

People in the news

Mood swinging

Accomplished musician's latest CD written in response to tough times and includes a tribute to his mother

By URSULA MOORE

Spiritual, meditative, inspirational and soul soothing are terms used by various listeners and reviewers to describe the music of Brian Kachejian, 47, of Smithtown.

So it's no wonder that making listeners feel good is what inspires Mr. Kachejian, who recently released his latest CD, *Mood Piano*, which he calls "jazz, classical, rock and pop all immersed into one."

Mood Piano was created in response to today's rough economic times.

"Times are hard for people, and they are looking for an escape. This CD is a response to that—moody music for moody people," he said. "The CD is to make people feel good."

His favorite song on *Mood Piano* is Red Davan. "I wrote that for my mom, a breast cancer survivor."

Signed to Modern Voices Distribution, Mr. Kachejian's love of music began with listening to Burt Bacharach songs when he was a young boy. "I was hooked right then and there," he said. His other musical influences include Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Steely Dan, the Beatles and Chick Corea.

An accomplished musician, Mr. Kachejian scored music for the television show *One Garden at a Time*, and his songs have played on radio station WFAM. According to John Tabacco of Modern Voices Distribution, Mr. Kachejian is a talented artist whose new CD has a great feel to it. "I like Brian's music a lot," Mr. Tabacco said. "*Mood Piano* has a mid 70s with a contemporary feel to it."

A veteran of the New York nightclub scene, Mr. Kachejian has been entertaining audiences as a pianist/vocalist/songwriter for many years. From Caesars in Atlantic City to New York's Copacabana, Mr. Kachejian has performed at legendary metropolitan area venues in bands named Odyssey, Phase IV and Desire.

"While I was in a band, I played in front of hundreds of thousands of people. There is an adrenaline rush to playing in front of that many people," Mr. Kachejian said. "I actually loved being in a band; it was like a family. Being on the same stage that Dean Martin once played at the Copacabana was magical."

Phase IV Band Leader Michael McKasty agreed. "I enjoyed being in a band with Brian," Mr. McKasty said. "He is all about creativity—that is what excites him the most. He is a very enthusiastic performer."

According to Mr. Kachejian, there

is nothing better than a captivated audience. "When an audience is screaming and dancing to the music you are playing, it is a great feeling," he said.

Nowadays, Mr. Kachejian can often be found performing at the Tic Toc Café in St. James. "I enjoy it a lot," he said. His dream is to perform at Madison Square Garden.

In 2007, Mr. Kachejian released *American Experience*, a CD of 16 original songs. "*American Experience* was about big corporations taking over and broken dreams," he said.

In 2008, Mr. Kachejian released a live album titled *Alive*. The album contained 13 original songs and four covers, including a piano version of Lynyrd Skynyrd's *Free Bird*.

A graduate of Smithtown High School East, Mr. Kachejian also teaches private piano instruction. His students range in age from 6 to 80.

"Teaching can be quite rewarding," he said. "During a piano recital, a former student told the audience, 'I am becoming a music teacher because of Brian.' I was so moved by that. It was a special moment for me. I like to inspire young people."

A jack of all trades, Mr. Kachejian earned a Bachelor's Degree in History from Stony Brook University. "I could teach History if I choose," he said. "I love learning and sharing the information with others."

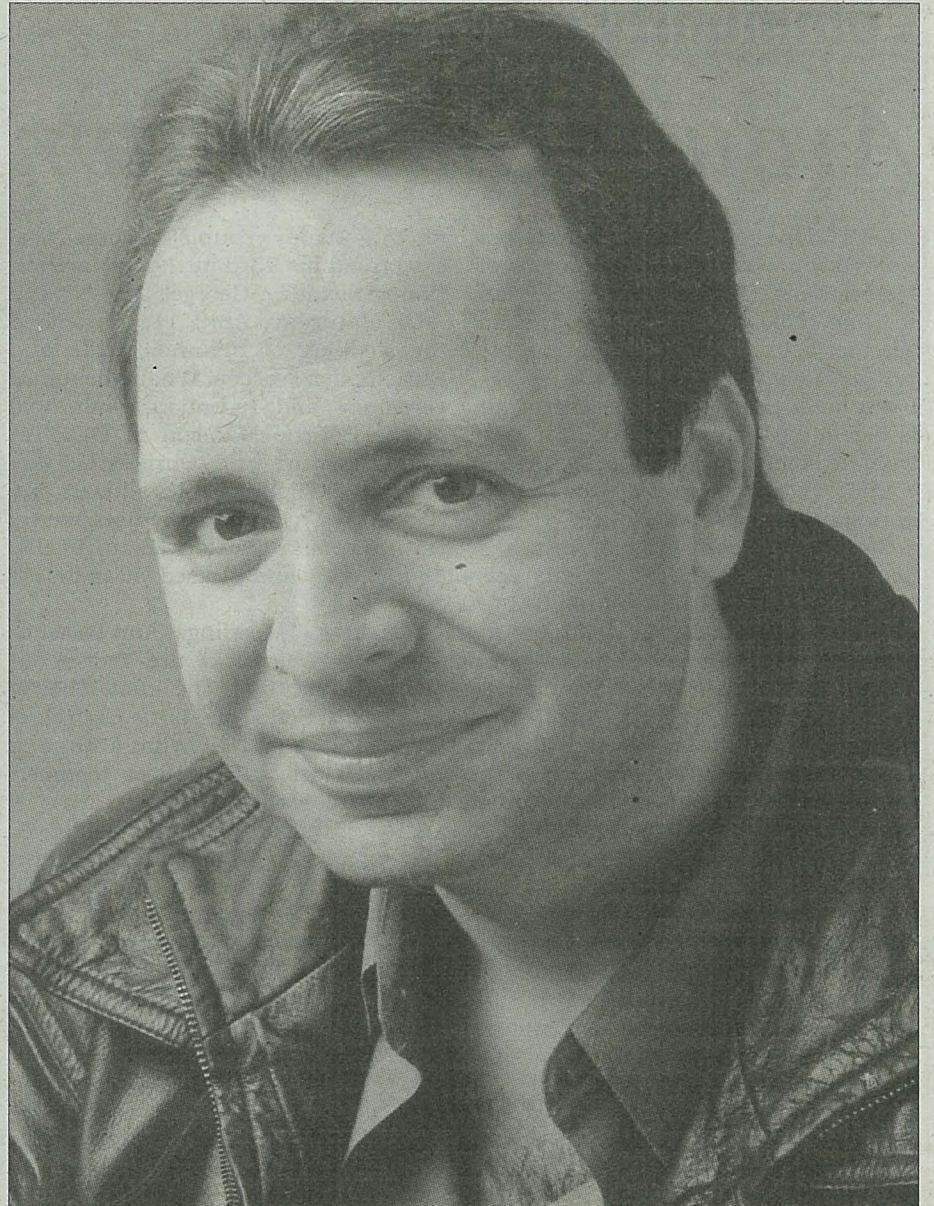
Living in Smithtown, Mr. Kachejian is married to Malinda and the father of sons Jagger, 12, and Cole, 7. His hobbies include listening to Bruce Springsteen, coaching his son Cole's baseball team and attending his son Jagger's football games.

