

Local band set to move from bar to main stage in '15

Enjoy! to host triple album release show & party at Stone Pony

BY CHRISTOPHER NEELY
THE COAST STAR

MANASQUAN — Four local musicians plan to move from

bar cover band to legitimate piece of New Jersey's famed music scene as they prepare for their album release party, set for Friday, Jan. 9.

Brothers John and Chris Soltis, Lou Donovan and Brendan Brophy, together known as Enjoy!, have announced the date and venue for their official album re-

lease show and party: Friday, Jan. 9 at Asbury Park's treasured Stone Pony.

According to John Soltis, who contributes to the band's sound through bass, mandolin and vocals, the four band members grew up together in Cranford, participating in various music pro-

grams together such as school band and choir.

The quartet has been known as Enjoy! for 13 years, and built their popularity as a cover band, rising up through the local bar scene and landing gigs at private gatherings, weddings and charity events. The band is nearing their 1,200th performance together.

According to Mr. Soltis, prior to talk of producing an original album, the band's big break came when they secured a residency at Manasquan's Leggett's Sand Bar for Sundays during the summer months. The band enjoyed the residency and its guaranteed gigs for eight years before they were offered a residency at Manasquan's Beach House, which is a slot they have held for the last five years.

Although the members are originally from Cranford, Mr. Soltis said the band is officially based out of Manasquan.

"We view Manasquan as our home base as we have had a weekly residency every summer since the genesis of the band," Mr. Soltis said. He mentioned that he and Mr. Brophy currently live in Manasquan, while his brother, Chris, lives in Sea Girt and Mr. Donovan resides back in Cranford.

Besides taking very basic lessons during their youth, Mr. Soltis said the members are all self-taught musicians.

According to Mr. Soltis, while the band was gaining popularity as a solid bar cover band, the members agreed to begin throwing original songs into their set lists, which were positively received by audiences. They began to land gigs at weddings and opening for popular bands during charity events.

"Over the years, we accumulated a significant amount of original music," Mr. Soltis said. "Eventually we all agreed that we should put it out there."

Mr. Soltis said the band has stuck to their roots in working independently, even in the production of their album. According to Mr. Soltis, the band members were responsible for copyrighting the material, recording, mastering, packaging and advertising for their debut album.

The recording process took place at Music Factory, a recording studio owned by a friend in Englewood Cliffs.

Although he said it was a hard fence to balance on, Mr. Soltis explained that the band was able to put out an original album, with all original content, while not completely sacrificing their cover band popularity in the area.

"The album release party is just the start of a new chapter for the band," Mr. Soltis said. "We have plenty of more original material to document down the road."

The album release show and party will celebrate the

debut of three albums: Enjoy!'s 11-song debut "The Eleven"; Chris Soltis's solo album, Manifest Destination; and Brendan Brophy's other project, Brendan Brophy's Local Honey's self-titled album.

The band plans to not only record the live music at their release party, but will also have a film crew tape the performance.

"We continue to grow musically and creatively," Mr. Soltis said. "We like to play. So the sky's the limit. We have no intentions of slowing down anytime soon."

Tickets for Jan. 9's triple album release show and party can be purchased directly from the band's website, enjoytheband.com, or at the Stone Pony.

Christopher Neely covers Manasquan for The Coast Star. He can be reached at cneely@thecoaststar.com or 732-223-0076 Ext 23.



KATHLYN KANZLER THE COAST STAR

ST. DENIS HOSTS CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

St. Denis School put on its annual Christmas Pageant at St. Denis Church on Friday, Dec. 19. The pageant is an annual holiday event put on and hosted by the St. Denis community to recreate the story of the birth of Jesus.

Algonquin plays up for awards

'My Fair Lady,' 'Annie Get Your Gun' get three noms each

THE COAST STAR

Two of Algonquin Arts Theatre's marquee productions from 2014 have been nominated for the annual BroadwayWorld New Jersey Regional Awards.

The spring production of "My Fair Lady" directed by Robert Johanson and the fall production of "Annie Get Your Gun" directed by Gina Lupi have been nominated for three awards each.

"We're honored to receive these nominations and extremely proud of every person who had a hand in these productions," Algonquin Executive Director William Whitefield said. "To be nominated for these awards alongside other great productions around the state helps raise our profile and confirms what our patrons already know: that the Algonquin continues to produce high quality, entertaining shows."

From "My Fair Lady," Glory Crampton was nominated for Best Actress in a Musical for her performance as Eliza Doolittle, while Jacquie Revier and Greg Poplyk were nominated for Best Costume Design and Adam Koch was nominated for Best Set Design.

For "Annie Get Your Gun," Carter Calvert was nominated for Best Actress in a Musical as Annie Oakley, Front Row Costumes and Arlene's Costume Shop were nominated for Best Costume Design and David Sexton was nominated for Best Lighting Design.

BroadwayWorld New Jersey Regional Awards are nominated by readers of broadwayworld.com. Algonquin Arts Theatre productions have been nominated alongside productions from fully professional theatres around the state including The Paper Mill Playhouse, SurfFlight Theatre, George Street Playhouse and New Jersey Rep.

ST. JUDE NOVENA

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world, now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, help of the hopeless, pray for us. Say this prayer 9 times a day. Say it for 9 days. By the eighth day, your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised. Thank you, St. Jude. S.W.



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