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The Newsmagazine of Long Beach Island and Southern Ocean County

Gabe Live Duo Delivers Beach Vibe to Nardi's

June 12, 2024

By Jenna Marcy



SUNNY DISPOSITION: Gabe Schick (guitarist, steel drum, vocals) and Chuck DiGregorio (bass, vocals) set a tropical tone for their listeners. (Photos by Jack Reynolds)

As the sun shone brightly on Saturday afternoon, vacationers and locals alike cooled off at Nardi's Tavern in Haven Beach as they enjoyed relaxing cover songs by the Gabe Live Duo, comprised of Gabe Schick and Chuck DiGregorio.

Nardi's patrons sat around the energetic bar engaging in lighthearted conversation while the duo, who had not publicly performed together since before the COVID-19 pandemic, serenaded the room with a tropical vibe. With Schick on guitar, vocals and steel drums, and DiGregorio joining him on bass and vocals, the pair set a calming mood for a night filled with laughter and togetherness.

For visitors to Nardi's Tavern who stopped by to watch the Belmont Stakes and enjoy some free food, Schick and DiGregorio turned the evening into a pleasant time when anyone could come and bond over a shared love of music.

While the evening saw DiGregorio and Schick performing together, it is usually Schick who takes on a solo persona, known as Gabe Live to friends and fans alike. Performing all across New Jersey and Pennsylvania, Schick expressed a particular love for performing at the Jersey Shore.

When asked about his distinctive sound, he explained, "I write some of my stuff, but during the summer, especially when I'm playing bars and parties, people want to hear the standard beachy songs."



And Schick was right in that, as his audience sang and danced along to familiar and rhythmic melodies. Emanating from the duo's playing was the breezy, carefree feeling of seaside sunbathing.

From the moment Schick and DiGregorio began their four-hour set, their musical chemistry was apparent. Despite not performing together in several years, their long history of playing alongside one another came across in their effortless playing.



“We had a mutual friend, we had a guitar player, and we were looking for a drummer, and he (Schick) popped up,” DiGregorio shared of their meeting.

Schick added, “We played Point Pleasant together, a couple of private parties. We have a loose arrangement with each other; we’re friends, and if he (DiGregorio) is available, I call him in.”

Their friendship is a big part of their performance. Joking with one another and feeding off of each other’s energy, the entire performance was an infectious celebration of friendship and being together that found its way directly into the crowd. Strangers spoke with one another as if they were at an intimate celebration, while the music dissolved any barriers that existed between individuals. This tight-knit bond they share was apparent not only through their set together, but simply in how they spoke of one another.

They also share a mutual respect for one another’s artistry. DiGregorio led with compliments for Schick.

“I have a master’s degree in music; I’ve been a teacher for 21 years, been playing music for basically 35 years, and he (Schick) is the most versatile musician I’ve ever played with.”

DiGregorio declared, “He is a phenomenal drummer; guitar is his second instrument. We played in an original rock band for a decade, but people get older and move on. Gabe has continued his own solo thing, and I sit in sometimes.”

The audience shared their enthusiasm as, throughout the evening, more and more sun-tanned beachgoers trickled into Nardi’s to be whisked away from the world for a few hours.

Schick, who was hesitant to accept his friend’s praise, shifted the credit to his booking agency, Jersey Select Entertainment, for allowing him to perform throughout Long Beach Island and the Jersey Shore. He said the agency is “the reason I get to play on LBI at Nardi’s, Buckalew’s and Joe Pop’s. It’s a great agency, so hats off to them for allowing me to continue doing what I love.”

Following a freestyled rendition of Bobby McFerrin’s “Don’t Worry, Be Happy” played on both the guitar and the steel drum, thunderous applause spread throughout the bar as onlookers commended the duo for their contemporary spin on the classic piece. When asked about his decision to play the steel drum, an instrument not commonly played by local musicians, Schick simply stated, “I just really love the sound and I had to have one, so it’s just a love of it that made me play.”



Putting a more tropical flair on well-known pieces, Schick and DiGregorio showed off their love of the beach throughout their entire set, playing a mix of tried-and-true summer tunes and more alternative pieces like “Come As You Are,” by Nirvana. Sharing jokes with the audience and sitting down at the bar during a break to talk with friends and fans alike, Schick and DiGregorio made sure that no matter age or background, everyone felt welcome to enjoy the joining properties of music.

As the night wrapped up, the final chords of the set faded into the tavern, followed by ripples of applause which echoed throughout the bar. It was clear that DiGregorio and Schick had set the perfect tone not just for an unforgettable Belmont Stakes day, but for a picturesque summer evening as well. Their musical interlude not only entertained the crowd, but also brought about a sense of camaraderie that found its way throughout the room.

To keep up with Gabe Live, those interested can check out his website gabelive.com, his Facebook (Gabe Live), his Instagram (@GabeSchick), or directly to his email, gabe@gabelive.com.

— Jenna Marcy

Set List Snippet:

“Come As You Are,” Nirvana

“Ants Marching,” Dave Matthews Band

“My Girl,” Temptations

“Don’t Worry Be Happy,” Bobby McFerrin

“Down Under,” Men at Work

“Friend of the Devil,” Grateful Dead

“No Such Thing,” John Mayer

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