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## Your Entertainment NAVIGATOR

### Weekend events

#### '101 DALMATIANS KIDS'

Independent School District 15 Summer Children's Theater presents "101 Dalmations KIDS" June 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. and June 28 at 2 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at St. Francis High School. Tickets are \$5 for children, \$6 for seniors and \$7 for adults.

#### BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Beauty and the Beast will perform June 28, 7 p.m., in the Bicentennial Band Shell at George Green Park, 1498 Sixth Ave. S., Anoka, as part of the Concerts in the Park series. For more information, call 763-576-2980 or visit [www.ci.anoka.mn.us](http://www.ci.anoka.mn.us).

#### 'BRIDGE TO TERABITHIA'

Lyrical Arts Main Street Stage, located at 420 E. Main St. in Anoka, presents "Bridge to Terabithia" through June 28. For ticket information and show times, visit [www.lyricarts.org](http://www.lyricarts.org) or call 763-422-1838.

#### ART EXHIBIT

"The more things change..." by artist Jennifer Danos, featuring the history of the former Banfill Tavern and Locke Farm House, is on display through June 26 at Banfill-Locke Center for the Arts, 6666 East River Road, Fridley. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, visit [www.banfill-locke.org](http://www.banfill-locke.org).

### Local bands

#### FRIDLEY CITY BAND

The Fridley City Band is looking for new members. Rehearsals are Mondays at 7:30 p.m. at Fridley Middle School. For more information, call 763-755-6900.

#### NORTH SUBURBAN CONCERT BAND

The North Suburban Concert Band is looking for new members. Rehearsals are held Mondays, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the Coon Rapids Middle School band room. For more information, visit [www.nscband.org](http://www.nscband.org).

More Stories  
**ONLINE AT**  
[www.ABCNewspapers.com](http://www.ABCNewspapers.com)

If you are an Anoka County artist or a person planning an entertainment activity, contact Kelly Johnson at [kelly.johnson@ecm-inc.com](mailto:kelly.johnson@ecm-inc.com).

## A UNIQUE KARAOKE EXPERIENCE:



Michael Campbell provides his own personal brand of acoustic karaoke through Sing Along With Michael. Submitted photo by Kate Ash

BY KELLY JOHNSON  
Staff writer

**H**ave you ever dreamed of taking to the stage, microphone in hand, singing a favorite classic while behind you a guitarist provides perfect harmony?

It's not something the average singer gets to experience on a regular basis.

But it's an experience Michael Campbell wants to provide through his own brand of acoustic karaoke.

Campbell, an Andover resident and Coon Rapids native, is the driving force behind Sing Along With Michael, an interactive karaoke experience where singers take the microphone, accompanied by Campbell on guitar.

With a repertoire of nearly 300 songs, audience members pick a song and take the stage, serving as lead singer.

But this isn't your typical karaoke experience.

Campbell provides a bound book, full of printed lyrics to each song. There's no television screen prompting the singer to the next verse. The book is located nearby for reference if needed.

With prompting from Campbell, expertly playing chords and rhythms on his guitar, the singer

finds his or her voice, entertaining the crowd.

It's just the singer and Campbell providing the music, unlike traditional karaoke where music is provided via recorded tracks.

"I try to make it fun instead of making it this big performance," Campbell said.

Once singers get singing, "they seem to forget they're singing it live," he said.

It's a unique experience that keeps singers coming back for more.

"Most people really enjoy it," Campbell said.

He has developed an ear for playing some of the most requested tunes, teaching himself the chords and rhythms by listening and figuring them out.

"Over the years I have gotten to the point where I hear a song on the radio and can pick out the chord structure," he said. "A lot of songs are only three or four chords."

Besides karaoke, Campbell offers trivia contests to be more

interactive with his audience.

On nights when the audience is less enthusiastic about singing, Campbell provides the music.

But Campbell tries to bring the audience into the show.

"I really try to get people to come up," he said.

One bonus to playing with a real musician, rather than singing to a recorded track, is that Campbell can adjust the key of the song to fit the individual singer's range.

"You can improvise a little bit," he said.

Campbell started Sing Along With Michael in 2006.

He became interested in music at a young age, growing up in a family where virtually everyone sings and plays guitar.

He taught himself to play guitar at age eight, continuing to play in a band during college.

Later, Campbell played with his brother Bill, who is currently in the local band The Bill and Tom Show.

In 2005, Campbell decided to perform solo.

Drawing inspiration from requests from audience members wanting to sing with the brothers on stage, Campbell decided to make his solo gig an interactive experience.

"My goal is to help the singer as much as they need to and make it a fun and memorable experience for them," Campbell said.

Campbell brings his show to local nightclubs and private parties throughout the area.

For more information, visit [www.SingAlongWithMichael.com](http://www.SingAlongWithMichael.com) or e-mail [Michael@SingAlongWithMichael.com](mailto:Michael@SingAlongWithMichael.com).

For entertainment story ideas, e-mail Kelly Johnson at [kelly.johnson@ecm-inc.com](mailto:kelly.johnson@ecm-inc.com).



Michael Campbell sings with a karaoke volunteer at a recent show. Submitted photo by Denise Lachinski

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