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Rock 4 Xmas Preview

by Alison Despres, southcoast247.com staff writer
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It's awfully telling when, even in tough economic times like these, rock stars and local folks alike get together to put on an amazing show with 100% of the proceeds going to local families in need. Wayne Morrison, of Morrison Music & Production, set out in 1996 with one goal in mind: to help families in the New England communities that need it the most. From that goal came Rock 4 Xmas.

Since then, Wayne's worked tirelessly to assemble an array of artists from all over the world to play shows in the Northeast during Christmastime. Past performers include; Blue Oyster Cult, Rick Derringer, Larry Hoppen of Orleans, and Paul Shortino of Quiet Riot...just to name a few.

Wednesday night, Southcoast247 visited Wayne's studio near the Wamsutta apartment complex in New Bedford to catch up with him and some of the performers as they prepped for this weekend's string of shows. When asked who benefits from the shows, Wayne commented, "The families local to each venue...we like to get a feel for what's happening in each community... We're doing good work to help them stay strong." He further explained all the performers' eagerness to fly from all over to do something for an old friend and to help out the less fortunate.

The rehearsal experience was like that of a group of old friends brushing up on their skills, learning new music, and relaxing with stories and tales from the road. Even into the twilight hours, when tired eyes and fatigue set in, everyone remained in good spirits. It's that mentality that makes a tour like this successful.

Iconic rocker Eddie Money, famous for multiple timeless pop hits including "Think I'm In Love" and bar anthem "Take Me Home Tonight", didn't arrive until after the stroke of midnight due to various flight conflicts. But that didn't slow him down one iota. When asked about his inspiration to join the Rock 4 Xmas tour, Money noted Wayne's good heart and motivation.

"Wayne is a true philanthropist. He's a good buddy of mine, been so for a long time, and it's a great thing to help out the kids, really," Money said.

This year's Rock 4 Xmas line-up also includes Joey Belladonna of Anthrax, Larry Hoppen of Orleans, James Montgomery, Tommy Moody, Patrick Johansson, Terri Ilous of XYZ, After The Crash, and many more. The tour starts this weekend, December 5th - 7th, making stops at Foxwoods Resort and Casino, Harmony Hall in North Yarmouth, Maine, and the Newport Blues Café in scenic Newport, Rhode Island. Tickets are only \$20 and benefit local shelters, food pantries, and other charitable foundations. You can also pick up a Rock 4 Xmas CD at any show or online featuring many of the acts listed above as well as a special performance by Rodeo from Rock of Love.

For more information on this year's Rock 4 Xmas tour, visit rock4xmas.com

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