

# RONAN “DILF!” KEATING

The *All Together Now* team leader talks George Michael, Whitney, Stephen Gately, Elton John, U2 and... Elvis! And his new and final Boyzone album, with Stephen Gately.

By Matthew Myers.

**DNA:** The format of *All Together Now* is quite unique for a talent show. Discuss!

**Ronan Keating:** It's family entertainment packed full of great live music but it also has a hundred people singing and dancing along. It sounded so epic I wanted to be part of it.

**Who is Ronan Keating's diva?**

Whitney Houston! She was probably the greatest singer the world has seen and she'll be remembered for that one track, *I Will Always Love You*.

**What's news on the Boyzone front?**

We have a new and final album coming out, plus a huge farewell tour. After 25 great years we all feel that now is the right time to call it quits. We've made our best album yet with *Thank You And Goodnight*.

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George has always been a hero of mine. **It's still very raw** that he's gone.

**We were all saddened when Stephen Gately died in 2009, but Boyzone have managed to record a new song with him!**

Yes, it was really special to have found an old demo of his that we've been able to build a new song around. It's right that he's a part of our final chapter together as a band. He was a lovely, gentle soul with a great voice and a brother to us all.

**Stephen was proudly gay. He'd have been happy with the global progress to marriage equality, right?**

For sure, he'd have loved it! Stephen was happily married himself.

**Boyzone appearing in that classic U2 video, *Sweetest Thing*: is that one of the**

Ronan: 45 million albums with Boyzone and solo; (above) with Aussie wife, Storm and son Cooper.

**band's most bizarre moments?**

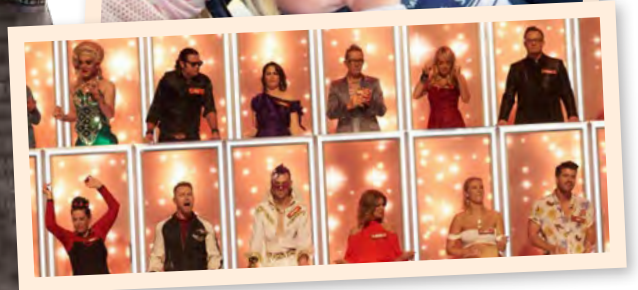
[Laughs.] Yes. It still seems crazy that Bono asked us to be part of it, but it's certainly a cool thing to look back on.

**In 2007 Boyzone made *The Guinness Book Of Records*, beating Elvis as the only artist to have 30 consecutive top 10 singles in the UK charts. That must feel special.**

Yes, but it's not something I dwell on. I'm just very grateful that I'm still here after 25 years doing what I love.

**Who has been the biggest influence on your career?**

I grew up listening to George Michael. He's the reason I'm a singer today. I sang along to *Faith* in my room and dreamed that one day I could be like him. He's always been a hero of mine and it's still



very raw for me that he's gone.

**What has been the biggest “pinch yourself” moment in your career so far?**

I've been lucky to have a few but I think performing with Elton John at New York's Madison Square Garden was pretty special.

**What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?**

Your health is your wealth!

**We can't keep you out of Australia!**

No, it's my second home! My wife is Australian, and we have a baby son and he's obviously half Australian, too. The Irish have a real appetite for travel and Australia feels a lot like home to us. It's the people that make Australia so special. Like the Irish, you love life and are always up for the craic!

**MORE:** All Together Now is on Channel Seven. For more on Ronan: [ronankeating.com/boyzonenetwork.com](http://ronankeating.com/boyzonenetwork.com)