

## Nostalgia — The Big Band in Concert at Mindowaskin Park

WESTFIELD — The Westfield Community Swing Band, Nostalgia — The Big Band, a 16-piece swing band returns to Mindowaskin Park for a 12th season, tonight, Thursday, July 26.

Nostalgia — The Big Band, performs under the leadership of Sal Melillo and conducted by Sam Calello. Most of Nostalgia's members are musicians who perform extensively with big bands and other ensembles throughout the New Jersey and New York region.

The band takes it's listeners on a nostalgic journey back through time creating the styles and sounds of the classic big bands. Many of the scores to be performed that evening are the original arrangements from the bands of Tommy Dorsey, Count Basie, Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Harry James and Artie Shaw.

The evening will feature two vocal soloists including Katie Locke on "Too Close for Comfort," "Night and

Day," and "Over the Rainbow." Edward Boutsford will be singing Frank Sinatra's "The Tender Trap," "Fly Me to the Moon," and Michael Buble's, "Sway."

Nostalgia will also perform Glenn Miller's arrangements of "String of Pearls" and "In the Mood". Other selections include Count Basie's, "Until I Met You" and "All of Me," Duke Ellington's "Things Ain't What they Used to Be" and "Perdido".

The concert will be held on the Gazebo in Mindowaskin Park, located next to the Westfield Municipal Building at 425 East Broad Street. The concert is free; audience members are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs. The Westfield Community Swing Band is sponsored by the Westfield Recreation Department, Bruce Kaufman, Director. For further information, and direction contact (908) 789-4080 or the Swing Band at (908) 342-2227 or visit [www.nostalgiahebigband.com](http://www.nostalgiahebigband.com).



Nostalgia - The Big Band

## Plainfield Symphony Announces Its 93rd Season Opening October 13

PLAINFIELD - The Plainfield Symphony announced its 93rd subscription concert season. The season begins on Saturday, October 13, with Sir Edward Elgar's haunting Cello "Concerto in E" and Sibelius' harmonious "Symphony No. 2" with soloist Jameson Platte.

On November 17, "Saturday Fantastique" will feature soloist Brianna Tang, the Gold Prize winner from the Young Pianist Competition of New Jersey, performing Arensky's "Fantasia Themes of

Ryabinin, op.48." The evening will include Berlioz's popular "Symphonie Fantastique" and Debussy's famous "Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun."

Season tickets for the 2012-2013 concerts are now on sale and can be purchased on our website, [www.plainfieldsymphony.org](http://www.plainfieldsymphony.org). For a brochure, call (908) 561-5140. Concerts are held at the Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church, 716 Watchung Avenue, Plainfield at 7 p.m.

**POPCORN™**

**"Katy Perry: Part of Me"**

**Star is Born: The Rock Version**

3 popcorns

One Popcorn, Poor • Two Popcorns, Fair • Three Popcorns, Good • Four Popcorns, Excellent

By **MICHAEL S. GOLDBERGER**  
Film Critic

A point of disclosure before reviewing directors Dan Cutforth and Jane Lipsitz's rock tour documentary, "Katy Perry: Part of Me." While I'm old enough to be her father, the subject, born Kathryn Elizabeth Hudson, is my latest fantasy heartthrob. Oh, it's OK. As always, I've cleared it with my wife. You see, I pick a new Dulcinea every decade or so.

And my real-life fantasy has come to be rather understanding of the syndrome, not unlike the tolerance William Powell's film wife, Irene Hervey, demonstrated in "Mr. Peabody and the Mermaid" (1948). Back when we first met, she inherited Jill St. John, who had been preceded by Katherine Hepburn and Ava Gardner before her.

Miss Perry at long last unseats Kim Basinger. Call me fickle. To be frank, she was getting to be quite a handful. Just ask Alec. But in any case, on a mission to confirm this momentous changing of the chimera, mindful that I was the oldest teenybopper at the Bijou, I'm happy to report that Miss Perry has cleared the first hurdle of her application.

Buoyant, informative and entertaining in the usual backstage, entre nous style indigenous to concert tour movies, all that remains to be ascertained is whether or not the award-winning singer is as genuine, forthcoming and ingenious as her fluffy image would have you believe. It's in essence what has so endeared her to a generation of youth, worldwide.

