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Bacon Brothers to perform benefit show at Raue Center

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"Kevin who?" Michael **Bacon** was asked to choose one word to describe his **brother**.

Actually, that's two words, but nobody's counting.

"You would need a few more words than that," Michael admitted.

Kevin chose "complicated" for Michael.

The Emmy-winning composer and his little **brother**, the ubiquitous "Footloose" actor who inspired the "Six Degrees" game, are the **Bacon Brothers**.

The duo - with the help of a six-piece band - will sing and play their own brand of "folk country/folk rock" at the Raue Center for the Arts in Crystal Lake Sunday. The two called in from New York to talk about their music and the upcoming PADS benefit concert.

"We're all over the place. We go from really rocking things to quieter things," Michael said.

"We do mostly original music," Kevin added. "We're not a cover band, per se."

Michael and Kevin have been the **Bacon Brothers** for 12 years and have recorded several records, but they go way back as bandmates.

"I started music lessons before I ever took an acting class," said Kevin, who plays guitar, percussion and harmonica. "I've been playing since I was a tiny, little child. I remember sitting on the basement steps watching my **brother** play."

Michael is nine years Kevin's senior, and his talent was a heavy influence. He remembers Kevin writing songs at age 10. "I can't remember a time when I didn't want to play with him. I got him going pretty early. Rumor has it, I bought him his first guitar."

Charity work is important to the Bacons. The Crystal Lake concert will help local homeless shelters.

"We live in New York. So there is a big homeless presence," Michael said.

Kevin has launched a Web site, sixdegrees.org, that helps match charities to volunteers and donators. Visitors to the site are encouraged by an array of celebrity Samaritans.

Michael's many music accolades include an Emmy for composing the score for "The Kennedys" in 1993 and writing songs recorded by the likes of Jerry Lee Lewis and Perry Como. Like Kevin, he plays a range of instruments, including cello.

"I love the guitar," Michael said. "It's like a little orchestra in a box. I do most of my composing on a keyboard."

Would Michael ever want to try acting?

"Nope. A few times a radio station has asked us to run a few lines. It's the easiest thing to do and I can't do it at all."

Does Kevin, the actor, ever worry about his cred as a musician?

"You know, that's always been a struggle. I always knew going into it, there would always be a healthy dose of (self-doubt). ... You can't get bogged down. We put on the best show we can. I work hard on my singing. I practice every day. If people are skeptical, that's OK. Being an artist is difficult. You got to go out there and hope you can turn skepticism into fun."

Both the actor and the musician continue to work hard. Kevin's next film, "Death Sentence," will be out in the fall. Michael writes music and plays with the band.

Oh, and about the "Six Degrees" game? Is there anyone Kevin can't link himself to?

"I don't play the game very often," Kevin said. "Somebody came up to me after a gig with a printout sheet that said I was linked to John Wilkes Booth. That was surprising."

The **Bacon Brothers** Benefit for McHenry County PADS

WHEN: 7 p.m. Sunday

WHERE: Raue Center for the Arts, 26 N. Williams St., Crystal Lake

TICKETS: \$40-\$125

INFORMATION: (815) 356-9212

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