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#### FYI

Terry Lawless will perform at Epiphany Cellars, 2974 Grand Ave., Los Olivos, on June 6 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., in conjunction with Rebecca Gomez's art exhibition.

North County-based musician Terry Lawless is a man of many musical hats. And those hats come in a variety of shapes and sizes.

When he is not serving as a backup musician for the likes of U2 and P!NK, performing in their monolithic arena shows, you can find Mr. Lawless either playing around Santa Barbara's North County in one of a number of different musical guises.

On Friday, June 6, Mr. Lawless will be performing at Epiphany Cellars in Los Olivos as part of an off-site exhibition of paintings by artist Rebecca Gomez that was organized by The C Gallery. The event runs from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. and will feature a solo performance by Mr. Lawless who will present a collection of popular compositions instrumentally.

"The great thing about music is that everybody likes something different," Mr. Lawless told the News-Press during a recent telephone interview from his home near Santa Maria. "I'm able to work with a number of different types of music and that has allowed me to do a lot of very things over the years, from working with people like U2 and P!NK in big productions to accompanying a singer-songwriter or just playing on my own like I will be doing in Los Olivos."

Mr. Lawless's musical dexterity is readily apparent through his current musical wandering around North County.

He is currently performing Hammond organ and saxophone in the high-energy blues-rock influenced collective, The Dave Miller Band. He will also soon be taking to the road for about 35 shows with the West Coast soul and funk band, Burning James and the Funky Flames, where he will contribute keyboards, saxophone, flute, accordion, and backing vocals.

Never one to shy away from the opportunity to play, you can also find Mr. Lawless regularly performing at Santa Maria's Costa de Oro Winery and Marketplace in a trio called The Paisley Brothers or with local rock band The Legends at Harry's Beach Bar in Pismo Beach. If all that doesn't keep him busy enough he also plays in more intimate settings with Dave Miller as a duo and accompanying Arroyo Grande-based singer-songwriter, C.V. Wells.

"I played on C.V. Wells' album that's going to be released in the next couple of weeks and that's how I met him," Mr. Lawless explained. "We do a duo where I play some piano and electric piano and he's playing acoustic guitar and singing.

"That's been a great experience because my accompaniment skills with a songwriter weren't necessarily very strong, but now I'm doing a little of that it translates into other the other performances I do."

Those performances have spanned the musical gamut. Mr. Lawless's induction into music came firstly via the piano accordion and then the saxophone while growing up in Iowa. He performed in both the Iowa All-State Band and Orchestra and the McDonald All American High School Band and earned a bachelor's degree in music and mathematics at Coe College in Cedar Rapids. After teaching high school for while in Iowa, he moved to California in 1983.

Shortly after his arrival in Los Angeles, Mr. Lawless's affinity for both math and music stood him in good stead for working within the burgeoning digital synthesizers and programming scene. He firstly found work with Barry Manilow and then with Don Henley which subsequently opened the door to working with artists such as Bonnie Riatt, David Bowie, Bruce Springsteen, U2, and P!NK.

Mr. Lawless's live work has seen him party to some of music's crowning moments.

Not only was he part of U2's famed "Vertigo" and "360\u221E" tours, he performed at the Academy Awards, the Grammy Awards, a Superbowl and a even Presidential Inauguration with the Irish rock band. While also playing with Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band, he performed at Mr. Springsteen's Rock and Roll Hall Of Fame Induction and even worked with Michael Jackson during the rehearsals for his "Dangerous" tour.

Mr. Lawless's resume is impressive by any standard. It was while working with David Bowie in the mid-1990s that he was enlightened into the increasing importance live performance was to hold in the music industry. The rock and roll icon told Mr. Lawless that he felt recorded music was soon going to have no value because it was going to become so accessible. The local musician took him at his word and subsequently crafted himself a distinguished career in the live arena.

That is not to say recorded music plays no part in his life. He regularly performs as a session musician and with the continuing evolution of digital technology, most of Mr. Lawless's recorded ventures are now undertaken in his home studio.

"The paradigm has changed quite a bit, meaning I can do more and more of that work over the Internet," he said. "I will get a mix from someone and have a conversation with them about what they want and most of the time they will trust me to put something down that is, if nothing else, tasteful, fits the right genre, and fills in what they want."

But nothing is more personally fulfilling for the musician than getting out in front of an audience. No matter whether it is in front of a packed Wembley Stadium with the biggest band in the world or performing at a cafe accompanying a local singer-songwriter, his ethos to the musical experience is the same.

"The skill set that I need is different," Mr. Lawless said. "When I am working on the road I am usually doing a very computer-driven job there and it's very specific. On the world stage you do things so they're exactly the same every night, that's what you strive for. But the local stage is my outlet to do what I really love in music and that is to create.

"What it really all comes to for me is making a band sound as good as it's ever going to be in that moment. Whether it's U2 or P!NK or a local band, I hope that what I do helps them be as good as they can possibly be. Rather than be a great soloist I would prefer to see the rest of the band rise and I would like to think that I do things that make the everyone else play better. That's what I really shoot for."