



SUCCESS THROUGH MUSIC

By Joan Rupert-Barkley

If you ever wanted to learn to play piano, guitar, bass guitar, saxophone, compose music or become a better singer, there is good news. One of Spencerville's newest residents is now booking lessons. Carl James Merenick may be new to the area, but he definitely knows his way around music and studio productions.

Merenick grew up in Toronto. His father loved music, sang solo, and exposed his children to music. His uncle played in a wedding band in Edmonton. He recalls getting an opportunity to sit on stage with the band while they were playing. He was only 10 years old at the time.

He studied for some time at York University in Toronto, however he attributes much of his success in music to studying with a man by the name of Gordon Delamont. Noted for his composition and strict but superior teaching skills, Delamont had worked with Duke Ellington.

A big break came when the television talk show, 100 Huntley Street, started production in Toronto. Merenick knew they would be searching for a theme song, so he approached them with an offer.

"I had all this knowledge. I was ready to launch out at some level. I knew in Toronto

there were great recording facilities, and good engineers, so I knew I had people around me that I could work with to play my music," commented Merenick.

He rented a studio, hired some musicians and created several musical compositions. One of his pieces was chosen as the theme song for 100 Huntley Street.

Years later, when the same production company was putting together a children's program called "Circle Square", Merenick was approached to write songs for that program as well. He recalls writing a total of 55 songs for the show that ran for several years.

Part of Merenick's career involved teaching. He taught music at a school in Oakville. Students in grades two to five learned vocal, percussion and recorder, while grades six to eight students learned band music.

He recently finished creating a 10-track production for CTV. These pieces will be used on their Discovery Channel, TSN and Entertainment Tonight. He has also created music for Coca Cola Canada, Burger King, and GE Mobile Phones.

While he lived in Brampton, Merenick opened a music studio called "High Profile Music", where he taught piano, bass, drums, guitar, voice and saxophone. He had fifty students. He is very proud of all his students and commented, that some of them went on to study at recognized performing art schools in the Region of Peel.

"Working with the students and helping them fulfill their goals, getting their auditions and winning, getting entrance into one of the good schools is very rewarding", commented Merenick.

A non-profit organization called "Higher Ground Neighbourhood Outreach" was also established by Merenick in 2007. This organization helps children at risk get involved with music through workshops, training, recording and performance.

Since moving to the Spencerville area in December 2015, Merenick has become a member of the Thousand Islands Arts Council and is working on a project that involves youth in the community. The one and a half hour sessions will focus on recording, composition and beat making. These sessions will run for 8 weeks.

To learn more about Carl James Merenick, or to book a lesson, you can visit his website at www.highprofilemusic.ca **LH**