

# Correct musical formula found for Prine numbers

BY MARY HOULIHAN

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**F**ailed jukebox musicals are many. "Ring of Fire" (Johnny Cash), "Lennon" (John Lennon) and "The Times They Are A-Changin'" (Bob Dylan) all debuted on Broadway with much fanfare and quickly disappeared.

But Indianapolis-based Phoenix Theatre has come up with a winning formula in the music-drenched show "Prine: A Tribute Concert," running at the Viaduct Theater through Feb. 6. Here, director Bryan Fonseca gets it right by keeping it simple.

It doesn't hurt that he has great music to work with and six talented performers to present it. Each obviously loves a song made complex by stunning wordplay and simple chords, all of which Prine does throughout his vast songbook.



Megan McDonough and Tim Grimm are among the cast of "Prine: A Tribute Concert" at the Viaduct Theater.

The two-hour show, which debuted earlier last year at Phoenix where Fonseca is producing director, is presented locally by Here

Today Enterprises, in association with Phoenix and Prop Thtr. The performers are Tim Brickley, Tim Grimm, Bobbie Lancaster, Jan Lucas-Grimm, Megan McDonough and Michael Shelton.

Of course, the show should easily find an audience here since Chicago fans call the Nashville-based Prine their own. He grew up in Maywood and was a central figure in the Chicago folk movement, performing at clubs like the Earl of Old Town and the Quiet Knight along with pals such as Steve Goodman, Bonnie Koloc, Fred Holstein and Jim Post. But those days were decades ago and much of the music has fallen by the wayside.

What "Prine: A Tribute Concert" does is prove just how lasting the songs are, allowing the audience to really absorb Prine's lyrics and the messages behind them.

thanks to Prine's story songs and the subtle interactions of the performers, all of whom are actors as well as fine musicians and singers.

Lancaster's sassy twang is perfect on "They Oughta Name a Drink After You" and heart-breaking on "Bruised Orange." McDonough smoothly beautiful vocals shown on "Sam Stone" and "Angel from Montgomery." Scattered among the solo performances were nicely calibrated duets, including the Grimms' crowd-pleasing take on Prine's silly rant "In Spite of Ourselves."

What gives the show cred is the fact that the singers never try to imitate Prine but rather to interpret the songs in their own individual way, drawing out the humor, pain, truth and beauty of each. In the end, Prine's lyrically rich songbook is the true star of this performance piece.

## 'PRINE: A TRIBUTE CONCERT'

### HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

- ◆ To Feb. 6
- ◆ Viaduct Theater, 3111 N. Western
- ◆ Tickets, \$25
- ◆ (773) 296-6024

The songs — more than 30 are performed — have a country-folk charm. They can be silly and whimsical ("It's a Big Old Goofy World") or realistically heart-breaking ("Speed of the Sound of Loneliness").

Fonseca lets the songs unfold organically in a simple barroom setting. There is no dialogue, no real storyline. Yet hints of a story about relationships come through

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## Time for an Affordable Delicious Change!

by TRACY WALSH  
Great Dining Columnist



There are fascinating bits of knowledge about Chinese Food Restaurants many people are unaware of. For instance, out of all the McDonald's Restaurants across the globe, there is actually a larger number of Chinese Food Restaurants in the U.S. alone according to EatingChina.com. Furthermore, it has been reported by YellowPages.com, as well, there are no fewer than 500 Chinese Restaurants in the city of Chicago.

Individuals may additionally be clueless of a Chinese Restaurant named, Gen Hoe. Or, how it holds up against the mighty competition of Chinese Food Restaurants, smack-dab in the middle of Chicago.

To solve this mystery, I put myself into Sherlock Holmes's mode, and traveled to the Gen Hoe in Chicago Ridge, to investigate.

No longer than 5 minutes after I

had placed my order, with a friendly man behind the counter, I received my 3 dishes.

The Egg Drop Soup is bound to have you dropping to your knees, begging for more! It is the best I had ever tasted--it had a kick to it, due to the generous amount of green onions. I had never experienced such hearty portions of sensuous scrambled eggs, tender pork and chicken and dumplings in Egg Drop Soup, served at any restaurants in the center of the city, either.

