

Concerts on the Village Green



Musician Steve Blunt leads the audience as he sings and hops to the Kangaroo song as partner Marty Kelly bangs away on the Djembe drums; the two performed at the Pelham Community Spirit's presentation of Concerts on the Village Green on August 8

Staff photos by Marc Ayotte

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The concerts on the Village Green in Pelham continued its summer long promotion most recently with a children's concert performed by Steve Blunt and Marty Kelly. The events are sponsored by the Pelham Community Spirit and brought to the public, free of charge. Once again the event was supported by several local organizations including Packs 25 and 610 of the Pelham Boy Scouts, VFW Post 10722, the Ladies Auxiliary, as well as local business, Holly's Kona Ice, who donates part of her night's proceeds to the Scouts.

The fun-filled musical evening on August 8, was specifically directed towards children's entertainment. Blunt and Kelly performed a host of interactive songs for the scores of youngsters and parents who came out to enjoy the music in front of the Pelham Public Library under a beautiful, blue sky. According to Blunt, who plays guitar and is the vocalist for the duo, their music has a target audience of children in kindergarten through the fourth grade.

Blunt did a "bonzer" of a job involving the audience. Many in attendance were singing along as well as actively participating in the songs, epitomized by the 'lively' rendition of the Australian-themed Kangaroo Dance. With other catchy tunes featuring fun names such as

"Macaroni & Cheese" and "Rainy Day," Blunt and Kelly, who provided the beat by way of the snare and Djembe drums, engaged the young audience.

In addition to performing, the duo had a stage-side display of the books and CDs that they have each produced. Kelly, who spends his days as an author and illustrator, has written several children's' books, including *Crustacean Vacation* and *The Rules*, also targeted for the K-4 audience. He also has plans to release a 'chapter book' – a kid's novel or a "fun kind of story" as he described it, targeted at the 10-12 year old reader. The New Boston resident also illustrated the cover for Blunt's first CD entitled "Out of School."

Blunt, who writes a lot of the songs the duo performs, has produced a total of five CDs, two of which were "There's a Vampire at my Door" and "Hang on Henry" which he performed that evening as well. In their five years of working together, Blunt says that most of their performances are given in venues such as the one at the Pelham Public Library. During a performance break that evening while selling their books and CDs, several members of the audience thanked the artists for prior performances, recalling their appearances at such venues as the Dracut (MA) Library and Hampstead Academy.