

# Haverford Music Fest Returns

*The Haverford Music Festival is one of Havertown's largest events and collects local talent for full day of entertainment.*



**A scene from the 2012 Haverford Music Festival.**  
Photo courtesy of The Haverford Music Festival

by David Marabella  
Community contributor

**H**avertown and the closely surrounding neighboring towns have long been a musical breeding ground, although you might never think of it that way. And that musical talent is exactly what will be on display at Darby and Eagle roads on Saturday, September 7, from 12 to 9:30 p.m. at The Haverford Music Festival.

The event “was created to give something back to the community” said Tom Kelly, chairman of the Haverford Music Festival.

The musical lineup for 2013 will include Haverford’s Del’s Groove, Suzie Brown, Ashley Leone, Live at the Fillmore, Dave Patten, Laura Mann among many others.

“The festival is all about creating a cultural and artistic vibe,” Kelly said. “One of the Board’s driving forces in creating the music festival was to do something wonderful for our community and we work hard all year long to

produce it.” Kelly is a member of the Haverford Township Civic Council, who are the coordinators of the event.

“There is no shortage of talent in this area,” said Emanuel DelPizzo, musical director for the festival. Still “the music is the star, not just an added attraction.”

A community that has long been a fertile ground for a variety of musical talent—although mostly unnoticed—now has a brilliant and exciting showcase event.

“We are always looking for new, better and different,” Kelly said.

Now in its 3rd year, The festival will

be “even bigger this year,” according to DelPizzo. The event has increased to four stages, including an indoor stage on Eagle Road, and will host a variety of jazz, rock, pop, children’s folk, classical, blues and country among other genres.

The festival attracted an attendance of more than 15,000 people in 2012. And that attendance included both the immediate neighborhoods of Haverford Township, as well as music lovers from all over the Delaware Valley.

“With an emphasis on diverse, local bands, the festival is always looking how they can improve the event. And each year, it has exceeded everyone’s expectations,” Kelly said.

And for those of drinking age, the event will again include several outdoor “beer gardens” that provide liquid refreshment to the thirsty adult crowd. While the fun is continuous all day and into the night, it is notable that there have not been any real problems, which is a credit to the event organizers and the



Haverford Township police force.

## A Community Event

The Music Festival must be produced using no taxpayer dollars, so it is important to secure financial support. The Haverford Township Civic Council, which is a nonprofit organization, does a good job soliciting business partners. "Sponsors and vendors are a critical aspect to ensuring the event is funded and stays free to all," Kelly said.

The festival has learned much from previous years, and starts sending solicitations to key supporters in early April, outlining the event and the opportunity for local businesses to participate as sponsors.

## Being There

The festival can be an overload to the senses that people are out in street and neighboring fields having such fun, with a live band around every corner. And because the festival staff includes seasoned musical such as DelPizzo, work is carried out months ahead of time to make sure each band has what it needs. Because of this pre-planning, there is minimal down time between acts and the professional sound and stage crew work diligently to handle the seamless switch over.

And of course, probably the most important aspect of DelPizzo's role, as he has done in the last two years, is to ensure that the quality and diversity of the musical acts remain outstanding.

*David Marabella is a Havertown musician and has attended and performed at the Haverford Music Festival each year. Write [dave@thenewideagroup.com](mailto:dave@thenewideagroup.com).*



Scott McClatchey at the 2012 festival.

Photo courtesy of The Haverford Music Festival

# 2013

The Haverford Music Festival has grown to become one of the largest yearly events in Haverford Township.

This year, sponsors include **GIANT, Xfinity, iRadio Philly, GEICO, West Laurel Hill Cemetery, Century 21 Havertown** and **Napoli School of Music and Dance**, as well as a long list of vendors. The festival offers many opportunities to become a performer, vendor or sponsor.

For more information, visit [haverfordmusicfestival.org](http://haverfordmusicfestival.org).

## ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS

Haverford Township Civic Association, key organizers of the event, is a partnership of organizations that share the goal of improving the quality of life in Haverford Township. As an umbrella organization for all civic and neighborhood associations and other community betterment groups in the Township, the council provides a forum for collaborating on community-wide issues and projects.

The group encourage residents to take part in volunteer opportunities in the area and find a way to make a difference.

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Photo courtesy of the Haverford Music Festival