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Michael Giltz

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American Idol Top 12: The Beatles

Posted March 12, 2008 | 02:16 AM (EST)

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Ryan Seacrest said we had been waiting for it with bated breath. But it wasn't the Top 12 he was referring to -- it was the set. "Say hello to our new set, America." Hello, set. Actually, it's an improvement but still not quite as flash as the set for Simon Cowell's UK equivalent "The X Factor." (I love how that show flashes the contestant's name all over the stage.) But the "mosh pit" where audience members can stand and groove along to the songs is a great addition. On the negative side, why strand the bandleader on his own little alcove far away from the other musicians? Stupid and dangerous when it comes to the subtle communication they need to adjust on the fly to a particular performance.

Ryan also said the Beatles -- I mean, "the Lennon/McCartney Songbook" (sorry, George) -- is exciting because John Lennon and Paul McCartney are responsible for more Number One hits than any other songwriters. No one else is even close in the rock era. The Beatles alone had 20 #1 hits so he may be right but I'm still checking. Ryan asked Simon if these songs were difficult and Simon said, "It depends which one you choose," with his usual blunt finality. Made perfect sense until he said if you chose "She Loves You" it's easy and if you choose "Yesterday," it's hard. Huh? Actually, "She Loves You" seems easy but has all sorts of tricky high parts if you really want to make it work and "Yesterday" is a dead simple melody -- it's not one of the most covered tunes of all time because it's super hard to sing, that's for sure.

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Sysha Mercado -- Sang "Got To Get You Into My Life," which wasn't even released as a single till 1976, long after the band disbanded. Earth, Wind & Fire did a terrific cover two years later that also went Top 10 and Sysha took her cue from that, adding in lots of horns. I didn't dig her hair and she had a very

rough start. But once she hit the chorus she got stronger and she ended very well. However, by the end of the show, when they did the recap I was a little startled to hear her because I'd totally forgotten her performance. And I've got a crush on her! Always dangerous to be forgettable. But

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she had a strong ending. Randy was lukewarm, Paula said it was great from halfway through onward and Simon was quite positive and might have given her enough of a boost to get her through. It's never fun to go first.

Chikezie -- Sang "She's A Woman," the B-side to "I Feel Fine" that didn't even appear on a UK album (though it was on the thrown-together *Beatles 65* in the US. Don't get me started about the absurd chaos of the US versions of Beatles albums.) I'm a Beatles fanatic but why choose a song that 98% of your audience won't even recognize? Even before he began I pegged his song choice as a complete disaster -- when you've got one of the most well-known song catalogs in history, one bursting with tremendous tunes, don't choose a relative rarity. Then he began singing. The arrangement reflected the early skiffle days of the Beatles, with some banjo thrown in. (Has Chikezie been listening to the terrific new **Otis Taylor** album, *Recapturing The Banjo*? That's where I learned the banjo came from Africa.) Then the song began rocking out and Chikezie was looser, funkier and more entertaining than he'd ever been before. Just terrific. The only flaw in a great moment was Ryan dancing around like a dork at the end, encouraging shenanigans and generally infantilizing Chikezie by rubbing his head. Help them look cool, Ryan. If they seem hyper from the adrenaline rush, help them get control. All three judges were wildly enthusiastic, of course. His best performance yet.

Ramiele Malubay -- Sang "In My Life" from the landmark *Rubber Soul* album. Boldly, Ramiele began the song on the stairs looking UP, kind of a fun change of pace that worked well, until she had to get back down to the ground and wavered a moment on the steps. Too often, I've found her anonymous and a diva ready to throw in tons of trills and runs to no purpose. She still didn't show me a lot of personality. But for once she kept it simple and straightforward. Of course, she got pilloried for that. Randy and Simon were bored and even Paula said she was waiting for some vocal gymnastics. Actually, no, we don't need another Mariah Carey. To top off the injustice, Simon even thought the John Lennon classic was a boring song. Disastrous reviews. When all three judges slam you, you are in serious trouble.

