

NEW LONDON COUNTY · WINDHAM · HARTFORD · MYSTIC · RHODE ISLAND

Sound Waves

Volume 14
Issue 4
January 2004

An
Interview
With

TOMMY
CASTRO

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CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS & MORE

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MAILBAG



Dear Readers,

It's the start of the New Year! Welcome to 2004!

I'd like to say things are looking bright, but there is a storm brewing and it effects us all. As most already know, the state has passed a ban on smoking in Bars and Restaurants in the state. This new law is hurting many small businesses in our area. And I fear some will not make it till next year if this law is not rescinded. This law creates an unequal playing field and many business are losing revenue because of this. Already the local businesses have suffered because of the casinos and the lowering of the alcohol level for driving. Now our ELECTED officials have driven' another nail into the coffin of the local entrepreneur with the passing of this law.

Sound Waves Magazine has stayed out of politics and editorials for the past 14 years. But this new law is one that we can not just sit back and watch it destroy the small business person. Over the next few months we will be active in having this law rescinded. And we will also be active in doing our best in making sure that the ELECTED officials that voted for this law are not reelected into office. On page 9 you will see some steps on how you can be part of this process. We are asking for your support and help in this matter So let's have a Tea Party and invoke our American Rights!

Till Next Month
David L. Pottie
editor/publisher

**We'd like to be
out of work...
maybe someday
we will.**



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Sound Waves

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8 DAVE HOFFMAN	9 T RAY	10 TBA	11 A
15 ELECTRIC CRICKETS	 15 T-RAY	17 HARD KNOXX	18 R
22 CHRIS SIMONDS	23 T-RAY DAVE HOFFMAN	 23 HARD KNOXX	25 A
29 T RAY	30 WE WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY NEW YEAR	31 NO SHAME	25 O
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SOUND WAVES 5

THEY SAID IT IN '03

By Rex Rutkoski

Once again, when they weren't playing or singing, musicians were busy talking in 2003.

Here's just some of what they said:

- **Amy Lee**, vocalist and co-founder of **Evanescence**: "I feel like all my writing life I've been trying to express myself and feeling like no one understood me."

"My ultimate goal was that they would get it. It turns out that not only a few people but millions of people all over the world have. I never got into this to be some huge international band. That was never the plan or anything I necessarily wanted. It's a really cool surprise."

- **John Mayer**: "That (numerical success) is what other people can gauge your success by. I care so little about that right now. I would rather make a great record that tanks (commercially) than one that is OK and goes to the moon. There is numerical success and actual artistic success. I hope people really like the record and it means something to them. To have a numerical number one doesn't mean that record is good. What means the most to me is when people say that record meant something to them."

- **Cyndi Lauper**: "Because of computers and all the new media and technology, music seems to have less of an impact in our lives as it used to, and that is a shame... There is always good music being made. Whether it is popular or on the radio is another matter."

- **Coldplay** drummer **Will Champion**: "If you lose your integrity and your passion for music, you don't deserve to be in a band. A million other people can do it better than you if you don't really believe in it."

- **Rosanne Cash**, on what she learned from her late father, Johnny Cash: "Personal integrity, to kind of be truthful to yourself.... He advised me to take care of family first. He learned that the hard way in his early professional life, the constant touring and exhaustion and so many days away from home. It caused him a lot of pain early on. I've always kept his advice in mind if it's a choice of 'Will this hurt my kids, even if it helps my career?'"

- **Graham Nash**, on the violence Crosby, Stills and Nash tries to address: "We (in society) have a violence gene that I don't see diminishing at all. As Stephen Hawking said, 'Our very future is in jeopardy.' We need to teach our kids a better way of dealing with their fellow human beings and stop the violence within ourselves first."

- **Michael Kang**, mandolinist, violinist, violist and a vocalist in **String Cheese Incident**: "Anything I can do as an artist and musician to instill hope in other people is kind of what I'm looking for. There is just kind of an energetic outpouring of positivity in the world that can be found in as many places as you want to look."

- **Bill Medley**, prior to the death of partner **Bobby Hatfield**, on the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees, **The Righteous Brothers**: "It's the love of music and traveling and performing that has kept Bobby and I out and about. We really love to perform. We're not just singers. Once that door closes and the lights go down and the band goes on and we enter the stage we are all 25. That's what the audience looks

like to me.

