

## NITELIFE GUIDE

# Streeters' 'human jukeboxes' stress importance of audience

BY NANCY SUNDSTROM  
Special to the Record-Eagle

Billy McCaslin and Mike McAllister liken themselves to "human jukeboxes," and with good reason. But unlike a jukebox, where you put money in and pretty much know what will happen, if you ask these two for a song,

expect the unexpected.

This is why McCaslin and McAllister have a growing local following for their Dueling Pianos act at Streeters Entertainment Center in Traverse City.

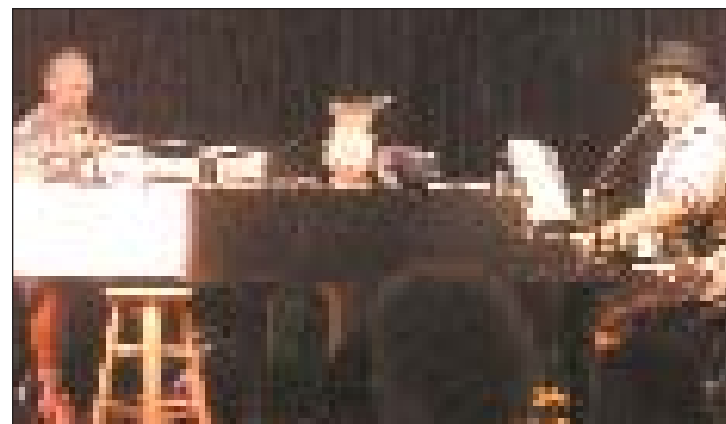
McCaslin and McAllister are the newest additions to the Streeters' Dueling Pianos roster, which also features Noel Lehman and

"Smokin" George, the show's original performers.

There's a decidedly urban, big-city feel to the act that is balanced by the fact that Dueling Pianos doesn't let one off the hook in terms of audience involvement.

Even though they're the focus, with their skillful musicianship and ability to handle requests from the classic ("Piano Man" and "Blueberry Hill") to the goofy ("Friends in Low Places" and Poison's "Talk Dirty to Me"), the pair keep stressing to the audience that, "You are the stars."

It comes as a good-natured warning, because the entire concept of Dueling Pianos is built around interaction, which means that anything can go and probably will, particularly as the evening gets later.



Record-Eagle/Meegan M. Reid

**The Dueling Pianos appear every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night at Streeters.**

McCaslin and McAllister are versatile and accomplished performers, and in the course of a 20 minute segment of the show, you're likely to hear about six different musical genres, meaning there's something for everyone.

They play requests (those that have \$1 attached to them) or suggestions (those without), and there are variations on a theme for more fun. For example, one woman requested "Stayin' Alive" by the BeeGees, but after a couple of verses, paid another \$2

to stop the song. It was worth it, judging by the enthusiastic audience applause. On the other hand, the duo delivered impressive versions of songs like "Takin' It to the Streets," "Benny and the Jets" and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" that demonstrated their individual and collective prowess as pianists.

While it's certainly about the music, you can count on laughing — a lot — at Dueling Pianos. Both McCaslin and McAllister are quick wits who roll with whatever punches the audience dishes out, and they're not afraid to pave the way by acting silly themselves.

If you attend Dueling Pianos, chances are you'll return again, not only because the show is that entertaining, but because you're guaranteed to never see the same thing twice. It's the kind of evening where the music and laughs are served non-stop, and if you do happen to check your watch, you're going to have one more surprise — just how quickly the time has passed.

*Dueling Pianos can be seen throughout the summer on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. For more information, call Streeters at (231) 932-1300.*

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