Jason Castro -- Sang "If I Fell" with just an acoustic guitar, a so-so voice and a lot of charm. The tune originally appeared on the *A Hard Day's Night* soundtrack in the UK and on *Something New* in the US, serving as the B-side to "And I Love Her." (Told you I was a Beatles fanatic.) Lovely tune and Jason coasted through, but he's very lucky a lot of people were worse than him. Very rough on the high notes and at the end. But when Simon said it sounded like a student sitting in their bedroom at midnight, a lot of fans thought, "Gee, that would be fun to be in a bedroom at midnight listening to Jason sing." Sex appeal counts for a lot folks. Paula said, "I can feel your heart" and Randy was negative but Simon was vaguely positive. That and charm should keep him safe, but those weak vocals will catch up with him in the end. If I'm not mistaken, Simon trashed this song too as dull; I know Simon can't handle Bob Dylan but does he hate the Beatles too?

Carly Smithson -- Sang "Come Together" in a pretty traditional arrangement, despite promising she would change things up. Lennon's last #1 hit with the Beatles, off their best-selling album *Abbey Road* (12 million copies and counting in the US.) I still don't like her piercing high notes (they sound weak and a tad shrill to me) but this is a very good performance and I haven't been a fan. I think to myself, "Gee, someone should give her a record deal. Oh, wait..." On top of the deserved praise, Simon goes into overdrive for Carly, saying that she reminds him of Kelly Clarkson, who gave a breakout performance the same week in season one. Clearly, one of his goals tonight is to build up the other artists and stop making David Archuleta seem so inevitable or audiences will get bored.

Before introducing David Cook, Ryan is seen leaning over whispering to Simon. Since he was looking up at a monitor, I assume it was a planned bit of silliness. But no matter how many times I played it back, I couldn't quite hear all of the first sentence. Ryan is whispering, "The crew thinks you're..." and Simon rears back and says loudly, "No, I would NOT!" and then Ryan says, "No, but I think they think you're becoming obnoxious."

David Cook -- Sang "Eleanor Rigby," off *Revolver*, which combined with *Rubber Soul* to send the Beatles into the stratosphere creatively, setting them a galaxy apart from every other act. Cook pulled the same stunt as last week, giving an emo makeover to another mellow ballad. It worked well again and he ended very strongly on a rocker's yelp. But he can't pull the same trick again next week. And he still has that unintentional habit of looking very pleased with himself, that Daughtry attitude where he seems to be thinking, "I am such a badass for rockin' out on *Idol*." Actually, you

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can't appear on *Idol* and pretend you're a rebel. It's not possible. The judges loved it, rightly. Simon insisted he was "brilliant" and said that if this were a talent contest instead of a singing contest (take that, you popular little punk, David Archuleta), then Cook could win it all! One more stab at not making the show seem a foregone conclusion. Both Ray Charles and Aretha Franklin sang the heck out of this tune, though I'd give a slight edge to **Brother Ray** if I had to choose.

Brooke White -- Took off her shoes, sat down at the piano and sang "Let It Be." Nailed it. Do Carly Simon and Carole King realize their love child is coming on strong on *Idol*? The song is the title track from their raw second to last album which broke down in recriminations. They then got together to record their final album *Abbey Road*. Producer Phil Spector stepped in and dug through the tapes to come up with an album that was technically released last. And the documentary film showing their backbiting has unfortunately been held up for years; I've never even seen it. The judges fall over themselves in praise, even though Randy confuses poor Ramielle by praising Brooke for basically singing the song straight, just like she did. The difference? Brooke did a good job. Tearing up at the end of the song didn't hurt in the endearment department either. By the way, Ryan said this was the last single from the Beatles, but I believe it was actually "The Long and Winding Road." (That ignores tunes released years later like "Got To Get You Into My Life" and the patchwork job "Free As A Bird" and "Real Love" in '95 and '96.) Joan Baez was the first to have a hit covering this song, though I favor the great **Bill Withers**.

