



SEVEN OAKS
EDUCATION FOUNDATION
INC.

Foundation

NEWS

Summer 2019

Seven Oaks Got Talent 2019

A Tradition of Tunes and Good Times... For a Great Cause

By Fran Taylor



Well, they did it again!

The staff of Seven Oaks School Division came together at Club Essence on Friday, March 8th, to raise funds for the Seven Oaks Educational Foundation (SEOF), and got an incredible musical experience in addition to raising over \$6,000 for future scholarships.

Year after year, many of the same bands come together, some dusting off their old guitars and instruments for the cause and others - who have thriving, long-standing professional careers in the music industry in Winnipeg and beyond - generously giving their time for our fundraising efforts. Either way, the bands certainly turned it out that Friday

evening, much to the pleasure and delight of the more than 300 guests who came to support the SOEF and their friends on stage.

We started the night out with Lianne Fournier on the ivories. Lianne hails from West St. Paul School. As always, Lianne hushed the talkative crowd with her dulcet tones. Lianne plays professionally and you can see her work at liannefournier.ca

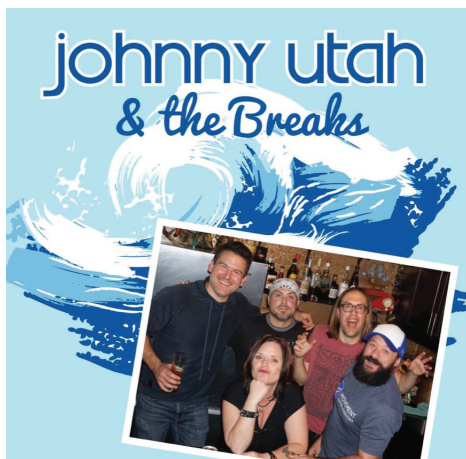
Evan Vitoruk, Stephan Arnold, Scott Main and "The Librarian" Mervin Koscielny wowed the crowd and adoring fans from Amber Trails School as they performed as the Amber Light District. Bryan and the O'Leary's followed them up, formerly known as Brian and the O'Learys as

they added Bryan from OV Jewitt to the multi-Seven-Oaks-Schools band. Heidi Presingular (Amber Trails) belted out some rockin' vocals while Dan Besner (OV Jewitt), Lori Barber (HC Avery), Evan Vitoruk (Amber Trails) and Dave Arbez (Belmont) backed her with a kick-butt band and back-up vocals for a full-sounding performance that got the crowd wound up and dancing.

New to the Seven Oaks Got Talent stage as a solo artist was Sheryl Peltz from Edmund Partridge. She did not disappoint with her guitar playing and singing. The Permanent Contracts hailing from Maples Collegiate, like Bryan and the O'Leary's, have performed for every Seven Oaks Got

Talent performance over the last (how many years have we done this? Eight to nine years?!) The Permanent Contracts included Lindsay Brown on vocals, Chris Buffie on guitar, Britt Hainstock on vocals and bass, Jaclyn Loganberg on keyboard and vocals and Aaron Usiskin-Miller bringing up the beat on drums. Although they claimed to have practiced only a couple of times, they pulled off another brilliant set and continued the party for guests on the dance floor.

The Warners represented the Seven Oaks Fiddlers at the SOEF fundraiser with Karen Warner from Ecole Seven Oaks Middle School, as well as Jim Warner and Naomi. They provided some toe-tapping songs for all. Another perennial favourite was Johnny Utah and the Breaks from Garden City Collegiate Institute; a rock/blues/roots cover band that hails out of Lockport, headed up by Stephan Carson (GCC), they gave the crowd an upbeat and entertaining performance. (Check out their Facebook site to keep up-to-date on when you can catch them live.)



West Kildonan Collegiate brought us three top-notch acts: Lewis and the Lips, PJ Burton and the Chocolate Bunnies from Hell and, finally, Rockabilly Rattlesnake.

Lewis and the Lips (headed by West Kildonan Custodian Daryl Taylor and his band) had back-up support from



Tammy Harder, Merle Cox, Makala Grimes and Zach Brenda. There was even a guest appearance by the Principal of West Kildonan, Howard Kowalchuk, who ripped through a lead on the harmonica!

PJ Burton and the Chocolate Bunnies from Hell pulled off the same tight show they have performed for 35 years. The stage presence of the band and the premium musicians (including a previous mayoral candidate on sax) that backed PJ Burton, English Teacher at West Kildonan, on vocals made for another spectacular performance. Watch out for the Bunnies as they perform periodically around Winnipeg. It's a show that will not disappoint. (You can catch more info on the band through Facebook, YouTube or just Google them!)

The final performance of the night was Rockabilly Rattlesnake, a high-energy trio head by West Kildonan Educational Assistant, Rob Wrigley of the Robert Allan Wrigley Band, Double the Trouble, and Stony Point Trio. With Rob on guitar, Tim Longbottom and Tony on drums, a spectacular dancing set closed the night in a perfect way. Rob and his bands have performed at festivals and music events across Manitoba.

If you have not seen him perform, take the time to seek his performances. His bands always bring it to the stage and leave you wanting more. You can check video or info by searching any of the band names – other than Rockabilly Rattlesnake!

Thanks go out to Seven Oaks Administrators, Howard Kowalchuk (West Kildonan) and Jennifer McGowan (Maples), who were our excellent hosts that gave a little trivia about the SOEF between sets and kept the show flowing and on time. Thanks to the SOEF Board members for working the event and coming up with another array of fantastic prizes for the silent auction. Finally, to my partner in planning and managing the show, Administrator Jane Romio (Edmund Partridge), who keeps me on task and organized.

This year was truly one of the best shows we have offered through Seven Oaks Got Talent and the generous time and talent offered by the performers made it all possible. They proved to all attending what amazing talent we have in Seven Oaks, as musicians and as people who care for the children with whom they work by offering their talent to our cause. Miigwech to you all!