

Music Fest Lights Key Largo Stages May 15-18

Multiple original music offerings are the highlight of the annual Key Largo Original Music Festival, with live performances Thursday through Sunday, May 15-18. Presented on various intimate stages, it features acclaimed individual hit songwriters as well as bands from around the US. Admission is free to all venues.

Among the elite group of musicians are performers who have helped shape the contemporary music industry, excelling in genres such as pop, rock, blues, jazz and country.

Audiences will enjoy the return of nearly a dozen songwriters and Americana rock lyricists as well as several festival newcomers. Highlights include Nashville's Saints of Havana and Jer Gregg; from Texas, the earthy and folk-inspired Jim Halfpenny; and Dianna Corcoran, one of Australia's most distinguished country vocalists and songwriting talents.

Several South Florida and Florida Keys country, rock, bluegrass and tropically flavored favorites are to light up the stages as well, notably: 33 Years, Dave Feder and Maggie Baugh, a 13-year-old teen guitarist and fiddle player who has shared the stage with Charlie Daniels.

This year's venues include Snapper's, Sundowners Restaurant, Cactus Jack's and Señor Frijoles.

On Sunday, May 18 there will be a VIP Sunset Cruise aboard the 78-foot Island Time paddle wheel boat, with food and libations. Festival songwriters will be aboard to relax and jam. Cost is \$35 per person, and the cruise departs at 5:30 p.m. from the dock at Sundowners.

Key Largo's Original Music Fest

may
15-18

4 Days of
Live
Original
Music
in Key
Largo



The Florida Keys
Key Largo
MONROE COUNTY TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Key Largo
MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION
EVENT

The MIX 96.9
The True Oldies Channel

The Reporter

Time Out
MAGAZINE

NEWS LEADER

floridakeys
keywest

Thursday, May 15

Snapper's Restaurant & Raw Bar - MM 94.5 Oceanside
3:00 - 5:00 Dianna Corcoran, Jer Gregg, Leland Grant, Megan Conner, Melody Guy, Natalie Noone, Nikki Shannon Fernandez, Stephen Salyers, Scott Youngberg, Shane Hines, Julie Gribble
5:00 - 6:00 Tim Dee & Jim Hill
7:30 - 9:00 Megan Conner, Shane Hines, Dianna Corcoran
9:00 - 10:30 Scott Youngberg, Melody Guy

Sundowners Restaurant - MM 104 Bayside

6:00 - 7:30 33 Years
7:30 - 9:00 Stephen Salyers, Jer Gregg, Nikki Shannon Fernandez, Maggie Baugh
9:00 - 10:30 Julie Gribble, Leland Grant, Natalie Noone

Friday, May 16

Señor Frijoles - MM 104 Bayside

5:00 - 6:30 33 Years
6:30 - 8:00 Stephen Salyers, Jer Gregg, Nikki Shannon Fernandez
8:00 - 9:30 Leland Grant, Melody Guy, Maggie Baugh

Sundowners Restaurant - MM 104 Bayside

3:30 - 5:00 Devinshire
5:00 - 6:30 Davin McCoy and the Coming Attractions
6:30 - 8:00 Dave Feder, Megan Conner, Shane Hines, Dianna Corcoran
8:00 - 9:30 Cecilia Lauren & the Ocoee River Band
9:30 - 11:00 Saints of Havana

Cactus Jack's - MM 104 Bayside

6:30 - 8:00 Leland Grant, Melody Guy, Maggie Baugh
8:00 - 9:30 Jim Halfpenny, Natalie Noone, Adrienne
9:30 - 11:00 Sandbox Jam: Hosted by Jer Gregg & Stephen Salyers

Saturday, May 17

Señor Frijoles - MM 104 Bayside

3:30 - 5:00 Stephen Salyers, Jer Gregg, Nikki Shannon Fernandez
5:00 - 6:30 Jim Halfpenny, John Bartus, Maggie Baugh
6:30 - 8:00 Megan Conner, Shane Hines, Dianna Corcoran
8:00 - 9:30 33 Years

Sundowners Restaurant - MM 104 Bayside

2:00 - 3:30 Debbie Tassone & Gary Frost
3:30 - 5:00 Rose Island Band
5:00 - 6:30 Davin McCoy and the Coming Attractions
6:30 - 8:00 Melody Guy, Scott Youngberg, JJ Crowne, Billy Davidson
8:00 - 9:30 Stephen Salyers, Jer Gregg, Nikki Shannon Fernandez, Natalie Noone
9:30 - 11:00 Saints of Havana