Interview snippets from fans around the globe, usually dressed in the signature, candy-colored/kaleidoscopic costumes popularized by their idol, explain it is her individualism, her mantra advising that it's OK to be yourself, that's so enamored them of her. Me? I first heard it from Steinbeck, and later, John, Paul, George and Ringo filled in the rest.

While blessed with strong, well trained pipes, she is not a really great voice...but rather, a unique emoter of her times, a Pied Piper who, in one skull session with her stage and costume people perplexedly asks, "How could something possibly be 'too cartoony'?" She is a whirlwind, the latest trendsetter, now challenged by the biggest gig of her life.

It's the 52-week, 2011 international tour, a test of stamina, talent and conviction, with a glop of soap opera tested in courtesy of her recent marriage to actor-comedian Russell Brand. In case your subscription to the "National Enquirer" has run out, that's now kaput.

At any rate, it serves to remind that each age group has its version of "A Star is Born."

Zooming from city to city, Miss Perry invites our eavesdrop, interspersing the frenetic pace with videos recorded since her childhood. Raised in Santa Barbara, the daughter of Pentecostal ministers, she talks of an initial foray in religious music. Explaining it took her several years to become an overnight sensation, we sense her showbiz savvy.

Flirting between her iconic image of candor and a slightly tongue-in-cheek assertion of what it takes to make the big time, she innocently giggles about the inherent appeal of a good girl gone bad. Supported by members of her staff who tell how they were pulled into the fold from obscurity, the professed idea is that she is fiercely loyal and beneficent.

Naturally, she'd also like us to believe success has not jaded her and gives the distinct impression that, alas, like the princess Audrey Hepburn portrayed in "Roman Holiday" (1953), she may be long deterred from true love allowed to prosper. And you know what? We kind of believe it, maybe because it's partly true, but mostly because we like the idea.

But most convincing is the difficulty of upholding the mantle of celebrity...the impossible pace of pleasing one's adoring public night after night, and the personal havoc it causes. In one instance, her marriage in question, she goes fetal on a couch whilst her handlers begin to whisper of the devastation. Childlike, she yells, "I can hear you!"

Then, like a scene we imagine Bette Davis playing, Katy pulls herself together, beckons makeup, and is in no time fully energized by the wild cheers of a thronging audience, the metro-nomic beat common to many of her songs drowning out all doubts. Whew...that was close. Doth greatness hang over failure by so thin a thread? We contemplate stardom.

Nothing groundbreaking, it's nonetheless fun as Katy shows us how she has refashioned the path to an American dream that goes as far back as the Calvinists, who would applaud the goal, if not the method. Abashing and enchanting, she confides, "I kissed a girl and I liked it." Which leaves me to admit, I've seen "Katy Perry: Part of Me" and I liked it.

"Katy Perry: Part of Me," rated PG, is a Paramount Pictures release directed by Dan Cutforth and Jane Lipsitz, starring Katy Perry, her friends and associates. Running time: 93 minutes



LET'S GO!...The Pineda Conservatory Center Stage performers will present "Let's Go To The Movies, a Musical Tribute to the Silver Screen" at the Cranford Dramatic Club Theatre Thursday, July 26, and Friday, July 27, at 8 p.m. The cast, pictured, from left to right, are: Jen Raba of Westfield, Chris Centenaro of Scotch Plains, Jessie Zimmermann of Westfield rehearsing with choreographer Christopher Johnson.

## Pineda Conservatory Presents 'Let's Go To The Movies'

CRANFORD - The Pineda Conservatory Center Stage performers are proud to present "Let's Go To The Movies, a Musical Tribute to the Silver Screen." The talented cast of 37 students from throughout New Jersey auditioned in February to participate in a show filled with everyone's favorite songs from movies spanning over 100 years. Songs that will be performed include "Fame!," a medley from *The Sound of Music*, "Singing in the Rain," "Joyful, Joyful" from *Sister Act*, "My Heart Will Go On" from *Titanic* and "Summer Nights" from *Grease!*

The show is co-choreographed by Christopher Johnson, a Colorado native, Christopher has spent over 15 years in New York as a performer and teacher. He has toured nationally and internationally with *Grease*, *Chicago* and *West Side Story*. He has performed at the country's top regional theaters and has toured the world as a performer for veterans and active duty military with the USO. Christopher's favorite job was performing for 11 seasons in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular starring the world famous Rockettes.

