

He Loves Them, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah Local Musician Credits Lads from Liverpool for His Chops

By Anastasia Ealey

The Fab Four – John, George, Paul and Ringo – have influenced Brecksville resident Rick Iacoboni since childhood when, at age 8, the professional acoustic guitarist began taking lessons. Seeing them on the *Ed Sullivan Show*, along with the appealing image they gave to music, inspired him to study guitar. “It was like John Glenn inspiring kids to want to be astronauts. – I wanted to be like the Beatles,” he said.

Iacoboni shared his love of the Beatles’ music during a recent show at the Brecksville Public Library, playing a number of their songs on his six-string and 12-string guitars. He paused between each melody to give an introduction on the songs, which included such classics as *Here Comes the Sun*, *With A Little Help from My Friends* and *Yesterday*.

In that atmosphere, Iacoboni said the March 13 event had a family feel to it. “It feels like family because everyone who’s here likes the Beatles,” he said. Noting that the 16-24 age group bought most of the Beatles’ *I* album released in 2000. “They are a multi-generational appeal.”

The varying ages in the audience at his library gig bore him out, from elderly to middle-school children, fans representing multiple generations were in attendance.



Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School graduate Rick Iacoboni credits The Beatles for influencing his music

A 1974 graduate of Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School who earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in communication from Bowling Green State University, Iacoboni works in the corporate marketing world. But his side career as a professional musician is something that he has kept up since he was a student.

“I’ve been playing professionally for over 30 years,” he said. “I was in different types of private bands, and we did weddings, corporate events, etc. Then about six or seven years ago, I decided to break away from that. I thought there was a niche out there to do instrumental background music, and I noticed that there isn’t anybody who does that with guitar.”

When Iacoboni began this pursuit, he realized something unique about it. “I’m the only guitarist in Northeast Ohio who

plays instrumental background music like I do as far as popular songs,” he said. “I have friends who do classical or jazz music, but I do everything from Sinatra, Streisand, the Beatles, Eric Clapton to Beyonce, Plain White T’s, Cold Play, etc. I cover the gamut, and no one else does that, so I end up getting booked quite a bit for events.

He said that he has played at about 800 events within the past five years and that he sees himself continuing his music career well into the foreseeable future. “I love doing it, and as long as people continue to book me, I’ll keep doing it,” he said. “This is the best thing I’ve ever done, and I’m getting a tremendous response from people.

Iacoboni was also full of praise for the Cuyahoga County Public Library System: “They’re fabulous, I get 90 percent of my music from them, and I’ve gotten to know them pretty well over the years. We’ve been talking about my doing an event where I can play here for awhile.”

As far as the Beatles go, Iacoboni said that he would play their music all the time if he could. “Choosing a favorite song of theirs is like choosing a favorite child – I love them all,” he said.

He has released one CD on which he covers a few of their songs and he said he looks to continue going from there. “I’m in the process of recording a second CD, and hope to do more in the future. I hope to eventually release a CD that is all Beatles music.” ☺