

# Sounds that span the Hudson

A site-specific musical installation features the Mid-Hudson Bridge as a virtual instrument.

On Tuesday, June 2, at 10 a.m., composer Joseph Bertolozzi held a preview of his "Bridge Music" installation for members of the press. The light rain that had been falling that morning stopped as if on cue for a demonstration that took place on the Mid-Hudson Bridge's eastbound pedestrian walkway.

At Johnson-Iorio Park in Highland, the starting point of the press conference, Bertolozzi introduced attendees to John Bellucci, director of public relations and planning for the New York State Bridge Authority, and Ron Kuhnke, the recording engineer who worked on "Bridge Music." Bertolozzi also pointed out signage that informs visitors about the installation's two components: the listening stations on the bridge's east and west towers, where sections of the composition may be heard on demand at the press of a button; and the radio transmission of "Bridge Music" on 95.3 FM, available 24/7 at both Johnson Iorio Park and Waryas Park in Poughkeepsie.

Afterward, the conference moved to the bridge, where Bertolozzi demonstrated how the listening stations work. He pressed the first button, selecting "Meltdown," the opening section of "Bridge Music," which was written to showcase all of the different sounds made on the bridge. Bertolozzi said that subsequent sections were written to focus on more specific sounds. A total of 12 buttons include the 10 pieces of the composition, plus an audio tour on Track 11 and a "bonus" on Track 12, a separate composition



Clockwise from top: Ron Kuhnke(left) and Joseph Bertolozzi at the west tower listening station on the Mid-Hudson Bridge; This sign posted at Johnson-Iorio Park in Highland lets visitors know they can listen to Joseph Bertolozzi's "Bridge Music" any time on 95.3 FM; Signage posted at the entrance to the pedestrian walkway on the west side of the bridge offers details about "Bridge Music." Photos by Kate Goldsmith.

Bertolozzi wrote called "Between the two bridges at sunset."

Five years in the making, "Bridge Music" is composed solely of sounds created by "playing" the Mid-Hudson Bridge. Bertolozzi and Kuhnke spent a total of five days - three in 2007 and two in 2008 - striking various parts of the bridge with mallets, hammers, steel rods and more. They catalogued the sounds by location, digitally sampled them and then triggered the sounds using musical notation software. Kuhnke, who owns and operates K-Town Studios in Kingston, also built the boxes installed in the listening stations.

According to Bertolozzi, "Bridge Music" is totally unique because it uses only the actual unprocessed sounds of the bridge. He said that some compositions feature ambient sound from microphones set up on a bridge, and others incorporate actual bridge sounds that have been processed, but nothing like "Bridge Music" has ever been done before.

On May 26, Bertolozzi released an eponymous CD that reached No. 35 on the Billboard classical chart in its first week.

The public premiere of "Bridge Music" took place on Saturday, June 6, with four ribbon-cutting ceremonies staged, one at each park on either side of the bridge and one at each of the two listening stations on the bridge.

The listening stations will remain open from April through October each year, and the radio broadcasts will be transmitted throughout the year. For more information, visit [www.josephbertolozzi.com](http://www.josephbertolozzi.com).

## Pet Palooza at Poet's Walk

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"There will be a Best Look-a-Like contest between humans and their canine companions," says Morris, "and we'll be giving away lots of prizes." Participants can also purchase raffle tickets for six gift baskets for dogs, some valued at more than \$200. Morris' mother, Mary Morris, of McNiff Real Estate, assembled the baskets with donations from community members, and she also made blankets to go into the baskets. Those who buy a raffle ticket will be put in a drawing to win a Grand Prize.

The walk takes place on the two-mile trail at Poet's Walk, a riverside park owned by Scenic Hudson. Registration begins at 11 a.m., with start time scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Stragglers will be allowed, but walkers should plan to wrap up by 1:30 p.m. so that other scheduled events can proceed in a timely manner. As an incentive, Morris says that Science Diet has donated a number of samples and dog brushes to give away to earliest arrivals.

Pledge forms are available online

at [prefurredpetsitters.vpweb.com](http://prefurredpetsitters.vpweb.com); walkers should collect donations prior to the event and submit them upon arrival.

P.A.N.T. is a nonprofit animal welfare organization whose mission is to improve the lives of animals in Dutchess County. With a focus on strays, particularly the feral cat population, P.A.N.T. seeks to address an ever-growing problem with a basic solution: spaying and neutering.

According to Joan Trombini, president and adoption coordinator for P.A.N.T., the organization's major project involves building a spay/neuter clinic in the southern part of the county.

"The [Dutchess County] SPCA is doing a great job, but they're just not able to keep up with the thousands of [feral] cats," she says, "and now, especially with the economy, things have been getting worse." People who have lost jobs or are unable to care for their pets any longer are abandoning them, she says.

Funds are also needed for ongoing veterinary care as well as for food,

humane traps and other necessities. Volunteers are needed as critically as supplies and funds; for more information, visit [www.pant.org](http://www.pant.org) or call (845) 486-7075.

Trombini would also like to encourage attendees to consider adopting an animal from P.A.N.T. "Adoptions are extremely slow due to the economy, and June is Adopt-a-Cat month," she says.

Scenic Hudson was founded in the 1960s with the goal of saving Storm King Mountain from a destructive industrial project. Today, it's the largest environmental group focused on the Hudson Valley, committed to preserving the natural beauty and resources of the region through land acquisition, grassroots advocacy, support for agriculture and other means. Scenic Hudson operates 28 parks that are free and open to the public; six in Dutchess County include Poet's Walk in Red Hook; Burger Hill Park in Rhinebeck; Madam Brett Park, Beacon Point Park and Mount Beacon in Beacon; and Fishkill Ridge in Fishkill. Log on to [www.scenichudson.org](http://www.scenichudson.org) or call (845) 473-4440 to learn more.



Some of the kittens up for adoption at Pet Palooza are Wiley (above), Indiana and Squirt (right). Courtesy photos.



Poet's Walk is a 120-acre park offering breathtaking views of the Hudson River and Catskill Mountains. It's said that Washington Irving was inspired to write "Rip Van Winkle" after visiting Poet's Walk. The park is surrounded by 780 acres of private lands with conservation easements that will protect the area from development.

The rain date for Pet Palooza is Sunday, June 14. Call (845) 399-5894 for more information.