

SOUTHBURY MAKERS SPOTLIGHT



Bob Brophy and Felicia Michael, The Blue Yodels

By Kelly Keenan, SEDC Arts & Culture Subcommittee

Images courtesy of the artist

Southbury's music scene continues to thrive, thanks to talented local musicians like Felicia Michael and her partner, Bob Brophy of The Blue Yodels. Having recently settled into town on October 3rd, 2023, this couple has brought with them not only their love for music but also a passion for supporting the community.

"When Bob told me that he and Felicia were moving to Southbury I was thrilled" said Southbury Economic Development Director, Kevin Bielmeier. "They were always a popular act in New Milford," the town he served previously and resided in for 18 years, "so I knew they'd be well-received here in Southbury."

A Love That Began in the City

Felicia and Bob's story began in 1984, when they met while attending school in New York City. Now, with over two decades of marriage under their belts, they continue to share their journey, both personally and musically. The couple has been performing together since 2005, bringing an acoustic flavor to their wide-ranging covers of songs from various artists.

Their Performances and Musical Process

As an acoustic cover band, Felicia and Bob's performances feature a diverse selection of music, carefully curated from numerous artists. The styles span rock, country, folk, pop, and classic standards, featuring songs by artists like Patsy Cline, KT Tunstall, The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Johnny Cash, Elvis Costello, and many others.

Beyond the Stage

Music isn't just about performances for Felicia and Bob. They are passionate about giving back to the community, often lending their talents to support local non-profits. This philanthropic approach not only enriches their musical journey but also strengthens their connection to the town they now call home. "We just took part at a fundraiser for Ann's Place at The Heritage Hotel called *Through the Lens* on September 26th," says Brophy. "We've also been very involved with fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association for many years in the area. We're also volunteering for this November's *Festival of Trees* for Ann's Place."

SOUTHBURY MAKERS SPOTLIGHT



THE BLUE YODELS



The Highs and Lows of Performing

For Felicia and Bob, the joy of performing lies in the ability to connect with audiences. "Connecting with someone through music is our favorite part of performing," they share. However, as with any profession, there are challenges. "The least favorite part is definitely loading and unloading equipment," they admit.

A Memorable Milestone

One of the most significant moments in their career so far has been their first international gig. "We recently played in the Netherlands, which was an unforgettable experience," Bob recalls. It's a highlight that symbolizes how far their musical journey has taken them.

Balancing Music with Other Passions

While music is an important part of their lives, Felicia and Bob are also dedicated to other professional endeavors. Felicia is currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and is interning at Ann's Place in Danbury, while Bob is a certified nursing assistant, providing in-home care to clients.

Advice for Aspiring Musicians

For those just starting out in the music world, Bob offers simple but valuable advice: "Go to as many open mics as you can. It's the best way to get your act to a level where you can play three sets of music."



BlueYodels@AOL.com



[@ The Blue Yodels](#)



soundclick.com/blueyodels

For more information about this month's maker, or if you are interested in being featured in an upcoming issue of the Southbury Makers Spotlight, contact us at edcsouthburymakers@gmail.com or visit southbury-ct.org/arts.