

# Beatles tribute band recreates roof-top concert

By Laurie Lus  
Volunteer reporter

AZ Beats is a group of Gilbert musicians who have come together to form Arizona's only Beatles-tribute band.

On January 30, 1969, the Beatles gave their last live performance in London. Thirty-seven years later to the date AZ Beats will be doing it too.

Noon, January 30, 2006, AZ Beats is going to re-enact this event at, or rather on, the roof of Gilbert's own Rock City, a restaurant located at 302 N. Gilbert Road, on the northwest corner of Page Avenue and Gilbert Road.

The event will launch a new set in the AZ Beats show, adding to the sets they currently perform which include the Beatles' early music from 1964-1965.

"AZ Beats is more than just a band, it's a show," said James Lus, who plays John Lennon in the group. "We go all out with recreations of the sets, costumes and instruments that the Beatles really used."

The band's set will be the "Let It Be" set, according to Mr. Lus.

It will include the songs the Beatles actually performed on the rooftop in 1969 - specifically, "Get Back," "Don't Let Me Down," "I've Got a Feeling," "One After



Photo submitted to the Gilbert Independent  
**Gilbert Beatle tribute band is gearing up for their Jan. 30 roof-top performance at Rock City Restaurant in Gilbert.**

909" and "Dig a Pony."

Mr. Lus said AZ Beats has spared no expense on equipment in pursuit of sets that are as authentic as possible.

AZ Beats' gear list includes, but is not limited to, the following: Epiphone Casino, 12-string Rickenbacker; Rickenbacker 325; Gretsch Country Gentleman; Hofner bass (left-handed, of course!); Vox guitar and bass amplifiers; two vintage Fender Twin Reverb amplifiers; a Fender Bassman amplifier; Ludwig Fab Four drum kit; and a Ludwig

drum kit with natural wood finish.

The sets and costumes include arrows reminiscent of those on the Ed Sullivan stage at the Beatles' first appearance; a 4' high drum riser; "Sullivan suits" with velvet collars; Beatle boots straight from London; and Shea Stadium jackets with Wells Fargo badges.

The Beatles are played by James Lus (John Lennon), Ken Howard (Paul McCartney), Tom Nutty (George Harrison) and Laurie Lus (Ringo Starr). Glen Iwata will be playing Billy Preston's part.

The members met at East Valley Bible Church, where they play in the worship ministry and found that in addition to their zeal for leading others in worship, they were also avid Beatles fans.

The AZ Beats' slogan is "Feel the excitement all over again" and they pride themselves on creating an atmosphere that allows audiences to let go and imagine they are back in time at a real Beatles concert - screaming girls and all.

"It was a pretty cool thing for me when at one of our recent shows, an audience member came up to me and shared that a couple of men at her table actually had tears in their eyes while we were playing," Ms. Lus, said. "It has that kind of nostalgic, emotional impact that is hard to find at just any concert."

AZ Beats will be dedicating the concert to Beatle keyboardist Billy Preston, who is presently recovering from a heart condition in Arizona.

AZ Beats can be contacted by phone at (480) 748-9218 or through their Web site at [www.azbeats.com](http://www.azbeats.com), where visitors can also view video and read biographical information about the band members.

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### Ongoing

**Gilbert Fine Arts fall classes:** The Gilbert Fine Arts Association is sponsoring fall classes. The youth classes being offered are:

● "F Troupe!" for grades one through four. They will learn songs, choreogra-

through nine. Cost is \$200 per semester.

● "Acting Up!" is an acting/theater class for youth, grades three through seven. Seasoned directors with years of community-theater experience will teach these young actors. There will be opportunities to write commercials.

rently located at the old Boys and Girls auditorium in Gilbert. Cost is \$180 per semester.

For more information, contact Rosanne Tidwell at 832-3244, Melanie Wallace at 854-3441, Angela White at 354-8925, or Brittney Larson 588-6954.

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**Divorce support group:** Divorce-Care is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are separated, divorced or have just ended a long-term relationship. This seminar will meet on Sundays from 4 to 6 p.m. in room 10 of the First

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