

Helen Marketti's Music Corner

Start Me Up - The Ultimate Rolling Stone Tribute



Start Me Up will be doing a show at Jimmy Bukkett's in Fremont on August 29.

Joey Ortega better known as "Joey O" is the lead guitar player for Start Me Up - The Ultimate Rolling Stones Tribute. Joey shares the history of the band, fond memories of their friend and former lead singer, Scott Gast and his hopes for the band's future.

There are many tribute bands for various artists. They offer a way for fans to see as close to the "real deal" as possible. Some tribute bands are spot on in their portrayal of a band whereas others seem to wane in their efforts. "You have to focus on the essence of who the band is or was, that's what we try to capture in Start Me Up," explains Joey. "We try to do a big representation of the Stones from their early days when Brian Jones was with the band, then when Mick Taylor was a part of the group and up to and including Ronnie Wood. I think their glory days were the late 60s and early 70s. Another good thing about The Stones is that you have 50 years of material."

"I formed the group with Scott Gast and Paul Letherer. I have known Paul since

we were kids. I had known Scott since he was a teenager," explains Joey. "Scott and I had a mutual friend in Sandusky, Randy Porter who had a recording studio. Randy had introduced me to Scott who was still in high school at the time. I went to see Scott when he got his band, The CoCoBeanOs going. I had encouraged him to go out there and play a million gigs, pay his dues. I saw something in him that was special. He was a diamond in the rough. He had all of the passion, the genuine love and interest in music."

In the early morning hours of November 2, 2014, Scott Gast passed away in a one-vehicle accident. While his loss is felt through everyone who knew and loved him, his ambition to do what he wanted for himself should serve as a positive influence to others. Music was a significant and meaningful focus in Scott's life. He always took himself to the next level of where he wanted to be in his career.

"One of the great things about Scott; he was very humble and kind to everyone. He had the talent and the right personality. He was perfect for our band. He was a complete rock star on stage. I couldn't be more proud of him and what we accomplished," said Joey. "The rest of us in the band were at least 20 years older than Scott. We looked upon him as our friend and little brother."

The crowds grew louder and larger with each show that Start Me Up performed. Their first show in Alpena, Michigan drew 2,500 fans. Their last show in Honduras drew 100,000 fans with numbers continually growing.

"We started out rehearsing in Scott's basement in Castalia, Ohio six years ago to performing in front of thousands of people. Those kinds of crowds are what Scott was looking for and I'm glad our band pro-

vided an opportunity for him to get a taste of what that was like. I sometimes felt he thought he was never going to get in front of crowds that large. I remember him once telling me he would watch film footage of The Beatles. He loved how the hysteria followed the band everywhere they went. Scott said he had hoped to achieve that one day," recalls Joey. "He did so with Start Me Up which Scott would acknowledge over and over. He had the talent. He had the "it" factor."

During the days, weeks and months that followed Scott's passing, Joey wasn't sure he could go on playing guitar. "I stayed home for days at a time after hearing the news and just wept. I couldn't function. It seemed so impossible to believe that he was gone," said Joey. "One day my wife, Donna told me that I had to get myself going again. Gradually, I came to realize that this was a band Scott had helped create and build. It would be a disappointment to him if we let it fold so we have kept going because it's the right thing to do and what he would have wanted. We continue on in Scott's honor."

The show scheduled in Wooster on July 24 has special significance, as it is one of the last two shows that Scott booked for the band. The other show is on August 29 at Jimmy Bukkett's in Fremont, Ohio.

The current line up of Start Me Up includes Joey on lead guitar, Bob Wotherspoon (vocals), Paul Letherer (drums), Sean McKinney (rhythm guitar) and Jess Mann (bass). "Our current line up is going well," said Joey. "After Scott passed our band mate, Jeff who had played "Keith Richards" left the group. It was too difficult for him to go on without Scott in the band. It came as a shock because we were counting on everyone to support each other but we understood."



"Bob who plays "Mick Jagger" is someone we have known for a long time and he does look like Mick!" (laughs)

Wherever they may travel and play, Scott is in their hearts. "One big thing I have learned from knowing him is that you have to prioritize what is important in your life. There is a lesson for everyone here. Focus on what you want to do with your life. Everything else is a distraction. Scott tried hard to please everyone. When he focused on himself, he was absolutely awesome. We are looking forward to celebrating Scott's life and our love of music. I can't say enough great things about the guy. He was one in a billion." For more information: www.startmeuprollingstonetribute.com




The Bellevue Hospital
Quality Care, Close To Home

24-Hour Emergency Care
All Private Inpatient Rooms

Cardiac Rehabilitation
Cardiac Stress Testing
Cardiopulmonary Services
Center for Women's Health
Centralized Scheduling
Childbirth Education
Classes
Cleveland Clinic Heart & Vascular Institute
Clyde Health Services
Clyde Urgent Care
Community Wellness & Educational Programs
CT Scans
DEXA Bone Scans
Diabetes Self Management & Education

Diabetes Support Group
Diagnostic Imaging Center
Digital Mammography
Family Birthing Center
Gift Shop
Health Screenings
Hydrotherapy Pool
Inpatient & Outpatient Surgery
Laboratory Services
Main Station Café
Mature Audience Luncheons
Neurosurgery & Pulmonology
Northwest Ohio Medical Equipment
Nuclear Medicine
Nutrition Counseling
Occupational Health Center

OPEN Bore MRI
Pain Management Center - Bellevue & Clyde
Physician Referral Services
Pulmonary Function Testing
R2 Mammography
ImageChecker
Rehabilitation Services - PT, OT, Speech Therapy
Sleep Disorders Center
Speaker's Bureau
Specialty Physician Services
Stereotactic Breast Biopsy
Support Groups
The Bellevue Hospital Foundation
Ultrasound Services

Volunteers & VolunTEENS
Wellness & Walking Trail
Women's Imaging Center
Yoga Classes



Bellevue
419.483.4040

Clyde
419.547.0074

Fremont, Republic, Green Springs
419.639.2065

1400 West Main Street • P.O. Box 8004 • Bellevue, Ohio 44811-8004 • www.bellevuehospital.com