

Bakithi Kumalo 5 - Time Grammy Award Winning Musician 65th Birth Day Celebration At Tolino's Vineyard In Bangor

By Michael Ortoski

BANGOR - My wife and I were invited to a 65 th Birthday celebration for Bakithi Kumalo, a brilliant musician and down to earth guy. We had first met Bakithi when he was on stage in down town Bangor on Broadway during a Historic Bangor Business Assoc. event in 2019.

Our Friend Scott Zukowski who got Bakithi the gig and invited us to the Birth Day party, introduced him to us after his set about his career and the Bangor High School guest musicians he had on his stage for numerous songs.

He has an amazing career! A 5-time Grammy award winner, playing with the likes of Paul Simon, Herbie Hancock, Susan Deutsche band, Josh Groban, Gloria Estefan, and many more.

Bakithi spent more than 35 years traveling the world, touring with Paul Simon, and well known for his bass lines on Simon's album "Graceland", and more specifically his solo on the song "you can call me Al".

Zukowski the organizer of the party said "I had to do this, he is an incredible man, musician and friend and you only turn 65 once." Zukowski invited a dozen other musicians to come jam with Bakithi for most of the evening, taking only a few breaks. One for Tacos from the Taco Food Truck, wine from Tolinos Vineyard and one for a Happy Birth Day song from the guests.

The Birth Day 'Cupcakes' were out of this world!! They were presented on a table on a black table cloth in the shape of his favorite guitar. The cupcakes were provided by The Modern Crumb, which is operated by pastry chef Kathryn Gaffney, of Easton, a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America. Kate has spent years honing her skills in fine restaurants and bakeries on both the East and West coasts. She worked for five years at Thomas Keller's Bouchon Bakery in California, working her way up to the role of head baker and locally spent two years as the executive pastry chef for Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem.

Highlight of the evening was when Bakithi played one of his favorite songs "you can call me Al". Everybody came to the stage to dance and sing along, a great moment.

If you haven't seen or heard him your missing out, go to <https://www.facebook.com/BlueValleyTimes/> Facebook page to watch video or <https://www.bakithikumalobass.com/> for upcoming shows.

Thanks go out to Scott Zukowski and his wife Theresa for the invite and great event!



Left Bakithi Kumalo with his good friend Scott Zukowski who organized the event



Bakithi Kumalo doing what he loves to do, Jam with other musicians with his unique bass



Left Bakithi Kumalo is presented the 'Big' Birth Day card signed by all the attendees by his friend Maciek Albrecht