Jack of all trades Page 1 of 2





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## **Jack of all trades**

By Gerard Hetman ghetman@theabingtonjournal.com

When Jack Woodbridge left Northeastern Pennsylvania to pursue his dreams and goals, he knew an interesting journey was ahead of him.



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Jack Woodbridge will perform at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Scranton, as he debuts his first album, "Jack of Hearts" on Saturday evening, June 26.

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Now, 25 years after his move, he returns to the region a changed man, both as a performer and as a human being.

On Saturday evening, June 26, Woodbridge will perform at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in

Jack of all trades Page 2 of 2

Scranton, as he debuts his first album, "Jack of Hearts." The Scranton native moved to New York City in 1985 to pursue a career as a songwriter and will return to his roots when he performs in the church he attended as a child. The show is being organized by PocoNotes, a limited liability company organized by Lake Ariel residents Dolores Hippler and Pat Harper, in collaboration with Duffy Accessories of Scranton.

After settling in the Big Apple and spending years as a songwriter, Woodbridge was encouraged to pursue his own career as a performer when he finished third in an international employee talent search conducted by CNN, his employer at the time. Having performed piano for hire at events such as corporate gatherings and parties around New York City, the self-proclaimed "child of the '70s" knew he had what it took to forge a career as a recording artist. However, his plans took a dramatic turn when he was diagnosed with multiple tumors that on his spine. When doctors told him he would require an operation that had never been performed in medical history, Woodbridge took the diagnosis and channeled his energy into his "Jack of Hearts" album.

"When I found out about my situation, I went home and knew exactly what I needed to do," Woodbridge said of the inspiration behind his latest work. I sat down and put together that album, and it was the best thing I could have done at the time."

After a successful surgery, Woodbridge resumed his recording career with a vigor, completing the album he will debut this weekend.

"For so much of my career I was a songwriter, and not a performer," Woodbridge said of his latest adventure. "I am very excited to be performing at St. Luke's, this is my first time performing in Scranton since I moved."

Doors open at St. Luke's Church for this weekend's show at 7:30 p.m., with Woodbridge set to perform at 8 p.m. Tickets for the show are available at Duffy Accessories, located at 218 Linden Street in Scranton, as well as at both <a href="https://www.PocoNotes.com">www.PocoNotes.com</a> and <a href="https://www.NEPATickets.com">www.NEPATickets.com</a>. Tickets are priced at \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door of the performance. For more information, call 570.941.0411 or1.888.800.POCO, or visit <a href="https://www.PocoNotes.com">www.PocoNotes.com</a>.

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