

## Spring 2007 Ensemble Showcase at the Famous Fitzgerald's Club By Sophie Hall

This spring, **Musical Expressions** ensembles performed at the famous "Fitzgerald's" in Berwyn. Well over 100 friends, family, children and adults had terrific time supporting these talented musicians. This ensemble program session was a great learning experience for all and their performances were certainly memorable.

**Grey Matters** definitely had fun performing for the large crowd. On vocals, Jennifer Lasek sang with great stage presence. John Pratapas, whose influences include John Lennon and Neil Young rocked out the lead with excellent precision. He said, "It requires a lot of time, work, and patience for individual musicians to learn to play new songs together as a group," but he agrees that this was an excellent learning experience for him and his fellow band mates. Bea Borges, who is one of the "Rockin' Moms" in a previous ensemble, played bass. Mark Olson played lead guitar and performed some high-class solos that brought this band to another level. Overall, this band did an excellent job on their performance.

**After School Special**, the Junior High ensemble, played their highly catchy version of "Are You Gonna be my Girl?" by Jet. The lead singer, Jessica, changed the words to "Are You Gonna be my Man?" to fit accordingly. Her charisma shined through as she sang as if her man were truly out in the audience. "She really connected with the audience," said Sue Good, who is the Musical Expressions administrator and an attendee at the performance. Aaron, the drummer, did a great job keeping the rhythms groovin' throughout the whole performance. Daniel, covered the low tones on bass with great enthusiasm, while Jimmy kept the melody jammin' on guitar. Other songs performed included "I Want You to Want Me" by Cheap Trick and "Self Esteem" by The Offspring.

Jenna, Dana, Scott, Aaron and Matt, rocked the house under the name of **Black Market Blues**. They performed their original interpretations of "Statesboro Blues" by the Allman Brothers and "Black Velvet" by Alannah Myles. Jenna strong and striking voice excelled above any expectations the audience might have had. Matt and Dana, the two guitarists for the band, along with bass player Scott, worked very well together. They had a unique take on the covers performed that gave the ensemble a distinct flavor. Aaron, the very talented drummer, kept the beat going with great rhythmic control. This band obviously put in a great amount of effort to make their final show so engaging. The audience loved Black Market Blues.

The final act for the afternoon was a high school group who went by the name of **The Chanterelles**. The singer, Amanda's voice had plenty of character when singing songs such as "My Generation" and "Pinball Wizard" by The Who. Alex, did a great job on bass and skillfully complimented Zach and Jack's amazing guitar work. Aaron, who also drummed for Black Market Blues, kept his set impressively steady and flawless through

to the end of the show. Like the other bands, The Chanterelles had an extraordinary performance and had a great time in rehearsals and through to the end of the program.

[The next Musical Expressions ensemble session is under way, with several bands participating this summer; so check back for future performance information.]