



2017 INDUCTION

OCTOBER 15 2017

LaSalle Yacht Club, Niagara Falls NY

***Welcome to the 2017 Inaugural Class Induction Ceremony of the
Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame!***

The Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame (NFMusicHOF) is a non-for-profit organization created to honor and recognize those individuals who have made a significant contribution to the music industry locally, nationally, and internationally. Inductees to the NFMusicHOF are accepted based on personal musical acumen and professional accomplishments, support of the proliferation of live music performances, community service in music, and substantive involvement in the local music business community.

As with all noble ventures, community support is essential. The Executive Board of the NFMusicHOF gratefully thanks and acknowledges our sponsors and patrons for their generous support. Without such, this event would not have been possible.

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**We also recognize and thank Marcangelo Perricelli for designing our logo,
& Paul Mitro for production and sound (www.paulmitro.com)**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS (Approximate)

2:00 RECEPTION Entertainment provided by Michael Sanders

Michael a senior in high school has been playing since fifth grade. His grandmother introduced him to the piano and taught him a few basic keys. He really enjoyed it so he started practicing on his own and realize that it became natural for him to just hear music and teach himself how to play. He has volunteered his time playing at nursing homes and events throughout his school and the community. He also plays violin every week at church. Michael is very active in his school where he is the student body president, president of the drama club, and captain of his soccer team. His nickname is Mr. Extra at school because he does so much. After high school graduation plans to attend RIT for electrical engineering but will never give up on music.

2:45 MASTER OF CEREMONIES Mark Dixon

NFMUSICHOFF ANNOUNCEMENTS Peter Paonessa

3:00 POSTHUMOUS INDUCTEE PRESENTATIONS Peter Paonessa

Lewis Custode

4:15 SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCE Christina Custode

4:30 INDUCTEE PRESENTATIONS AND PERFORMANCES

WILLIE FAVERO

BOBBY JONES

TOM GARIANO

BRUCE WOJICK

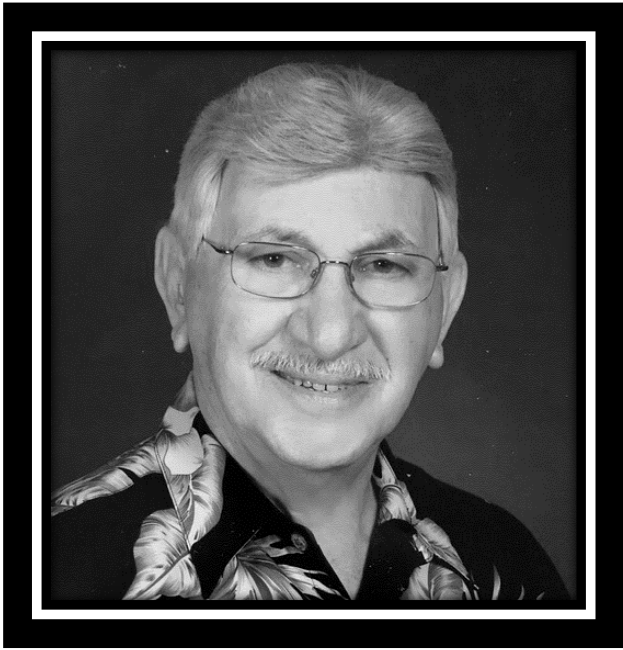
JAMIE HOLKA

6:30 SPECIAL GUEST ANNOUNCEMENTS

BASKET AUCTION DRAWINGS

Disclosure: The NFMusicHOF board members reached out to families and friends of inductees as well as internet sources for photographs and biographies. We apologize if any information to include names, dates and accomplishments are missing!

JOHN BARBERA (1926-2011)



John or "Johnny" as many knew him loved playing his sax; it was his life! He started playing by ear at the age of nine, then started lessons and soon began playing publically at the age of twelve up until he retired at the age of 82. At the age of 16, he traveled with jazz artist, Bert Niosi, to Toronto performing at the Palais Royale. From there he went to California, performing with many famous artists to include Johnny Long, Horis Height, Desi Arnaz and Freddie Martin.

During World War II, John served in the United States Army Air Force. While stationed in Guam and the Philippines, he performed with the Glenn Miller

Band when he met Paul Tanner, son of his commanding officer. John was asked and then organized the 20th Air Force Band, whose purpose was to entertain troops in the Islands, which he did until his honorable discharge in 1946. Upon returning to Niagara Falls, John resumed performing locally at the Town and Glen Casino, the Plantation House, the Bona Vista and Niagara University. He also performed throughout Canada and the United States at many national venues such as the Miss USA Pageant, the Lipizzon Horse Shows, the Brock & Prudhomme with Bob Carpenter as well as many others. John played behind quite a few big stars to include Pat Cooper, Danny Thomas, Liza Minelli and Robert Goulet. John Barbera worked for the Niagara Falls Board of Education and the Plaza Tower North in Hollywood, Florida, but his true passion in life his music and he had fun playing it. He was a regular jokester and he could really make his sax talk. His music came from the heart and soul.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome John Barbera as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame Inaugural Class of 2017.

JOE CAMPESE (1945-2009)



Joe Campese, a native of Niagara Falls had many talents but known well for his guitar mastery. At the age of 13, he bought his first guitar, a thick hollow-bodied Kay guitar at Reuben's Pawn Shop. He taught himself how to play, practicing until his fingers bled. In addition to being an excellent dancer, singer, and artist, Joe was a multi-faceted musician who mastered many instruments throughout his life including guitar, flute, piano, drums and harmonica. His first gig was at Keo's, but he played all over "the Falls"; at the Victory, The Main, The Club and the Fran Lounge.

After graduating in 1963 from Niagara Falls High School, Joe went on the road to pursue his dream of "making it big". In the early years, he toured

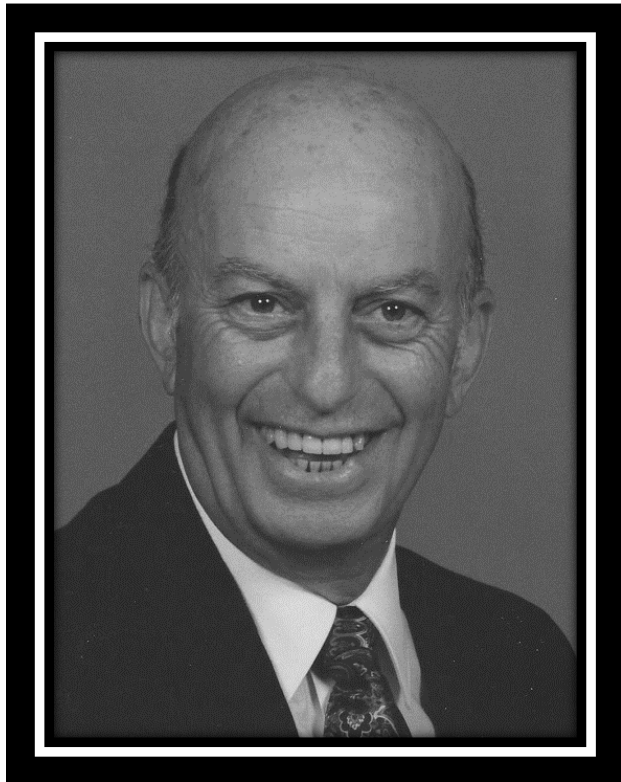
with other talented musicians from Niagara Falls; Chuck Toarmino, Jeff Palsone, Peter Paonessa, Vince Pecorraro, Frank Rondell, Dave Snyder and Al Vandetti.