Co-choreographer is Ra-Sean Holloway, also a previous member of the Radio City Christmas Spectacular cast. Mr. Holloway has also toured and performed in *A Chorus Line*, *Hello Dolly*, *Crazy for You*, and *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Mr. Holloway has worked with various regional and community theaters, the Academy for Performing Arts, and the Moderne Academie of Fine Arts.

Musical and stage direction is provided by Patricia Pineda. Ms. Pineda received her Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance from Virginia Commonwealth University. She also studied at the University of North Carolina—Greensboro where she was honored as the Farrow (Voice) Scholar. Performance credits include the Pineda Lyric, Cranford Dramatic Club, the Forum Theatre, Little Opera Company of N.J., UNCG Opera, Greensboro Opera and soloist with the Richmond Symphony Orchestra. This is Ms. Pineda's fifth year directing with the Center Stage program.

The cast features Sabrina Alamo, Marissa Alvarez, Ryan Burd, Lauren Costa, Olivia Dalessandro, Isabel DoCampo, Lauren Echausse, Claire Fitzpatrick, Lauren Frazier, Kylie Francis, Alex Frisch, Marisa Garrity,

Frank Guerriero, Victoria Guerriero, Christopher Ick, Morgan Kelleher, Kelsey Kilpatrick, Jack Kirkland, Maya Mitterhoff, Andrea Moore, Casey Murphy, Cheyenne Pellicoro, Megan Pinna, Jennifer Raba, Dylan Randazzo, Jack Ritter, Angela Sandoukas, Taylor Smedberg, Giuliana Viera, Olivia Whitehouse, Joelle Zazzarino, Lina Zikas, Emily Zimmerman, William Zimmerman, and Jessica Zimmermann.

The performance will be held at the newly air-conditioned Cranford Dramatic Club Theatre at 8 p.m. on Thursday, July 26, and 8 p.m. Friday, July 27. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$10 for students and seniors. For tickets call (908) 731-1377 or e-mail [pinedaconservatory@comcast.net](mailto:pinedaconservatory@comcast.net).

## Tenor Chiarelli to Perform at FW Library

FANWOOD — World class, award winning tenor, Salvatore Chiarelli, will perform "From Italy Con Amore (With Love)" on Wednesday, August 1, at 7 p.m. at the Fanwood Memorial Library.

The program will feature popular, traditional and classical Italian/Neapolitan and Sicilian songs and Italian American love ballads. Remembering the Italian American Icon's Jimmy Roselli and Al Martino singing "Innamorata, Mala Femmena," "I Have But One Heart," "Here In My Heart" and much more. This featured concert is being sponsored by the Fanwood Memorial Library located at North Avenue and Tiltolton Road, Fanwood.

Reservations are required and can be made by calling (908) 322-6400.

**Reading is good for you!**

**www.goleader.com**

## Pineda Conservatory Presents Cinderella Kids

CRANFORD — The Pineda Conservatory Starlight Theatre performers will present Disney's *Cinderella Kids* featuring a talented cast of students from Cranford, Westfield, Fanwood and Scotch Plains. This family friendly show perfect for children is presented on Saturday, July 28, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Cranford Dramatic Club Theatre.

The show directed by Zach Love and Marisa Garrity is presented in coordination with Musical Theatre International. The timeless fairy tale meets the magic of Disney in this adaptation of the treasured animated film. Poor Cinderella is endlessly mistreated by her wicked stepmother and step-sisters, and denied a chance to go to the Royal Ball. With a little help from her mice friends, and a lot of help from her Fairy Godmother, Cinderella goes to the ball, meets the Prince, and falls in love. With a beautiful score including "A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes" and the classic "Bibbidi-Bobbidi-Boo," Disney's *Cinderella Kids* will charm its way into your heart, and remind you that dreams really can come true.

The charming cast includes Kelly Bailey, Sam Bouffard, Olivia Bergman, Ella Bradley, Elsie Cohen,



The Pineda Conservatory Starlight Theatre cast of *Cinderella Kids*.

