

The Suffolk County News

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Photo By:

A musical Homecoming

Story By: RICK CHALIFOUX, Reporter

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SAYVILLE—After a long absence, Sayville High School graduates Jim Elenteny (Class of 1996) and Justin Stang (Class of 1997) are returning to Long Island all the way from Seattle this July for a very special homecoming event. The two old friends will be performing a concert on July 5 at the Grey Horse Tavern in Bayport as Science!, an award-winning acoustic duo that has generated a considerable amount of buzz along the west coast music scene. Since this summer will mark their first-ever nationwide U.S. tour, they thought it would only be appropriate to head back to their hometown and put on a great show.

"We have a lot of fun playing our music, and we're thrilled to have the opportunity to come back to the area and play," said Elenteny. "It'll definitely be exciting to come back and see our friends and family."

"We both played music together in high school, but a lot happens over time," said Stang. "Nowadays we're 10 times the musicians we were back then, and hopefully a lot of people will be pleasantly surprised by what we've been able to do together."

Although the two friends first started playing music together as teenagers in Sayville, their official musical act did not come to full fruition until just a few years ago in Seattle.

"I relocated to Seattle seven years ago, and Jim ended up landing a teaching job there three years ago," said Stang. "Eventually we started playing together as part of a side project. From there it sort of took off and we decided to pursue as a group." While both attributed their sound to a wide range of musical influences, the duo mainly noted blues and rock as the main components of their style. Their recent studio EP (Extended Play) includes Glen Graham of Blind Melon on drums, and has received a

great deal of critical acclaim. "So far the reception has been exceptionally positive," said Stang. "Touring along the west coast has allowed us to build our fan base, and we feel lucky to have gotten such good press." Elenteny added that the group currently has a full-length album in the works, and that they hope to release it by next fall. When asked if they could have envisioned back in high school that they'd be playing music and touring the country together someday, both had similar responses.

"Back then I probably wouldn't have predicted this, but the fact that it's happening now doesn't really surprise me," said Elen-teny.

"I didn't envision it at the time, but it still makes a lot of sense," said Stang. "I actually think we were better off by doing our own thing for a while, because it probably wouldn't have worked otherwise. We were fortunate to be able to get a head start and become better musicians in the meantime before coming back together."

While the band isn't yet a full-time effort, the duo hopes that their musical aspirations will continue to grow and take up more of their full time and effort. "Jim is able to take a certain amount of time off since he's a teacher, but hopefully we can get to the point where he ends up taking a long sabbatical," said Stang.

Overall, Stang and Elen-teny said that their musical goal is to keep things simple and direct.

"We try to keep our sound straightforward, truthful and honest," said Stang.

"Where we're from, I think the general trend is to be a bit overcomplicated.

Since we're just two guys with acoustic guitars, we're able to just strip our sound down to its root elements, which we think is good for the music."

For more information on Science! visit the band's official website at www.sciences-eattle.com.