

Fighting the good fight

Local singer-songwriter balances family, home and work and keeps making music

Although it seems cliché to say it, Jay Scott is living the life of a hard working musician and somehow keeping the different parts of his life together as a busy new husband, a new homeowner and a new father.

A 29-year-old lifelong resident of Patchogue and 1996 graduate of Patchogue-Medford High School, Jayson Scott Velez and his wife, Kim, purchased their first home in Patchogue in 2006, and welcomed their son, Raymond, into the world this past March. Like many young couples on Long Island trying to make ends meet, Kim and Jay both work full time. Jay works two jobs, one during the day and the other an evening shift on the maintenance staff at Saxton Middle School. In between he makes time to help around the house and somehow finds time to write songs, rehearse, record and perform as his audience continues to grow.

Jay Scott began playing instruments and writing songs from an early age. Studying bass and saxophone through college, he later taught himself guitar and began recording songs he had written based on his life.

"Life happens everyday, for better or worse," he said, "but music is a constant influence in my life—it is a release. My goal is for my music to inspire hope, because sometimes that is all you have."

In 2002 and 2003 Scott played all over Long Island and New York City with some success as part of a band called *Square1*. Feeling optimistic, the band moved to Southern California where they toured from Los Angeles to



Jay Scott performing recently at the BrickHouse Brewery.

San Diego. Playing nightly, *Square1* began to draw crowds, but tension in the band began to grow, so they left the west coast, took some time off and regrouped. *Square1* evolved into *Simple Citizen* when Christie DeFeao, also of Patchogue, joined the group as their drummer. *Simple Citizen* had some success playing live along the South Shore but parted company in 2004, leaving Scott and DeFeao to begin work on Jay Scott as a solo artist. They resisted the temptation to

form a cover band, even though the opportunities to perform live on Long Island are much more numerous playing popular rock music than they are for original musicians.

"I have found that when I perform my own songs," Scott said, "there is always at least one person who comes to talk with me after the set and offers enthusiastic comments about the songs and the sound. This has encouraged me to continue on the path as an original artist."

Scott and DeFeao recorded a demo of four songs in DeFeao's North

Patchogue home studio and began to play with a variety of bassists, guitarists and an occasional violinist in selected venues on the South Shore of Long Island, honing and polishing the sound and working on new songs. DeFeao coined the name *Grand Case Scenario* for the band because of the fluid nature of the players.

In addition to his new fatherhood, 2007 has been a year that came together for Jay Scott professionally. In January he headlined the popular "Live in the Lobby" series at the Patchogue Theatre. He performed at Acoustic Long Island in St. James which is podcasted to thousands of listeners around the world and he has also been featured on a number of other Internet radio programs such as WLSO Radio *Longtown Sound from South Carolina*.

Aaron Palmadessa of Bellport first performed with *Grand Case Scenario* in late August and the Jay Scott sound just clicked as his work on electric lead guitar and lap steel guitar complimented and enhanced Jay's sound in a way that had even longtime fans standing up and taking notice. This led to a performance at Luna Lounge, a well-known venue in Brooklyn followed by a triumphant performance at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts on Sept. 15.

"Playing on that stage was the most amazing experience," Scott said, "and the staff at the theatre is so professional that we sounded great, were completely comfortable, and had the time of our lives." That same night, Scott released a six-song CD *Music*

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Forge River study to commence

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pollution from storm water runoff. Nitrogen also appears because of excessive duck excrement from duck farms over the past several decades.

Some Forge River advocates have called for dredging of the river to remove the duck sludge and allow cleaner water to filter into the river. McAllister said he hoped the Army Corps of Engineers wouldn't simply rely on dredging as the only possible solution and would instead adopt a long-term solution that could include creating a sewer district.

"To come in and say, 'We've determined that dredging is the answer' will be missing the big part of the equation here," McAllister said. "Many of us believe in long-term solutions. It's complex and comprehensive. It's yet to be proven that tidal flushing (from dredging) will remove a significant source of the nitrogen problem. I

know it's challenging but we can address the on-site sanitary problems perhaps through technology or a sewer district. Long-term solutions will be very costly but we have to keep them on the table."

In addition, McAllister said he favored a Brookhaven Town moratorium against building on the river to prevent several large parcels of land from being developed. He said since it is known that waste from septic tanks leeching into the river have caused nitrogen levels to spike, adding more condominiums doesn't make sense. "The moratorium is very important so we can take a much-needed time-out to allow the watershed management plan to be developed and develop the total maximum daily load, and identify the sources of nitrogen," he said. "Based on the best science available, we have to develop management strategies for restoring the health of the river." ■

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for the *Mind and Soul*, which contained the four songs from the demo recording in addition to two solo acoustic performances. However, his longtime goal has been to record a full-length album.

"I have more than enough songs for a full-length CD," he said, "but with a new house and a new baby it's not in the cards to be able to afford studio time."

He continues to juggle the sched-

ule, hopeful for an opening on the day shift at Saxton Middle School that will free up time in the evening for more performances. "Music is not paying the bills right now," Scott said, "but it's an important part of my life, and my career is heading in the right direction, so I am nothing but optimistic about the future."

Scott's songs, tour schedule, photos and contact information are available at JayScottLive.com. His CD *Music for the Mind and Soul* is available at ParadiddleRecords.com. ■

Blotter

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Yaphank

At 8:45 a.m. on Oct. 4, a power washer was reported stolen from a shed on Middle Island-Yaphank Road.

Burglaries

At 4 a.m. on Oct. 3, a woman reported a burglary on Horse Block Road in Medford.

At 8 a.m. on Sept. 28, a woman reported a burglary on Country Club Road in Bellport.

At 6:29 a.m. on Oct. 2, police were notified of a burglary on Montauk Highway in North Bellport.

At 12:40 a.m. on Oct. 3, police were notified of a burglary on Post Avenue in North Bellport.

At 2:20 p.m. on Oct. 1, police were notified of a burglary on Station Road in North Bellport.

At 10:50 p.m. on Oct. 6, police were notified of a burglary on Walker Avenue in North Bellport.

At 2:20 a.m. on Sept. 29, a woman reported a burglary on Dayton Avenue in Manorville.

At 11 a.m. on Oct. 6, a man reported a burglary on Meadow Court in Manorville.

At 3:15 a.m. on Oct. 3, a man reported a burglary on Neighborhood Road in Mastic Beach.

At 6 p.m. on Oct. 3, a woman reported a burglary on Edgewater Drive in Mastic Beach.

At 10:30 a.m. on Sept. 29, a man reported a burglary on Flower Road in Mastic Beach. ■



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