

# OBSERVER-DISPATCH

## Billy Joel tribute returns for Boilermaker Saturday

By **MARK SISTI**

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The Boilermaker 15K Road Race is, for many of us, about tradition – running the race itself (32 years straight for me this year, thank you.) For others, it's the post-race activities, whether at the brewery or in their own backyards.

But for Stanley Center for the Arts Executive Director Jerry Kraus, for the past four years, it's been a new tradition: the Pre-Boilermaker Concert at the historic venue – the first two years with the local band “Classified,” and last year with local keyboardist Rick Zuccaro’s Billy Joel tribute.

This year, the Carbone Auto Group will present an encore performance of last year’s concert, “A Tribute to Billy Joel with Ricky Z. and his All-Star Billy Joel Tribute Band,” from 6 to 8 p.m. on July 8 (a.k.a. Boilermaker Saturday). The band features a stellar lineup of Central New York musicians, led by the area’s own piano man extraordinaire, Rick Zuccaro.

Last year’s concert brought in approximately \$12,000 for the Stanley, making the choice to bring this show back again an easy one for Kraus.

“This is great entertainment for the entire family and we’re excited to be able to open the doors to our beautiful historic Stanley Theater to everyone, including the Boilermaker visitors from out of town,” Kraus said. “With this awesome band, it will be a great night of Billy Joel’s music and more, something for everyone plus a few surprises.”

Zuccaro is a prolific songwriter, accomplished keyboardist, studio musician and live entertainer. He has performed professionally with many accomplished musicians throughout New York, Los Angeles, and Las Vegas, including a recent Stanley appearance opening for music legend Michael McDonald.

He has once again put together a star-studded lineup for the pre-race performance, consisting of drummer Chris Mandry, guitarist/vocalist Mark Bolos, vocalist Julia Scranton, bassist Greeley Ford, trumpeter Scott Rutledge, saxophonist Mike Galime, and keyboardist Ron Zuccaro.

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“I feel Upstate New York, especially Utica, has always had many incredible musicians to record and perform with,” notes Ricky Z.

Zuccaro also will be continuing a tradition of his own, as he will present several Yamaha digital pianos to local schools during intermission, something he has done with 16 local schools to date.

Saturday’s program also will feature children joining the band for several songs and a special classic rock medley set.

Tickets range from \$15 to \$40 and can be purchased by visiting The Stanley box office between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., by calling 315-724-4000, or through Ticketmaster. There are discounts available for Boilermaker participants and volunteers, active military and Stanley members.

And for those runners who are concerned about their hydration, not to worry: A cash bar also will be available, featuring soft drinks and Saranac beers, which I understand are also useful for carbo-loading.

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