

# music scene...



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Rick Zuccaro will perform "A Tribute to Billy Joel with Ricky Z. and his All-Star Billy Joel Tribute Band" at the Stanley Center for the Arts on Saturday.

## Boilermaker meets Billy Joel at Stanley concert

**I**t's Saturday night, the night before the big race. You're staying hydrated. You're fully carbo-loaded. You have your race gear, your shoes, your bib laid out. You're pumped, you're wired and you need to do something, but going out to a bar is certainly out of the question.

Have I got the solution for you.

On Boilermaker Saturday, from 6 to 8 p.m., the Carbone Auto Group will bring "A Tribute to Billy Joel with Ricky Z. and his All-Star Billy Joel Tribute Band" to the Stanley Center for the Arts, featuring a stellar lineup of Central New York musicians, led by the area's own piano man extraordinaire, Rick Zuccaro.

For Central New York native Zuccaro, who has recorded and performed professionally with accomplished musicians throughout New York, Los Angeles and Las Vegas, the decision to form a Billy Joel tribute band was almost accidental.



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"About two years ago, I sat down and played the piano in a Florida hotel bar that was closed for the night," recalls Zuccaro. "Within fifteen minutes, over 80 people took such a great interest in hearing me play Billy Joel music, that I felt it was time to do a Billy Joel tribute band."

Plus, he had another, more practical reason for choosing to emulate this particular keyboard icon: "I don't look much like Elton John or Stevie Wonder, so it is much more believable for me to do a Billy Joel Show."

"All-star Band," if anything, understates this group of players, consisting of some of the most accomplished musicians in Central New York, including drummer Chris

### If You Go

**What:** A Tribute to Billy Joel with Ricky Z. and his All-Star Billy Joel Tribute Band

**When:** 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday

**Where:** The Stanley Center for the Arts, 259 Genesee St., Utica

**Details:** Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$40.

Mandry, guitarist/vocalist Mark Bolos, vocalist Julia Scranton, bassist Greeley Ford, trumpeter Scott Rutledge, saxophonist Mike Galime, and keyboardist Ron Zuccaro.

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

Billy Joel's career has spanned more than 40 years, and keeping up with the stylistic changes is a challenge, but it's one that this band is up to.

"We play all eras of Billy Joel's

portfolio," promises Zuccaro. "We chose all the best parts from the recordings and the live versions, and perform a blended style."

"There is a great deal of improvisation, but always staying within the style of Billy Joel's well-established sound."

Also on Saturday's program will be The Voice contestant Ryan Quinn and actor Jonathan Goldsmith, who has portrayed The Most Interesting Man in the World.

Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$40 and can be purchased by visiting The Stanley box office between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., by phone at 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.