

# ARTS ENTERTAINMENT

## Out of Scotch Plains Is Born a Humble King of the Entertainment Industry

By KERRIANNE SPELLMAN CORT  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**SCOTCHPLAINS**—In the spring of 1990, when lifelong Scotch Plains resident Dan Catullo graduated from Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School (SPFHS), he had hopes and dreams like everyone else. With plans to attend college at West Virginia University, the future looked exciting and promising.

Little did Catullo know that had he been able to view a slice of his upcoming life through the lens of a futuristic time machine, in 10 years he would find himself on a first name basis with such tremendous celebrities as Willie Nelson, Etta James, B.B. King, Marilyn Manson, The Go-Go's, Godsmack, and drummer Tommy Lee, to name a few.

A love of music inspired Catullo to leave college after two years to pursue a career in entertainment. He worked as a stagehand at The Meadowlands for several years, learning first-hand the tools of his trade.

Presently, Catullo is President and CEO of Coming Home Entertainment Group, LLC, a television production company with many subdivisions in California. This incredibly successful company has produced countless television specials and DVD projects, and expects this coming year's revenue to be in the \$25 million dollar range.

With 13 fulltime employees and hundreds more contracted for a live show, Coming Home Productions is so heavily in demand that Catullo has to turn work down on a daily basis.

The company has a full in-house post facility where Catullo works side by side with his clients. He is currently at work with Marilyn Manson, editing the upcoming broadcast version of "Guns, Gods and Government, Live."

Not bad for a boy from Scotch Plains. So how did this young man achieve his dream in such a mind-boggling way? Persistence. Faith. Sixteen-hour days. A passion for your work. And a little luck, but not much.

Catullo admitted that his success is



HE KNOWS THE WINNERS...Daniel E. Catullo, a former Westfield resident and President/CEO of Coming Home Entertainment Group in Sherman Oaks, Calif., poses after presenting Carlos Santana the "Artist of the Year" award at the 1999 Latin Style Music Awards show. Mr. Catullo was the Executive Producer of the show.

quite amazing, but he is grateful and humble. He recognizes that the entertainment industry is a tenuous one at best, but so far, it appears that the gods are smiling on him.

Not one to let it all go to his head, he is still best friends with James Mulligan, his pal from SPFHS. Mulligan is also doing quite well for himself and currently acts as the Director of Security for Coming Home Productions, working side by side with his buddy.

Catullo told *The Westfield Leader* and *The Times of Scotch Plains-Fanwood* that he feels that anyone can make it in the entertainment industry if they truly want to. He said that just because someone lives in Union



Courtesy of Daniel E. Catullo  
Sully Erna, the lead singer of Godsmack, left, and Dan Catullo, Coming Home Entertainment produced the group's DVD, which has placed No. 3 on the Billboard Music Chart.



Courtesy of Daniel E. Catullo  
Dan Catullo and Willie Nelson

County, it doesn't mean that it is impossible to achieve such a dream. Nothing is free, but with hard work and determination, it can happen.

He also wanted to mention that he will never forget his Business Teacher from SPFHS, Fran DeSalvo. He admitted that it was DeSalvo who lit a fire under him and taught him to work truly hard to achieve his dreams. He wanted to thank her for inspiring him to be his best.

Catullo and his wife, Madelyn, were married in Napa, Calif. in 2000, and he is happy to say that he is glad that his wife also works with him at Coming Home, otherwise they would hardly ever see one another. The demands of the business are too great and Catullo finds himself traveling constantly, but it is much less stressful with Madelyn by his side, he related.

Coming Home currently has an enormous contract with Image Entertainment, (the largest DVD distributor in the United States.) and the company is considering opening another office in Manhattan at some point.

The future indeed looks bright for Catullo and his company. The *Leader/Times* is looking forward to hearing of their continued success.

For more information on Catullo or Coming Home Entertainment Group, please visit [www.cominghomeproductions.com](http://www.cominghomeproductions.com).



Dr. Joseph P. DeAlessandro, left, receives his Honorary Doctorate Degree from then-President of the CIA, Ferdinand E. Metz.

## Mourning My Mentor, Friend Joe DeAlessandro

By MICHELLE H. LE POIDEVIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**WESTFIELD** — Extraordinarily accomplished in the business world, Dr. Joseph P. DeAlessandro of Westfield excelled equally as a compassionate and deeply altruistic human being. His death last Saturday, at the age of 71, leaves a massive void in the hearts of those who called him their employer, colleague, relative and friend.

When I met him, nearly four years ago at the office of *The Westfield Leader*, our conversation was "all business." Writing a restaurant review for the newspaper was his proposal and I was delighted to embrace his expertise. The first few outings involved dining together at Ferraro's Restaurant and the Stage House Inn, conversing about Italian food, my fear of New York City, his love of the metropolis and his gracious companion, Jeanette, who simply lit up like an angel when she was near him.