Brenna Dolan, Ava Ferentinos, Emma Ferentinos, McKenna Flynn, Ava Yvonne Gall, Catherine Harkins, Abigail R. Heller, Amelia Hunt, Noah Kopla, Cassidy Knight, Sofia Little, Elaina Michetti, Rose Michetti, Lily Paone, Kate Robinson, Colleen Rodgers, Megan Sheehy, Julia Singer, Sophia Vera, and Chloe Zimmerman.

The performance will be held at the newly air-conditioned Cranford Dramatic Club Theatre located at 78 Winans Avenue Cranford, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 28. Tickets are \$8 for all seats. For tickets call (908) 731-1377 or e-mail [pinedaconservatory@comcast.net](mailto:pinedaconservatory@comcast.net).

**See it all on the Web!**

**www.goleader.com**

## 'Rizzo's Reptiles' Are Special Guests at Trailside's Matinee

MOUNTAINSIDE — The popular Wednesday Matinee Series at Trailside Nature and Science Center in Mountainside continues on July 25 with special visitors: "Rizzo's Reptiles." Blending nature, environment and conservation, this program features live snakes, turtles and an alligator.

This family-oriented series explores a new subject each Wednesday through August 15, beginning at 1:30 p.m., and runs approximately 45 minutes. All shows are recommended for children ages 4 and older. Admission is \$4 per person and tickets go on sale at 1 p.m. The Visitor Center opens at noon. Strollers are not permitted.

"Kids in Motion" takes the stage on August 1. It is a high-energy show that leads you on a non-stop musical journey. Jo Jo Russell, a talented DJ who encourages the audience to participate, will have everyone clapping and stomping from start to finish.

On August 8, the natural excitement continues with "The Science of Magic." Lisa Lou will reveal the secrets of magnetism, light, air, condensation, optical illusion, and plenty of other magical tricks up her sleeve.

"Hocus Pocus" on August 15 with Joe Fischer, Magician Extraordinaire, will be the final show in the 2012 Wednesday Matinee Series. Joe is sure to astound, baffle and thrill the audience with his blend of magic, comedy and excitement. He has an outstanding rapport with children and his ability to engage audience members of all ages makes this show "pure magic."

For additional information about the Wednesday Matinee Series or other upcoming programs and special events, please call (908) 789-3670 or visit [www.ucnj.org/trailside](http://www.ucnj.org/trailside). Trailside Nature and Science Center is located at 452 New Providence Road in Mountainside and is a facility of the Union County Department of Parks and Community Renewal.

## Newark Museum to Present Exhibit 'Everyday Life, Extraordinary People'

NEWARK — Visit the Newark Museum for an interactive gallery activity followed by a studio experience the whole family will love. Each week, a new art techniques and cultures are explored through the theme "Everyday Life, Extraordinary People."

Drop-in art and science activities take place Wednesday-Friday through August 3. Art and gallery activities are scheduled at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m.; and Science Activities run from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Activities are free with suggested Museum admission. For additional information, call (973) 596-6650 or visit [www.newarkmuseum.org/drops.html](http://www.newarkmuseum.org/drops.html).

Schedules are as follows: Week of July 18-20: Art and Gallery Activity: "Walk in My Moccasins." "Don't judge a person until you walk two moons in his moccasins," is an ancient Native American proverb. Walk away in a brand new pair of moccasins of your own making, and go on a hunt to find traditional moccasins in our galleries.

Science Activities: "Sound." Investigate the ways that animals communicate and listen for danger. Visitors will create a rattle and learn why

the rattlesnake shakes its tail.

Week of July 25-27: "Bodhisattvas: Beings of Compassion." A bodhisattva is a compassionate being who vows to help others find peace and enlightenment. Create a painting of a person you admire after viewing the silk paintings or tangka (pronounced tan-ka) in a Tibetan altar.

Science Activities: "Smell." Learn how animals use smell to sense food, avoid danger and communicate with their friends. Visitors will use scent to communicate with termites.

Week of August 1-3: Art and Gallery Activity: "Olympics in Ancient Greece." Did you know the first Olympic Games were held in Ancient Greece almost 2,800 years ago? Celebrate the opening of the 2012 Olympics by viewing our classic Greek vases, molding a clay vase of your own and decorating it with your favorite sport.

