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NEWS

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Tribute artist's repertoire spans genres, eras

Barry Tracht performs songs from more than 50 renowned musicians, and it isn't easy to sound exactly like all of them. But given the variety of genres he incorporates into his act, the Pompano Beach resident is able to leave his audience in awe of his transition from Frank Sinatra to Pink Floyd.

"It flips [the audience] out that I can change like that," he said. "You might be able to find a better Sinatra singer, but I don't think you'll be able to find a Sinatra singer who performs his songs and then does Pink Floyd."

Known as "The Tribute Singer," Tracht mixes Sinatra standards and Rat Pack classics with Jimmy Buffett covers, classic rock songs, Big Band-era swing and modern hits.

"My instrument is my voice," he said. "The goal is to replicate the original recording as much as possible. I imitate the voice, phrasing, word pronunciation and singing style of many of our vocal stars and legends, employing near-original full big band, small combo, symphony and vocal harmony."

After performing as a guitarist and singer at clubs in the New York area, Tracht retired to South Florida more than 25 years ago. But even after his retirement, he never lost his desire to perform for audiences. Ten years ago, he decided to get back into the music scene.

Technology improved during Tracht's time away from music, and he was able to incorporate it into his act. Using his iPad, he is able to store all his background music on one device, which he also uses as a monitor and master control panel.

"It's just as important to get as many songs in one hour and have a quality performance as well," he said. "I've always loved music, but it's more exciting now with the technology — there's nothing you can't do. Without it, you would probably need a 30-piece band to sound anything like the real artists. I couldn't do what I do now in the '60s and '70s."

To sound as authentic as possible, Tracht practices for hours. He has spent as many as 50 hours perfecting just one song.

"It's my obsessive-compulsive hobby," he said.

Tracht said his goal when he performs is to bring a big entertainment act into a smaller venue. One of the best parts, he said, is seeing the reaction of people who haven't heard the songs in decades.

"I'm into people having a good time," he said. "It's all about people having a good time."

For information, visit www.thetributesinger.com.

ONE-MAN BAND Pompano Beach resident Barry Tracht performs regularly as a one-man band around South Florida. SUBMITTED PHOTO