

Jazz Festival under new director

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50, he has been playing guitar since he was five years old.

"I have a background in music, although not professionally. I was going to be a musician before I became a scientist," he said.

Riggi has degrees in geology and hydrogeology, and worked in his own consulting business.

"I brought something to the table past directors didn't have," he said. "And I have the music appreciation and musical background to help me."

Riggi said he has been a longtime fan of jazz, blues, the standards, and even doo-wop.

Riggi said as a board member he played a role in the development of the Jazz Festival that is scheduled to begin in two weeks. He said as treasurer he worked with the program committee, telling them what the organization could afford and what they couldn't. But along with the financial perspective, Riggi said he was also bringing a new vision and new proposals for taking the Jazz Festival to the next level.

"In town, people see us as putting on two festivals a year. There is more to it, such as our outreach and

education programs," he said.

Riggi would like the festival to take a new direction and become more visible in the community, doing more than two festivals. He said with sponsors he envisions putting on a free summer concert series. He would also like to get the face of the Jazz Festival in the community more often, setting up a table at the various craft shows and fairs, just to remind people they are here.

Riggi said some of the special event ideas he has require the completion of the new Convention Hall.

"Our goal right now is to have the organization grow and have us move in that direction," he said.

He also believes the Jazz Festival needs to be innovative to attract people in a bad economic time.

"In the past year 10,000 non-profits went under. Several major jazz festivals cancelled their 2009 programs. We are not in that situation, and my goal is to keep us in the running and help us get through this economy," he said. "And when Convention Hall opens we can put on one hell of a show."

Riggi is hoping to fund a lot of future Jazz Festival events with sponsorship money rather than tak-

ing funds out of the organization. He said they have already been cutting expenses, and it's time to look for more outside funding.

"Major corporations ... all over. The music industry, banks ... we're going after state money we never went for before. I think the future looks very promising," he said.

Riggi said there is a reason the Cape May Jazz Festival was voted the No. 1 music festival in New Jersey and his goal is to win again next year.

Setting out on obtaining that goal, the Jazz Festival is bringing "Legends and More Blues" this spring. The first show will be a tribute to Billy Eckstine and Sarah Vaughan, with the B-Swingers Big Band. Saturday night's headliner will be the James Cotton Blues Band. Both headline shows are at the performing arts center at Lower Cape May Regional High School. Other venues are right in Cape May.

"I heard their 25th anniversary CD," Riggi said of the James Cotton Blues Band. "If you are a blues lover that's a show you're not going to want to miss."

Besides the two big headline shows, Riggi said, there are a lot of great jams going on over the two



Sal Riggi

days. He said some people were concerned the festival decreased the number of venues, but some were not available this time around, most notably Convention Hall.

"Not having Convention Hall poses problems - a lot of obstacles to overcome," Riggi said. "So we've moved

times up on headline shows and people will enjoy the headline shows and come back to town and enjoy the jam sessions."

There is a free shuttle service that allows festival-goers to ride between venues in town and from Cape May to the high school a few miles away in Lower Township.

Besides those mentioned, the 2009 spring Jazz Festival includes Steve Butler, Odean Pope, Sylvia Cuenca, Mayra Casales, Andrew "Junior Boy" Jones, Eddie Shore and the Wolfgang, usual local favorite Alan Weber and Frenz, and more Performers play on Friday and Saturday nights the weekend of April 17-19, in jams Saturday and Sunday afternoons and there are free workshops Saturday at Cape May Elementary School.

Riggi said something new for 2009 is a pre-festival kickoff party at the Mad Batter on the Thursday before the Jazz Festival.

Program and ticket information for the up-coming jazz festival can be obtained online at www.cape-mayjazz.org or toll-free at 877-7-CMJAZZ. The program guide for the festival will be included in next week's edition of the Cape May Star and Wave.

Singer Songwriter weekend

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Mountain Cafe early on Saturday night and then later at the C-View Inn, playing his style of music which he refers

to as "Austin Overload."

"I have been to a few of these events over the years. Other places, people are nice to you when they hear what you're doing and why you're

here," Emmerick continued. "But this town, I'd tell people I'm here for the Singer Songwriter weekend, and they are patting my back and wishing me good luck. They were so supportive."

The same supportive feeling was felt by Brooklyn pianist Doran Danoff as he performed in the Brown Room at Congress Hall. As he was finishing his set to thunderous applause, Danoff threw his hands in the air and said, "How can you not love this town?"

Laura Warshauer, who was performing her pop rock alternative set in the dining room of Congress Hall on Friday night, confessed how she just loved the weekend.

"You can tell by just the response of the audience how much people want you to succeed," she said, catching her

breath after finishing for the evening.

That feeling of support was obvious in the Pilot House early Saturday night, when 17-year-old Casey MacKenzie from Dover, Del., was doing her piano solo set as the Villanova men's basketball team was staging its comeback against Pitt.

Yet, several die-hard Nova fans at the bar stopped watching the game to listen to this young woman, who was just accepted to Berkley for music, only to turn back when cheers erupted.