"I think our music was very serious, at least the hits. They were pretty dramatic. It was some of the first adult music these kids heard. They were pretty adult and the songs were just great songs, beautiful songs, produced well and we sang them well. They weren't real commercial. They weren't fad songs. Bobby and I weren't real faddy looking guys, the handsome looking guys. We were just a couple of normal looking guys singing great songs."

- **Carlos Santana**: "I'm not wired to play for people's minds or for critics. I'm not wired to win a popularity contest or receive awards. I'm wired to follow my heart in the same way as Coltrane or John Handy, to play outside the frame, blow the ceiling away. Some people are content with living with really small ceilings. I can't do that. I'd rather wash dishes or shine shoes if I can't play music in all of its colors."

- **Dan Fogelberg**: "The songs are what I feel deeply. If that music can be translated across time and space to another listener, that's magic. I feel like a conduit or voice to this. When it can move others in a way perhaps I couldn't predict, I feel that's what art is."

"...And even though the industry has woefully lost its ability to create good songs, I think there are those of us who still hold to that high standard and improve ourselves as we go. This is still a very solitary and very meaningful thing to practice for singer-songwriters of the '60s and '70s."

"...I'm still the kid from Peoria who picked up a guitar. But it meant a lot to a lot of people. My music isn't just something to dance to, or for background music. It's something that actually touched a lot of lives."



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MUSIC NEWS BITS

The **Rock Accordion Summit** - a concert series showcasing real rock bands playing loud, high-energy music with accordion - is making its next stop in Providence January 10th. The Rock Accordion Summit (a.k.a. the Punk Accordion Summit) descended upon New York City last August. Playing a sold-out show in the East Village, four acts rocked and screamed until the early morning. The Summit brought together an audience of hipsters, punks, accordion enthusiasts, and the accordion-curious. They drank, cheered, sang along (pretty much in that order) and left knowing this: the accordion rocks! The Rock Accordion Summit of Providence features **Matt Everett**, **Corn Mo**, **Thee Alec K Redfearn** and **Matt McLaren Duo**, **The Benjamin Ickies Preservation Society** and **The World/Inferno Friendship Society**. Don't miss this rare and unique concert. It's a party where you least expected one - in the bellows of an accordionist!

If you thought you'd heard the last of the late **Grateful Dead** singer, **Jerry Garcia**, you thought wrong. Billboard reports that there is one, presumably last, disc of unreleased material coming out in the spring. As with Jerry's 2000 and 1991 releases, this album pairs Garcia with his mandolin-playing pal, **David Grisman**. The two cover lots of greats, including **Bob Dylan**, on "The Ballad of Frankie Lee and Judas Priest," and **James Brown** on "I'll Go Crazy". Other songs on the 12-track album, called *Been All Around This World*, are by the likes of **George Jones**, **Freddie Hart** and **Mel Tills**, with a few traditional numbers thrown in. It's due out on March 23rd.

Elvis Costello and his sweetheart of one year, **Diana Krall**, have married in England. According to the Associated Press, the couple tied the knot in a ceremony at **Elton John's** mansion in Surrey, and only close friends and family were invited. **Paul McCartney** was among those who made the tight guest list. The marriage is the first for Krall, a 39-year-old jazz singer from Canada, and the third for Costello, who is 49. Costello probably won't be honeymooning for too long -- he's got a tour to prepare for. It kicks off on February 19th in Florida.

The **Recording Industry Association of America** (a.k.a. the R-I-A-A) has certified **AC/DC's** album *Back In Black* as the world's second-best-selling album of all time. Having sold 42 million copies, the hard-rocking album is second only to **Michael Jackson's** *Thriller*, which has racked up sales of 56 million.

Adding further fuel to the fire about the possibility of a **Van Halen** reunion is this news. The Houston Chronicle reports that **Sammy Hagar** and **Michael Anthony** have signed on to play the **SuperBash**, Houston's pre-Super Bowl party that will run over the course of five days in late January. Hagar will serve as MC at the main stage for three of bash's five days. **Louis Messina**, whose concert promotion company booked Hagar and Anthony said: "...I don't want to start rumors, but I know the guys are talking these days."

