

Laid-back musicians

Geneva's Ken Campbell held court at the Red Brick Inn on a recent Friday evening. He drew a large crowd, which always pleases those paying the entertainment bill.

The singer-guitarist is Mr. Campbell to his students at Midlakes High School by day; it's nice to see his guitar come out more often for evening gigs. He has a good voice and a wide repertoire, and can sell a song. Ken Campbell is the brand of entertainer I enjoy. Ego, if any, is left at the door. He goes where the audience wants to go, keeping them in the mix and even laughing along with him. Nothing over the top with stylized vocals or heavy backing tracks — just a good time.

The dean of solo performers is PJ Elliott. I don't know if he owns a pair of shoes; I've only seen him wear sandals, but not while actually playing his guitar. Folks along the 5&20 corridor are only now getting to know him. The professional musician plays five or six nights each week, and is especially well known in Hammondsport and Sodus Point. You might catch up with him at Tommy's in Newark, the Red Brick in Geneva or Lizard's in Waterloo. During the summer he's on some deck or rooftop in Sodus Point and everywhere else.

Elliott is the king of song selection with classic rock, country, blues and some originals. He takes his audience where they want to go before they even know where they're going. Hanging with PJ is always a good time.

Dewey Dowd hosted a great party to benefit the Beverly Animal Shelter at his Third Ward Tavern. He provided an array of great foods, and other merchants provided numerous items for raffles and door prizes. Please keep in mind it is local store and restaurant owners who support and donate to events at your schools, churches and cultural organizations. Next time you order from a catalog or Internet site, ask them to donate to your cause; let me know how that works for you.

Lonesome Train provided music all afternoon for this event, donating their time and talent. This is a relatively new acoustic trio composed of Jon Lamanna, Joe Velte and Steve



Chuck Agonito
Good Times

Curry from the Seneca Falls/Waterloo neighborhood. All have strong voices and are good guitar players. I enjoyed their harmonies and classic rock songs, as did all the attendees. They accepted no fee for their performance, and that was a very classy thing on their part.

The Smith is bringing in Boiled in Lead, a Celtic/rock five-piece band from Minnesota this Saturday (April 10). I've never heard any band from Minnesota (although Bob Dylan was from there), so it might be worth investing \$15.

HWS is bringing the Boston trio State Radio to Geneva the following Saturday for an 8 p.m. show at the Smith. I am not sure what a blend of roots/reggae/ska/punk and rock will sound like, but I hope some students take a break from their normal Saturday night studies to attend the show.



PJ Elliott will perform from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday at the Red Brick Inn in Geneva. Check him out at www.pjelliott.com.

EASTMAN SCHOOL OF MUSIC NEW HORIZONS BIG BAND



SUNDAY APRIL 11 2:00PM

**FREE TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE FINGER LAKES TIMES,
SMITH BOX OFFICE OR SEND A SASE TO:**

SMITH OPERA HOUSE

82 SENECA STREET, GENEVA, NY

BOX OFFICE: 315-781-5483 TOLL FREE: 1-866-355-5483

WWW.THESMITH.ORG

FREE ADMISSION

SPONSORED BY THE:

**FINGER LAKES
TIMES**