With his "New York Style Guitar", Joe played and sang all over the country, in Mexico, the Caribbean (on a cruise ship), and Canada with many groups throughout his lifetime. He lived in California where he performed at the Whiskey A-Go-Go and various places, then Joe finally settled in Las Vegas where he performed for many more years.

At Joe's memorial service in 2009, a celebration of life, so many of the bands he played with came and just jammed, and talked long into the night of the good times and bad of this musical life. Joe left behind a legacy of music that has passed to his children and grandchildren. He is truly missed by his family; wife Debbie; children Myscie, Peter, Kristina, Nicolle, and Garret; and his brother Frank.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Joe Campese as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

SAMUEL CASSANO (1928-2005)



Sam started taking drum lessons at age 14 from Lou Morelle and played his first professional gig at the age 15. For more than 50 years, he was a mainstay at local weddings and social events in the Niagara Falls area. He played everything from big band to jazz to swing and onto modern pop.

In the early 80's, Sam was the leader of the house band at the newly opened Hilton Hotel in downtown Niagara Falls performing with many other talented musicians in the city. Dedicated to music, he held various officer positions in the Musicians Local #106 for over 20 years. Starting out as a board member working his way up to the president, a position he held for several terms. Sam was also a State and National Delegate for more than a decade representing the Musicians Local #106 across the country.

For his love of music, Sam's family laid him to rest with a pair of Regal Tip sticks at his side.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Sam Cassano as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

RAY CORSARO (1942-2011)

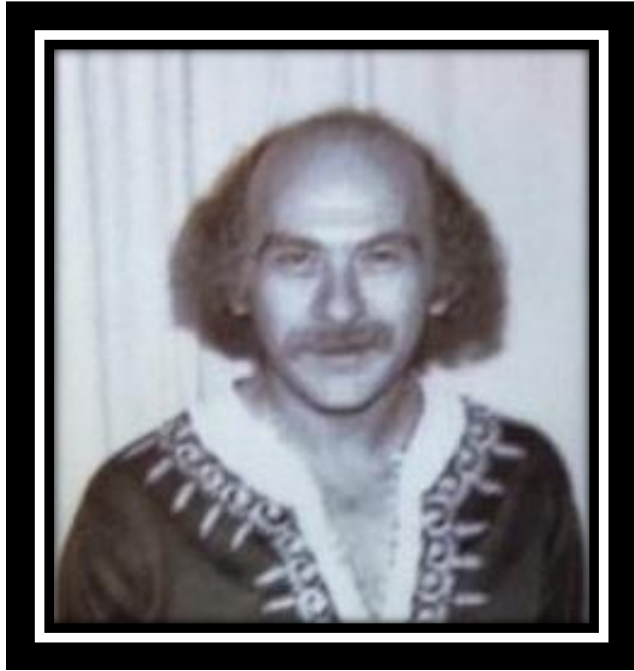


Raymond Corsaro, a lifelong resident of Niagara Falls was a longtime advocate for live music in the city. He was a member of the Musicians Local #106 for many years and also served as a president. Proficient with the alto, tenor and baritone saxophones, along with the clarinet and flute, he was a member of several local bands over the years. With his brother Ron, they performed as the Corsaro Brothers Big Band. He was a member of the Joe Mangione Big Band, Jack Lis' Big Band and Alex Rene's Big Band.

After graduating from Trott Vocational High School in 1960, he teamed up with friends Paul Mokhiber and the late Tony Finelli to form a band and then years later reunited and formed the band Second Generation which also included Jim Wilson, Vince Ciraolo, Peggy Scalzo and Joe LaPaglia. In addition to music, Ray served on the board of directors and as president for Hyde Park Little League. He was employed with the Carborundum Company and also worked for Nuttall Gear in Niagara Falls, NY. In 2002, he retired after 30 years of service from the Army National Guard, where he was also a member of the 199th Army Band. Ray fought a long, hard battle with cancer but continued to perform publically whenever he was able until he lost his battle with cancer in November 2011.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Ray Corsaro as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

JERRY D'AMICO (1934-2008)



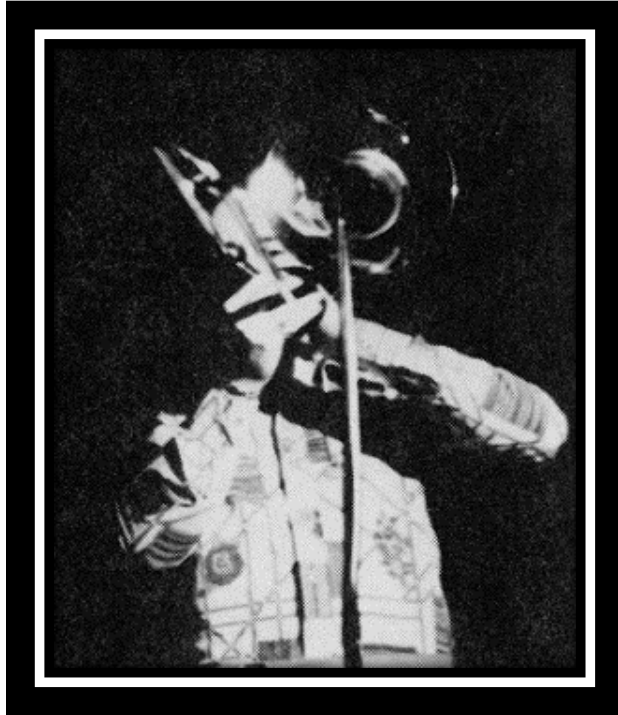
Jerry D'Amico was and always will be recognized as an legendy and synonymous with Niagara Falls music. He owned and operated D'Amico Music, a local landmark on Pine Avenue for over 35 years. In addition to music supplies, his store was a haven for ticket sales, music lessons and the home of the Brewery Recording Studio engineered by Jerry and his friend Rick Catanese. They recorded famous artists such as Spyro Gyro and Sheila E, along with local recording artists and commercials. Jerry was also a booking agent for local performances by renowned artists to include our own hometown guitarist Tommy Tedesco, Donna Summer and a local favorite band China White.

