

# Big bands, old-time movies inspired Stouffville duo

BY HANNELORE VOLPE  
Staff Writer

Stouffville musicians are a prominent part of the 10th annual Markham Jazz Festival this weekend.

Local guitarist and singer Brian O'Sullivan and singer Alison Wiggins, known as Brian and Alison, are appearing on Unionville's Main Street Friday and Saturday night from 6 to 10 p.m. They will perform alongside fingerstyle guitarist Erwin Schack, a Clarendon resident.

The Dave Parsons Quartet performs at Harvest Wine Bar on Unionville's Main Street from 7 to 11 p.m. Saturday. Mr. Parsons is a Ballantrae resident, known for his jazz piano skills. He is also an accompanist to local choirs.

The jazz festival runs from Aug. 17 to 19 on the Main streets of Unionville and Markham, at the Markham Museum, the Millennium Bandstand and Varley Art Gallery in Unionville and the Markham Farmer's Market.

Listening to the big band sounds

of Benny Goodman and hearing jazz in his dad's old Chev first sparked Mr. O'Sullivan's interest in music.

He studied jazz at York University and continues to learn, calling himself a "life-long student" of the craft.

Ms. Wiggins fell in love with old movies at an early age. When she watched Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers dance, she would have loved to be able to sing in that setting.

Brian and Alison have performed at events such as Art in the Park in both Markham and Uxbridge, at restaurants and charitable events.

They perform blues and jazz and also have a repertoire of Celtic music.

Both Mr. O'Sullivan and Mr. Schack are members of the, Stouffville-based York Region Fingerstyle Guitar Association.

For more information on the festival, log on to [www.markhamjazzfestival.com](http://www.markhamjazzfestival.com)



Brian and Alison, Stouffville guitarist and singer Brian O'Sullivan and singer Alison Wiggins, perform during the Markham Jazz Festival on Unionville's Main Street Friday and Saturday night.

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