



# BACKSTAGE AT THE MAINSTAY

The latest “scoop” from our Board of Directors

Volume 2, Number 3



## Scholarship Winner Zach Lambert Performs at Gala

Zachariah Lambert, winner of The Mainstay’s 2018 music scholarship competition, performed a touching guitar rendition of “Somewhere over the Rainbow” before an enthusiastic audience at the *Rendezvous au Cabaret* fundraising gala held July 14 at Hodson Hall Commons on the Washington College Campus.

A recent graduate of Kent Island High School, Zach won the \$3,000 scholarship competition that was opened to senior music students attending a public school in Kent, Cecil and Queen Anne’s counties who plan to pursue music study in higher education. The scholarship is funded by the July 14 gala proceeds.

Zach has played the guitar for 10 years and will begin pursuing a degree from Towson University this fall with a goal toward becoming a professional musician. He has been part of his high school’s jazz band, concert band, pit orchestra and marching

band, and has been involved in numerous community activities, playing with the Community Jazz Band and at area festivals and fundraisers for local charities.

In addition to letters of recommendations from primary music teachers and letters outlining their experience, interests and plans for further study, each candidate submitted an audition video posted to YouTube to showcase two pieces of music of contrasting styles. Judging was based on technical abilities and musical interpretation.



*Rendezvous au Cabaret* photos by John Guthrie

## **Rendezvous au Cabaret a Success Thanks to Hardworking Volunteers**

From Gretchen Starling, Gala chair:  
Thanks to all of the hardworking volunteers who made “Rendezvous au Cabaret” a success. It was a labor of love, and we were able to transfer Hodson Hall Commons into a Parisian street.

Thank you Tom McHugh for discussing the “look” with me and sharing the vision of the cabaret/bistro. Zane Carter was able to

design this vision, and had the patience to rewrite the floor plan over and over again

Barbara Fancher was able to assemble a talented group of sales ladies who gathered up the auction items. Carol Colgate, our managing director, thanks for coordinating the sponsorships, music, food, and publicity, and thanks to Loretta Lodge, executive director of the Kent County Chamber of Commerce for lending the miniature Eiffel Towers and travel luggage tags.

The 2018 Mainstay gala following committees and chairs successfully handled the tasks and went beyond to make the evening of July 14, a bon soir and Merci!

**SILENT AND LIVE AUCTION:** Barbara Fancher, Jean Hirst, co-chair, Melinda Carl and Anne Bricker. **PUBLICITY:** Melinda Carl, Carol Colgate, Rich Geller and John Guthrie. **SAVE THE DATE AND INVITATIONS:** Larry Schroth. **SCHOLARSHIP:** John Thomas. **AUCTION PROGRAM:** Sally Borghardt, Sue Kenyon, Lillian Zelinski, Richard Geller. **FOOD:** Judy Kohl, Bets Durham, co-chair, Kelley McIntire (Occasions Catering). **BAR:** Becky Byrd, Keith Walbert, co-chair, Daphne Howarth, Antoinette Smith, Sue Kenyon.

**RECEPTION TABLE:** Bets Durham, Dick Durham, Candice Darling, Bill Darling, Earl Runde. **COMPLIMENTARY DRINK TABLE:** Barbara Fancher, Jean Hirst, Melinda Carl. **CASHIER TABLE:** Maureen Karns, Joyce Luff, Kristy Agro. **AUCTION HELPERS:** Sally Borghardt, Earl Runde. **DESIGN AND DECORATING:** Zane Carter, Carol Niemand, Sally Borghardt, Bets Durham, Anne Bricker, Barbara Fancher, Larry Schroth, Rich Geller, Maureen Karns, Becky Byrd, Keith Walbert, Melinda Carl, Bill Starling. **MAILING:** Debra Woodruff - Capper and others.



To The Mainstay's audience members, **Owen McCoy** was the affable man at the ticket lectern who quickly came to know and remember them. When he couldn't be at his volunteer spot for a concert, those who filled in were invariably asked, "Where's Owen?" For Owen was usually there, a player who was integral to The Mainstay's warm and friendly atmosphere.

Owen's death on July 5 prompted an outpouring of moving tributes and remembrances from the Kent County community. His energy was formidable – musician, farmer, Chestertown market manager and man with the fig trees, 4-H volunteer and leader, St. Paul's Church parishioner, vestry and choir member, actor, Peace Corps volunteer in Costa Rica who continued to follow up with the community he served, and most of all, devoted family man.

At The Mainstay, Owen served another role: foil to founder Tom McHugh's jokes during his opening remarks. For years, the audience was treated to a quip about Owen's latest romantic pursuits, travels and other life episodes, all hilarious, all made up, all in good fun. And Owen took the ribbing in stride, often with exaggerated feigned dismay.

Owen loved The Mainstay and The Mainstay loved him back – the musicians, the audience members, the volunteers, the directors and the venue's administrators and managers. He will not be forgotten.



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