Jerry started in his early musical days playing the saxophone, and later on piano and keyboards. While in the band, the Dawn Breakers, Jerry co-wrote and recorded on Coral Records "Boy with the Be-Bop Glasses" (and the suede shoes) which made it to the Top Ten Billboard Chart and later their second hit "the Things I Love". Jerry also performed with many notable musicians in Machine, the Jerry D'Amico Group and his band Brimstone that had tenure for over 20 years. During the mid-1980's Jerry wrote the weekly column Night Moves for the Niagara Gazette. In 2001 he received the Pine Avenue Business Association's Biggest Asset Award and in 2004 he was awarded the NAMMA Molsen Music Award becoming an inductee into their Hall of Fame.

Many musicians have had the pleasure of lessons from Jerry D'Amico both in music and in life. His daughter Ivy continues the cherished tradition her father started, currently operating D'Amico Music on Pine Avenue.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Jerry D'Amico as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

JOHN DAVIES

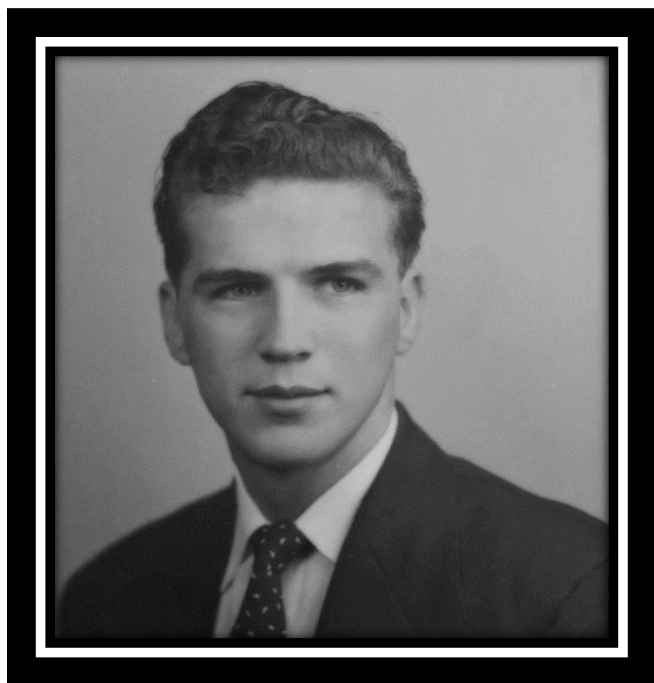


JOHN DAVIES was an exceptional trombone player in Niagara Falls who had a style that was developed through dedicated work with area concert, philharmonic, jazz and rock groups.

John played the trombone, sang back-up vocals and was the business manager for the 1970's band "All About" with fellow talented musicians John Davis, Tom Greco, Dom Mitro, Tony Nastasi, Eddie Urso, Mario Quaglia and Willie Favero. They were a very funky horn group that played all around Western New York. Their wide range repertoire included the sounds of Tower of Power, Earth Wind and Fire, Kool & The Gang, The Average White Band, Chicago and Blood Sweat and Tears. For many years John steadily worked with Tony and Mario logging thousands of hours on stage together.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Rick Fiore as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

DONALD DUFFY (1934-2005)



Donald Duffy a renowned and respected drummer in Niagara Falls New York, started playing drums in the 11th grade and performed every Friday night at the YWCA dances. During the day, he worked as a salesman for Metropolitan Insurance and at night performed as a musician. Living in the Town of Niagara with his wife Julie, he would often crank up the stereo and treat family members to private jam sessions on his drums. Don showcased his talent in playing many jam sessions at the CIO Club along with other talented musicians;

Roy Finitz, Ed Leone, Bob Meagrosi, Nick Pennie and Sam Morreale. They played many local venues and private clubs to include The Golden Gardens in the Henry Hubbs Hotel, John's Flaming Hearth, The Ontario House, The Parkway Circle, and Niagara University, just to name a few. They were also popular at many local weddings. Don's true passion was to play Irish and Italian music, yet he loved the sound of his brushes swishing away on his cymbals and his Calato drum sticks banging away in his true jazz style. Don was the first Niagara Falls recipient to receive a heart transplant in 1996, which served him well until he passed away in 2005.

Don's close friend, Sam Tamborino described him like this, "Don is the most sincere, honest thinking and trustworthy person you'll ever want to meet".

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Don Duffy as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame Inaugural Class of 2017.

RICK FIORE (1949-2015)



Anthony Richard (Rick) Fiori, was born and raised in Niagara Falls, New York. From an early age he showed exceptional musical ability and began performing in local nightclubs at the age of 15. Rick became a professional musician, entertaining audiences throughout the East Coast, Midwest and South, almost always on the road.

Later in his career, he settled in Slidell, Louisiana, playing clubs in the New Orleans area, and giving guitar lessons to a fortunate few. When failing health took his ability to perform, he moved to St. Augustine in 2006 to be closer to his family. But at heart Rick was an entertainer and his true home was on stage with a guitar and a microphone.

Though known mostly as an excellent and versatile guitarist, and for his beautiful singing voice, he was in fact a multi-instrumentalist as well as a fine songwriter. He touched the souls of those closest to him and those lucky enough to hear him perform.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Rick Fiore as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

ED GHOUGASIAN (1933-1993)



Ed Ghougasian was instrumental in promoting live music in the city of Niagara Falls in the 60's and 70's. He and his wife Mary Ann owned and operated The Club restaurant that was noted for having the longest bar in the state. Hiring bands from all over Western New York, Ed has been credited for giving many local musicians their starts in the music business.

Born in 1933 to Armenian immigrants from Turkey escaping the Armenian Genocide, Eddie spoke only Armenian

until he was three years old. He attended Deveau Military School and graduated from Niagara Falls High School. During the Korean War, he served in the U.S. Army stationed in Germany. His family owned the Main Restaurant and the Park Restaurant, which he managed for his family before opening The Club Restaurant on his own in 1959. The Club, located on Falls Street had a diverse customer base from the United States and Canada. Admired by all his customers and employees, he was known as "Eddie by the door in the white shirt." After The Club was torn down by Urban Renewal in 1973, Eddie took over the Greens Restaurant at Hyde Park Golf Course until his untimely death in 1993. His legacy is continued by his grandsons, Eamon and Emory Weber, who now manage successful restaurants on Third Street in Niagara Falls that also feature live music.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Ed Ghougasian as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

EMILIO GIANDOMENICO (1939-2006)



Emilio Giandomenico was a guitarist with a lifelong musical career. Born in Secinaro L'Aquila Abruzzi, Italy, he moved with his family to Niagara Falls in 1947. He was a graduate of Niagara Falls High School, where he embarked on his lifelong musical career. During the late 1950s through the mid-1960s, Emilio played at various events and locations with The Veltones, a Niagara Falls recording group that included talented musicians Ernie Venditti, Leo Davis and Calvin Briggs. Later he met up with fellow Niagara Falls musicians in Saginaw Michigan to join the group

The Impacts with Joe Campese, Jeff Palsone, Peter Paonessa, Vince Pecoraro and Ernie Venditti, who toured the midwest and onto Las Vegas.

