

OBSERVER-DISPATCH

Stanley crowd rocks to Billy Joel tribute

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UTICA — The Stanley Center for the Arts was rocking to the music of Billy Joel on the eve of Boilermaker 2017 as Ricky Z and his New All-Star Tribute Band took to the stage amid a good size crowd.

While Billy Joel classics dominated the show, the band threw in plenty of surprise rock classics and special guests to keep the audience on their toes.

It was evident that band leader Rick Zuccaro was happy to be back on the Stanley stage, sharing his usual high energy and enthusiasm with the crowd. Zuccaro, who grew up in Utica, recently opened for Michael McDonald on the same stage and has performed with many accomplished musicians from New York City to Los Angeles.

The band's main foundation included: Zuccaro on vocals and keyboard, drummer Chris Mandry, guitarist and vocalist Mark Bolos, vocalist Julie Scranton, bassist Greeley Ford, trumpet player and vocalist Scott Rutledge, and saxophonist Mike Galime.

Keeping with tradition, Zuccaro brought to center stage many surprises, including several talented members of the Zuccaro family. And in keeping with another tradition, a new digital piano was donated to a local elementary school as a part of Ricky Z's Piano Donation Program.

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