

The Sudbury Star

Buble wows a packed house

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Page: A1

Section: Front

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It was like taking a step back in show biz history in a venue where hockey sticks fly and goals are made.

Often compared to Ol' Blue Eyes, Michael Buble took the stage, belting out Leonard Cohen's song "I'm Your Man" Tuesday night.

On his Call Me Irresponsible tour, Buble stopped for a sold-out show at the Sudbury Arena.

Naturally 7, the R&B, jazz and soul septet from New York City, opened up the show. The only instrument the crew use is their voice, which emulated the sound of everything from violins to electric guitars. They ended their set with Phil Collins' "In the Air Tonight."

Naturally 7 received a standing ovation from a crowd that probably were hearing them for the first time.

For fans, Buble is more than a singer.

Many in the audience were couples and Buble teased the men who "so don't want to be here tonight."

But he assured them that three hours from now they'll be smoking a cigarette saying "I love you baby."

It's his sophistication and sense of humour that makes Buble an entertainer, said Sylvie Richer of Sudbury.

Karen Nesbitt considered herself one of the lucky fans who got tickets before they sold out in two hours.

Until Tuesday night the North Bay woman had only seen Buble on DVD in the comfort of her own home.

"He's smoking hot," she said.

"He has so much charisma on stage. He makes you feel like you're part of the show."

Her husband Craig, a musician himself, said Buble reminds him of the old crooners Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Tony Bennett.

There was a local flavour to the show. Singers Kelsey Carroll, Marnie Delwo and Pandora Topp, all of Sudbury, accompanied Buble on stage for his last song of the evening, "That's Life."

When the Sudbury Arena contacted Records on Wheels Owner Tony Anselmo looking for backup singers for Buble, Anselmo recommended Topp.

Buble's manager called Topp on Monday afternoon and told her to show up at the arena at 4 p.m. wearing black. At the time she had no idea what she would be singing.

"It's pretty cool," Topp said gushing with excitement an hour before the show. "We're hanging with him - it's wicked."

Buble was in town Monday with girlfriend and British actress Emily Blunt. Blunt, who played the stuck up Emily in the movie, "The Devil Wears Prada," accompanied Buble to dinner at Tommy's Not Here.

"It's good to see young people enjoying fame but keeping it real," said restaurant owner Casey Boyuk.

The casually-dressed couple were down to Earth and had a sense of humour, he said.

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Illustration:

- Following a standing ovation for his opening act, Naturally 7, Michael Buble took to the stage Tuesday and charmed the crowd with his humour and sophistication.

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