On May 28, 1999, despite an arduous trek on the Metro-North Railroad to The Culinary Institute (CIA) of America in Hyde Park, N.Y., I joined Joe and a number of his friends and family in celebrating his Honor-

Continued on Page 19

## THE MUSIC CORNER

WITH DAVID PALLADINO

### WSO Presents Beethoven Pieces At Their Best

By DAVID PALLADINO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**WESTFIELD** — Maestro David Wroe and the Westfield Symphony Orchestra (WSO) have once again managed to offer a most extraordinary concert experience.

The virtuosi of the orchestra as well as some fantastic soloists were on hand this past Saturday evening at the Union County Arts Center (UCAC) in downtown Rahway to perform *Tangents* for Chamber Orchestra by George Walker; the *Concerto for Violin and Piano in G minor* by Mendelssohn; and the *Symphony no. 3 in E flat Major "Eroica"* by Beethoven.

The orchestra opened with a work by a Walker, a pianist, teacher and later composer, who was also present at the performance to give a personal introduction to his piece. *Tangents*, which he wrote in 1999, is a short "fanfare for the new millennium" commissioned by the Pro Music Chamber Orchestra of Columbus, Ohio. The work contains jazz and pop influence.

Walker explained that toward the conclusion of the work, a famous Cole Porter tune might be heard, although the audience probably wouldn't recognize it as such.

Violinist Dmitri Berlinski and pianist Elena Bakshat offered a beautifully polished rendition of the rarely heard Mendelssohn *Concerto for Violin and Piano in G minor*. The capable Russian duo lit the stage on fire with their passion and mastery of the work.

For example, after a brief exciting opening by the orchestra, Berlinski im-

Continued on Page 19

## Chains, Nails, Iron, Metal, Tin: The Ingredients For Tomasulo's Tribal Exhibit

By MARYLOU MORANO  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

**CRANFORD** — A mixed media exhibit by Morristown artist Bina Washington, which explores contemporary spirituality, mythology and magic, is currently on display at Union County College's Tomasulo Gallery in Cranford until Thursday, February 21.

Entitled "Down to the Bone," the exhibit features sculpture, prints and collages constructed of canvas, leather, bones and found objects.

The sculptures and collages project a heavy African aura that is almost tribal in nature. Most are dark pieces that reflect the objects of which they are constructed — among which are chains, nails, iron, metal and tin.

Contrasting with the heavy metallic feel of the works are beads, shells, wood, bones and assorted found objects, such as a set of keys or a gourd, for example.

Some of the collages project a feeling of being artistic works within artistic works. In "Mojo No. 1," which is constructed of canvas, wool, leather, bone, tin and found items, one sees objects within objects.

Washington uses this technique to imbue the pieces with real force. Weaving is interspersed throughout to create a contemporary three dimensional relief form within the artwork itself.

The inspiration for much of the "Down to the Bone" collection comes from masks, decorative embellishments and ritual objects. The pieces on exhibit are very reflective of their origin and leave the viewer no doubt as to what inspired them.

"Down to the Bone" expresses my desire to always get to the heart of things. The nitty gritty, the raw exposed areas, the skeletal support that holds it all together," Washington said in a prepared statement. "The scraps thrown away that I gather together and reconstruct. The bone licked clean, the truth exposed right down to the bone, the total ecstasy, down to the bone."

While somewhat overshadowed in both form and statement by the collages and sculpture, Washington's prints give strong voice to social views and relationships in a more subtle manner.

"I believe in the ability of art to transform. Art has the power to make things happen! I am compelled to make these ideas visible in my work," she continued.

Washington's exhibit, "Facing Each Other," has appeared in Philadelphia and her "Impressions and Perception" at the Noyes Museum in Oceanville. Her work is also on exhibit at the Newark Museum in Newark and The Atlantic Life Insur-

ance Company in Atlanta, Ga.

The Tomasulo Gallery is located on the first floor of the MacKay Library on the campus of Union County College, 1033 Springfield Avenue, Cranford, Gallery hours are from 1 to 4 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays and on Satur-



Marylou Morano for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
"Mojo Quilt," canvas, wool, leather, bone, wood, raffia and found objects.



Marylou Morano for The Westfield Leader and The Times  
"She Didn't Know I Had Other Secrets to Tell," blue monprint of Chile calle, transfer and woven paper.

days. Evening hours are from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays through Thursdays.

For more information, please call the Tomasulo Gallery at (908) 709-7155.



## Pen & Ink

By Michelle H. Le Poidevin

### U2 Quakes Big Easy With Patriotic Flair In Best Halftime Performance

By MICHELLE H. LE POIDEVIN  
Specially Written for The Westfield Leader and The Times

"Who had the ball?" my father asks from the kitchen during one of the playoff games.

