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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE SPEAKERS Rock Out at Cerebral Palsy of Westchester

We love Rock 'N' Roll

RYE BROOK, NY – THE SPEAKERS gave an afternoon rock concert at Cerebral Palsy of Westchester's David G. Osterer Center last Tuesday, performing original songs and classic covers that had the lively audience dancing, clapping, and singing along to their beat. The Sam Bright Side Band opened the show. The concert, sponsored by Elmsford's Lagond Music School, provided adults living with disabilities an opportunity to enjoy a live music performance with their peers.



L-R: musicians Paul Maddison, Kerry Prieto, Jordan Levy, Geoff Coggeshall and John Marc Degarrd. Photo credit Honora Banks

THE SPEAKERS are a Westchester-based professional musical group who happen to include a number of young adults living with disabilities, performing music that both entertains and inspires. Their concert, in front of members and staff of CPW's Adult Day Habilitation Program, opened with *I Love Rock and Roll*, featuring drummer Sam Glucksman. The CPW audience was immediately hooked, and the concert quickly turned into a party with much singing along and dancing in the aisles. During one original song, the chorus reverberated through the crowd: *"without you, the audience, there is no live music!"*

After the last song, The Speakers signed autographs and promised to return. One audience member commented, *"this is awesome, I hope to see them perform live again soon!"*

The Speakers feature Jordan Levy on drums, Geoff Coggeshall on guitar, saxophone and vocals, Sam Mason on keyboards, and Kerry Prieto on guitar and vocals. Guest musicians for this concert included Charlie Lagond on saxophone, Paul Maddison (band leader) on keyboards, John Marc Degarrd on bass, and Sam Glucksman on drums. Some of the original members of the band met as teenagers through the Lagond Music School. They reunited in 2019 and, with help from Lagond Music School's Power through Performance Program and the Lasdon Foundation, began releasing original music and taking on gigs as THE SPEAKERS. Their name has a deep meaning for the band. Prieto explains, *"The Speakers are speaking up for musicians with disabilities who are often overshadowed, shunned, left in the dark due to their condition, not knowing the many talents we musicians with disabilities have to share with the world."*

Lagond Music's Power through Performance program was created to assist musicians living with disabilities, who oftentimes get misinterpreted as having inabilities. The goal of PTP is to change that misperception. Power through Performance forms bands and mentors individuals of different levels and abilities to help them fulfill their dream. According to Roseanne Lana, *"In 20 years of working with this community, we have found many individuals with tremendous talent and passion whose life-long dream is to make music and entertain. They are being marginalized, stereotyped as inferior musicians, and overlooked for musical opportunities."*

Now in its 74th year, **Cerebral Palsy of Westchester's** mission is to advance the independence, productivity, and full citizenship of people living with all developmental disabilities including autism, neurological impairments, intellectual disabilities, epilepsy, and cerebral palsy. CPW's main campus is located in Rye Brook, NY, housing a special education school, an adult day habilitation program and recreation programs. **CPW's Adult Day Habilitation Program** focuses on personal success, developing each individual's interests and emphasizing community inclusion, designed to meet specific individual needs and interests with a person-centered approach. Through a comprehensive network of educational programs, day services, residential sites, therapeutic services, employment training, recreation programs and advocacy the agency helps thousands of children and adults in Westchester and Fairfield Counties live more productive and satisfying lives. The organization's motto is: *Realizing Tomorrow's Potential . . . Today!* For more, visit cpwestchester.org.

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For more information and High Resolution Images, contact Tia Levinson, CPW's Director of Development and Public Relations, at 914-937-3800 ext. 353 or email tia.levinson@cpwestchester.org.

For more information about THE SPEAKERS and Lagond Music's Power through Performance, contact Roseanne Lana, Executive Director, at 914.275.7417, rosanne@lagondmusic.org.



Opening Act: Sam Bright Side Band featuring Sam Glucksman on drums



Dancing and grooving at The Speakers concert.