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RICK AND THE ALL-STAR RAMBLERS



Vermont's Premier Eastern Swing Band Featuring Taryn Noelle



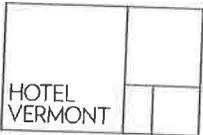
RICK NORCROSS - VOCALS/RHYTHM GUITAR • TARYN NOELLE - VOCALS
CHARLIE MACFADYEN - PIANO/ACCORDION/LAP STEEL • DONO SCHABNER - LEAD GUITAR
DOUG REID - FIDDLE • DAVE ROWELL - VOCALS/BASS • IAN KOELLER - DRUMS



Winner of the Academy of Western Artists 2019 "Female Vocalist of The Year"
Winner of the Academy of Western Artists 2015 "Western Swing Song of The Year"
Nominated AWA 2020 "Western Swing Female Vocalist of The Year"
Nominated AWA 2020 "Western Swing Duo/Band of The Year"
Celebrating Rick's 57th Anniversary As A Touring Musician • 1963 - 2020



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The Greensboro Development Review Board
Town of Greensboro
P.O. Box 119
Greensboro, Vermont 05841

August 9, 2020

To The Greensboro Development Review Board, August 10, 2020
I appreciate that you are meeting to reconsider the denial of the Highland Center for the Arts (HCA) request to utilize amplified sound for a number of outdoor performances during the Summer season.

Let me take a second to introduce myself and explain why I am writing to comment regarding this issue. My name is Rick Norcross and my family is from East Hardwick. I am a 1963 graduate of Hardwick Academy, my father, Deane Norcross, was a 1936 HA graduate and my grandfather, Ray Norcross, left HA in his senior year to work on the family farm in Walden in the early 20s. I began playing guitar and writing songs during my high school days and have since been a professional musician for over 57 years, having released over a dozen albums and these days I front a seven piece western swing band, Rick & The All-Star Ramblers. We have had the pleasure of performing at HCA as a group and our female vocalist, Taryn Noelle, has performed two solo shows at HCA and was awarded the Ellen-McCulloch Award from the Governor of Vermont and the Vermont Arts Council three years ago on the HCA stage. Dave Rowell has appeared in several band configurations, the latest two weekends ago, as has our guitar player, Dono Schabner and our fiddler, Doug Reid.

On a national basis, our Taryn Noelle was named the "Western Swing Female Vocalist of the Year" of 2019 by the Academy of Western Artists in Fort Worth, Texas. This Thursday, August 13th, Taryn

RICK AND THE RAMBLERS

Noelle is again a final five nominee for the "Western Swing Female Vocalist of the Year" title at the 24th Annual Academy of Western Artists Will Rogers Awards, in Fort Worth, TX. The entire band is up for the "Western Swing Band/Duo of the Year" award, our fourth nomination in five years. We will not be traveling to Texas for the awards, thanks to the Corona Virus pandemic but we are certainly honored by the repeat nominations.

Over the past 57 years, I have performed all over Vermont, New England, "Old" England, Spain, and the USA so it is ironic that one of my all-time favorite places to perform is HCA, just a few miles from my ancestral home in East Hardwick. I just want to share with you from the bottom of my heart what a treasure HCA is to the music and arts community of Vermont. I want to encourage you and the Town of Greensboro to support and encourage this wonderful facility so that it can continue to bring the magic of performing arts to our rural region for many years to come.

I want to switch hats with you now and share with you that I produced and operated over 40 large outdoor food and music festivals since 1972 here in Vermont, in upstate New York and in the Tampa area of Florida. These days I serve as a Vermont Trustee of the Eastern States Exposition in West Springfield, MA. My company, Airflyte Productions, is best known for founding and presenting The Green Mountain Chew Chew Food & Music Festival in downtown Burlington, which successfully ran for 24 years. See the attached recap of the festival. We first staged the three day festival in City Hall Park and then, after outgrowing that site, became the first special event held in Waterfront Park.

The reason I bring this to your attention is that I had to deal with Act 250 sound requirements especially because live music played such a large role at every one of my festivals. We were very compliant with all regulations and were able to successfully produce these events, some with stages just a couple of hundred feet from residential apartments, by strictly adhering to the Act 250 rules and by working closely with the neighbors to include them in the event. For instance, we were required to stop all amplified music by 11 pm on weekends and we agreed to monitor the sound levels every hour from the middle of Lake Street, between the festival stage that was also adjacent to the apartments. I recall that the decibel level was not to exceed 70 decibels. If it did, we were required to turn down the sound system immediately to read below the 70 decibel maximum. Hopefully, you might consider setting a reasonable decibel level at the outer edges of HCA and, should complaints arise, check and document the decibel level and make the proper adjustment to the amplification. I checked on Amazon this afternoon and you can buy a hand-held decibel meter for as little as \$25 with many available from under \$50. I sincerely hope some compromise can be reached that satisfies all parties concerned and thank you again for revisiting the issue. My fingers are crossed for a positive outcome for all concerned.

Respectfully submitted,

