

First U Rock&Soul Revue

Community, fun and self-expression

Members of the First Unitarian Society of Westchester, a Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, created the Rock & Soul Revue to play at the congregation's monthly Common Ground Coffeehouse in the fall of 2005. The initial performance was a wild, joyous success, and since then, the group has taken on a life of its own, growing in size, and inspiring and attracting new members from the congregation.

Keyboardist-bandleader Ray Castoldi notes that 'revue' really captures the band's capacity for change; different guest performers and new regulars keep the sound fresh and fluid. The band also offers a spiritual venue for creative self-expression, fun and community building, "though we don't play traditional church songs". Our sound reflects "the deep, religious fervor and emotion that is the driving force of soul", Castoldi explains, but "we play the songs of this world--not the next." And to hear those songs, you can't help but get up and dance!

Rock & Soul members come from all walks of life. High school students, filmmakers, graphic designers, scientists, Jungian analysts, speech pathologists, teachers, and computer programmers make up the band's unique voice. The band is always ready to embrace original tunes and arrangements, and favorites such as *Iko Iko* and *Shake a Tail Feather* have inspired members to challenge themselves musically.

The First U Rock & Soul Revue is available for festivals, benefits and other fundraising events, and of course, coffeehouses.



Booking Inquiries:
FirstUrockandsoulrevue@verizon.net

According to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, soul is "music that arose out of the transmutation of gospel and rhythm & blues into a form of funky, secular testifying." The Rock & Soul Revue extends this idea by blending elements of rock, soul, and popular dance to create a rich musical amalgam that truly speaks a universal language.

If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn.

-Charlie Parker

Upcoming Performances

TBA

Common Ground Coffeehouse

www.westchesteruu.org/commonground.htm

Ray Castoldi,
Music director/keyboards/vocals

Vocals:

Joe Burby

Leslie Burby

Lauren Carroll

Ralph Gunderman

Suzy Logan

Horns:

Ffej Caplan, *tenor sax*

April Castoldi, *tenor sax,*

vocals, tambourine

Lee Green, *tenor sax*

Gary Trosclair, *trumpet*

Rhythm Section:

Arnie Adler,

drums, percussion

Stephen Caldwell, *electric bass*

Lee Green, *electric bass*

Eric Siegel, *guitar*

Joe Sowinski, *guitar*

Ray Castoldi has been the music director and organist at Madison Square Garden since 1989. He has played for the 1994 Stanley Cup Finals and NHL All-Star Game, the 1998 NBA All-Star Game, and the 2000 World Series. He was also a music director for the ice hockey competition at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Torino, Italy.