In the late 1960s, Emilio moved to Las Vegas, where he performed at several live-music establishments, and then became a resident musician at the Venetian Resort Hotel and Casino. In 2005, he appeared in the movie *Miss Congeniality 2; Armed and Dangerous* as a Venetian singer.

Emilio performed alongside many other talented musicians throughout his career to include Bill Monigold, Cliff Fields, Vic Ball, Bill Bravo and Pete Simmons. They performed for such celebrities as Andy Williams, Janet Leigh, Henry Mancini and Jackie and Bob Kennedy.

In 2006, at the age of 67, Emilio died unexpectedly at his home in Las Vegas.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Emilio Giandomenico as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame Inaugural Class of 2017.

JOSEPH A. LEO (1922-2016)



Joseph Leo was a lifetime resident of Niagara Falls, New York. A child prodigy in music, Joe had 'perfect pitch', a gift from God. Joe's music career span over 75 years beginning as a charter member of the Center Avenue School's first band in 1931. During World War II, he served in the U.S. Army Air Corps and was the featured trumpeter with the 514th U.S. Air Force Band under Glen Miller. As a professional trumpeter, Joe played for many big dance bands such as John Morrell, Evan White, Ernie Whistler, Cliff Fielding, Vince Colling, Pete Genovese, Don LaScala, and the Hal Palumbo Band. He performed in a variety of local venues to include the Red Coach Inn, Luigi's Night Club, the Rhapsody Club, Buena Vista, the

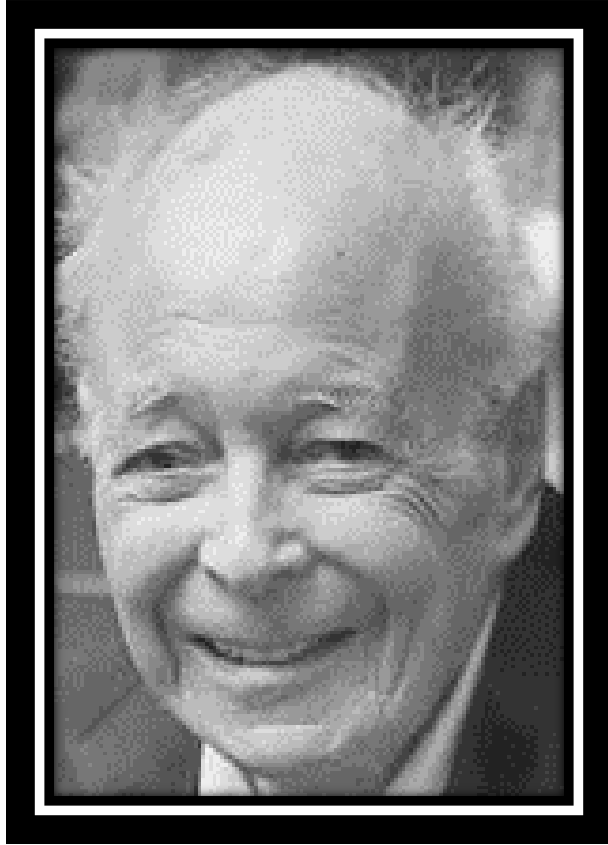
Whirlpool Nite Club, the Ramada Inn, and the Alps Restaurant. Joe was a gold card member of the American Federations of Musicians Local 106 since 1938.

Joe was a 1940 graduate of Niagara Falls High School. He attended Bryant and Stratton and the Buffalo Radio and Television School. In addition to performing as a professional musician, he worked for TNT Construction, Olin Chemical, Carborundum and in 1984 retired from the Niagara Falls Board of Education after 25 years of service. Together with his wife Mary, they enjoyed traveling and spending time with their family. Joe passed away on July 31, 2016. The next day, his family found a note he wrote, "Death is the joyous awakening from a life-long dream"

The family of Joe Leo wishes to thank the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame and is honored for him to be among the other distinguished inductees.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Joseph Leo as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame Inaugural Class of 2017.

JOE MANGIONE (1926-2016)



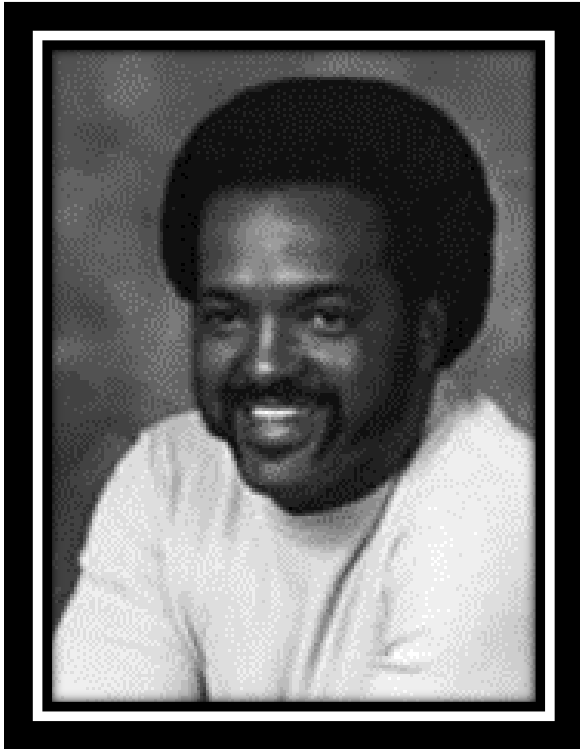
Joe was an extremely talented musician and conductor of the Joseph Mangione Big Band Orchestra in Niagara Falls for many years. Known as Joe Mann, a stage name he often used, he was a gifted trumpet player.

He specialized in big band swing music and was a well-known band leader throughout Western New York. Joe's bands performed at many local venues, and while big band music was his passion, he also led and performed in his commercial combo.

Born and raised in Niagara Falls, Joe worked as a salesman for many years in the city, but his passions were in music and woodworking where he enjoyed manufacturing furniture. In his retirement years, Joseph and his family moved to Las Vegas where he lived to be 90 years old. Joe and his talents are truly missed by his family and friends, especially his brother Frank who still lives in Niagara Falls today.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Joe Mangione as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame Inaugural Class of 2017.

GEORGE “BIG MAN” McCRAY (1944-2016)



Wenford George "Big Man" McCray relocated with his family from Pigeon Creek, Alabama at the age of six

months old. As a teenager, he excelled in music, academics and sports. He attended Trott Vocational High School and acquired his skill trade as a millwright and graduated from Niagara Falls High School in 1963. He served two years in the U.S. Army and worked 17 years for Dupont. George a talented guitar player and soulful singer was a member of several local gospel and secular groups over the years such as the McCray Gospel Singers, The Deli Royals and Power City.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome George "Big Man" McCray as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame Inaugural Class of 2017.

