

June 2009

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Summer Music

Enjoy Live Music in the Warm Season

BY PEDRO PEREIRA

Summer is just around the corner, and you know what that means: summer concerts. On Long Island, we are blessed to have so many opportunities to enjoy open-air and indoor shows, and we should take advantage of them.

In Huntington, the Summer Arts Festival organized by the town's arts council will kick off on June 27 and run through August 16. According to the council's web site, this year there will be 44 performances, all free of charge, but as of this writing the calendar had not yet been published. On August 1, the Folk Music Society of Huntington will have a concert as part of the series, and scheduled to perform are Peter Rowan and the Rowan Brothers. For more on the summer series, check out www.huntingtonarts.org.

Speaking of the folk society, don't forget that the organization puts on two concerts a month, one on the first Saturday and another on the third Saturday. Go to www.fmshny.org for more information on upcoming shows.

The ISS, of course, runs the open mic at Borders on the first Friday of the month. Hosted by ISS member Vincent Crici, this gig has become an institution and is a good place for ISSers to get their songs in front of an audience.

Each summer, one of the most impressive music festivals on the island is the Riverhead Blues and Music Fest. This year the event is scheduled for July 18 and 19, and performers will include Long Island's favorite bluesman, Little Toby Walker. In the past the show has delivered a compelling mix of regional talent combined with national acts. Among the bands that have performed at the blues show is the Defibrillators, fronted by ISS stalwart Sonny Meadows and ISS Director Sonny Speed. Check out this year's Riverhead blues fest schedule at www.riverblues.org.

And let's not forget Jones Beach Theater, which each summer brings in acts of national and international fame. This year's calendar includes Crosby Stills and Nash, Dave Matthews Band and the Allman Brothers. For the complete schedule: www.jonesbeach.com.

If your entertainment budget is tight, however, keep it local. There are plenty of venues around Long Island showcasing great musical talent. Among my favorites are Cool Beanz, 556 N. Country Road, St. James, and The Village Lanterne, 143 N. Wellwood Ave., Lindenhurst. Check out the Monday open mic at Village Lanterne some time.

Pedro Pereira will play from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. June 13 at Cool Beanz.

Next Workshop
August 3 at Five
Towns College. *No
workshop in July.*

Borders Open Mic

The next show is
Friday, June 5

Writer's Choice

Find out what song
won on Page 2

iss

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Writer's Choice: 'No Regrets' by Steve Robinson

By PEDRO PEREIRA

The winner of the Writer's Choice from the May workshop came as no surprise. After all, Steve Robinson's song, "No Regrets," was the subject of lengthy discussion during the meeting, and most people in attendance seemed to agree that it was a well-crafted tune with pleasant lyrics that, despite its familiarity of structure, melody and theme, still had the power to connect emotionally with the listener.

Steve's song was the runaway winner. Simple lyrics, such as "I know you placed your bets/I'm hoping you have no regrets," and an accessible melody provided a winning combination. With his skillful handling of everyday themes and expert delivery, Steve had won the Writer's Choice before, and now he has one more win under his belt.

Other songs that got the listeners' attention included Lois Morton's comical take on "Bluetooth Connectivity" and Sonny Meadows' just as comical "Family Reunion on the Fourth of July."

ISS Open Mic

The next open mic at **Borders Cafe**, Route 25, Syosset, is June 5. This gig is monthly, on the first Friday of the month, hosted by Vincent Crici. Signup is at 7:30 p.m., and the music starts at 8 p.m.

Who Played What

Here is a list of the performers and songs from last month's workshop:

Jules Jacobs: "Love Will Have Its Way;" Hank Stone: "If I Were a Railroad Engine;" Sal Weeks: "At Violet Lake;" Lois Morton: "Bluetooth Connectivity;" Sonny Meadows: "Family Reunion on the Fourth of July;" Susan Davis: "Summer Nights;" Ken Krummenacker: "Cape Cod Bay;" Dave Anthony: "A Drop of Rain;" Estelle Henrich: "Suck It Up;" Marguerite Cassell: "Someday;" Mark Hussey: "It's No Fair;" Steve Robinson: "No Regrets."

No Meeting in July

Remember: There is no workshop in July because of the July 4th holiday weekend. Enjoy your holiday and we will see you in August!

Monthly Workshop

Test out your songs in front of a crowd by playing them for fellow musicians who will provide constructive feedback with the goal of helping you improve as a songwriter. The ISS workshop takes place the first Monday of every month, except if it falls on a holiday, at Five Towns College, off Burrs Lane in Dix Hills. Run by ISS Director Sonny Speed, the workshop starts at 7:30 p.m. Bring a guitar if you wish to perform your song live, or you may bring a recording on CD or tape. A piano is available for those who write their songs at the keys. Be sure to bring 25 copies of your lyric sheets so the other workshop attendees can follow along while listening to your song. It is much easier to provide constructive criticism when people can read the lyrics. The ISS workshop is at the center of the organization's mission to help songwriters perfect their craft. Many performers on Long Island got their start at ISS.

General Information

For general information about ISS or how to join the organization, contact ISS Director Sonny Speed at mcspeed@optonline.net or 631-462-3300. To submit items for publication in the newsletter, contact Pedro Pereira at pedropereira@verizon.net. Visit our web site at www.islandsongwriters.org.