

Unique performer coming to Bancroft



A multi-award-winning musician is coming to Bancroft! North Hastings High School and the Bancroft Village Playhouse are pleased to welcome Tony Melendez on Thursday, Feb. 25.

Tony is a unique and extremely talented singer/songwriter who has a very special gift to give to the world.

Originally from Nicaragua, Tony was born without arms due to the drug Thalidomide which was prescribed to his mother for morning sickness before he was born.

Without arms he had to learn to do almost everything with his feet, and at age 16 he taught himself to play guitar with his toes. As he grew proficient at his guitar playing he also matured as a singer and composer. In 1987 he was asked by the youth of Los Angeles to be their gift to Pope John Paul II.

It was this internationally broadcast event that set Tony's career in to high gear.

Now more than 28 years later Tony has traveled to all 50 states and more than 44 foreign countries.

Tony has been on shows such as Good Morning America, Arsenio Hall, 700 Club, Jerry Lewis Telethons, and prime time network specials for Variety Clubs and Very Special Arts.

Tony and his brother Jose travel together sharing their message of hope and love of life, through music and personal life stories. As they continue to travel they also focus on young people by going into elementary and high schools, colleges and universities, speaking on issues like self-esteem, substance abuse, disability awareness, etc.

Tony has recorded five albums and is the recipient of numerous awards and honours, including special commendations from President Reagan, State of California, The City of Los Angeles, and countless other civic and charitable organizations, as well as the first annual Inspirational Hero Award from the NFL Alumni Association at Super Bowl XXIII in Miami.

Tony tailors his concerts according to his audience and Bancroft's will be a motivational, musical keynote (non-religious) type.

The Playhouse event takes place at 7 p.m., and is being sponsored by Mary's Mission, a non profit apostolate, specializing in social awareness issues and outreach to the poor.

Tickets are only \$10 and available at McMichael Jewellers, The Stone Kitchen, online: www.boxofficebancroft.com, or at the door.

Sponsored by the Crown Ward Education Championship Team
For more information visit www.marysmission.ca.
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