David Hernandez -- Sang "I Saw Her Standing There" and looked cute with an untucked shirt and tie but it was basically a train wreck. He ran out of breath while running in and out of the audience and was weak on the low notes and the chorus. The tune was the B-side to the Beatles' breakthrough US hit "I Wanna Hold Your Hand" and was a big hit for Tiffany, who changed the genders. If he's gonna go down for this, I kind of hope he sings the Tiffany version when he says goodbye. But he shouldn't have to go; Hernandez has a great voice and I still thought he was sort of entertaining. The judges trashed him -- even Paula.

Amanda Overmyer -- Sang "You Can't Do That" from *A Hard Day's Night* in the UK and *The Beatles' Second Album* in the US. Another relatively obscure choice that I immediately peg as bad. She should be doing "Helter Skelter" or "Back In the USSR" or something tough but well-known. So of course she delivers her best performance so far. I couldn't understand half the lyrics, but that's standard operating procedure for Amanda. But it's a competent performance and the judges loved her so she'll be fine. Most interesting of all: Amanda didn't change the gender of the song, so she was singing, "If I catch you talking to that boy again" and "Well, it's the second time I've caught you talking to him." Did Amanda just not bother changing the gender, was it too awkward to sing "her," which wouldn't rhyme with "sin" in the next line? Or did Amanda just come out? (I don't think so.)

Michael Johns -- Sang "Across The Universe" nicely and simply. Despite one rock star moment of lifting up his hands into the air, very controlled and emotional. His best since singing "Bohemian Rhapsody" during Hollywood. And I haven't been a fan. The judges however were mostly bored. Randy and Simon poo-poo it, while Paula felt his heart. My favorite cover of this song was Sean Lennon, Rufus Wainwright and Moby singing it at a **Lennon tribute show in October of 2001**, one of the first events to be held in the wake of 9-11. Just beautiful.

Kristy Lee Cook -- Sang "Eight Days A Week," y'all! She also do a sort of line-dance, riding-a-bull sort of move while singing it. The second train wreck of the night, the song comes from *Beatles For Sale* in the UK and *Beatles VI* in the US. Weak, anonymous vocals throughout and a very weak final note and the judges body-slammed her.

David Archuleta -- Sang "We Can Work It Out" and gave another brilliant performance. Huh? You say it was a disaster? Sure he forgot the words and stumbled around. Heck, even before he sang -- when the camera spotted him on that gargantuan stage when going to commercial -- I thought, "Gee, he looks young. And small." But the David Archuleta train was going to fast. You've got to stumble so you can recover and not be so boring that people just don't bother voting. So David picked a perfect week to be just awful. If you wait too long and give your bad performance when there are only four or five people left, you might just get sent home. But doing it tonight, enough other acts were bad (but none worse) to guarantee that David will be given a free pass from his huge fan base and get to work his way back up to indomitable favorite. Smart thinking, David! How bad was he? The audience barely booed when Simon said David was awful. He also dredged up some mannerisms from his *Star Search* days, including a diva-like bobbing of the head and **those gospel singer hand gestures**. But how smart is he? David was forgetting the lyrics left and



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right and nearing meltdown. So when the chorus began and the background singers started singing, he let them go first and then came in behind so he could use them as a safety net to make sure he was singing the right words Smart, smart, smart. A #1 hit for the Beatles, "We Can Work It Out" was a single (backed by "Day Tripper") and only appeared on greatest hits compilations. Stevie Wonder had a top 20 hit with it in 1973 but you can be certain it WON'T be on David Archuleta's debut CD. He'll wake up in the middle of the night in a cold sweat trying to remember the lyrics for weeks to come. But don't worry, David; your stumble came at just the right time. Now your fans can start rooting for you again without feeling like they're cheering for the Yankees during the Fifties.