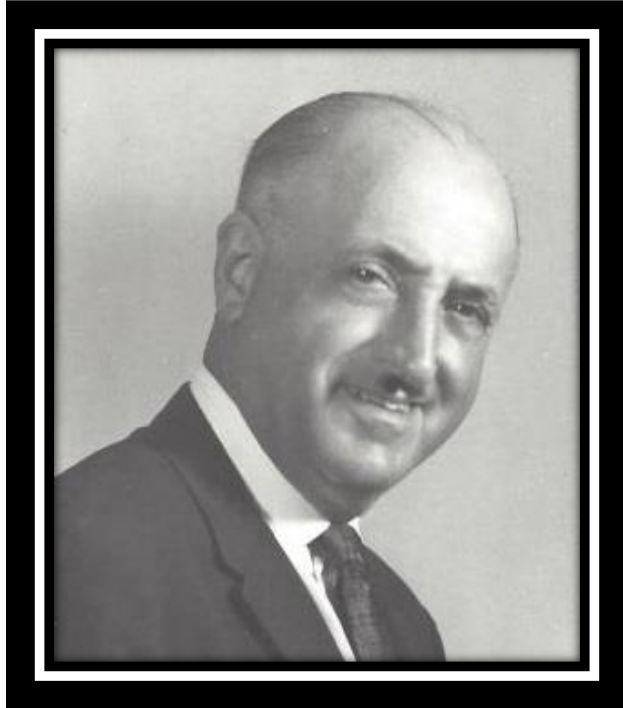
CLARENCE WAY (1945-1992)



Clarence was a solo pianist/organist noted for playing old-time tunes in popular clubs along Old Falls Street in the 70's. He was also a piano and organ teacher for many years in Niagara Falls. He is remembered fondly as being a great man and musician.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Clarence Way as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

JOHN MORELL (1904-1992)



John is legendary for his work, talents and contributions to the local music scene. A native of Niagara Falls, John was widely known as "Mr. Music." For over 70 years, he was a talented and respected musician, songwriter, music teacher and music store owner. When John was a teenager, music lessons and buying an instrument were unheard of. So he worked clearing tables at Louis' Restaurant on East Falls Street to save and buy his first banjo and taught himself to play. Later, John had a banjo custom made with his name engraved on it; all gold plated, pearl-laden and embellished with rhinestones. At age 15, he was playing with big bands such as Tommy Brick, Earnus Whistler and Edward D'Anna. Not having written music parts for a banjo player, John played it all by ear. He has been noted to have played about 2,000 songs without reading

any sheet music. John also played the guitar, mandolin, organ, piano, and electronic keyboard. He formed his own bands in the 1930s and 1940s, playing in such nightspots as the old Hotel Niagara, the Cataract House and the Armory on Main Street. In 1941, he and his 12-piece band, then called the Samovar Gypsies were the house band at The Samovar, a popular nightclub on Whirlpool Street. They performed the opening tune for WHLD radio station. In the 1980's and in his late 80's, John played banjo with the Lew Custode Unauthentic Ragtime Dixieland Band. John was owner of Morell's Music House for 35 years, where he taught guitar to many students including Tommy Tedesco. He also wrote about 40 songs, including "Niagara Falls USA" and "Our Town". Among his early bands were Morell's Plectrophonic and Hawaiian Orchestra," in which all instruments were played with picks. He was instrumental in bringing the 1941 convention of the American Guild of Banjoists, Mandolinists and Guitarists to Niagara Falls. John has left behind a legacy of music with grandchildren and great grandchildren throughout the country, whom are accomplished musicians. John's daughter Ann Franjoine, who is now in her 90's still lives here in Niagara Falls.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome John Morell as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

CHARLES “CHU” NERO (1948-2009)



Chu Nero was a remarkable saxophone player who dedicated his life to spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ through his music, affecting the lives of all everyone he met. He shared the stage with some of Western New York's music greats of every genre. He had many Music Ministries throughout Niagara Falls and Buffalo. Chu started playing music at the age of 11 after hearing Sonny Rollins with his son on one of his earlier albums. For the next 50 years, Chu honed his great gift and shared it with the world alongside his most beloved fellow musicians and comrades. In high school, he played in the school's dance band with other talented musicians to include Bobby Jones, Joe Trunzo and Dom Mitro. From 1979-2009, he performed with Ray Domanski and Bud Fadele as the Chu Nero Trio. He even took his prodigious legacy on USO tours to Kyrgyzstan and "wowed" our troops overseas. Although an incomparable jazz tenor

saxophonist, Chu was also a fabulous keyboard/piano player; and had a most beautiful voice. It was chided that Chu could be locked up for an hour with a foreign instrument and emerge playing it as if trained. What an awesome talent he was. Chu earned several music awards as well as a second Buffalo Music Award at the time of his death in 2009.

Chu's love for Christ was revealed and echoed during every performance "live or recorded". Never was there a time when he did not acknowledge his Savior as his greatest source of inspiration. It is difficult to capture in words the ineffable musical talent that was Chu Nero. He embodied the heart and soul of every note he played; every tune he sang. He was the kind of rare and precious gift that comes along but once in a lifetime. He was an exceptional musician and uncommonly rare and wonderful human being. Grateful are all we who were blessed to have known him. A childhood friend of his said it perfectly "At the very least, artists like Chu are very fortunate in that, with their music and talent, they leave 'footprints in the sand'. They may have traveled on, but we know what they have done by the music they left behind for us. The art is definitely not the physical manifestation of the artist, but rather the spirit.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Charles "Chu" Nero as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame Inaugural Class of 2017.

SAL PAONESSA (1914-2003)



The sound of music was always an important part of Sal's life. His father taught him how to play the trumpet at the age of four. When he was five years old, his first job was playing at a funeral where he walked and played in a customary funeral band. In 1930 at the age of 16, he joined the musicians' union. From that time forward, he played professionally until 1993. In the 1930's, Benny Goodman offered him a job, but Sal declined because of his desire to be near his family. For 63 years, Sal performed in many local venues to include Artpark,

Shea's Buffalo, Melody Fair, the Ice Capades and Follies, the Shriners Circus, BPO Pops Band, and at Elvis Presley's debut in Buffalo in 1956. Sal played at many wedding as well as for many celebrities and events in the Niagara Falls area. He was an officer in the Musicians Union Local #106 for 46 years, of which 38 years he served as the Secretary Business Agent. Sal's wife Mary (Vivirito) also helped out working as a secretary for the union. He retired from this position in 1995. Sal also taught private lessons to many students in the area, some of which became professional musicians. He belonged to many musical organizations and received many awards, fittingly one was a brick at Columbus Square inscribed "The Music Man". For 39 years, Sal was employed by Oldbury Chemical which later became Occidental, but playing his trumpet professionally and his involvement with the musicians union were a sense of joy and pride for him. He truly loved music.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Sal Paonessa as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame Inaugural Class of 2017.

