

SHORT GAME

TEE IT UP



The Northwest is known for many things – computers, coffee and endless days of glorious sunshine among them (OK, “occasional days”) – but one of the things we’re most proud of is our music. From Quincy Jones, to the Kingston Trio, Jimi Hendrix, the grunge era and today’s indie scene, the Northwest has been on the leading edge of nearly every music trend of the last century.

So when *GOLF* magazine decided to rank the greatest golf songs ever written, it was no surprise to see Spokane’s Bing Crosby take the top spot with his classic “Straight Down The Middle,” a fixture at his Pebble Beach Celebrity Pro-Am for decades.

What was a surprise, though, was the song picked No. 8 – “Augusta, Sweet Augusta,” by a comparatively unknown local musician, Seattle’s Billy Mac.

Born in Seattle, Billy moved to New Orleans as a child and earned an education in rhythm and blues from some of the industry’s most legendary performers. In 1998, he released his first collection of golf songs on a CD titled “Tee It Up,” including “Augusta, Sweet Augusta” and eight other tracks infused with his soulful New Orleans style.

First came praise from golfers. Then the golf media. Before long, the St. Andrews Links Trust was requesting to use Billy’s song, “The Old Course” as the official theme song of its 600th anniversary.

Even other Northwest icons have begun to take notice.

“Billy’s songs sing of the great moments in the game we love,” said none other than Fred Couples, who Billy immortalized in “Boom Boom” on his newest CD, “The Back 9,” released last year.

In addition to his recorded music, his live, all-golf Tee It Up Show has been hit at tournaments, corporate banquets and anyplace else it has been performed, blending songs, stories, video features and a golfer’s trademark sense of humor to highlight a century of the legendary players, tournaments and iconic moments that have shaped the game of golf.

Want to hear it for yourself? Visit BillyMac.com or call (425) 868-0245 to hear songs or book a show for your group, or better yet, check out the video online at YouTube.com/user/BillyMacGolfMusic.