So putting aside David Archuleta, the two worst performances of the night were David Hernandez and Kristy Lee Cook. The two most boring performances of the night were Ramiele Malubay and Syesha Mercado. Usually, boring is worse than bad because at least people remember the bad and feel maybe a little sympathy. Simon really dropped the hammer on Ramiele and Kristy. I'm probably crazy not to include David Hernandez, but I'm going to say the bottom two is Ramiele and Kristy and in a nail-biter I say Kristy Lee Cook is going home.

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Love your spot-on analysis every week, Mr. Giltz. And I'm also a big fan of Syesha. The woman simply excudes sensuality, and she's not a half-bad singer either!

Hope you don't mind my making a few clarifications on Beatles trivia. Let it Be (b/w You Know My Name -- now THAT would have made an interesting selection to cover) was in fact the last "official" Beatles single, notwithstanding, as you mentioned, post-breakup releases circa 1976, Free As a Bird, etc. Let It Be was released in March 1970, a month before the generally accepted breakup date of April 10. The Long and Winding Road was a U.S.-only 45 (b/w For You Blue) released in May 1970.

Given that it's AMERICAN Idol, and that the show and the Beatle's American label, Capitol, are both based in Hollywood, somewhat ironic on Ryan Seacrest's part to go with the British release dates and album listings, i.e., You Can't Do That presented as "from (EMI-Parlophone's) A Hard Day's Night" instead of Capitol's bogus Beatles' Second Album. But at least he was consistent throughout the show.

And one minor correction. Stevie Wonder's version of We Can Work It Out (along with Jimi Hendrix's version of Day Tripper, my personal all-time favorite Beatles cover) was recorded and first released on Stevie's Signed, Sealed & Delivered LP in 1970. It came out as a single in 1971, not 1973.

Thanks for the great blog. Looking forward to next week's entry. And evidently, due to popular demand, they're extending the Lennon-McCartney songbook tribute for one more show. Fab!

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One minor technical point, please. Michael Jackson didn't buy the Beatles catalog "at auction." He stole it! -- by outbidding Paul behind Paul's back. Paul admits since that he obviously regrets giving a lowball bid to ATV (the corporation that owned the "Northern Songs" which licensed a majority of the Lennon-McCartney cannon) for the songs but, make no mistake, Jackson's was unscrupulous by buying the rights out from under Paul, who (supposedly) was his friend at the time of the purchase back in the mid '80s

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So NOT impressed with Brooke or David Cook. Thought Cook screeched his way through the haunting (when done by The Beatles, i.e. Paul McCartney on lead - incidentally, he wrote it, too) "Eleanor Rigby." And Brooke, can she sing any other way but in that style? I certainly don't think she deserves the OUTRAGEOUS praise that Simon gives her week after week. Very uncharacteristic of him. I also do not get Jason Castro.

And Michael, while I enjoyed your column, "She's a Woman" was a big hit in Miami at the time it was first released. Indeed, both "I Feel Fine" and "She's a Woman" got pretty much equal play at the time (I'm almost 60; saw the Beatles live at the Gator Bowl in '64.)

Additionally, "If I fell" is on my original soundtrack of Hard Day's Night, released in the U.S. at the time of the movie. I have all the Beatles' albums on vinyl, bought at the time they were first released in the U.S., including the ones not previously waxed on Capitol Records (Verve Records, I think - my albums are packed in a box right now; I've recently moved or else I'd pull them out for reference.)

As for the film "Let it Be" I think I've seen it about three or four times - when each Beatle film was released my friends and I always made sure we sat through as many showings as we could. Those were the days when you weren't asked to leave the theater when the showing was over. "Let It Be" played, if memory serves, in the Shores Theater in Miami Shores, Florida, when it was first released in 1970. And yeah, if I recall, you can cut the tension with a knife in some places. The gig on the roof also features Beatle women in the background as audience, if I recall - Yoko, Linda, Maureen. Yoko's presence in the film was especially telling at the time and indicated that yes, indeed, the Beatles dream was over. (I am not a Yoko-hater, btw.)