ANGELO PILATO (1955-2006)



Angelo Pilato, a native of Niagara Falls played guitar and sang in many popular bands coming out of Niagara Falls to include Zola, Bedrock, Aurora, Chassin, The USA Band and The Perry Novak Band. He played and recorded with fellow band mates Perry Novak, Dennis Fura, Marc Perricelli, Chris Critelli, Tony Barone, Bobby Newbury and Frank Geracitano to name a few. In the 1980's, Chassin was one of the most popular Top 40 bands playing in venues with lines of people waiting at their door, such as The Playboy Club, Three Coins, Canterbury and Poet's

Lounge. Later with the Perry Novak Band, he shared the stage with Dick Clark at the Nabisco 100 Year Celebration and also opened for country star Mark Chestnut at Melody Fair. He recorded music with the USA Band as well as the Perry Novak Band. Some of their music sold in Media Play outlets across Western New York. Angelo also shared his talents by giving guitar lessons. He wrote and recorded his own music where he not only played guitar but also the drums. Some of his music is can be seen and heard on YouTube captured by his good friend and fellow artist Al Ligammari. Another good friend and fellow talented musician, Frank Geracitano says it perfectly "Ang was one of a kind! A dedicated musician that knew his instrument well. A fabulous vocalist with a huge range! He was wonderful to work with and always had his songs learned and ready for rehearsal. A true gentleman and a good friend with heart of gold!

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Angelo Pilato as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

HAROLD “HAL” PALUMBO (1919-1995)



Hal Palumbo played guitar and drums and was the band leader of the Hal Palumbo Orchestra from the 1940's to the 1970's. He played with various

musical groups throughout the city up until 1983, performing at the Red Coach Inn, Buena Vista, The Alps and the Ramada Inn among many others. He was a World War II Army veteran. In addition to his musical talents, Mr. Palumbo is also fondly remembered by many students who attended LaSalle High School, where he was a business teacher and manager of the students' school store.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Hal Palumbo as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

ELI SAKS (1910-1997)



Eli Saks was a master percussionist, friend of comedian Red Skelton and operator of a Niagara Falls liquor store for 35 years. A native of Niagara Falls, Saks owned and operated Saks Liquor Store at Hyde Park Boulevard and

Lockport Road until he retired in 1981.

In addition to giving private music lessons to young percussionists, he was a tympanist with the Niagara Falls Symphony Orchestra for many years as well as a percussionist with the Carborundum Band. Saks was a substitute percussionist with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and played in local bands at private gatherings and Bar Mitzvahs for many years.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Eli Saks as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

HAROLD SCHATZ (1915-2017)



Harold Schatz who recently passed away this summer at the age of 98 in Los Angeles California, was an accomplished violinist from Western New York. He taught music for many years in Niagara Falls schools orchestrating many concerts and musicals throughout his tenure.

He was the coordinator and conductor for the Jewish Center Orchestra in Buffalo in the 1960's.

Many Western New York musicians will remember the exceptional talents and teachings of Harold Schatz. He was quoted "Music has been important to me my entire life". Well into his 90's he still played his violin with the Westside Symphonette, a community orchestra that performed free venues in the LA area. The photo shown here is taken from a YouTube video where he is effortlessly playing his violin for his great niece and great great niece on his 95th birthday.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Harold Schatz as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

ANTHONY SCIBILIA (1926-2006)



Tony Scibilia was an exceptionally talented bassist in the city of Niagara Falls for many years. He was a professional Jazz musician who ultimately chose family over the road and played in many local bands throughout Western New York.

He was a member of the Musicians Local #106.

With his exuberant passion and appreciation for music, Tony started a family legacy of dedicated musicians that continues today.

Since we were unable to find a photograph of Tony, pictured here are his son Robert, a musician in Niagara Falls with his sons, Tony's grandsons, Marc and Matt who both reside in Nashville Tennessee excelling in their professional music careers.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Tony Scibilia as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

ANTHONY SURACE



Tony was a renowned and talented professional piano player in the city of Niagara Falls for many years playing with many fellow accomplished artists in local clubs and across the country. He played with the popular Scinta Brothers from Buffalo New York. To his credit, he also played with Bob Seger at the Niagara Falls Convention Center and at the Miss America Pageant hosted by Bob Barker.

Tony Surace owned several grocery stores throughout the city but music was definitely a big part of his life.

In addition to his keyboard talents, he was also a great singer. His wife Maureen and daughter Lisa both play piano. With her parents' passion and appreciation for music, Lisa Surace continues as a second-generation teacher and performer in Niagara Falls with a music studio currently located in the Niagara Arts Cultural Center (NACC) located on Pine Avenue. Here she honors her father, Tony Surace and his music legacy in our city of tremendous traditions. Lisa is pictured here in her studio, since we were unable to find a photograph of Tony himself.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Tony Surace as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

TOMMY TEDESCO (1930-1997)



Thomas J. Tedesco, a native of Niagara Falls New York moved to the West Coast in the 1960's to become one of the most sought after studio musicians in Hollywood of all time. A master guitar player and a member of the famous Wrecking Crew, he played over 20 stringed instruments to include the mandolin, ukulele and sitar. He was described by Guitar Player magazine as the most recorded guitarist in history having played on thousands of recordings, many of which were Top 20 hits. He recorded with top musicians working in Los Angeles to include The Beach Boys, the Mamma's and Papas, Elvis Presley, Barbra Streisand, The Everly Brothers, Frank Zappa, Cher, Frank and Nancy Sinatra and Ricky Nelson, just to name a few. He was the lead on the classic "McArthur's Park", The Ronettes "Be My Baby" and the Sandpipers' "Guantanamera". Tom also help Niagara Falls artists Nino Tempo and

April Stevens with their version of "Deep Purple". Tommy had his own column in Guitar Player magazine titled "Studio Log". He would describe a day's work recording a movie, TV show or album, the special challenges each job posed and how he solved them, what instruments he used, and how much money he made on the job. His credits include extensive television theme like Bonanza, The Twilight Zone, Green Acres, M*A*S*H and Batman. He also played Tommy Marinucci, an ex-con guitarist on the spoof talk-show Fernwood 2Night. Among his many movie soundtracks were Jaws, The Godfather, The French Connection, The Deer Hunter, Field of Dreams, Gloria, and even the cult hit the Rocky Horror Picture Show. Tom performed the opening guitar solo for the classic John Wayne hit, Rio Lobo. Tedesco recorded a number of jazz guitar albums of his own After suffering from a stroke in 1992, he published his autobiography, Confessions of a Guitar Player. In 1997, Tommy died of lung cancer at the age of 67. In 2008, his son, Denny Tedesco, directed the documentary film The Wrecking Crew (released in 2015), which features interviews with Tommy and many of his fellow session musicians.

