

MAZUREK, Zeke

Zeke Mazurek records versatile sound

Fiddling around and making new music

By Jack Evans

The Intelligencer

It may be trite, but it's true. Zeke Mazurek just likes to fiddle around.

Mazurek is just one more example of the wealth of local talent in the Quinte area.

When it comes to fiddling, he ranks with the best of them.

Now operating out of Thurlow Township, Mazurek continues a successful career of fighting fiddle fires, in the sense of rushing off to play his beloved instrument wherever and whenever there is need or opportunity.

Mazurek is also engaged for the next few weeks in taping his own first album at a Brighton studio, supported by two other local musicians, Rick Bauer and Marc Despault.

Zeke says he wants to stretch out the recording session so he can "make music not make work."

Another reason is to reflect the versatility of this widely-known professional. His taste ranges from classical, especially baroque, to klezmer (Jewish folk style) to "down east fiddlin'" to gypsy.

His career has teamed him with such performing greats as Sylvia Tyson, Emmy-Lou Harris, Lenny Soloman, Wakami Wailers, Prairie Oyster, The Great Speckled Bird, Ian Tamblyn, Willie P. Bennett and others.

An association he started up with several Prince Edward County musicians in recent months has led to the formation of a group called The Academy of St. Martin in the Basement,

which specializes in baroque music.

Zeke grew up around Oshawa and studied under the late and well-recognized Edward Oscapella Sr.

"I always knew that I wanted to make music my career," Zeke said from his Thrasher's Corners home.

But after an auspicious start on a solid career, he left music full time about 10 years ago and did various other things. Now he is trying to resume his career as a musician.

"I want to show the Canadian aspect of music," he says. He wants to apply his knowledge of the broad spectrum of music he gained during his many trips to all parts of Canada when he was a touring musician.



Intelligencer photo by Frank O'Connor

Playing a mean fiddle

Thurlow Township resident and entertainer Zeke Mazurek is taping his first album. Mazurek's eclectic musical tastes range from classical and Jewish folk style, to down-east fiddling and gypsy music. He hopes his album will reflect the "Canadian aspect of music."

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