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Not Verve Records, that's strictly a jazz label. Most likely you're thinking of the VJ (aka "Vee-Jay") label, a long-defunct R&B label out of Chicago that released a couple Beatles LPs in the early days of Beatlemania, including most famously "Introducing the Beatles" with the iconic Dezo Hoffman sepia cover shot.

And I am, in fact, a Yoko-hater. Don't believe the revisionist post-Lennon assassination spin, she WAS more singularly responsible than anyone else for breaking up the Beatles, more

than Allen Klein, more than Brian Epstein in absentia. She hasn't exactly redeemed herself, either, in her narcissistic controlling of the estate and legacy of Lennon and her stake in the Beatles.

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dcdan, yes, Vee-Jay - couldn't recall it offhand.

in regard to yoko, you're leaving out free-will on lennon's part.

yes, yoko literally pushed her way into the life of john lennon (i'm also referring to the anecdote of her pushing her way into his limo) but at any point he could have pushed her right back out, and, ostensibly, continued on as part of a singing/writing four-some. but with two colliding egos the size of lennon and mccartney, the break up was inevitable.

at the time that all of this was going on, those of us out in "fan-land" didn't have much of an idea as to how serious the situation had gotten; a lot of the intricate details were learned a step or two later, or in some cases, only to be divulged in the books that were written several years later. i recall in 1970 during the break up of reading a "rare" one-on-one interview with mccartney where he could barely contain his contempt for lennon - and it was a real first glimpse as to how incredibly hateful they were to each other. i remember a friend and i discussing this along the lines of "wow, we knew it was bad, but didn't realize how bad..." i most likely still have that news article saved among my beatle memorabilia, boxed up with the rest of my things. i used to save anything published about the beatles.

at any rate, i have long since given up any fan-hatred for yoko. perhaps if she had come and gone in john's life, i would have thought more harshly of her. but she was, in the end and to the end, john's soulmate and from that came a burst of john's own creativity and his penchant for riding on the razor's edge.

also, please don't underestimate the effect linda eastman had on paul mccartney or the effect eastern religion had on george. ringo always seemed to go along for the ride. but all four men were distinct talents, with good and curious brains, and the break up their formative group was inevitable.

yoko can be seen as the tear in the fabric to which john tore through to escape what he - and paul - were both feeling as stultifying to both of their creative and personal needs. i didn't like beatles break up either, but as a 45-years long fan i have long since given up "hating" yoko ono for the "break up" of the beatles. it's time to get over it.

=====

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Or maybe Amanda's boyfriend in 'You Can't Do That' is interested in another guy?

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Good point. That's what she gets for dating a metrosexual.

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☰ **Guitarsandmore** [See Profile](#) [I'm a Fan of Guitarsandmore](#) [permalink](#)

Actually, the easiest and best sounding Beatles song to play on an acoustic guitar and sing it at the same time is "You've got to hide your love away". The chord progression is really easy but sounds amazing. John's voice was in the middle of the register so it is also easy to sing.

After that I would pick "Here comes the sun" by George Harrison which is not as hard as it sounds and this is perhaps the best sounding and easily most recognizable Beatles song. capo 7th fret.

Harrison's " My Sweet Lord" is hard but sounds easy as you really have to build up your hand strength to play that one. capo second fret

"The things we said today" is an easy song to sing and play but I don't think it was one of their best songs.

"Give me Love" by George Harrison is one of my favorites and is not that tough to play although some might find it so. capo third fret.

"Dear Prudence" perhaps one of Lennon's best ballads is difficult and most people might want to tune their guitar down a whole step.

Best Regards,

G&M

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"You've Got To Hide Yor Love Away" is easy to sing and play, but it's not easy to get that little bit of swagger that makes the "Hey! You've got to hide your love a-way" actually work. "Here Comes The Sun" is a brilliant song, easily one of my Top 5 but it and most of the others you mention were George harrison tunes as you know and therefore not available when singing the Lennon/McCartney songbook. "Dear Prudence" might have worked well for Jason, don't you think? Thanks for the perspective on what's easy on the guitar.