Science Activity: "Taste." Everyone tastes things slightly differently and the ability to taste some things is inherited, like the color of our hair. Visitors will sample non-toxic chemicals to see which tastes they have inherited and which they did not.

## St. John

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

There are also plenty of places on St. John that arrange scuba trips further out to sea. You can also rent a dinghy yourself, motor out to sea and explore on your own. One wonderful spot I spent hours snorkeling was in Waterlemon Cay, where, after spotting a veritable farm of dozens of palm-sized starfish on the ocean floor, I swam among a school of what must have been tens of thousands of small fish that then parted to make way for a barracuda swimming straight at me from the darkness.

Most of the beaches I have lounged on have been on the northwest side of St. John, but there are a few others worth a visit. One is perfect to check out if the day's weather is not exactly beach-friendly. The rocky and wind-swept beach at Drunk Bay on the island's southeast tip, where the ocean's tides are fierce and definitely not conducive to swimming, is accessible via a narrow path that passes by the large Salt Pond. The tides at Drunk Bay deposit a great deal of flotsam, especially coral of all shapes and sizes, and visitors over the years have fashioned them into various miniature lifelike sculptures as well as into letters spelling out their names.

Getting to St. John is relatively easy, and you will get to travel via the three primary transportation modes: an airplane (direct flights to St. Thomas leave daily from Newark), a taxi from the airport to one of two ferries—either from Charlotte Amalie or Red Hook—and then a ferry trip into Cruz Bay, the main commercial center on St. John.

Lose yourself in the island lifestyle immediately upon disembarking the ferry by heading to your right and treating yourself to a drink at the Beach Bar, which is usually filled with loads of fellow vacationers, most of whom will be back night after night and will be friends with the friendly bartenders in no time.

A few minutes up the main road leading from the ferry is another landmark, Woody's Seafood Saloon, where the daily happy hour spills out onto the narrow sidewalk and into the street. There are a number of other watering holes and restaurants in Cruz Bay, and a good seafood meal is easy to find.

Mongoose Junction is a very pretty open-air shopping mall with some interesting shops and several places to eat and get a drink. The dress code on St. John is simple: You must get dressed—and typically, everyone is dressed mostly in shorts and a tee shirt and flip-flops. Leave the Casual Friday clothes at

home; here, they would be considered overly dressy.

Besides Cruz Bay, don't neglect Coral Bay on the opposite side of the island. Though not as developed and not as filled with tourists as Cruz Bay, there are still some spots not be missed here, namely Skinny Legs, which is located on the bay and is a sort of open-air sports bar with great drinks and tasty food and friendly folks crowding the place at all hours. Coral Bay is accessible via Centerline Road, which traverses the top of St. John, hills and unpaved roads and twisting turns and all. Be sure to stop along the way and explore some of the old sugar mills that drove the island's economy in the years prior to the 20th century.

Car rentals are available on St. John; just be prepared to drive on the left side of the road and to be able to navigate some of the hairiest turns you will ever encounter including one incredible corkscrew twist in the hills just outside of Cruz Bay. And if you rent a villa during your stay, some of the drive-ways leading from the main roads are so steep you might fear the car is going to tip over backwards on the way up. Taxis are also available for the fainter of heart.

There are several options for lodging: Westin has a resort just outside of Cruz Bay while another plush resort, at Caneel Bay, is a short drive from Cruz Bay. There are also several campgrounds for those who want to rough it. But if you are going to St. John, especially with a group, the best bet is to rent a villa that—when splitting the costs among several people—can end up being dirt cheap during the summer months. They come fully-furnished, with kitchens, big porches and often a small pool and a spectacular view. Two-bedroom villas average \$1,800 for a week, 3-bedrooms can run \$2,500 per week and some of the bigger ones, with four-bedrooms, a pool, a Jacuzzi, wrap-around porch and outdoor bar, can run \$3,000 and up for a week. Prices vary and depend on the location and amenities; there are websites that detail what is available and when.

St. John has been called "the Beverly Hills of the Caribbean," but do not let that expensive-sounding moniker dissuade you from visiting one of the true—and affordable—gems not only in our own backyard but anywhere in the world.