With great pleasure we honor and welcome Tommy Tedesco as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

CHUCK TOARMINO (1945-1992)



Charles "Chuck" Toarmino, was a professional singer, drummer and band leader. He was a widely known entertainer in Niagara and Erie counties in the 1960s, '70s and '80s. A native of Niagara Falls, Toarmino had his own band, Chuck and The Counts playing with fellow musicians Bob Passmore, Bill Philips and Joe Riggere. In later years, he led the own band which included other talented musicians from Niagara Falls; Joe Campese, Jeff Palsone, Peter Paonessa, and Vince Pecorraro, where

they performed in many nightclubs in Niagara Falls and also toured throughout the United States and Canada with many shows at popular venues in Las Vegas.

Chuck or "Cazz" as he was fondly called by his bandmates was remarkably entertaining and nothing but class when he hit the stage.



With great pleasure we honor and welcome Chuck Toarmino as a member of the Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, Inaugural Class of 2017.

WILLIAM “WILLIE” FAVERO



Willie loved music even as a small child, so his parents started him on guitar lessons at an early age. Playing an instrument came easy to him and thanks to his parents' continual support, you could easily say Willie became a successful musician because of them. Growing up in Niagara Falls, starting in his early teens, Willie had the opportunity to work with numerous bands. In fact, he was always either playing in or putting a band together. The Apaches, London Fog, Everyday People, Penelope, All About, and Sound City Express were just a few of the more successful and influential groups he performed with. Two of those bands are still performing around the Falls today; Everyday People and Penelope. Even though bass was the only instrument he played professionally, Willie did take guitar lessons for years. One of his instructor for many of those lessons was Hal Palumbo. Through those lessons, Hal gave Willie the ability to apply the scales and chord structures he was taught to his bass playing, an invaluable skill Willie has used time and again over his years as a bassist.

Over the years, Willie moved from the Falls to St Louis, Dallas, and finally Houston. Although for a lot of that period, his playing

schedule wasn't as robust as it was while in the Falls. During those years, some of his time was spent supplying bass for live theater and playing as part of a corporate sponsored classic rock/blues band for 5 years. However, it wasn't until he retired in Houston that playing bass guitar as a full-time musician became possible again. Willie is currently working with a band focused on Texas Country, Classic Country, with just a little Classic Rock mixed in, playing at local clubs, benefits and festivals. When not playing with the band, he is involved in numerous side projects; laying down the bass tracks on recording projects for great local talents in Houston or accompanying numerous solo artist when they appear on stage. Although back in the Falls, he played primarily what is referred to today as "Classic Rock" and "Top 40", in recent years he has had the opportunity to play Classic and Contemporary Country, Texas Outlaw Country, Bluegrass, Classic Rock, and original material. He even played a little funk again while providing bass for Archie Bell. Willie still has a reputation for his ability to lock in with drummer to keep the groove moving, a grasp of how the rhythm relates to the beat regardless of genre, and staying on time. These invaluable skills were learned and honed back in the 1960s and 1970s while working with some exceptional Niagara Falls drummers. Willie became well known for his unique sound, funky style, and fretless bass. There is more than one person from that era when Willie was playing bass in the Falls, who is playing bass guitar today because of Willie's influence. Willie continues to wow crowds and his fellow musicians today with his soulful and smooth bass playing and performs regularly every week somewhere in the greater Houston area.

FRANK GRIZANTI



Frank Grizanti is one of western New York's most respected guitarists. He is a 2007 Inductee to the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame. He has worked with many great acts from WNY such as the BBC Band, The Frank Grizanti Band, Geno McManus, Stone Flower, Patti Park Band, Junction West, Weekend, The Rockers, The Fabulous USA Band, Slam, Zola, Speedy Parker, Bass Reeves, Maria Sebastian, Noa Bursi, Ken Kaufman, Jim White, Gary Malager, Buffalo Rising, Melissa Croff, Ron LaSalle, Pat Gordon, Pam Ryder, Cailin Kock, Steve Ballisteri, Anantara to name a few. The Frank Grizanti Band opened for national acts such as Gina Vanelli, Foreigner and Styx.

Frank is a self-taught guitarist greatly influenced by his parents both classically trained musicians (Conservatory of Music, Cincinnati, OH). During his formative years, he performed regularly with a variety of cover bands. In 1969 Frank joined OZ an all-original project. The band was greeted with strong interest by John Pozer of United Artist

Records. In 1972, Frank was working with another original band, Hood Robin. John Pozer took personal interest in this band and became its manager and producer. During the winter of 1976 Frank moved to Los Angeles where he joined The Terry Williams Band, Terry was co-founder of The First Edition along with Kenny Rogers. The band was signed with Warner-Curb records. Frank returned to Western New York in 1983, since then he has performed with many award-winning bands including The BBC Band, NRG, Legend, Omega, The Barracudas, Slam, Zola, The Fabulous USA Band, Stargazer, The Rockers, The Frank Grizanti Band, Weekend, The Road, Junction West, The Reinhardtts, The Patti Parks Band, The Ifs, The Boys of Summer, Jack Prybylski. Frank has played on recording projects for great local talents such as Ken Kaufman, John Valby, Bob and Diana Volkman, Pete Howard, Maria Sebastian, Mark Dixon, Tom Sartori, Pam Ryder, Nick DeStephano, Melissa Croff, and Bass Reeves. He has recorded in L.A., Toronto, Nashville and Buffalo.

Frank continues to wow crowds with his soulful and intricate guitar playing and performs regularly with The BBC Band, The Frank Grizanti Band, The Rockers, The Patti Parks Band, The Reinhardtts. As a producer, Frank has worked with Robbie Knoikoff of Audio Magic for artists such as Bass Reeves, Maria Sebastian, Rich Blend, Pat Gordon and The Fabulous USA Band. Professional Memberships: ASCAP, writer since 1975, publisher since 1998.

TOM GARIANO



Tom began his music career at the age of 12 years old playing in a 3 piece band with kids from the LaSalle neighborhood he grew up in. He performed his first public singing performance on the last day of school assembly in 1971 at Prince of Peace School singing Joy to the World by Three Dog Night which 45 years later he would sing the same song in a Three Dog Night Tribute band ELI. After a number of garage bands Tom was ask to be the lead singer of a up and coming local cover band Tunnel which featured very seasoned and older musicians who were playing the local dances and were ready to play clubs. Earning \$80 dollars a weekend playing dances and more for club work which Tom's dad would bring him there and stay till he was done was great. But being so young his parents did not want to see him doing what he

was doing at that young of age so he had to quit Tunnel but was not long out of a singing job. He hooked up with his grade school friend Kevin DeDario and was now the singer of a Rock band named Myopic Void and once again he was playing all the dances. In 1976 Tom formed what would be one of his most successful band in his career and that was Night Shift. Not only were they one of the biggest drawing bands in Niagara Falls but in WNY. They had opened for The Police, The Cars, Steppenwolf, and Cheap Trick to name a few. Night Shift toured steady from 1977 to 1980 playing 38 states across the country. After coming of the road for good in 1984 Tom settled down to a 10 year hiatus from performing and went to college where attended NCCC for Culinary Arts. After owning 2 Bakeries and a Cafe Tom wanted to get back to his roots of music and started by doing a few reunion shows with Tunnel and Night Shift and the bug was back.