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How do you sing Eight Days a Week as a country song and not be booted off? I'm amazed!

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I'm bummed too. I think everyone thought she was the worst and she seemed to think she was going home too. BUt unless you think Ramile or Kristy or David hernandez would win it all (and probably none of them would) it's wrong to get caught up on who goes first. If they're the bottom tier, it doesn't really matter about the order that much, even though week to week it can seem like a travesty.

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It kills me how these media critics even get a platform. They miss the biggest flaw of the show. AT the end of the show Seacrest thanks everybody except the Beatles. Helloooo!!!!

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Or more specifically John Lennon and Paul McCartney since it was definitely NOT a Beatles night but a Lennon?McCartney night as they pointed out over and over again. Ryan could and should have thanked Lennon and McCartney at the end, but they had made many appropriate overtures to the genius of them, so I don't think it was too egregious. But it would certainly have been a nice touch and I'm sure if you mentioned it to Ryan he would agree.

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 **auramac** [See Profile](#) [I'm a Fan of auramac](#) [permalink](#)

Simon was not up to par, either, dismissing In My Life as a boring song and thinking She Loves You is an easy one to pull off. Chikeze and Brooke were great. Quite simply, considering the material they had to work with- regardless of their choices- the rest simply sucked. I Saw Her Standing There is a Carl Perkins-ish, not Chuck Berry rocker, no interpretation of it should be such a train wreck. But it's "not the only one."

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 **67bug** [See Profile](#) [I'm a Fan of 67bug](#) [permalink](#)

I wonder which Beatles song Danny would have sang? I liked Chikezie the best, he totally rocked. Country Chick on the other hand, has to go. It sounded like a parody you would hear on The Simpson's or something.

Favorite Flag as abusive Posted 04:28 PM on 03/12/2008

67bug See Profile I'm a Fan of 67bug permalink

Ooops! I meant "The Simpsons," bad punctuation there.

Favorite Flag as abusive Posted 05:37 PM on 03/12/2008

Michael Giltz See Profile I'm a Fan of Michael Giltz permalink

Not to worry about the missing apostrophe. A minor flub given the standards of spelling in a comments section. Danny liked to have fun, Maybe Ticket to Ride or Lady Madonna?

Favorite Flag as abusive Posted 02:08 AM on 03/13/2008

gavintiegirl See Profile I'm a Fan of gavintiegirl permalink

I am having trouble posting a comment.

Favorite Flag as abusive Posted 10:22 AM on 03/12/2008

Charity See Profile I'm a Fan of Charity permalink

me, too, gavintiegirl. i haven't been able to post using mozilla firefox for two days. so now i am reduced to using internet explorer and just noticed that these replies are in "red." ouch. hard on the eyes.

Favorite Flag as abusive Posted 02:32 AM on 03/13/2008

gavintiegirl See Profile I'm a Fan of gavintiegirl permalink

Excellent review. Here is my review of last nights performances.

Keep "em Group (in no particular order)

1. Carly Smithson: Solid performance, excellent song choice.
2. David Cook: Powerful performance.
3. Chikezie Eze: He surprised everyone tonight with a very upbeat performance. Great energy.
4. Brooke White: I loved her performance. She had tons of heart and you could feel it.
5. Amanda Overmyer: She blew me away this week. I really enjoyed her. For once I disagree with Simon. It was better than last week.
6. Michael Johns: I loved the song (Rufus Wainwright version. His vocals were solid, but it was a tad bit boring; however, he will be safe.
7. David Archuleta: He said he was nervous about the song, he was, he forgot the words in the beginning; twice. Still, he has excellent vocals, but not his best; however, he too will be safe thanks to the media frenzy surrounding him. He showed that he is not a perfect performer.
8. Syesha Mercado: Since she went first, she is the most forgettable. She has excellent vocals, but the song and performance were a bit boring. I think she deserves to be there next week for sure.
9. Ramiele Malubay: Her voice is amazing and she is adorable. Bad song choice. I hope she is back next week.
10. Jason Castro: I like him a lot. He is adorable. Last week was better. I was extremely distracted by the clapping going on in the mosh pit and I had the feeling he was too. I felt as though the clapping was throwing him off a bit. I don't think that AI should allow that sort of distraction again. It was painful to watch and hear. Back to Jason...I think he had one of the weaker performances tonight; however, I think he will be safe because after all there were people worse. (See below).

