

Patchogue's music scene comes alive

Musicians and fans find home in local venues

Patchogue is quickly becoming a hotbed for popular music, fueled by an increasing number of music fans flocking to local venues to hear original music. Local musicians and artists from outside the area are meeting and playing with each other in Patchogue, making new friends, new fans and new musical collaborations.

When lifelong Patchogue resident Jay Scott recorded his new album *Homegrown* in front of a packed Live in the Lobby audience at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts, he asked Rorie Kelly to come out from Brooklyn to sing with him. The two had met at last July's "Concert for the Lobby" at the theater, where they both performed.

For the *Homegrown* session, Kelly delivered stunning background vocals on the version of Scott's classic song *Lonely Road* that closes out the album. It was only fitting that Scott welcomed her back to Patchogue April 24 as she continued to build her audience in the area by performing twice in one day at two different Patchogue Village venues that support local original music, a feat he repeated on the following day in the same two venues.

Kelly started her double header when she shared the bill with Andrew Jimenez in an early set at Once & For All, a new entry in the local music scene that has been featuring live music by local singer-songwriters since they opened in mid-February. The two performed alone and together featuring mostly their own material such as a number of songs from the upcoming debut album by Kelly, *Once up a Bottle-cap*. Kelly then moved west on Main Street to her midnight debut at Fadeley's Deli-Pub as part of the monthly "unplugged" series featuring acoustic performances by Long Island singer-songwriters.

As she arrived, host Chris P. Cauley was just finishing his own set and introduced Kelly's 30-minute performance that had the audience captivated. Considering she had just played a two-hour performance and broken down and packed up all of her equipment, her Fadeley's set was fresh and passionate. Her powerhouse vocals, percussive gui-



Patchogue musician Jay Scott performing in the village.

FJL photo



Rorie Kelly at Fadeley's.

FJL photo

tar and intense and personal songs made a lot of new fans in Patchogue as she left the Fadeley's stage to thunderous applause. She was followed by Jessie Pagano of the popular Patchogue group *Karma Sutra* who said, "That is a hard act to follow," as he launched into a rare solo acoustic set that brought the house down.

Jay Scott returned to Fadeley's on Saturday to kick off the annual Fadeley's EarthDayFest at 2 p.m. Scott's performance with longtime collaborator Jason Tebaldi on bass opened the acoustic part of the day in the back courtyard that included other area singer-songwriters such as Cauley and Pagano. The festival moved indoors at 7 p.m. with live original music by bands such as *Camera-Head Shark* and *The Point* who entertained the Fadeley's crowd until well past midnight.

After an afternoon nap and some time with his wife Kim and their 1-year old son Raymond, Scott assembled his four-piece band *Grand Case Scenario* at Once & For All for two rousing sets, mostly material from *Homegrown*, which will be released this spring on Paradiddle Records. Guitarist Aaron Palmadessa was out of town, so none other than Jesse Pagano sat in on lead guitar on Scott's songs, and also per-

formed several of his own songs during a break.

Scott noticed another musician, Chris Van Cott of Smith Point, in the audience, who had performed at O.A.F.A. several weeks earlier with Tebaldi on bass. After Scott said hello to Van Cott from the stage, Tebaldi spontaneously launched into Van Cott's song *You Got Me*, and Scott brought Van Cott up, handed him his guitar and sat in the audience for a raucous impromptu jam by Van Cott and *Grand Case Scenario*. "That was great. That's one way to get Chris to come up and play," Scott said.

The weekend was a heavy dose of the spirit of musical collaboration and camaraderie that has people comparing Patchogue to Liverpool or Greenwich Village in the 1960s. Walk down Main Street on most nights and there is live music coming from any number of places, and an increasing amount of the music is original material. This spirit will continue on May 12 with Live in the Lobby at the Patchogue Theatre as Rorie Kelly, John-Flor and Jay Scott will share the bill. All three are releasing new albums later in the year and Kelly will be performing with a full band for the first time.

