

Entertainment

## 'Cupcakeasaurus' brings rock 'n' roll to 'tweens

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For the Daily Tribune

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BIRMINGHAM — A free concert for kids of all ages featuring fun, catchy and danceable music will be offered from 2-3 p.m. Sunday at the Baldwin Public Library, 30118 W. Merrill St.

The sing-along concert will celebrate the release of Tom Seley's second album, "Cupcakeasuarus," and will feature songs such as "Pluto is a Planet" and "Stone Age Kid," as well as the title track.

Seley's music offers kids in the 'tween years, 8 to 12 years old, a rare mix of age-appropriate lyrics and rock music that plays to their sensibilities. During the free concert, Seley and his band, The Troublemakers, will play his popular songs while kids and their families can enjoy singing along.

"I wanted this album to be even more rock 'n' roll," said Seley, who teaches third- and fourth-graders at Covington School in Birmingham. "It provides more opportunity for audience participation, including parents, and a way for my band, The Troublemakers, to show how fun it is to play music."

With quality music for 'tweens difficult to find, Seley decided to create developmentally appropriate music for this age group.

While younger kids enjoy Raffi and Barney, once they reach age 7 or 8 they consider this music "babyish," said Seley.

"Popular music on the radio with its boyfriend and girlfriend themes is not yet developmentally appropriate for these kids," he said. "Third- and fourth-graders deserve great music, too, so I set out to write songs for this age group.

"I always try to respect their intelligence and level of humor. I also try to foster creativity through my songs. Kids love to sing along and imagine themselves in the role of the narrator, which is why I wrote 'Stone Age Kid'; I thought it would be fun for kids to sing that song and imagine that they are a stone-age kid, suddenly transported into modern times," he said.

Encouraged by school staff members, students and administration, Seley — a longtime guitarist and singer-songwriter — has led a sing-along with the kids at Covington School each week after school.

He aspires to share his music with as wide an audience as possible, but plans to continue teaching his multi-age classroom in Birmingham.

To learn more about Tom Seley, listen to his music or for his upcoming concert schedule, visit [www.MrSeley.com](http://www.MrSeley.com). This album will be available on CD at the concert, on his website, [www.CDbaby.com](http://www.CDbaby.com), iTunes and at Solo Records, 30118 Woodward Ave., beginning Sunday.

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