Boot "em Group (in no particular order)

1. David Hernandez: The performance seemed very karaoke to me. I was embarrassed for him. The judges said it was overdone. I think he is a favorite to go home tomorrow night.
2. Kristy Lee Cook: The worst performance of the night horrible, horrible. She turned the Beatles, Eight Days a Week into a BAD country style song that verged on sounding like Polka music. I think she should get the boot or maybe even jail time for ruining that Beatles song. However, I think the country fans might save her with dials. She was by far the most painful to watch tonight. Ugh!!!

Favorite Flag as abusive Posted 10:20 AM on 03/12/2008

Michael Giltz See Profile I'm a Fan of Michael Giltz permalink

Thanks for the rundown. I hope you're wrong about Hernandez but I tried to convince myself it

wouldn't happen.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 11:50 AM on 03/12/2008

whillice See Profile I'm a Fan of whillice permalink

Why oh why do you pick songs where the real hook is in the interplay between Lennon and McCartney's voices, where they switch off on who is technically singing melody and who is doing harmony: songs like If I Fell and We Can Work It Out. Bad, bad choices, especially when such obvious solo choices like "You've got to hide your love Away", "ticket to ride" (both off the under appreciated Help!) were left alone.

The real shame is that no one did anything truly daring, which is what the Beatles should be best remembered for: Tomorrow Never Knows, I am the Walrus, and the song that invented hard rock, the above-mentioned Helter Skelter: and why not introduce it like Bono: "This is a song Charles Manson stole from the Beatles-- we're stealing it back." Would it have been too meta to wear the Manson t-shirt like Axl Rose in the video for "Estranged"?

The real tragedy? That they could only do Lennon/McCartney stuff, leaving perhaps some of the greatest songs the Beatles EVER did, like "Something," the always overlooked "Old Brown Shoe" or "While My Guitar Gently Weeps." The difference? Harrison owned all his own publishing, while the Lennon/McCartney stuff was bought at auction by Michael Jackson. Ever notice how whenever you hear a news story about MJ having money trouble, in the ensuing months you get a lot more Beatles songs being licensed in commercials, etc?

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 03:19 AM on 03/12/2008

Guitarsandmore See Profile I'm a Fan of Guitarsandmore permalink

They could have done "A day in the Life". I can play that on my acoustic guitar. It's not hard and it's a real hoot!

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 12:51 AM on 03/13/2008

Michael Giltz See Profile I'm a Fan of Michael Giltz permalink

I kind of thought Michael Johns might tackle "I Am The Walrus." You make a great point about how dangerous it is to pick songs where the Lennon-McCartney vocals intertwined and played off each other. Still, I think the songs are great enough that you could do a final solo version of say "If I Fell," it's just that Jason Castro has a very thin voice no matter what he's singing. I kind of hoped Amanda would do "Helter Skelter" or even "Why Don't We Do It In The Road," just for shock value. "Old Brown Shoe" is a charmer, right up there with "Two Of Us" in the small category of overlooked Beatles songs.

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 11:53 AM on 03/12/2008

DemandTruth See Profile I'm a Fan of DemandTruth permalink

Ah. Damn good songs, all! I wonder if they had all these songs to choose from, and if they get to listen to them done by the Beatles before they choose? Some of the younger kids might not be that familiar with the more bizarre, less well-known Beatles music... But you mention some great choices! (Do it in the road - one of my faves!)

♥ Favorite ⚙ Flag as abusive Posted 06:47 PM on 03/12/2008

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