The Orange Chicken is fried crunchy fun for the mouth, and the sauce is a refreshing pleasure, made with real oranges that are not too tangy or sweet. Plus, it was rare for me to have rice that didn't seem glued together!

Another outstanding dish of Gen Hoe's is their Crab Rangoon, which wasn't even a tad too greasy.

Gen Hoe is a "step above the rest" also due to its adorable owner, Color Wong. Wong says she "Really cares about the customers,

and their health and happiness." She added, she had suggested to one of her dangerously overweight customers, he eat dishes she recommended for 4 days a week. He did so for some odd months, and lost a whopping 60 pounds!

Moreover, Gen Hoe was awarded "Best Signature Dish" 2 times. The honors were determined by the Famous Chef, Martin Yan, amongst 99 other Chinese Food Restaurants in the U.S. competing.

Being known for the picky, and hard to please customer I am, I can say with the utmost of confidence, you will be, in the modern American meaning of the word, "Gung ho" about Gen Hoe! Plus, it could be beneficial to know, in comparison to the prices of Chinese Food Restaurants in Chicago, you won't have to "fork out as much dough" to eat like a King or Queen at Gen Hoe!

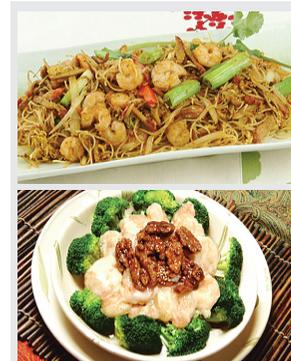
For information about all Gen Hoe locations, please visit:  
[www.genhoeonline.com](http://www.genhoeonline.com)

Locations that you can check out in

Chicagoland:

GEN HOE II  
501 N. Kedzie Ave, Chicago  
Phone: 773-638-1668

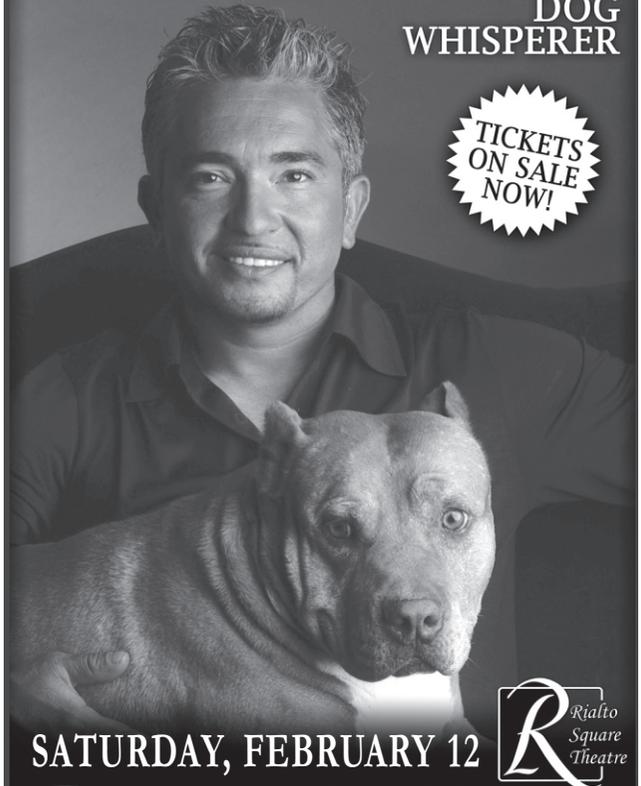
GEN HOE III  
439 E. 79th St., Chicago  
Phone: 773-488-6698



During the 7th Annual Top 100 Chinese Restaurants in the USA Awards ceremony recently held in San Francisco in this January, 2011, GEN HOE Chinese Restaurant received recognition as one of the Top 100 Chinese Restaurants in USA in the category of Top 100 Overall Excellence.

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## AN EVENING WITH CESAR MILLAN DOG WHISPERER



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