

OUT & about

News and Notes

R.E.M.'s Mike Mills with Ingrid Schorr at the band's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Induction.



She Did Go Back to Rockville

When Ingrid Schorr went home to Rockville from the University of Georgia in the summer of 1980, she didn't know her trip had inspired the lyrics of what would become a classic song.

The now famous R.E.M. was just getting its start in Athens, Ga., when band member Mike Mills wrote "Don't Go Back To Rockville" during Schorr's summer hiatus from the university, where the two students had recently started to date. "I remember he showed me the lyrics written in a notebook, but I didn't hear the song until the night I returned to Athens," Schorr says.

Getting back to school from

Rockville at the end of summer took two days because her car broke down in North Carolina. Once she rolled into town, however, they were playing her song—literally. "Michael [Stipe] pulled me up onto stage the night I got back, and that was the first time I heard the song," she says. "It was pretty amazing."

Schorr's friendship with Mills and the other band members has spanned three decades. She was among the guests at R.E.M.'s induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in March.

Schorr now lives in Cambridge, Mass., but she comes to town to visit her father, who still calls Rockville home.

Metal to Mo

Not long ago, 19-year-old Ian McEuen was into long hair, skulli and crossbones T-shirts, and his role as lead singer for a heavy metal band. Today, the teenage tenor from Bethesda is on a full-tuition scholarship at Carnegie Mellon University, where he is studying vocal performance and forging a name for himself in the competitive world of opera.

Named the best male high school singer in the mid-Atlantic in 2005 by the National Association of Teachers of Singing, Ian caught the attention of opera impresario "Loch Lomond" that makes auditions for his father, Jim McEuen.

Ian spent five weeks in Lucca, Italy, studying with the Opera Theatre and completing the first year of the Lucca program — an incredible opportunity for an aspiring opera singer who dreams of performing the role of Calaf in Puccini's "Turandot."



Ian McEuen on the opera circuit.

chosen by the program, the program is associated with the University of Maryland College-Corner Music, where he performed in February.

Although he studied metal for his studies, it has helped him from playing in rock bands at

from his alma mater, Walt Whitman High School. "I hope that we [he and his father, Caroline McEuen,] live long enough to debut at the Met."