

Reviews for John Michael Presney as Carl Perkins in **Million Dollar Quartet**

"John Michael Presney simmers as Carl Perkins..."

-Judith Newmark

[St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#)

"John Michael Presney makes the lesser light of Carl Perkins shine brightly."

-Hugh Hunter

[Philadelphia Inquirer](#)

"John Michael Presney, who as Perkins — the least-known member of the quartet, but a rockabilly pioneer — has a nice scene with Mr. Seals's Cash and Bligh Voth's Dyanne..."

-David DeWitt

[New York Times](#)

"Presney is the best of a good cast at BCP. He alone radiates reality and convinces as a one-time hillbilly with an urge to sing who comes to Memphis...[He] never seems to be acting out or showing off but living the being of Carl Perkins. His snarl seems naturally implanted rather than added for the occasion...His swagger seems built in to the character. Presney may be from Illinois, but he conveys country-boy charm that builds into charisma when he performs...Presney is the best, but that doesn't diminish the fine turns of his castmates."

-Neal Zoren

[Princeton Info](#)

"Music director John Michael Presney is a forceful, intense Carl Perkins with brawny, roaring guitar licks."

-Sam Hurwitt

[Mercury News](#)

"John Michael Presney flashes an easy smile as Carl Perkins in a memorable interpretation of the early rocker that emphasizes his guitar virtuosity. 'Who Do You Love' transported me straight to guitar heaven and I instantly developed a crush on the talented and charismatic Presney."

-Tina Farmer

[KDHX St. Louis](#)

"...Presney, Seals and Wilford turn in startlingly real performances as actors, vocalists and musicians... As Perkins, [he] is the most impressive guitarist, taking the lead on his own songs, like 'Matchbox,' and iconic numbers associated with the others, including Cash's '(Ghost) Riders in the Sky.' But we also sense his envious frustration with Phillips' attention to others."

-Rick Pender

[City Beat Cincinnati](#)

"John Michael Presney delivers strong vocals and plenty of hot licks on his Les Paul as Carl Perkins...[his] work as music director displays a keen understanding and fondness for these musical gems. Since he's leading the band as Perkins, it only makes sense to have him in charge of the music. Honestly, the tunes sound great...I've honestly never heard it sound as good as it does here."

-Chris Gibson

[Broadway World](#)

"John Michael Presney is an electric Carl Perkins whose guitar playing is a thing of wonder especially when delivering a knockout 'See You Later Alligator.'"

-Tom Holehan

[Connecticut Post-Chronicle](#)

"John Michael Presney is our first encounter as Carl Perkins...his voice and musicianship do not disappoint."

-Sam Weber

[Broadway World](#)

“Presney brings Perkins to life, from his seething resentment of Elvis (who stole his first hit, “Blue Suede Shoes”) to his swaggering, rockabilly guitar-playing, especially in ‘See You Later Alligator.’”

-Marcia Morphy

[Rochester Democrat and Chronicle](#)

“John Michael Presney (Carl Perkins) has the guitar chops to lead the band and, as the show’s Music Director, propels the ensemble with energetic riffing.”

-Paul Willistein

[East Penn Press](#)

“John Michael Presney... is a wonderfully petulant Carl Perkins. The ripping lead guitarist is also the music director.”

-Sally Hogarty

[East Bay Times](#)

“They do uncanny things with their instruments. Presney’s guitar is a revelation...”

-Andrea Braun

[#BOOM](#)

“Presney is also music director for the show and he makes good use of each actor’s strengths in the vocal arrangements and harmonies...He and director Hunter Foster find areas to inject fresh spirit and interpretation into the show while keeping the pace fast and the characters on point.”

-Tina Farmer

[KDHX St. Louis](#)

“John Michael Presney’s Carl Perkins is as skilled with a Les Paul as he is representing the musician’s gritty Tennessee roots.”

-Nat-Tracey Miller

[Arts Wave](#)

“John Michael Presney shows off his impressive guitar chops as the arrogant Carl Perkins. His guitar playing is the real star of ‘Who Do You Love’ and ‘See You Later Alligator.’”