Kelly hopes to return to Once & For All and Fadeley's over the summer but

her next Patchogue performance after May 12 is June 22, as Scott has invited her, Van Cott, Cauley, Pagano, *The Sun Gets Down* and a number of other local artists to share the stage in the Hop Garden at BrickHouse Brewery for a party to celebrate the release of *Homegrown*. After the May 12 show, the 2007-08 Live in the Lobby season will conclude on June 5 with *Camera Head Shark* of Patchogue, whose 2007 debut album *Oh You* has been getting recognition throughout the northeast. The Patchogue summer music scene gets started the following day with the three day long Patchogue Sea Fair June 6-8, followed by Great South Bay Music Festival July 11-13, Alive After Five on Main Street for five consecutive Fridays on July 18-Aug. 16, the summer music series at the Patchogue Village Band Shell, and live music in countless restaurants in the village.

There is no shortage of live music in Patchogue, a destination for music fans and musicians from all over Long Island. For people in or near the village, a host of live music is available within walking or bicycling distance from home. Given the high cost of gas and concert tickets at major venues to the west, that is no doubt good news for local music fans. ■



Jonathan Preddice asks Krista March to marry him during a concert at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts.

Photographs by Walter T. Petrule



Music and marriage

Rocker asks singer on stage to marry him

It wasn't enough that a local unsigned band and a group of volunteers pulled together to have an artistically and financially successful performance in a major venue for the second year in a row. It wasn't enough that the band played arguably the most musically perfect show of their career in front of friends, family and music fans. In the midst of all this, the guitar player proposed to the singer and she said yes.

Miles to Dayton played another triumphant performance at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts on Friday, April 18. This Suffolk County-based quintet has two brother and sister teams—bassist and vocalist Dave March and lead vocalist Krista March plus guitarist/cellist/vocalist Jonathan Preddice and violinist Leanne Preddice are backed by Rob Caniglia on percussion. After two great opening sets by Michael Korb and *The Sun Gets Down*, *Miles to Dayton* took the stage for a 90-minute set that included songs from their first two albums, *A Long Way Back* and *Rise*, and also included brand new songs that have not yet been recorded. They performed most of the

See MUSIC AND MARRIAGE on page 42

Music and marriage

MUSIC AND MARRIAGE from page 10

concert on their own and delivered a tight, well-rehearsed set of up-tempo rockers. Preddice added a solo cello piece using tape loops for a four-part effect that created an ethereal sound.

They added a four-piece string section and lead guitarist Aaron Palmadessa for several songs, which created an orchestral sound that filled the grand 1,200-seat theater and delighted their fans. It was during a quiet instrumental break in the song "Flying" that Jonathan Preddice asked for Krista March's hand in marriage, much to her surprise.

After telling the audience how much Krista means to him, Jon put down his guitar, moved to center stage, and on bended knee "popped the question" and gave her a ring. She said yes, they kissed and between tears the audience erupted in a standing ovation. The

band left the stage as Rob Caniglia left the drum kit to play a beautiful solo electric guitar piece, and then the band returned to finish the show.

Once the concert ended, the auditorium became an engagement party, with hugs and congratulations in the seating area and on the stage, to the point where the theatre staff had to gently move everyone to the lobby so the cleaning crew could start their work.

With all of the work done by the band and the theater staff and volunteers to sell sponsorships, design and print a show program, rehearse the songs, design the light show and create a performance that was an artistic and financial success, the marriage proposal was the icing on the cake. Nobody can remember if this ever happened before and it certainly was one of the most memorable events ever held at the Patchogue Theatre. ■

Celebrating 50 years

FELLOWSHIP from page 13

Browns Lane. After several delays, in 1961 the property was purchased by the Fellowship. It was not until 1990 that the name was officially changed to The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Bellport (UUFB).

Over the past 50 years, the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship has become an integral part of the community. The Inn Friendship, in cooperation with St. Joseph the Worker R.C. Church, was furnished with kitchen equipment by and today counts among its volunteers UUFB members. The South Country Peace Group, founded by members, work tirelessly for peace along with other church groups such as Pax Christi. Women in Black, also founded by members, who vigil every week since 2003, in Bellport, Patchogue, Sayville

and Shirley, for the loss of life in the Middle East and elsewhere, and are recorded in the Bellport Historical Society records. Every year, UUFB members adopt two needy families from the community who receive food and gifts for the holidays. Every week for years, their food basket contributions are donated to the needy in the community. Their rooms have been the meeting place for many support groups. The Bay Gallery has been an outlet for the artistic talents of many local residents. Their doors are open to all.

On Sunday, May 4, present members of the congregation and those who have moved to distant places will come together at 51 Browns Lane to recall their 50 years of service and anticipate ways in which they will continue to serve the community for the next 50 years. ■

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