On the brink of falling off the edge of the sofa, I return a well-intentioned answer, "The team that just scored."

"Michelle, what color was the uniform?" Poor dad. Every Le Poidevin in the tri-state area has made him or herself famous because of their over-the-top athletic genetics. Though he tossed a ball around the yard with me from time to time, I was clearly on the wrong line when they were giving out those sports genes. Just ask my old gym teacher at Roselle Catholic. They'll deny ever knowing me.

I like to think my God-given talents are a bit different — an eye for art, an ear for music, a palate for most kinds of food, and a nose for news. And, while this past Sunday's halftime Super Bowl XXXVI show would normally be inconsequential to me, I was bewitched, bedazzled and bowled over by E\*Trade's Financial-sponsored U2 concert.

When the Dublin, Ireland natives came to the U.S. with a lyrical style that might have become lost in the saccharine-infused era of Madonna, Wham! and Whitney Houston. They were singing about a homeland overrun by war and terrorism. We were too self-absorbed to hear or appreciate the lyrics, but we dug the music well enough to buy the records. The 80s and, even the 90s, showed no true imminent threats of terrorism such as what we witnessed on 9-11.

Therefore, it seemed only fitting that Sunday's performance, which was held amid the highest security cocoon of any sports-related event in history, involved the Dubliners who know how to overcome fear and terrorism better than most.

Choking back tears and spine-tingling emotion were not rare reactions to the performance, as the four men were engulfed by a giant red heart, hand-held red lights, and screaming fans — all while the names of those lost in the 9-11 terrorist attacks were scrolling down behind them. "Where the Streets Have No Name" was the band's anthem, which drew the crowd and viewers at home closer in a renewed sense of patriotism.

While most of us have dismantled our American flags from the antennae of our cars, the pins from our lapels and the blasé sense of "business as usual," U2's performance reminded us of the horror we faced as a nation and the courage we collectively possess to

Continued on Page 19

**WESTFIELD Bach FESTIVAL**  
Johann Sebastian Bach

<p><b>Friday, February 22</b></p> <p><b>Coffeehouse Cantatas</b> 7:30 PM - Parish Hall \$20 general, \$15 senior, \$10 student</p> <p>St. Paul's Episcopal Church 414 East Broad Street Westfield, New Jersey</p> <p><b>Program:</b> Coffee Cantata (BWV 211) Peasant Cantata (BWV 212)</p> <p>These amusing cantatas (sung in English in a coffeehouse setting) show that Bach had a sense of humor, too.</p>	<p><b>Saturday, February 23</b></p> <p><b>Bach Symposium:</b> <b>Signs, Symbols &amp; Pictures</b> 11:00 AM - Patton Auditorium Free of charge</p> <p><b>Pulling Out All the Stops:</b> <b>Bach Organ Marathon</b> 2:00 PM - Sanctuary \$20 general, \$15 senior, \$10 student</p> <p>First Congregational Church 125 Elmer Street Westfield, New Jersey</p> <p><b>Organists:</b> Rives Cassel (2:00 PM) Trent Johnson (2:45 PM) Donald Sutherland (3:30 PM) Barbara Thomson (4:15 PM)</p>
<p><b>Sunday, February 24</b></p> <p><b>Westfield Bach Festival Gala Concert</b> 7:30 PM \$30 general, \$20 senior, \$15 student</p> <p><b>Westfield Bach Festival Chorus, Soloists, and Orchestra</b> Phillip Diesterich, Conductor</p> <p><b>Pre-Concert Lecture - 6:30 PM</b> Paul Somers, Director, Classical New Jersey Society</p> <p>The Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity Westfield Avenue and First Street Westfield, New Jersey</p> <p><b>Program:</b> Concerto in C minor for Two Harpsichords Orchestral Suite No. 3 in D Cantata No. 56: Ich will den Kreuzstab gerne tragen Cantata No. 19: Es erhub sich ein Streit</p> <p>Westfield Bach Festival Chorus, Soloists, and Orchestra</p> <p><b>Series tickets: \$55 general, \$40 senior, \$25 student.</b></p> <p>These concerts have been made possible in part by a generous grant from The Westfield Foundation.</p> <p><b>Advance tickets:</b> Series tickets only are available from: The Classic Basket (411 South Ave. West), Lancaster, Ltd. (76 Elm Street), Periwinkle's (9 Elm Street), Betty Gallagher Antiques (266 East Broad). Series &amp; individual tickets are available from: First Congregational Church, First United Methodist Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, The Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity, The Presbyterian Church of Westfield</p> <p>Visit us online at <a href="http://www.westfieldnj.com/bach">www.westfieldnj.com/bach</a></p>	

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