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## Steven Tyler plays special Countrified gig at Melrose Ballroom

Thursday night, legendary vocalist Steven Tyler of [Aerosmith](#) gave a special club performance at Melrose Ballroom to help promote his upcoming Country album, set to release in early 2016. The show, taped for the PBS program Front And Center, featured stripped down Country-tinged versions of many songs he performs with Aerosmith, as well as his recent hit single with Lindsey Lee and Eric Paslay, "[Love Is Your Name](#)", which made it to Billboard's Hot 100 and Hot Country charts earlier this past Spring.

*Photo by Gregory Shamus/Getty Images*

Formed in Boston, Aerosmith have been legendary Rock Gods since the 70's. Rocking the world with their heavy Blues-y melodic Rock, they're mainly thought of as a wild bunch who influenced other notorious bands like Guns N' Roses and Mötley Crüe both musically and behaviorally. Despite the fact Garth Brooks and Mark Chesnutt both had hits in the mid-90's with Aerosmith covers ("The Fever" and "I Don't Want To Miss A Thing" respectively), Country [music](#) is not automatically a genre Aerosmith is associated with. But at Thursday's performance, when songs like "Jaded", "What It

"Takes" and "Cryin'" were stripped down and played acoustically by Tyler's backup band, Loving Mary (which included frequent Aerosmith songwriting partner Marti Frederiksen on guitar), they fit pretty neatly into the genre. Lyrically, lines like "Love wasn't much of a friend of mine" are definitely in the neighborhood of "No phone, no pool, no pets- I ain't got no cigarettes" (as sung by Roger Miller in "King of the Road").

Lee and Paslay joined Tyler on stage for "Love Is Your Name", showing the audience in person how Tyler can sing Country and still give it his very own touch. Bringing in guitarist Nuno Bettencourt as a surprise, the two sang the 90's classic "[More Than Words](#)", originally a radio hit for Bettencourt's former band Extreme (also based out of the Boston area). After the song, Tyler thanked Bettencourt as well as Extreme's singer Gary Cherone, who co-wrote the song. Tyler also made sure to credit all the various songwriters he has worked with, frequently mentioning Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry over the course of the night. Perry wasn't in attendance, but much to Tyler's joy, his Grandson Milo and daughters Mia and Chelsea were in the front row. Mia smiled when her Father dedicated "More Than Words" to her, as well as earlier in the set as she sang along to "What It Takes."

Mia wasn't the only fangirl there of course. Females sporadically called out "I love you" to Tyler, who has been no stranger to female admiration over the years. He even pulled one lucky cowboy-boot wearing blonde up on stage and kissed her, which prompted Mia to jokingly point a finger and scold him from the crowd. It's unclear whether the blonde was the same audience member he advised

"Don't squat if you're wearing spurs."

The most impressive moment of the evening, other than completely nailing the high notes in "Dream On", was his rendition of "Janie's Got a Gun." Sung in a minor key, it is even more haunting than the original, which was eerie enough considering the song is about getting revenge against a childhood abuser.

To catch the broadcast of Steven Tyler's Front And Center episode, keep an eye on your local public broadcasting schedule this Winter when it is set to air.