

Even Rain Can't Stop MusicFest

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The process of coordinating an all-day music festival is complex, to be sure, but by the time the day finally rolls around, there's pretty much only one element left up to chance: cooperation.

To successfully pull off such an event, you need everything – including the staff, volunteers, talent and the audience – to play their roles just right, or else the whole thing falls apart.

At the first Newtown MusicFest, held this past August at Shady Brook Farms in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, the weather was about the only thing that didn't cooperate, but a bit of rain still felt oddly appropriate for an inaugural music festival.

Organized as a joint effort between the Newtown Corporation and Cambridge Sound Studios, a major local music business, the event included several regionally successful music acts, food vendors, attractions and sponsors and drew nearly 4000 attendees.

Jim Salamone, owner of Cambridge Sound Studios, worked with the Newtown Corporation for more than three months to develop MusicFest and was largely responsible for organizing the day's eclectic musical lineup, which featured a mix of independent bluegrass, rock and celtic acts, including Drink Up Buttercup and JC Satellite.

Salamone, whose credits as a producer, engineer and musician include work with Teddy Pendergrass, Grover Washington Jr. and Bon Jovi, was only too happy to see Newtown play home to a new music festival.

The Newtown Corporation and Salamone are already focused on next year, hoping to bring MusicFest back to Shady Brook Farms with some additional support from new partners, and hopefully a bit less rain.

The group is already in talks with WXPB in the hopes that the indie radio station will join next year's event and bring in an even bigger audience for the festival.

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