

Former Vero Beach Resident to Star in Centennial Celebration Finale Day Band



Photo by Beverly S. Paris

Charlie "Chuck" DeCosa may not be the real deal as Paul McCartney in the *BeatleBeat* Band who will be playing the final few hours of the Centennial Celebration Finale, but his voice, left handed bass

guitar playing, and costumes replicating the famous singer are an uncanny match.

The other thing DeCosa brings to the Celebration on Saturday, October 26 from 3:45 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the Pocahontas Park Stage is a love for Vero Beach. He moved to Vero Beach from New York when he was six and went through the Vero Beach school system, graduating in 1994 as the bands clarinet, Sousaphone, bass guitarist and won the Louis Armstrong Jazz award while in high school. DeCosa went on to play with Vero Beach's favorite Land sharks band then in a short time played the Trop-Rock circuit for over a decade, playing with Jim Morris and the Big Bamboo Band, John Frinzi, Sunny Jim White, and members of Jimmy Buffett's Coral Reefer Band. DeCosa and his wife Brandy Howder DeCosa, also formerly of Vero Beach, have three children, Joanne (10), Charles (6), and Paul (4).

It must have been fate that the first two records given to him by his brother Tony were "Meet the Beatles" and "Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" since DeCosa has played each of the four Beatles at different times until finally settling into the McCartney role in 2014.

BeatleBeat, known internationally as the world's most fun and entertaining tribute show includes an all-star cast with members from the original Broadway and touring cast of *Beatlemania* and *The British Invasion* from Disney World's EPCOT. *BeatleBeat* captures the music, energy and magic of a *Beatles* concert with authentic outfits of different eras. With their famous black "Ed Sullivan" suits, *BeatleBeat* spans the Fab Four's touring era with classic hits like "I Want To Hold Your Hand", "A Hard Day's Night", "I Saw Her Standing There", "Help!" and many more early favorites! Changing into colorful Sgt. Pepper suits, they will perform classic favorites from the "Summer of Love" including "Sgt. Pepper", "With a Little Help from My Friends" and "Yellow Submarine" just to mention a few! DeCosa's bandmates are: Jimi Pappas as "John," originally from Kenilworth, NJ; Leo Rojo as "George," originally from San Cristóbal, Venezuela and Willie Rast as "Ringo," originally from Wildwood, FL.

"It's always great to come back to Vero Beach for a visit, but this time, at the Centennial Celebration Finale, is something very special for me and my family," shares DeCosa from his Orlando home base. "My memories of growing up here are not only happy ones in so many ways, but that is where I discovered and found my love for music which has led me to an amazing career. There will always be a special place in my heart for Vero Beach."

Bring your lawn chairs, blankets, and picnics; mingle with old friends and make new ones. Enjoy this glorious fall day...one community making new memories together! Sing and dance to *BeatleBeat!*



BeatleBeat's Sgt Pepper segment of their playlist to be performed from the Pocahontas Park Stage on Centennial Celebration Finale day. Photo by Beverly S. Paris.

The Centennial Celebration year has been sponsored by Florida Power & Light. The official Centennial Flagship Radio Station is WTTB News Radio 105.7 FM/1490 AM. Co-chairs for the Celebration are Tammy Bursick and Tony Young. Road closures, parade route, parking opportunities, shuttle bus times, and all other information about the day, please visit www.verobeach100.org. Please download a Centennial flyer or brochure prepared by Beverly S. Paris Centennial Official Publicist, parisproductionsvero@gmail.com, along with Adams Media Group and pass on to your friends and neighbors. All times on event schedule are approximate. For added information, contact Co-chair Tammy Bursick at 772-978-4700.