Not surprisingly, his son Jagger plays the saxophone while Cole plays the piano. "I am passing the torch with my children," said Mr. Kachejian, who also likes to visit the music shop Mr. Cheapo in Commack. "They have everything there—albums, cassettes. It's a great place, especially for someone who loves music as much as I do."

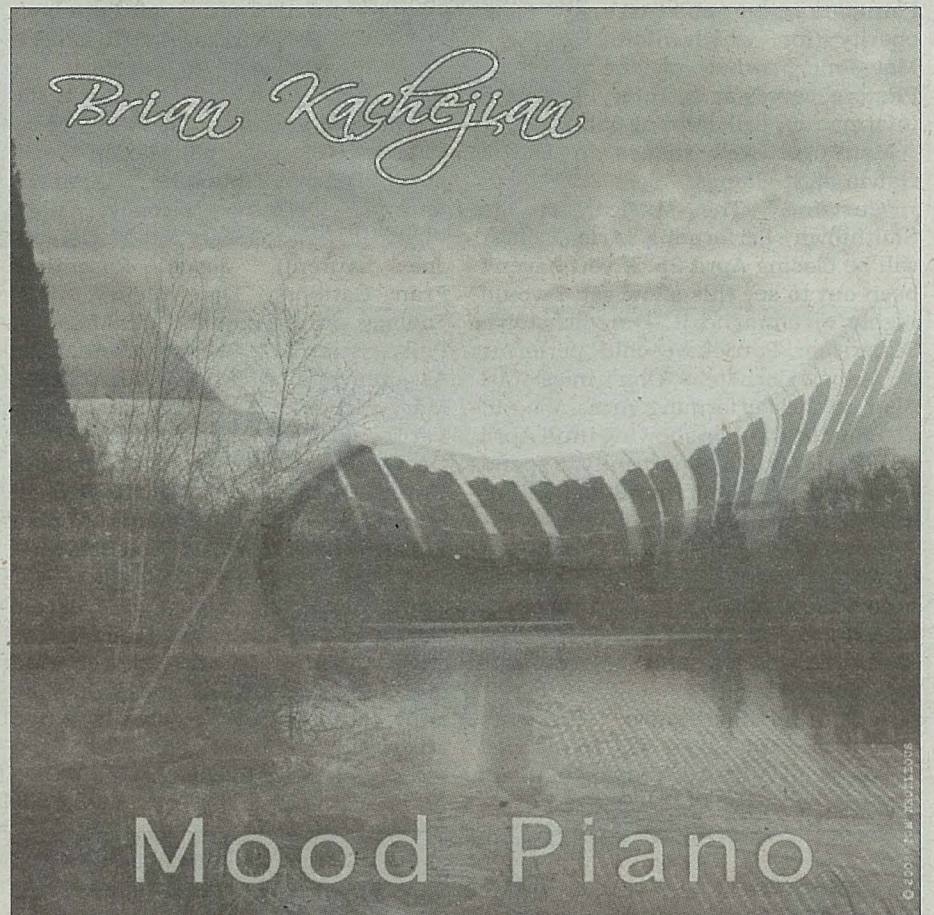
Regardless of the time commitment making music requires, expect Mr. Kachejian to continue putting out records.

"Making a living in music is difficult because there are a lot of times when you have to work on the weekends or late in the evenings," he said, "but I am doing something I love."

Mood Piano is available for digital download on iTunes and sold on www.Moodpiano.com.



JAZZING UP THE MOOD: Brian Kachejian's wants listeners to feel good with his latest CD, "*Mood Piano*." "The CD is an escape," he said. — Thomas Neokleous photo



NEWSmakers

Jason Rosenberg, of Hauppauge, has been named to the 2008 fall semester Dean's List at Northeastern University. Jason is a business and finance major. He is currently completing a six-month internship at State Street Corporation in Boston.

Shelby Pierce has been placed on the fall 2008 William Smith College Dean's List. This honor is given to students whose outstanding academic performance resulted in a grade average of 3.5 or above. Shelby is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Scott E. Pierce of Argyle Drive, Smithtown.

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