

Local band rocks out for charitable cause

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The Wonderfolk, a local cover band that includes a Heights resident and four Oak Forest-area residents, performed March 10 at White Oak Music Hall as part of Law Rocks Houston. (Contributed photo)

For one night last week, the Heights resident got to be a rock star.

The principal of Godzina Law Firm, PLLC, 965 Pinemont Dr. Suite 1000, also is the drummer for a local band called The Wonderfolk. They performed March 10 at White Oak Music Hall as part of the second annual Law Rocks Houston, a battle of the bands-style competition in which lawyers put on a concert for charity.

“It was really cool,” Godzina said. “We did not win this year, but I’d say we came pretty close.”

Godzina and his seven-piece cover band – which includes Oak Forest-area residents Andy Bost as a bass player; Cameron Clark on the banjo and keyboard; Nick Karam on guitar, mandolin and backup vocals; and Frans Sluiter on lead guitar – played six songs during a 30-minute set in front of about 100 of their family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers. The band also includes lead singer Heidi Kaim, a former music teacher at a Heights private school, and Upper Kirby-area resident Mead Turner on the fiddle.

They performed their own rendition of “Wagon Wheel,” along with popular songs by Brandi Carlile, Dolly Parton, Fleetwood Mac, Radiohead and The White Stripes.

The Wonderfolk also raised more than \$12,000 for Houston-based nonprofit BakerRipley, their charity of choice. The five bands participating in the Houston event combined to raise more than \$100,000 for charitable causes, Law Rocks director Omi Crawford said in a news release, with Pro Hac Vice repeating as the event winner.

Law Rocks started in London in 2009 and has since raised more than \$4 million for nonprofit organizations around the world. The concert in Houston will be followed by seven additional Law Rocks events this year, with the next two shows scheduled for San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The participating bands, which must include at least one attorney, are judged based on donations collected, sponsorships, ticket sales and musical performance. Members of The Wonderfolk said they started their fundraising effort in late January, with supporters making online donations through the Law Rocks website (lawrocks.org).

“I think every one of us had different avenues to find donations,” Sluiter said. “We have to credit a lot of friends, family and neighbors as well that contributed ... also colleagues in our companies.”

The same group of supporters were part of the crowd on hand to watch The Wonderfolk perform. Karam said crowd response was a criterion considered by the panel of judges and that his band excelled in that regard.

The Wonderfolk were formed in 2016 by Bost, Karam and Kaim, all of whom at the time had children attending St. Andrew’s Episcopal School, 1819 Heights Blvd. Kaim was a music teacher there.

Karam said the Americana and Indie Folk Rock band, which mixes in some 1990s hits as well, plays most of its gigs in the Greater Heights. The Wonderfolk have performed at Lights in the Heights and Platypus Brewing as well as at events hosted by the Houston Heights Association and local schools.

Their next show is scheduled for 10:30 a.m.-noon Sunday, March 27 at the Bayou City Arts Festival at Memorial Park.

The Wonderfolk also plan to play next year’s Law Rocks event, and they intend to win.

“It was a good learning experience,” Karam said. “We definitely would do some things differently, getting people engaged earlier and fundraising earlier. I think we felt very good about our performance. We did about as good of a job as we could have done. It felt really good, we had a lot of fun and were doing something good for the community, so that made it even more fun.”

For more information about The Wonderfolk or to book them for an event, visit thewonderfolk.com.

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