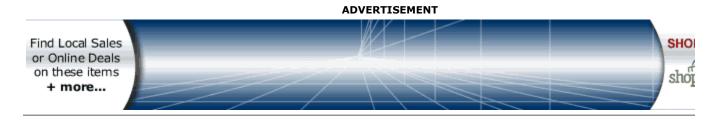
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10-year-old singer moves in big circles By JOHN W. BARRY

Forty-two years to the day that The Beatles played their first public concert in the United States, 10-year-old Myles Mancuso of LaGrange was making some music of his own, for the man who brought the Fab Four to America in 1964.

Mancuso, who plays electric bass, electric guitar, piano, drums and sings, has been making quite a name for himself around the Hudson Valley lately. He has performed more than once with Levon Helm, the former drummer of The Band who lives in Woodstock, and he has sat in with Little Scotty & the Knockouts, an ensemble that hosts several Open Blues Jams each week at area clubs.

On Sunday, Mancuso played a gig for which he was personally selected by legendary promoter Sid Bernstein, who brought The Beatles to America in 1964 for their first trip stateside. The occasion was a new artist showcase staged by Bernstein at New York's Cutting Room nightclub.

Mancuso was one of five acts Bernstein booked for the Cutting Room — one ended up not making it because of the historic snowstorm — and the 10-year-old performed a duet with Kate Taylor, the sister of songwriter James Taylor.

Heard of him at a party

One of rock 'n' roll's most famous names — that Carnegie Hall Beatles gig took place the same week the lads from Liverpool played "The Ed Sullivan Show" for the first time — Bernstein learned of Mancuso while leaving a party held at the Cutting Room last year that was also attended by Mancuso's parents.

The party marked the birthday of May Pang, famously linked to Beatle John Lennon, and the affair counted as guests the Cowboy from the Village People and a member of the band Twisted Sister. Not shy about promoting Mancuso's musical ability, his parents had a DVD of his performances on hand. They saw Bernstein and his partner, but wavered about bothering him to give him the DVD.

"They were just about to get into the car, out on the sidewalk," Nick Mancuso recalled about finally handing off the DVD. "The car door opened, we said, 'Sid, we respect everything you do. It's so nice to meet you. Could you take a look at our son.' I think I said something to the effect of, 'He's 10 years old.' Sid said, 'I'd love to hear from him when he's 18.' "







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Watched the DVD

Bernstein's partner and business manager, Joseph Gargano, took the DVD.

"We didn't think anything would come of it," Nick Mancuso said.

But Bernstein and Gargano both watched the footage.

"I love this kid," Bernstein said during a recent telephone interview. "I think he's going to be a big star. ... He seems to have it."

Asked about Mancuso's performance Sunday at the Cutting Room, Gargano said of him and Bernstein, "We were both highly impressed."

Asked if he and Bernstein would be working again with Mancuso, Gargano said, "Absolutely. In the most appropriate capacity that presents itself next."

John W. Barry is the music writer for the Poughkeepsie Journal. Write him c/o Poughkeepsie Journal, P.O. Box 1231, Poughkeepsie, NY 12602, call 845-437-4822, or e-mail jobarry@poughkeepsiejournal.com.

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