

# Local guitar player gives passion a try

Kelly Rees  
Sun Writer

Todd Pyke has played guitar for awhile. Now he is sharing his experience with students at the Encinitas School of Guitar.

Those students performed Sunday under the lights of La Paloma Theatre in Encinitas.

"It gives the student a chance to feel a live performance," Pyke said. "There is such a great feeling about performing. This theater is a great place and has such a unique feel."

From the Beatles to Bach, students performed in 24 acts.

Pyke knows about live performing. He performed in several local bands and has received the title of Hottest Guitarist in Los Angeles.

After the years of performing, seeing the students master the guitar has thrilled Pyke enough to dedicate himself to teaching and opening the school.

"The students are really loving it," he said. "The smiles and confidence they are gaining is great. Teaching has really become my passion."

While teaching in local schools and recreational centers, he saw a need for a school to expand the learning of guitar for those interested.

Pyke participates in a Encinitas recreation program that runs through area schools



STEVE MARCOTTE / Sun Newspapers

Students of the Encinitas School of Guitar perform during their fall recital at La Paloma Theatre.

and offers after school lessons for a six week period. The program costs only \$35 and allows children to experience the guitar for a short time.

He is offering the guitar into the hands of kids who may not even own a guitar. Parents can take the lesson right along with their child for a family affair.

"The school provides free use of guitars," Pyke said. "While the student gets a feel for the instrument (they) can really decide if this is something that they want to do."

One of these family acts hit

the stage with great applause performing "Come Together" by the Beatles.

Bob Ayers and son Haden tossed their heads back, danced and played facing one another in complete unison for the whole song.

Both have played the guitar for a number of years.

Many of the acts teamed up

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Encinitas School  
of Guitar

the students playing guitar, singing, bass and drums.

Pyke views North County as a perfect place for his passionate start.

"It's a musical mecca here," he said. "I would love to create a New Orleans here."

The recital is the first step for the new school, which opened in April.

"I would love to bring attention to this town," he said. "Just look at the atmosphere... it's awesome. (There is) such support for the arts community."

Questions about lessons can be directed to Todd Pyke at Encinitas School of Guitar at (760) 943-9480. The school is located at 775 Orpheus St.