

SCOTTSDALE LIVING

Music festival downsizes, moves to Compound Grill

By Philip Haldiman
THE REPUBLIC | AZCENTRAL.COM

In an ailing economy, music and the arts are usually the first to take hits. But one Scottsdale resident is trying to keep music alive in the Northeast Valley.

John Largay has long been a champion of music in the Valley. He opened the Compound Grill late last year, featuring Southwestern cuisine and live music seven days a week. He also is the creator of the McDowell Mountain Music Festival.

The festival has been a mainstay at Scottsdale's WestWorld every spring. But this year Largay is downsizing, moving the festival to the the Compound Grill's grounds off 68th Street and Mayo Boulevard, near the Scottsdale/Phoenix limits.

"The decision was strictly economics," Largay said. "WestWorld has been great, but festivals are expensive to underwrite and our mission is raising money for family-based charities. We didn't want to risk our donation so we reduced our cost."

Since its creation six years ago, the festival has raised more than \$500,000. It usually draws about 8,000 fans over two days. This year the festival will be held over three days, with Largay expecting to draw 6,000 and raise \$100,000.

It will benefit Phoenix Day, a childcare facility in south Phoenix, and Ear Candy, a non-profit devoted to providing children access to music education.

"In this economy we are grateful to keep it going and I think people will have a great time participating," Largay said. "We have had a pretty good reputation on entertaining."

This year the bands might not have as much name recognition as past acts, but making the Compound Grill part of the festival will add a new element, he said.

"The infrastructure of the Compound reduces the cost significantly, plus it adds the whole facility to the festival," Largay said. "If people want to come in and use the restaurant or the restrooms it's great. Our acoustical stage will be inside and so will the drum circle. Plus we can play an after-hours show from 11 p.m. to 2 a.m. inside, where at WestWorld we had to shut



DEIRDRE HAMILL/THE REPUBLIC

Compound Grill owner John Largay (second from left), has made it his focus to bring music to the Northeast Valley.

down at 11."

The festival and the Compound Grill are strands in the fabric of Scottsdale that Largay considers very important — culture, community and music. He said the festival serves its purpose, but the Compound Grille takes it to the next step.

"I knew when I started the festival that to support culture, community and music it was going to have to happen on a continual basis, week in and week out, year to year and not just once a year like the festival. The festival does a great job of bringing community together and defining culture to a larger audience," Largay said. "The Compound does it on a stationary and more consistent basis. Plus the Compound gets to add both structure and food to the mix, which has been fun."

The venue offers different musical genres every day including jazz on Tuesdays, blues on Wednesdays and folk on Thursdays. Fridays and Saturdays are usually reserved for touring acts. Largay said that since opening, the Compound Grill has been well supported.

"From the business community coming to lunch, to our Friday and Saturday crowd coming for a good party, to our Saturday and Sunday brunch crowd wanting leisure time with friends and family," Largay said, "it's a place where people can not only come together and break bread, but also take in some music."

Let's Dance! IT TAKES 2 TO TANGO

Introductory Offer, New Students Only.
Beginners to Advanced, Singles or Couples.
4 DANCE SESSIONS \$40.00

**LEARN TO DANCE,
GET THE ROMANCE.**

Private or Group - learn from the best, our
5 Star Certified Professional Dancers

- Ballroom
- Swing
- Social
- Latin
- Country
- Wedding



FRED ASTAIRE
FRANCHISED DANCE STUDIOS

Make your appointment today at our
N. Scottsdale Ballroom

480.473.0388

FredAstaireArizona.Com

Located in the Grayhawk/Basha's Center
20801 North Scottsdale Road.

CE
Y
PANTRY
outs
or
stalled
BS
5/10
SLIDE
slide.com
-2555
bonded, insured

Travel Into Perfection with a Skin Quenching Facial, Peel and Eye Opening Brow Lift

Valued at \$240
You Pay ONLY
\$77
(gratuity included)

Warning: There are Only 19 of these
Fabulous Eye Opening Packages
Available. First Come, First Served.

- al (\$65 value)
- skin cells while quenching
restoring your complexion
value)
- o polish your skin (\$10 value)
- task (\$10 value)
- ape (\$25 value)
- w lift (\$40 value) -
- lue)
- assage (\$10 value)

80-419-8267
SER, SKIN & MASSAGE
Jasper's and Z Pizza in the Fry's Center
ally delighted with your facial and peel or it's FREE!