

# 10-year-old Madison singer shared stage with The Boss

10/12/12  
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Special to the Times

**BOSTON** — At a rollicking Fenway Park packed with 40,000 fans singing “Waitin’ on a Sunny Day” with rock legend Bruce Springsteen, Madison’s Joanie Reiner took one look at the Jumbotron and gasped.

In the blackness of the mid-August night, the iconic 1999 Rock and Roll Hall of Famer, 20-time Grammy Award winner, and 2009 Kennedy Center honoree, had pulled Joanie’s

Bruce Springsteen pulls 10-year-old Shane Reiner up on stage to sing. Screen shot from YouTube video of performance.

10-year-old son, Shane, a fifth-grader at Brown Middle School, from the crowd, onto his back, and up to the main stage. He was handing Shane a microphone.

Joanie Reiner didn’t need to keep watching the Jumbotron. She knew the Boss didn’t need to tell Shane what to do.

“I credit Ricky and Ed,” she said, referring to Ricky Jordan and Ed Soufer of Ricky Jordan’s Guitar Instruction in Guilford. “They taught Shane how to use a mike, taught him how to chime in.”

The next morning, Metro-Boston reported that “any flaws (in the concert) were erased when Springsteen literally picked up a kid from

the audience ... for a guest vocal appearance.” Added the Worcester Telegram & Gazette about the “unsuspecting adolescent boy”: “Not only did the kid get a memory of a lifetime, he delivered the goods.”

Commenting on Tumblr, “brohrbach” assumed the unidentified kid was a plant. “I mean, the song’s as old as the kid, and who belts out a tune in front of 40,000 people without (losing his cookies)?” he asked.

True in part. Springsteen, while releasing “Waitin’ on a Sunny Day” on his album “The Rising” in 2002, actually recorded it in 1998, which would make it three years older than

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Shane Reiner. (Shane remembered the lines from a previous concert.)

But there was nothing staged about his first brush with fame: “Completely random,” claimed Bill Reiner who witnessed the spectacle from about 20 feet away. His wife wasn’t so sure. “Out of all the people that were there, Bruce chose a singer. He must have had some kind of sixth sense,” Joanie Reiner mused.

Ask Shane, though,

and there was never any doubt it would be him. “I expected it,” he said last week with the same natural ease he exhibited while singing with the E Street Band. “I wasn’t nervous at all.”

No wonder. “Shane has always had the kind of stage presence that can’t be taught,” said Ricky Jordan, who directs The Standing Ovations, a hand-picked group in which Shane shares singing duties. Soufer, his guitar instructor for the

past five years, agreed. “Charisma,” he said. “Shane’s got it. And his voice is like a gift from God. Plus he’s a great kid.”

So maybe, for Shane, it’s not necessarily the “memory of a lifetime,” as the Worcester Telegram claimed. Maybe it’s just the beginning.

At the very least, as Shane put it, “now I know what it’s like to be a rock star.”

In the end, it was, naturally, the Boss him-

self who expressed it best. “He’s got it all figured out,” he shouted to the massive crowd, as Shane made his way off the stage, high-fiving his new fans, after his most shining star turn to date.

Visit <http://bit.ly/IoZhN1> to see a ShoreLine Times story on Shane; visit [www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ddewmcqrrY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9ddewmcqrrY) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2reP0fpTVQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n2reP0fpTVQ) (starts at 4:22; ends at 6:28) to see Shane Reiner’s performance.