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Soaking up sun, music in Shorefront Park

July 11, 2009 by MARISSA BHOLAN / marissa.bholan@newsday.com

Hundreds of Long Islanders lounged in beach chairs, spread out on blankets, sat in a small section of stadium seating or simply stood Saturday as they listened to the music that filled Shorefront Park in Patchogue. They came together to experience the third annual Great South Bay Music Festival, a three-day music, art and cultural event that continues Sunday. Musicians performed on three separate stages - named Bay, Blue Point Brews and Cultural and fans clapped and danced along to classic rock, jazz, country, funk and other types of American music. "There is a lot of talent here, and they are all only going to get better," Heinz Nestler of Patchogue said after watching the performance of the Sheppard Brothers from William Floyd High School. "There is a lot of covered music, but original music too." "We would be happy to perform in front of three people," said guitarist Kevin Griffin, 35, as he stood with the other members of East Setauket's The Point, a progressive electronic jam-band. "We just want to get our music out there, and it's so nice to see something like this happen on Long Island." Arrayed behind the Bay Stage were two historic demonstrations that drew plenty of parents and their children. One showed how soldiers dressed, drilled and practiced during the Civil War, and the other showed the true lives of pirates. "In school, they don't teach much about it," said Civil War re-enactor Frank Ruiz, 54, of Selden. "We try to convey the realities to the kids." The festival continues Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for ages 11 through 64, \$16 for seniors and college students with a valid ID, and \$16 for village residents with proof of residency. Admission is free for children 10 and under.

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