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Milford bartender makes martinis and music

Photos



Allan Jung/Daily News staff
Milford singer/songwriter and bartender Anthony Giuliano stands behind the bar at Trattoria 89 Centrale.

By Danielle Ameden/Daily News staff
GHS

Posted Apr 25, 2008 @ 02:04 PM

Most nights, he's making martinis here at Trattoria 89 Centrale.

But when he slips out from behind the bar, Anthony Giuliano is an acoustic guitarist, a self-proclaimed "Beatles nut" with a Boston accent and a philosophy degree who's aspiring to be a singer/songwriter.

"It's not about being famous," Giuliano says.

It's a dream he started chasing after discovering his parents' record collection as a second-grader.

As a kid, he had the Fab Four's music going non-stop on an old turntable, singing to the mirror and playing it softly as he slept, until osmosis sank in.

A few decades later, Giuliano is recording his original songs, doing gigs here and there, including at the End Zone in Mendon tomorrow.

"This is kind-of autobiographical," he said this week, singing the lyrics as "Wishing Well" played on the computer in his apartment.

It's a song he wrote about "friendly fire," or being "a single person in a relationship world," he said.

"Keeping up with the Joneses was never my plan," Giuliano sings.

"My advice to people is to be true to yourself," he said.

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Another song is called "Hang On."

"In life, you gotta hang on," he said.

Songwriting, "some people say it's kind of storytelling," he said, wearing jeans and a blue-plaid shirt over a black "Second Helpin" tee.

Influenced by artists such as Paul Simon and Jim Croce, Giuliano covers classic hits and writes and performs his own music.

"He's been growing and growing in leaps and bounds," said Chris Billias, who is producing Giuliano's CD at Bristol Studios.

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"With Tony, you know what you get. As a person, he's a sweetheart," Billias said. "He's still getting closer and closer to his style."

Giuliano's music is acoustic with a little hard edge, Billias says. "Not too rock-and-roll."

Sitting in his makeshift studio, Giuliano broke into "Wild Thing" on his black Takamine.

At the End Zone, he's doing 15 songs, including some originals and covers including John Lennon's "Working Class Heroes," the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun," tunes by Chicago and Bruce Springsteen.

As a boy growing up in Hopedale, Giuliano quit lessons after learning "Jingle Bells" because his kid-sized fingers weren't big enough for the guitar, and Little League kept him busy running bases.

For his 13th birthday, he got an electric guitar.

He practiced, learned how to play a power chord, and was soon writing lyrics and recording on a boom box.

His first song was "about a girl I liked, or something."

"I was so embarrassed to sing," he said. "I would sing when nobody else was around."

At Boston College, he learned to entertain by making music freshman year with the guys in his dorm.

After college, he got together with some musicians in a cheap jam space to create the band Second Helpin', playing base as lead singer, doing Southern rock, classic rock and Giuliano's originals at hot spots across Central Mass.

A "real job" came along from AIG, and Giuliano started underwriting for property and casual insurance before ditching corporate America for music.

"I wanted to do this," said Giuliano, who is also certified to teach high school history. "I was so frustrated that I had to go to work."

After taking a songwriter's workshop and vocal lessons, Giuliano made a demo.

Now, he's recording his songs at Bristol Studios in Boston, expecting his first full-length CD to be out in September or October.

The songs will be available on CD Baby and iTunes.

Giuliano picked up the bartending job to support his dream, and at Trattoria 89, people are cheering on his music career.

"They want to know what you're doing," he said. "They're always, 'How's the music going?'"

For more information visit www.myspace.com/tonygiuliano.

Danielle Ameden can be reached at 508-634-7521 or dameden@cnc.com.)

WHAT: Anthony Giuliano opens for the Jeff Mason Band

WHEN: Friday, April 25, doors open at 7 p.m., Giuliano plays at 8

WHERE: End Zone, Rte. 16, Mendon

COST: \$10 cover

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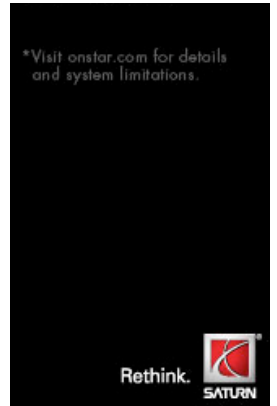
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