



## Pub 13 Ypsilanti

"It's the most fun you can have with your clothes on!"

That is one of the popular slogans used by Ypsilanti's Pub 13 to describe dueling pianos, its main live entertainment attraction.

General Manager Keevan Cole said dueling pianists are in great demand and require stringent training.

"I don't know who originated it, but it's growing quickly across the United States," Cole said. "It's growing faster than available entertainers are being trained. People think all you do is sit and play the piano, but there's a lot to being a dueling pianist. It's a mix of skits, comedy and knowing a lot of the popular '60s through '90s songs."

All of the pianists take requests from the audience and involve them in sing-alongs. It is an interactive experience, and it is that aspect that seems to account for its growing appeal.

"Of course, you have drinking involved and that gets people in a good mood and looking for a way to interact with the entertainers," Cole said.

"You also hear a lot of different things because people make requests. You don't hear the same 30 songs a night. Sometimes you do.

"'Piano Man' and 'Mustang Sally' are crowd favorites, but it's a very interactive entertainment much like 'Tony and Tina's Wedding' or something like that. People want to get involved."

Pub 13 is in a spacious and historic building in downtown Ypsilanti's burgeoning business district. The club has a capacity for over 1,500 people and, particularly on the weekends, it gets just that.

From neighboring college students to established professionals and retirees, all walks of life are recognized and welcome at the friendly place.

The pub takes reservations and does special events such as birthday parties, bachelor parties and anniversaries.

Top pianist and Entertainment Director Dave Caruso leads a cadre of fellow keyboardists who consistently rise to the occasion and always place the customer center stage.

Pub 13 also is a full-service restaurant that offers lunch and dinner specials and a wide variety of appetizers, sandwiches, burgers, steaks, salads and seafood.

Nightly drink specials include a full line of medium and top shelf liquor, premium brews and assorted wines.

Cole, owner David Curtis and their staff want to please and, for those who seek a respite from the tickled ivories, there is the Best Damn Sportsbar upstairs or the adjacent Club Divine discotechque next door. All three are under one roof and provide a virtual entertainment complex for all customers.

There are live pianos from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, and there is a \$5 cover charge on some nights. Also, the pub is open at 11 a.m. daily for lunch.

"We'll get calls from other piano clubs around the state that are too small to accommodate the larger parties that we can," Cole said. "Many piano clubs can only hold 80 to 100 people. When it comes to large parties on the weekends, I'm booked. So our size is definitely one of the benefits here."

Pub 13 is at 13 N. Washington. The phone number is (734) 485-4120 and its Web site is [www.pub-13.com](http://www.pub-13.com).

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Photo by E.L. Conley

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