Cactus Jack's - MM 104 Bayside

5:00 - 6:30 33 Years
6:30 - 8:00 Debbie Tassone & Gary Frost
8:00 - 9:30 Jim Halfpenny, John Bartus, Maggie Baugh
9:30 - 11:00 Sandbox Jam: Hosted by Megan Conner & Shane Hines

Sunday, May 18

Snapper's Restaurant & Raw Bar - MM 94.5 Oceanside
3:30 - 4:30 Stephen Salyers, Jer Gregg, Nikki Shannon Fernandez, Natalie Noone
4:30 - 5:30 Davin McCoy and the Coming Attractions
5:30 - 6:30 Joe Mama, Adrienne, Scott Youngberg

Sundowners Restaurant - MM 104 Bayside

3:30 - 5:00 Megan Conner, Shane Hines, Dianna Corcoran, Melody Guy
5:00 - 6:30 Grayson Rogers Band
6:30 - 8:00 Maggie Baugh, Jim Halfpenny, JJ Crowne
8:00 - 9:30 Grayson Rogers Band

CRUISE
Sunday 5:30-8:00
Jam by
various performers

SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO
CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

For More Info: www.keylargooriginalmusicfest.com or call: 305-394-3736

COVER STORY

Ocean Vue Glass Bottom Boat Tours

Snorkel & Glass Bottom Tours Oceanside • Eco and Dolphin Encounters Bayside

What is there to do in Key Largo? That is something we locals hear all the time from visitors who are looking forward to enjoying the Upper Keys during their limited time.

Naturally, they want to take in everything: shopping, dining, tropical drinks, and most importantly some time on the water because Key Largo is the "Dive Capital of the World" and we are world famous for our pristine coral reef. Here you can admire thousands of tropical fish and living coral in all their colorful splendor. The National Marine Sanctuary is home to over 55 varieties of coral and 500 species of fish in our crystal clear waters.

Key Largo residents Dave and Christie Sheehan, who have been operating Keys Adventure Watersports renting boats and wave runners for the last 6 years, have come up with the ideal excursion: Ocean Vue Glass Bottom Boat Tours! There is something for everyone.

Imagine a fast-paced glass bottom boat ride, gliding over the sea to John Pennekamp Coral Reef State Park's protected underwater paradise. Where other boats take an hour and a half just to get there, this futuristic, thrilling new hydrofoil boat with its massive 6 ft by 9 ft viewing area will whisk you

out to the reef in only 15 minutes!

You will visit the Christ Statue of the Abyss and at least two other locations for either snorkeling or just viewing through the crystal-clear glass bottom of the boat. The viewing glass magnifies the sea life so that it appears so close that it seems you could reach out and touch the fish.

This family-friendly boat also offers combo tours so those who want to snorkel can while others may choose to view the sea life in the comfort of the plush salon.

After a good hour and a half in the water on the reef, enjoy a quick trip back to the island, traveling at a top speed of 42 knots (or for you landlubbers, an exhilarating 50 miles per hour). After over two hours on the water, you are back in Key Largo with plenty of time to experience the local flavor, visit gift shops, and feast on fresh seafood at some of South Florida's finest restaurants while you relax and take in the sunset.

Imagine those who don't know about Ocean Vue Glass Bottom Boat Tours... they are just getting off their boat after spending all day on the water, sun toasted, burned out and ready to crawl into bed. You, on the other hand, are about to



Dave and Christie Sheehan and the Ocean Vue Glass Bottom Boat

kick off your shoes and dance the night away under the stars. The evening is yours.

Ocean Vue Glass Bottom Boat Tours is now offering Bayside Eco Tours and Dolphin Encounter Tours. Take a relaxing backcountry trip through the mangroves to enjoy the aquatic wildlife that is home to osprey, eagles, roseate spoonbill and the elusive saltwater crocodile. This is a nature photographers dream trip.

The backcountry is also home to a large pod of curiously playful wild bottlenose dolphins. There is something magical and spiritually healing about dolphins that few experience in their lifetime. Well now you can cross it off your bucket list. If you are looking for an opportunity to view wild dolphins in their natural habitat this is the most affordable way to get up close and personal with them.

Regular tour times are 10am, 1pm, 4pm, and sunset, which varies a little but is usually 6:30-7pm. Also available by appointment.

A second boat is also available running eco tours and private trips. It runs regularly at 10am, noon, 2pm, 4pm, and 6pm. It runs private charters for groups up to six.

The trips run over two hours. The price is \$65 per person with a 2 person minimum. For more info visit topsecretkeylargo.com or keysadventureswatersports.com. Email them at sunsetsunlimited@comcast.com or call the direct line 305-731-9472.



Bruce Herpich created the Keys most romantic engagement party ever when he surprised his beautiful fiancé Tanya with an engagement ring aboard the Ocean Vue at the Christ Statue of the Abyss