-Kathy Lauer-Williams

[Lehigh Valley Stage](#)

“...it’s the “Million Dollar Quartet” that are clearly the beasts of this show. The artists not only envelop the nuances of these high profile recording artists, but they are also magically musical. Presney, also the acclaimed music director, Seals, McKay and Day have previously played these roles and it’s no wonder. The skills it takes to master these icons is a full-time job.”

-Anne Marie Scalies

[Broadway World](#)

“Presney is a terrific Perkins – he’s brooding at times, even resentful of Elvis’ purloining of his “Blue Suede Shoes” and of Lewis’ irrepressible enthusiasm, but he’s likeable nonetheless. He plays a mean guitar and does a fab rockabilly.”

-Stephanie C. Lyons-Keeley

[Pillow Talking](#)

“Carl Perkins... superbly played by John Michael Presney, plays the guitar while at the same time singing in Perkins’ hillbilly twang, keeping one leg planted on the floor while shooting the other out in every manner imaginable.”

-Jan Miller

[Joint Forces Journal](#)

“Two actors give exceptional performances...John Michael Presney’s guitar playing and vocals are formidable. His portrayal of Carl Perkins gives a real depth to his character and his interplay with McGibbon proves to be an interesting focal point throughout the performance.”

-Leslie Gordon

[Plays To See](#)

"John Michael Presney is very comfortable playing Carl Perkins... His playing and singing are excellent, and he moves his body really well."

-Jean Brenner

[Bucks County Herald](#)

"There are some excellent musical moments and some stand-out performances, especially from the energetic, charismatic Scott as Lewis, and by Presney as Perkins, who displays an impressive talent on the guitar."

-Michelle Kenyon

[Snoop's Theatre Thoughts](#)

"John Michael Presney holds down the Carl Perkins role and, besides his singing, he demonstrates superior guitar skills."

-Steve Allen

[Stage Door St. Louis](#)

"Presney's accomplished musical skills make the show sizzle with flair and flash...[he] is the production's focused music director."

-Mark Bretz

[Ladue News](#)

"John Michael Presney is the wonderfully irritable Carl Perkins"

-Ann Pollack

[Saint Louis Eats and Drinks](#)

"John Michael Presney as Carl Perkins has the hair, moves, and dress that reflect Perkins to a 'T.'"

-Laura A. Hobson

[Broadway World](#)

"John Michael Presney crafts a terrific Carl Perkins, his gutsy voice and wonderfully jangling guitar just right for "Blue Suede Shoes" and other hits by this hardscrabble star."

-Jan Farrington

[Theater Jones](#)

"John Michael Presney plays guitar exceptionally well as Blue Suede Shoes composer Carl Perkins."

-Punch Shaw

[Fort Worth Star-Telegram](#)

"John Michael Presney as Carl Perkins played guitar with the technical and understated virtuosity that made Carl Perkins so effortless in his performances."

-Kathryn Kitt

[Broadway World](#)

"John Michael Presney played the guitar like ringing a bell as Carl Perkins. His renditions of "Who Do You Love?" and "See You Later Alligator" were spot on."

-Wayne J. Keeley

[Pillow Talking](#)

"...Presney (is) wonderful as Perkins."

-George J. Dacre

[Rockland County Times](#)

"The two standouts of the show, however, would have to be John Michael Presney as Carl Perkins, and Dominique Scott as Lewis. Presney plays rhythm [sic] guitar for essentially the entire show, and is clearly an expert when it comes to his craft."

-Kevin Brackett

[Review STL](#)

"Presney as Carl Perkins is a man on fire playing guitar."

-Cate Marquis

[Marquee by Marquis](#)

“...Million Dollar Quartet is played by gifted singing actors who have performed their roles many times, and their ease and professionalism shows... they are indeed a million dollars’ worth of talent on this intimate stage. One comes away with the distinct impression that each musical number is sung straight to you...”

-Ralph Malachowski

[Philly Gay Calendar](#)