But in 2003 Tom was diagnosed with cancer. After treatments he was healthy and cancer free. He returned to the stage with a popular Buffalo band Flipside. Playing a solid schedule for 2 years Tom decided in 2006 to put a new band together with the best of the best and named it The A-List Band. After 11 years and over 1000 shows the band is still going strong playing to capacity crowds. Tom says "I wouldn't have it any other way."

BOBBY JONES



Bobby Jones was born and raised in Niagara Falls New York and in the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame, Class of 2004. He entered "show biz" early at the age of 12, touring with the legendary Sammy Davis Jr. He went on to perform and record with some of the greats of the jazz and entertainment worlds: Paul Anka, Patrick Duffy, Dianne Carroll, Stefan Grappelli, Louis Belson, Lenny White, Dakota Staton, Stephanie Mills, Woody Shaw, Eddie Harris, Donald Byrd, Jeff Jarvis, and Bobby Militello are just some of his many musical associations. Bobby recently spent two years touring with the Doc Severinsen Tonight Show Band and finished a five year collaboration with

composer and flutist Leslie Burrs on an opera, *Vanqui*, an opera commissioned by the Columbus Opera Company (Ohio). Locally,

Bobby is one of the most respected jazz pianists and arrangers and has appeared on countless recordings. Michael Civisca, Mary Stahl, Tom Sartori, Rick Strauss, Dick Baurle and Lance Diamond are just a few of the artists who have utilized his considerable musical talents. In most recent years, Bobby has been musical director for singer Colleen Williams and leader of her band The Bobby Jones Trio and an integral member of the Bobby Militello Quartet.

JAMIE HOLKA



In 1984, at the age of 14, Jamie Holka picked up a guitar and has not stopped playing since. In 1986, he with his first band Stormbringer, literally took storm competing in the Niagara Wheatfield Battle of the Bands, and then playing CYO dances and regularly at Club Soda. After high school, he started playing in clubs throughout Niagara Falls and Buffalo NY with bands Rock The Mob, who were a mainstay at the popular music venue Blind Melons every Monday night.

After attending the Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA, Jamie Holka has been a full-time guitarist in the greater Niagara Falls area since the age of 18.

In pursuit of perfecting his talent, he has been member of many local bands to include Jamie Holka & the Dress Pillows, Spinning Room, Animal Grace, One Big Magic Circuit Breakers, Powertrain, Brothers of Invention, Stringed Edition Guitar Ensemble, Jim Wynne Band, The Struggle, Another Brother Band the Jamie Holka Family Band, the Jamie Holka Trio and other groups that he arranges for special music performances or events. In 2005, Jamie started performing as a solo artist as well. He has opened the stage for quite a few international recordings acts at Artpark in Lewiston NY. Holka prides himself as a solo finger-style guitarist dedicated to performing energetic and complex finger-style techniques with the use of percussion effects on the guitar. He has hosted several concerts in Niagara Falls and Buffalo NY with guest guest artists Adam Rafferty from NYC & Germany

Early in his career, while performing with the band The Spinning Room, Jamie and his bandmates played various cover tunes prominent with guitar to include Jimi Hendrix, Cream, and the 70's band Captain Beyond. Jamie is now a member of the band Captain Beyond reformed by original member,

BRUCE WOJICK



Bruce Wojick has been performing in the Niagara Falls music scene since 1983. At the age of 16, he started writing lyrics and music performing at high school events with his first band, ROXX. Soon after he was performing original compositions with his band Raw Deel, and then nationally with two of this area's best and popular original rock bands God's Children and Klear. As a full-time musician, he also performed with various cover bands over the years, to include the Jimmy Jones Band, Powertrain, 53 Days and currently with Brothers of Invention, and Strictly Hip. As a solo artist and with his current band, The Struggle, he performs his original songs that have unique blend of rock, soul, country and Americana. His debut release was a four-song EP; '99 with a Bullet and he just released another four-song EP entitled Bruce Wojick & the Struggle, Cassettes EP. He has

recorded two full-length records; one is self-titled and CD No. 2: Rock-n-Roll Music with an American Heart. Bruce, is regarded as one of the most talented and respected guitarists and songwriters in Western New York. He has been a mainstay on the area scene for three decades. Since 2001, he has been named the top original guitar player five times at the Buffalo Music Awards and has received several other guitarist awards throughout Western New York. Nationally, Wojick's songs, have been featured in numerous television shows and films, including "Buffy the Vampire Slayer", "X-Files", "ER", "Touched by an Angel", "The Osbournes" and "E True Hollywood Story", as well as the films "Vegas Vacation", "The Station Agent" (Miramax), "Man of the House" (Disney) and "A Thousand Acres" (Meryl Streep and Jason Robards), as well as many more. Bruce has performed at Artpark, Darien Lake, Buffalo's Thursday in the Square, Batavia Downs, Rochester War Memorial, House of Blues in Las Vegas, The Whiskey A-Go-Go and Viper Room in Hollywood. He has shared the stage with international recording artists to include The Goo Goo Dolls, Chuck Berry, Kid Rock, Alice Cooper, Government Mule, Puddle of Mudd, George Thorogood, CCR, Heart, Boston, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Rik Emmett and The Marshall Tucker Band.

WE CONGRATULATE ALL THE 2017 INDUCTEES.

We know that Niagara Falls New York is rich in music talent and history. Please keep in mind this is only our first year. Nominations for the Class of 2018 will be available and accepted between January through June 2018. If you or you know someone who deserves to be recognized and inducted into the newly organized Niagara Falls Music Hall of Fame, please be sure to add your name and email address in our guestbook located near the Merchandise Table. Nomination Forms will be mailed to you sometime in January 2018 and thereafter upon request.

Because our city is SO RICH in MUSIC HISTORY we would like to recognize musicians who have left us with their legacies and wonderful memories. If someone is missing from this list, please be sure to let us know by email www.nfmusichof@gmail.com. We will be sure to add them to next years.

IN MEMORIAM

Freddy Amendola
Joseph Barto
George Beck
Alonzo Bradley
Vincent Brundo
Ronald L. Corsaro
Lewis Custode, Sr.
Thomas Dardes
George Davis
Tony Finelli
Harmonica Gene Germelli
James Goerss
Robert Grabek
Anthony Grizanti, Sr.
Warren Hartburg
Paul Ianni
Herman Janus
Michael Kargatis

Carol Kresses
Stanley Kresses
Richard Mecca
David Metzger
Alfred Mis
Anthony Monacco
Henry Monti
Leo Orynawka
Anthony Paonessa
Carmen Previte
Mario Quaglia, Sr.
William Rosati
Conrad Struzik
Arthur Teller
Glenn Tilyou
Kenny Tompkins
Arthur Valery



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