As one of the Nova fans bought a CD, she confessed to MacKenzie how, after a while, she didn't care who won the game because she got to hear MacKenzie play. As if that was the best compliment ever given to her, MacKenzie just beamed a smile and whis-

pered, "Thank You."

Will McCranie, who also played late at the C-View on Saturday, was so moved by the response he was getting from the locals the whole weekend, he and another performer, Elli Perry, had an idea for a song that they completed in 10 minutes and performed during his set. It was so new that they had to write the words down on napkins as McCranie's girlfriend held onto them so they could read the lyrics.

"It's just me as I was walking around," McCranie said. "There is something about this town that makes me want to perform. Over the years, there are certain places that, if some gave me a place to play and a place to stay and that's all, I'd perform there tomorrow. Cape May is now one of those places."

Elli Perry, who also performed at Congress Hall on Friday, closed the C-View on Saturday. Before she stepped up to the microphone, Perry said, "I'm glad I get to sing one more time here. There was one thing I noticed about this whole weekend and that's nobody competed with each other. Singers can get competitive. But not here, not this weekend. There was more cooperation than competition. I'm so glad I came here."

As Perry sang, her words were shown to be true by the number of musicians who not only stayed, but sang along with the chorus. They harmonized and supported one another.

For one weekend, Cape May was their world. And they were glad to be here.

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Anna M back on the water

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home in Springfield, Pa., to see the Anna M launched, said boat owners would call her father, Carl, before they would call the Coast Guard.

"In its day it was the best," Pritchard said. "Hundreds of local people fished off that boat in its 50 years."

The Anna M was built at Cape May Boat Works in 1949 by Harry Mogck, the grandfather of Buzz Mogck, captain of the Cape May Beach Patrol. According to Pritchard, Harry Mogck was building tugboats for the Navy when he built the Anna M in 1949. The boat was originally very Spartan, Pritchard said, with 21 feet of cockpit.

"There was virtually no cabin and no head,"

Galantino said. "Dad would have considered this frilly."

She also said her father would be glad to see the boat running.

Mogck sold the Anna M to Carl Galantino in 1954, and Galantino fished offshore for the next 50 years, going out for marlin, sailfish, swordfish and the like. Pritchard said the Anna M was in the first generation of boats in the offshore fishing industry that emerged after World War II.

"The industry didn't exist before that," Pritchard said.

The boat is powered by twin 6-cylinder Detroit 671 Nationals, which according to Bill Nelson may be war surplus. He said a number of local people went to Florida in 1946 to buy these engines, hauled them back and built boats.

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After running for 50 years, Galantino sold the boat and it mainly stayed at dock for the next four years until Pritchard acquired the boat and was determined to give it a new life.

"It's the icon. It was at the end of its life and due to be broken up and made a reef, but as a child of the 70s I said it won't happen to this boat," he said.

Pritchard said he was able to save the boat with the cooperation of Jim Lummis of Yacht Avenue, where the boat had been docked its entire life. Pritchard said Lummis and Peter Cirincione, who had done the maintenance, took care of the boat for years and later babysat the boat.

The Anna M was pulled out of the water on Jan. 2, 2003, with the help of Will Hutton and Chris Berry, who got the boat moved to Pritchard's house.

"Will took the lines off the boat and drew the working drawings," Pritchard said. "In the first days, (master boat carpenter) Milt Edelman surveyed the boat and said, 'If you want to restore this boat I'll get you through the project,' and he did."

Pritchard said Edelman is the project manager for the Schooner A.J. Meerwald, New Jersey's official tall ship.

So from January 2003, Pritchard worked on the Anna M continuously until it was ready to be launched. During that time, he said, hundreds of people stopped by to reminisce, tell stories and make "Noah" jokes, which seem fitting considering Pritchard didn't think it would stop raining long enough for them to launch the

boat. As it was, the ground was so soft, when they transferred the boat to the trailer, the trailer's wheels sunk to the axles in mud. However, the movers managed to get under way and around 1 p.m. they arrived at the Cape May Marina. The boat was later pulled by a skiff to the adjacent Roseman's Marina.

"We still have to connect the propeller shafts to the engines and install the fly-bridge (upper steering station), and sea trial it," Pritchard said. "A lot of things have been reconfigured. My goal for the project was not to recreate the old boat. The goal was to rebuild the boat reminiscent of the old boat with modern upgrades."

The revitalized Anna M has two heads, air-conditioning, and its own generator.

Pritchard has a lot of thanks for diesel mechanic Bob Hansen and welder Dave Burkhardt, as well as Donald Wiscott from Roseman's Boat Yard, and Mike Volpe from Michael's Marine Electronics.

"This project had a vision and it was supported by people from the marines trades that are extremely talented both as problem solvers and mechanics," Pritchard said.

Pritchard said the boat has been set up to cruise the inland waterway, and they have already been invited to go to a small boat rendezvous at the Independent Seaport Museum, Penns Landing, Philadelphia, Pa., on June 19. Chuck and Hilary Pritchard are planning a recommissioning at a date to be determined and an open house so people can tour the Anna M.

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