

Woonsocket singer takes on the state

WOONSOCKET - City resident Greg Bonin returns to his home town for the first time since becoming a member of Charlie Hall's Ocean State Follies. He joined the cast in May and says he feels right at home.



Bonin

"I love it. Where else can you play Richard Hatch, Patrick Kennedy and Charlie Bakst in one night. I feel like Sybill," says Bonin. "And I'll be taking on the Mr. Rhody flashcard role as soon as I can drop my R's- I mean my 'ahs'..."

Bonin, and the full cast of Charlie Hall's Ocean State Follies, will bring their musical spoofs and skits to Chan's on Main Street in Woonsocket tonight, Thursday, Aug. 4, at 8 p.m. WOON radio personality Dave Kane (a.k.a. Father Misgivings) will be the opening act.

The Ocean State Follies show is written and directed by Charlie Hall, who has been reinventing the show for more than 13 years now.

Highlights of this show include appearances from Cranston crossing guards, a big-headed Lt. Gov. Charlie Fogarty, and Bonin playing Pete Cardi singing a love song to Rowanne from Off Track Bedding. Bonin also plays a

Newport yuppie with Hall, who try to pick up a "cupla" Johnston hairdressers.

Greg Bonin began singing and performing at a very early age. Years of classical and jazz vocal training has led to a number of leading roles in such shows as "The Sound of Music," "The King and I," "Into the Woods," "A Little Night Music," "Annie" and "The Music Man."

Bonin has also performed at numerous concerts, galas, cabarets, weddings, festivals, and events in southeastern New England and New York. He also sang at the gala openings for the Rhode Island Convention Center as well as the St. Ann Arts and Cultural Center.

His second CD, titled "Just for You," was released in December 2003. On it, he performs a mix of musical types, including American standards, adult contemporary and semi-classical music made popular by such artists as Josh Groban and Andrea Bocelli, and powerful musical theater selections. He won first place in the adult talent competition at the Talent America Finals in New York City in 2002 and placed as a top ten finalist out of a total of 600 male singers at an international competition sponsored by TCT in Orlando, Florida, in March 2003.

Tickets for the show at Chan's cost \$12 and can be reserved by calling 765-1900.