

Huntington

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Rich Rivkin

Sharing his Passion for
LIVE MUSIC

Long Island Village Entertainment Magazine

HUNTINGTON'S Music Man



Rich Rivkin has a passion for live music and for playing percussion. It's the kind of passion that occasionally shoots bolts of electricity up and down his spine. It drove his desire to share these peak experiences with others who might be drawn to this level of live music appreciation.

Rivkin enjoys creating new entertainment concepts, scouting talent, and producing events where profit has not been the motivation, but rather the fun of gathering a room full – or park full – of happily dancing people. These are his kindred spirits.

Since 2000, it has been his mission, as a Town of Huntington resident, to bring to this area an expanding variety of live music related events that are by design, different from the existing fare. So far his projects have focused on five categories of music: Jazz Fusion, Funk & Latin groove music, Worldbeat Percussion & Dance, Jam Bands, and select Classic Rock tribute acts.

Last April he discovered a local venue which has turned out to be one of his sources of inspiration. "The first time I walked into 841 East Lounge on Jericho Turnpike, I was struck by its unique charm and cool vibe," Rivkin recalls. "I've since become friends with the owner, Jarid Futerman of Corinne's Catering Concepts, the company that maintains the lounge as a special events venue. But for me it's become more of a home away from home."

"I've booked gigs and events at about fifty Long Island venues since 2000, but I am happy to have found my favorite one within a five minute drive from my house."

So far, Rivkin has produced more than a dozen events at 841

East Lounge, including his event series, Live Art Fusion, which takes place every Wednesday night at 7:30 pm, with free admission.

"My 17 year old son had originally suggested the basic concept for Live Art Fusion, which is a blending of Live Painting Performance and Live Jazz Fusion, at which ten artists are simultaneously painting while

inspired by the band, and by dynamic audience interaction," he explained.

"Another recent project of mine is L.I. Groove Bastards, an eight piece band dedicated to performing familiar 70's R&B/Funk classics that never fail to get audiences moving and singing along."

Rivkin shoots video at all the events, which can be viewed on his youtube channel, "JazzfusionTV". His website, Jazzfusion.tv also hosts thousands of hours of audio and video content.

During the upcoming spring and summer months Rivkin will be producing several events taking place at the Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport, to benefit the Museum. This will include the Long Island Sound Festival (the successor to the Elwoodstock Music Festival previously held at Elwood Park), as well as other live music & dance performances, drum circles and outdoor Live Art Fusion shows featuring more than twenty-five artists plus Fusion Collective (fusioncollective.com), the band he founded in 2005, in which he plays conga drums and percussion.

"I feel that Huntington holds great untapped potential as Long Island's central Mecca for live music and cultural events," Rivkin said. "Rest assured that I'll be having a blast as I do my part in realizing that potential for our town."

Huntington area projects created by Rich Rivkin

Long Island Sound Festival

Founded and produced this annual summer event featuring a full day of jam bands and acoustic performers, overlooking the Long Island Sound. Takes place at Vanderbilt Museum in Centerport. LISoundFestival.com

Live Art Fusion

Created and produced this ongoing series of multi-media events featuring ten renowned artists simultaneously speed-painting on multiple canvases, while inspired by live jazz fusion and audience interaction. LiveArtFusion.com

Comedy Jam

Created and Co-produced two Comedy Jam events to date, taking place at 841 East Lounge in Huntington. Events featured standup performances by seven regional comedians, followed by live jazz funk with Fusion Collective.

Djembe Movement

Founded and organized this drumming & dance organization, whose mission is to create and publicize an ongoing series of drum circles, benefit events, West African drumming classes, and performances for the community of Long Island percussionists & dancers. DjembeMovement.com

Belly Dancing performances

Produce and promote performances by Damascus Steel, a troupe of NYC musicians and belly dancers.

Cream Tribute performances

Produce and promote performances by EB-3, a Cream tribute band

Fusion Collective

Founded, organize, promote and play percussion with this jazz funk fusion sextet, which currently performs at 841 East Lounge and Nags Head Ale House in Huntington. Fusion Collective has also played at other Huntington venues including Strawberry's, Chesterfields, Solo, Big Kahuna, etc. FusionCollective.com

Bootlegs.tv

The internet's largest collection of free access, downloadable vintage Jazz Fusion audio recordings, featuring more than 1200 concerts, circa 1970's – 80's. Bootlegs.tv

Elwoodstock Music Festival, Elwood

Founded and produced this free event which took place each summer from 2001 to 2010, in the meadow at Elwood Park, featuring some of the region's hottest jam bands and acoustic performers. As of summer 2011 the Elwoodstock Festival has evolved into the Long Island Sound Festival. Elwoodstock.com

