

Wounded veterans concert planned in Waukegan

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By TINA JOHANSSON Special to the News-Sun

WAUKEGAN -- Helping wounded veterans and their families is at the heart of a benefit concert planned in Waukegan this month.

On March 19, celebrated pianist Brian Harris and the Brian Harris Group will be performing at Joplin's Java Ragtime Café, 114 S. Genesee St. The Power of Three, featuring the music of piano legends Billy Joel, Ray Charles and Elton John will be performed. Harris will play piano and sing; brothers Rick Crenshaw will play bass and John Crenshaw on drums.

Brian Harris of Beach Park and the Brian Harris Group will perform March 19 at Joplin's Java Cafe in Waukegan.

(Special to The News-Sun)

IF YOU GO:

When: 7 p.m. March 19

Where: Joplin's Java Ragtime Cafe, 114 S. Genesee St., Waukegan

Tickets: \$10

Details: (847) 720-4444.

Proceeds from the concert will go to the Wounded Heroes Foundation Inc., a non-profit organization started in 2005 to help support armed service members severely wounded in conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Ninety-five percent of every dollar goes towards helping the injured vets and their families.

"This group does outstanding work in assisting wounded veterans, a cause near and dear to my heart," said Harris, a classically-trained musician and Army veteran from Beach Park. While in the Army he was quickly promoted to sergeant while playing in the Fourth U.S. Army Band at Fort Sheridan.

The son of a 20-year veteran, Harris was born at Andrews Air Force Base in Washington D.C. "Beyond my own service in the military, I've always been surrounded by people serving our country," he said.

"I hold profound respect and give thanks to our veterans, especially those injured while in the line of duty," said Harris. "If my performance can be of service, I'm so happy to do that."

Alice Alviani, who owns and operates Joplin's Java along with Mark MacLeod, said this will be the first veterans' benefit concert held at the café.

"We've had lots of other benefit concerts, including Habitat for Humanity, and children's benefits for Kids Uganda," said Alviani. "I'm thrilled about this one. We're really hoping it will help some of these fine people (in the military). I am very sincerely grateful for these young people and the sacrifices they make."

Proceeds from the sale of coffee and food during the concert will also be donated towards the Wounded Heroes Foundation.

Tickets for the show are \$10. Seating is limited. To reserve tickets call 847-775-198 or 847-533-3363. Concertgoers may park free off County Street.

For more information visit www.woundedheroesfund.net or call (847) 720-4444.