let me count the ways. There's never been a more handsome crooner...the hair, those dark eyes, and that smile! But, it's the voice that has had the most impact on me. I cannot tell you how many times that voice has gotten me through rough times. If I'm sad or get down, all I have to do is put on his music and an immediate smile comes to my face. I challenge anyone to listen to one of his songs and not be happy. I don't think it's possible.

Whether I'm listening to one of his albums or watching him in the variety shows or his movies, for just a little while, life is carefree. He never took himself too seriously. The Dean Martin on stage wasn't the Dean Martin off stage. In fact, I think a little bit of Dino Crocetti from Steubenville was always with him. He never forgot where he came from, yet didn't make a big deal about drawing attention to himself when he gave back to that hometown. He didn't wave around the "celebrity flag" as so many have done. He was what is so rare today, and that is a gentleman.

Was he perfect? Of course not. Even the King of Cool had his flaws and that's what made him human. That's another reason why I love him. As silly as this seems, as a woman, he makes me feel beautiful. That may not seem like much to most people, but I've never been confident when it comes to beauty. He changes all that. For me, he was the coolest cat of them all, yet could throw on a cowboy hat and boots and be the most rugged. For that reason, it's why I so fondly call him my cowboy in a tux.

ASHLEY MULKEY, Virginia, USA

I discovered Dean through his time with Jerry Lewis on the *Colgate Comedy Hour*. My grandma introduced me to them: she was a fan of Dean back in the day. I think it's a testament to his comedic gifts that he was able to go from just being a straight man to holding his own. Watching *The Dean Martin Show* when I'm feeling down is instantly relieving. It has a certain light-heartedness and ability to



RIGHT: Dean Martin in London, 1983 [DMA]

take my mind away from stresses like nothing else does.

Dean was a special kind of singer, the definition of *easy listening*. Though I do have some favorites, I can't honestly name a single song he's done that I would press skip on, which I can't say about nearly any other singer. He always took it easy while singing, as he did with most things, and never strained to reach a note or forced an emotion that he wasn't feeling. This makes him a real favorite of mine among singers.

Countless men of Dean's time played into the smooth, handsome crooner persona, yet in my mind none come close to the lasting power of Dean Martin. I think this is because he was much more than an image. I get the sense that he was far more intelligent and self-aware than he let on, probably more so than the majority of his peers. He possessed the humor and charm to play into his persona as perfectly as he did, while still cementing himself from the way he treated others as a genuine human being with heart.

This is what makes Dean Martin special to me, and I believe is what has given him such dedicated and committed fans still to this day.

Coleson McCarthy, Huntington, West Virginia, USA



I discovered Dean Martin when I was nine years old. It was at that time I began to watch Dean's movies with Jerry Lewis and others. His variety show was on television by then and my folks watched his show regularly, and I was allowed to occasionally stay up late to watch it with them.

Using a tape cassette recorder I recorded the songs Dean sang in his movies and on TV. I bought every Dean Martin album I could lay my hands hand on, many of them when they were first issued.

I fell in love with Dean Martin.

He was handsome, funny, cool, personable, and man, could that guy *sing*!

I also began singing like Dean. Of course, at age nine,

my voice was a bit higher than Dean's, but that would change eventually. On the playground, in the classroom, at home, at parties, there I was, singing songs by Dean Martin. My love for him gave me the confidence to get up in front of people and perform, which would never had happened if it wasn't for Dean.

Even after some fifty years, I still love sharing and singing the songs of Dean Martin. Dean could croon a song like no other. Listening to the warm depth of his voice is mesmerizing. The way his rich baritone caresses each note is unbelievable. Not only do I love Dean for his singing, but he was funny too! I'll never forget seeing him live at the MGM Grand. His comedic timing and spontaneity was hilarious. The audience was having a ball; I was having the time of my life.

Dean Martin was an entertainer, but he was something even more. He was someone who could turn an ordinary day into something extra special. That's why I love Dean!

Gary Wisner, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA



We could have produced an entire magazine containing the outpouring of love, admiration and adoration for Dean from all of his fans worldwide!

Thank you to everyone who has attended and supported this 2025 festival here in Steubenville, to everyone who sadly was unable to make it, to all of Dean's family, friends, fans and admirers wherever you are in the world, and to those who took time to write for us here in this article and to those where we simply ran out of space to include you.

It's truly heart-melting that we all come together to celebrate this legendary-yet-humble figure. Perhaps it is this humble nature, in spite of the world he lived in and moved around in, that attracts us to him. With looks, voice, panache and talent all mixed in, it's a hard cocktail to beat!

Elliot Thorpe, DMA President, London, UK

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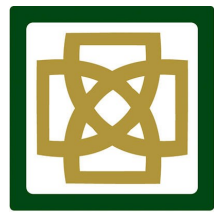
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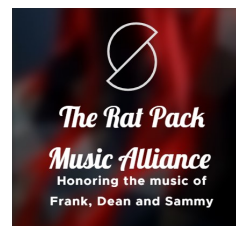
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