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Voices Raised in Hoboken Clubs

The term "music education" usually suggests children's recitals, beginning piano lessons, and school choirs. But professional musicians take regular music lessons as well, especially at the BJ Simon Singing Studio.

Anthony Tamburro, a local blues singer / songwriter / guitarist, has been studying voice with Barbara J. Simon since 2005. "Aside from increasing my stamina for performing, Barbara has taught me to see behind the lyrics of a song and make it my own," says Tamburro.

His band, Enzo & the Bakers, was first established in 2000 and now performs regularly in North Jersey. They were featured on the "Urban Legends of NJ" CD, and have found a home in Hoboken at the well-known blues bar Scotland Yard on 73 Hudson Street. The New York Times praised the bar saying, "The Best Blues Bar in NYC is in Hoboken."

In 2007, Scotland Yard began featuring a Singer / Songwriter Open Mic every Sunday night at 9:00 pm - where professional musicians from the area can perform, and Tamburro is one of the regular hosts of the evening.

Nick Fargo, lead singer / singer-songwriter in the rock band Zodiac, stopped by during one of Tamburro's Sunday shows, and sang a few songs at the end of the evening. The two men know each other from performing together at one of the Dieckow School of Music Marathon Concerts - both as singers from the BJ Simon Studio. Fargo was a 2006 Regional Finalist for

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JOHN BAUERS
EMMY WINNING COMPOSER

American Idol, and recently his band performed as the opening act for Sebastian Bach.

Another popular Hoboken club, Maxwell's at 1039 Washington Street, also features one of the singers who studied at the BJ Simon Studio. John Bauers, an Emmy winning composer, had already developed his music career as a pianist when he began taking singing lessons.

Bauers says he learned "...that singing requires opening up, physi-

cally and emotionally. With the tremendous improvement (from the lessons), I also increased my income. Barbara helped put me in a new spot." Now he performs regularly at Maxwell's as a pianist / singer / songwriter with the band, Swingadelic.

Recently two local high school students passed their college entrance music auditions after study-



Anthony Tamburro performing at Scotland Yard.

ing with Barbara. One was Christian Castro, who began his freshmen year in Fall 2007 as a BFA Musical Theatre Major at Montclair State University, and appeared in their latest production of "The Full Monty."

Another is Rebeca Arango, who just entered NYU to further her career as a singer / songwriter. She said, "It was not until I began writing my solo music that I realized what an influence Barbara has been on the way I think about songwriting and lyrics. Without these things, I am certain I would not have been accepted to the NYU Clive Davis School of Recorded Music."

Call the BJ Simon Singing Studio at 201-798-5029 for more information about lessons. No audition is required. Professional and beginning students are welcome: adults, teens, and children as young as seven years old. For links to the other musicians' websites, go to www.BJSimon.com.