

Larry Stevens appearing at bergenPAC

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THE RECORD

LUCKY STEVENS



Well, OK, talent has something to do with it, too. But it isn't every Jersey musician who can boast that he's opened for Peter Frampton, the Doobie Brothers, Foreigner, Shania Twain, Tim McGraw, Zebra, Steve Forbert and — now — Todd Rundgren (Friday at bergenPAC). Park Ridge singer-songwriter-guitarist Larry Stevens can.

TELL ME MORE: Stevens, originally from Montvale and Dumont, has served a lengthy apprenticeship in places like Nashville, where he frequented the storied Bluebird Café, and New York, where he's been seen at that seed bed for future music stars, The Bitter End. Typically, his set mixes tunes by the likes of the Beatles, Eric Clapton and John Mayer with originals from his two albums, "Heart of a Fighter" and "Downstairs at Mayo's" (a third CD is in the works). But for this opening slot at the Rundgren show — a duet with Montclair guitarist Van Manakas — he'll be concentrating on originals like "I Don't Want to Waste Your Time" and "Déjà Voodoo Glow." Style? Think John Mayer meets Elvis Costello, he says. For more, see larrystevensband.com.

QUOTE: "It's been a long road but a very rewarding music career that I put every waking hour into. It's in my soul." — Larry Stevens

— Jim Beckerman