

August 2006

A BLAST AT THE BARN

Big Crowd Attends Rousing Performances

By Pedro Pereira

ISS Gets Goes to the Park

ISS will have a booth at the Huntington Folk Festival scheduled for August 12 at Hecksher Park in Huntington.
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Licensing Your Music

Huntington musician/producer Dave Cook shares some tips on how to go about licensing your songs.
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Going to the Workshop

The next songwriting workshop is at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 11 at Five Towns College in Dix Hills.

Find It Online

Visit our web site, www.islandsongwriters.org

It was one of those violent summer storms that makes you think the whole world is going to flood in a matter of minutes. Noah had nothing on this.

That's how the Hollow Body Roots Music Festival started on a late-June Saturday evening. Performers and audience members had to negotiate puddles in the parking lot as they arrived at the Conklin Barn in Huntington, where the event took place.

Despite the rain, the concert attracted dozens of people, some who showed up specifically to see a favorite performer while others were there to enjoy the whole shebang.

Besides myself, the performers were ISS member **Tony Tedeschi**, Long Island singer/songwriters **Kevin Tougher** and **Deborah Lombardi**, the trio **The Northerners** and the duo **Kevin and Steve**.

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The show was organized by **Doug Kwartler**, owner of Hollow Body Studios in Floral Park. Doug, who is producing Tony's and my upcoming CDs, is a talented musician and songwriter who has released two solo CDs and two CDs with a band. He is also a member of The Northerners.

Tony kicked off the festivities with a rousing set of his best blues/rock numbers. Backed by Doug on lead guitar and Northerners member **Mike Leuci** on drums, his songs became bona fide roadhouse rockers that had feet a-tappin' and lips a-movin'. Tony was a great start to a great night of music.

Next up was myself, and I also took advantage of Doug's and Mike's presence to have them back me up on some of my songs, three of which I had recorded previously in a live session with Mike on drums. I had a blast playing for a crowd that included friends and family as well as people I had just met. Best of all, it was an appreciative crowd.

Kevin Tougher, whom I had seen perform once before at Doug's weekly open mic in Floral Park, took the stage next. Kevin has a nice breezy style with a lot of Jack Johnson thrown in. He delivers his songs with conviction and passion, taking the audience along on a satisfying musical ride.

Deborah Lombardi followed Doug on stage and delivered a solid set of her brand of acoustic pop. The audience really seemed to enjoy her music, and she sold quite a few CDs at the end of her set, even signing autographs for a respectable number of newly minted fans.

The Northerners took the stage after Deborah, delivering a solid set of songs written by its three members – Doug, Mike and **Austin Kuebler**. These guys have been performing for a while, and it certainly showed as they kept the audience

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Rocking at the Barn

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captive through the whole set. The three musicians shared the stage for most of the set, but each took a turn to perform solo. Together, and separately, the Northerners possess enormous talent, and they certainly delivered on that stormy June evening.

Closing out the night were Kevin and Steve, a fresh young duo that started hitting the open-mic circuit on Long Island some eight or nine months ago. With their smooth harmonies, appealing melodies and modern brand of folk-pop, Kevin and Steve have earned a lot of praise from audiences and fellow musicians alike. At the barn, they were top form, delivering an audience-pleasing set that was the perfect finale for a truly special night.