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PocoNotes host third year of music

by **Don McGlynn**

Well, they're at it again. The PocoNotes, Pat and Dolores Hippler, have been working hard at bringing concerts to the NEPA area for the past two years. In 2006, they hosted a benefit for Hurricane Katrina, which featured 13 New Orleans musicians, and in 2007 they brought in Hot Tuna.

This year, they decided to step it up a notch by hosting not one, but rather a series of four concerts at the Waverly Community House, each one featuring a national touring musician and a local act.

"All of the headliners are also instructors at the Fur Peace Ranch Guitar Camp that Pat attended last year," explained Dolores Hippler. "We were so impressed by what they could do that we wanted to have one perform at our next show, but we couldn't decide who, so we got ambitious and decided to set up four shows."

The series will kick off on Saturday April 12 with Patrick Sweany, whose intricate style of country and blues made a lasting impression on Pat.

"I wasn't in Pat's (Sweany) class, but he would play for everyone at night, and he really blew me away," Pat Hippler said. "He's been influenced by everyone and can play anything from the last 70 years on his guitar."

Joining Sweany on stage will be local performer Billy Rogan, making his much-awaited comeback to the stage. This will be Rogan's first show since December, when an accident put his guitar playing on hold for a while.

"I took a fall snowboarding and popped my shoulder out and broke a rib," said Rogan. "I was OK, but it kept me from doing a lot."

Including performing at the prestigious World Caf· Live in Philadelphia.

Every month, the venue holds Philly Rising, a competition where musicians compete for a spot in Cream, the Best of Philly Rising, where the winners from each month take the main stage.

After winning in November, Rogan earned a spot in the finals but was forced to bow out after his accident.

"It was something I was looking forward to, and they were real nice. They said I could come back whenever I wanted, and I'll be back. Right now, I'm just concentrating on this show," explained Rogan.

"I didn't even know if I'd be able to do it, when I said yes," added Rogan, "but I really wanted to be apart of it, because I think what they're doing is great, so I said yes, and thankfully I'm good to go.

"People who are unfamiliar with instrumental guitar, I find, often think of it as this boring, unentertaining thing, and a lot of times after someone sees a show, they'll come up to me and tell me how great they thought it was and how it changed their opinion. I think that's because it's something that you have to see live, it helps you enjoy it and understand it a little better, and Pat and Dolores are giving us a place to do that."

They're also giving the public a chance to get one step closer by offering a guitar workshop with Sweany.

"The workshop, for me, is a great way to explain who you are and why you dedicated your life to music," Sweany said. "It's also a great way to give the people who come to the show a little bit more, so they can go away and learn something new. I think it's really exciting what Pat and Dolores are doing by putting together a show like this."

And it's an act that they're more than happy to do.

"Putting on shows like this was always the original goal," Dolores Hippler said. "We always wanted to showcase musicians that people may not have heard before, but we knew were amazing. They won't only impact you for one night, but for a lifetime."

"We also feel it's really important to showcase our local talent, Billy is just as good as any performer in New York, and he could go out there and start playing tomorrow if he wanted to," added Pat Hippler. "We're lucky to have him in the area, and we just hope people understand that and come out to see him."

Tickets for the show can be purchased in advance by calling 570.586.8191 ext. 2, or at www.nepatickets.com or www.poconotes.com. Tickets bought in advance are \$20; tickets can also be purchased the day of the show for \$25 at the door.

Admission to the show does not include admission to the guitar workshop which must be purchased separately.

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Who: Patrick Sweany and Billy Rogan

Where: Waverly Community House, 1115 N. Abington Road, Waverly

When: April 12, 7:30 p.m. show, 2 p.m. guitar workshop

Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 day of show; workshop \$40



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