

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

"Little Sparrow" Migrates North to Open Rowdy Sullivan County's Musical Season

To the editor:

In a spontaneous, almost impromptu raunchy and rowdy musical extravaganza, the "Little Sparrow Band" migrated up from the winter in Saratoga, Florida for the 2026 opening of the Heartbeat Music Hall in Grahamsville on Wednesday evening, May 27. Admission was free, and also free were the cold liquid refreshments.

To say there was little publicity for the event would not be entirely accurate. There were notices on Facebook and emails and telephone calls, as well as bandmembers Aldo Trioiani and David Darms are both Saturday DJs on Public Radio WJFF with friends on Sullivan County radio stations WSUL and WVOS.

The Heartbeat Music Hall soon filled up with local musicians. After the Little Sparrow's lively show of folk songs and country mixed with Neil Young and The Grateful Dead, other musicians came on stage and joined in. Heartbeat owner David Trestyn naturally joined in. One musician even lugged in a tenor saxophone. Some snuck over the border from Ulster County.

Little Sparrow consists of Carol Smith and Aldo Trioiani on guitar and vocals; David Darms, head guitar and Eddie Spaghetti from Livingston Manor auditioning on drums (he is in the band "Percaphony").

Carol recalled Little Sparrow was the first performing group when Dave and Teresa Trestyn first opened the Heartbeat Music Hall five years ago.

Aldo said the group frequently practiced at The Center for Discovery in Harris. The individuals were very appreciative and receptive.

The various musicians partied and performed at this annual celebration until past 10 P.M.

UPHEAVAL IN THE SMALL COFFEE HOUSE

The times seem to be radically changing in the small band music business in the Catskills and elsewhere.

The famous musician's music hangout, Cabernet Frank's, which is located beneath

the neatly carved mountain all at the Route 17 Quickway exit in Parksville, N.Y. with its indoor and outdoor music stages suddenly closed down. The music and atmosphere were great.

The Red Barn in Liberty, didn't open and Hector's Bar in Bethel, just down from Bethel Woods, is in a shroud of mystery. The Sunday afternoon open mic and wild jam sessions at Rafter's in Callicoon across from the tracks shut down when the building was sold. I remember the Sunday farewell concert continued until close to midnight.

In fairness, the Sunday morning 11 am Open Mics at DiFilippis Bakery in Monticello is still going strong after about 9 continuous years. Along with the music, you can buy fresh rolls, bagels, cookies, cakes and breakfast.

While many of the local distilleries have shut down, there are still distilleries featuring weekend music in the Roscoe area. Finally, there are open mics on first Monday of each month at Dutch's Restaurant and Bar in Rock Hill hosted by Steve's Music Center Band.

LOCAL MUSICIANS HUNGERING TO PLAY

As the warm, beautiful weather arrives, the musicians are all limbered up and ready to go.

There are many talented musicians ready, willing, and anxious to play for private parties or events.

For example, some of the recommended local musicians are: Little Sparrow (Youngsville); Grahamsville's one man orchestra Albi Beluli (845-798-8430); the multi-talented Paul Kean and Debbie Fisher, the outrageous and risqué "Johnny Jules is a Thief Band" with Bobby Alisandro, and the Steves Music Center Band (845-796-3616); The Search and Rescue Orchestra; "Lake Street," Regine with Steve Michaels, and The Marks Brothers.

We would be remiss not to mention the operas in Narrowsburg or the weekly music box in Callicoon Center. Of course, we cannot forget Bethel Woods' Center for the Arts. Let's look forward to a musical summer in the Catskills.

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