

Jazz star Stacey enjoys a Pep talk

BRITAIN'S most outrageous DJ spends many of his nights playing 'Agadoo' and 'The Birdie Song' at nightclubs all over the UK.

But, when he goes home afterwards, loveable loony DJ Pep relaxes NOT by listening to his trademark cheesy party tunes, but to the music of Stacey Kent.

The madcap Morecambe entertainer admits that he is the last person people might expect to be a fan of a world-renowned jazz diva.

Hails

But Pep rates Stacey, who returns to perform at Lancaster's Grand Theatre this Friday (April 10), so highly that he hails her as "the female Frank Sinatra".

Real name Peter Roberts, the reigning UK Club DJ of the Year now hopes to take time off from his own busy schedule of gigs to see Stacey sing in Lancaster this Friday.

"I was brought up on the music of



REMARKABLE: Stacey Kent is a true singing great.

Frank Sinatra, Deano (Dean Martin) and Sammy Davis Junior," explains Pep. "Now I'm into Stacey Kent and Michael Bublé.

"A lot of people are shocked when

they find out I like that sort of music.

"But Stacey Kent is awesome. It's great to see this kind of star appearing at a venue in Lancaster."

Last time Stacey appeared at the Grand in 2004, Pep met her in person.

"Polite, great sense of humour, good-looking, talented... now let's talk about Stacey!" he jokes.

"Seriously, what a lovely lady with a great voice."

Stacey now boasts seven top-selling albums including 'Breakfast on the Morning Tram' and 'The Boy Next Door' both of which achieved Gold status.

Awards

The American star has won a string of awards, including the 2001 British Jazz Award and 2002 BBC Jazz Award for 'Best Vocalist', the 2004 Backstage Bistro Award for best live performance and the 2006 Album of the Year for 'The Lyric' on which she was the featured vocalist.

She is primarily known as a covers artist, especially for her fresh and



ADMIRER: DJ Pep is an unlikely fan of jazz diva Stacey Kent.

heart-felt interpretations of the finest love songs of the 20th century.

Three-time Oscar-winning songwriter, Jay Livingston, wrote of her: "Stacey Kent is a revelation.

"There is nobody singing today who can compare with her. She has the style of the greats, like Billie Holiday and Ella Fitzgerald.

"And she sings the words like Nat Cole - clean, clear and almost conversational with perfect phrasing. And that's as good as it gets."

Tickets cost £18 (£17 concessions), available from the box office on 01524 64695. The show starts at 7.30pm.

DJ Pep hosts student night at The Carleton in Morecambe on Wednesdays and party night at Cuba nightclub in Lancaster on Saturdays.

by **Greg Lambert**