

Inside Out

Suave song stylist Charlie Romo headlines at Metropolitan Room



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Charlie Romo, the Tottenville crowd-pleaser formerly known as Charlie Poveromo, is hitting the big time.

The smooth-sounding crooner headlines Friday at The Metropolitan Room, the hot spot described by Zagat's as a Flatiron "class act" reviving the "golden age of cabaret" as "up-and-coming stars" and "renowned performers" take the stage in an "intimate" room with "great acoustics."

In the past year alone, he has appeared on stages with **Usher, Lee Roy Reams, Chita Rivera and Ben Vereen** at The Friars Club and other city venues.

"Believe me when I tell you that I'm so grateful for these opportunities and I sometimes can't contain my excitement," says Romo, a junior at Wagner College, where he's a music and education major.

Making his upcoming Manhattan gig even more special: It will be Charlie's 21st birthday show.

The Metro show also feature vocalists **Michelle DellaFave** and **Marissa Mulder**.

Romo will be backed by the Barry Levitt Quartet, a group of world-class musicians with names like **Ronnie Zito**, a drummer for **Bobby Darin; Jon Burr**, bassist for **Tony Bennett**; and **Jack Cavari**, a guitarist for Frank Sinatra. Levitt himself has worked with dozens of top artists, including **Eartha Kitt, Judy Collins** and **Ben Vereen** at the Copacabana when live supper clubs were in their heyday.

As a toddler, Romo says he developed a passion for the American Song Book — Darin was his favorite singer — and popular standards from the 1950s and '60s.

Today, he relishes reviving the musical style and sophistication of a previous era in a "dynamic and refreshing way."



Charlie Romo at the Friars Club in Manhattan Courtesy/the Artist

Having witnessed his act many times, we can attest: He has a way of turning back the clock by channeling the soul and sound of cherished legends like Darin, Sinatra, Bennett, Elvis Presley, Dean Martin and Bing Crosby.

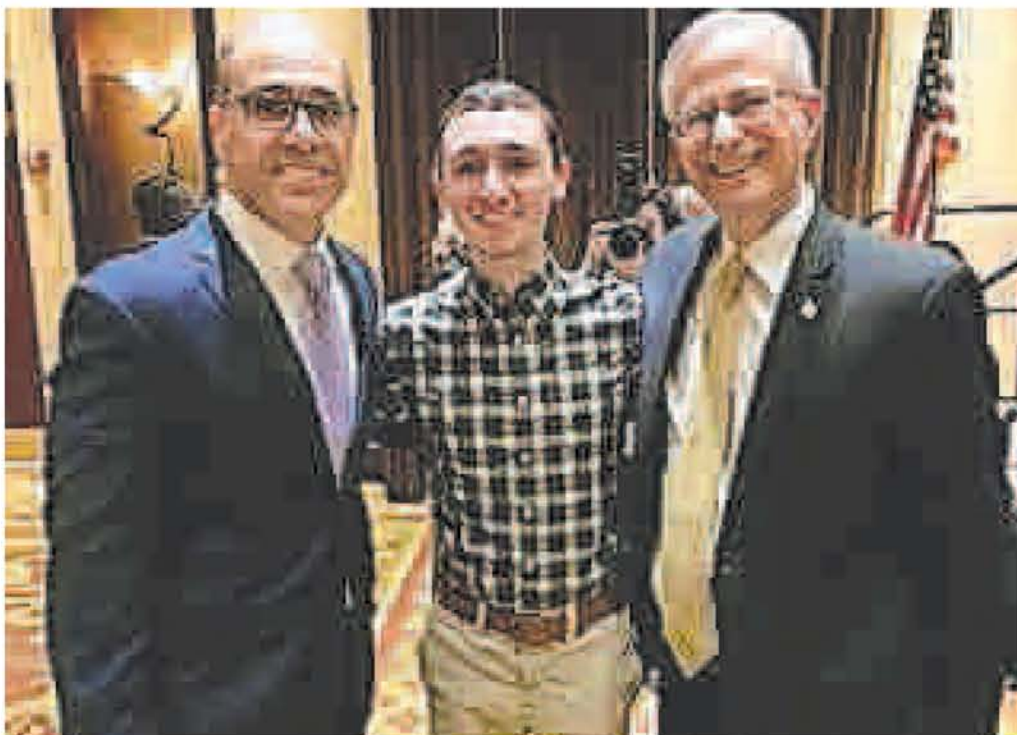
"I'm very much looking forward to watching my career unfold and will continue to work hard and focus on making people smile through the great art of music," says Romo, who won the Best Debut Male Artist Award from BroadwayWorld.com for his cabaret

show.

The Metropolitan Room is located at 34 W. 22nd St. Call 212-206-0440 or check out CharlieRomo.com for more information and reservations.

CELEBRATIONS: MARCH 30

The best of birthdays Thursday to **Jonathan Newhouse, Helen Federici, Sean Foley, Betty (Belle) Crimoli, Michael Dauphin, Tamara Bellamo, Sean Kelly** and **Mary Pietrocola**.



Charlie Romo with Chita Rivera. Photo left, Charlie with Borough President James Oddo, left, and Deputy Borough President Ed Burke. Courtesy of Charlie Romo