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It is important to call as many times as you can!

It is imperative that they hear "OUR" Voice!

Have friends, co-workers, patrons and every bar you
can think of call!

EVERY PHONE CALL CAN HELP

Sound Waves Magazine Supports the Movement to rescind the Smoking Ban Law. We feel it is a violation of our rights as American citizens and should be decided by the voters. This Law creates an Uneven Playing field for the area businesses. And is just another "nail in the coffin" that our ELECTED officials have done to the small businesses in our state.

The ELECTED officials that have passed this law, state it is for the health of the people. But if this was their concern why do they attack the small businesses? If they had the "Backbone" to attack the source, then they would ban the sale of cigarettes in the State! So were are their priorities? Big Business or the small local entrepreneur?

We ask every reader to flood the above numbers with calls concerning this matter. Call, fax, email or mail your local ELECTED official and voice your opinion! *TODAY!*

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C.J. CHENIER

18 - Cheney Hall, Manchester, CT

CLARENCE CLEMONS

10 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

DAN HICKS & THE HOT LICKS

17 - Narrows Center, Fall River, MA

DARLENE LOVE

23,24,25 - Bushnell, Hartford, CT

DUKE ROBILLARD

9,10,16,17,23,24,30,31 - Foxwoods, Mashentucket, CT

GEORGE CARLIN

15 - Warner Theater, Torrington, CT

JAMES CARTER

27 - RI College, Providence, RI
30,31 - Jorgensen Ctr., Storrs, CT

JAMES TAYLOR

3 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

JOHN WESLEY HARDING

23 - Cheney Hall, Manchester, CT

LINKIN PARK

17 - Centrum, Worcester, MA

MICHAEL HILL'S BLUES MOB

16 - Chan's, Woonsocket, RI

POPPY CHUBBY

3 - Red Door, Watertown, CT

RICHIE HAVENS

16 - Cheney Hall, Manchester, CT

RICKIE LEE JONES

23 - Calvin Theater, Northampton, MA

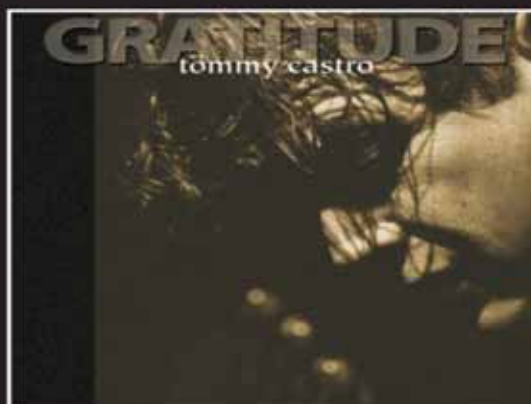
TOMMY CASTRO

22 - Black-eyed Sallys, Hartford, CT

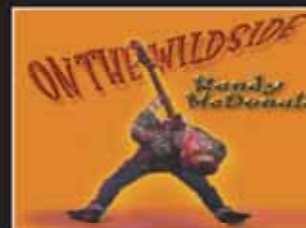


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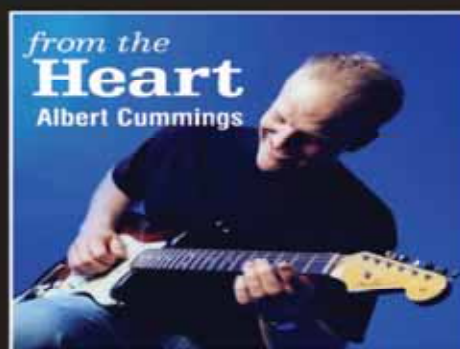


Randy McDonald
ON THE WILD SIDE



Junior Watson
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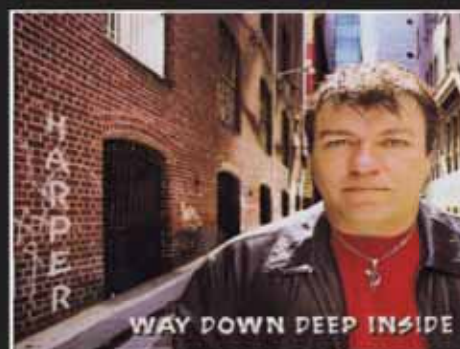
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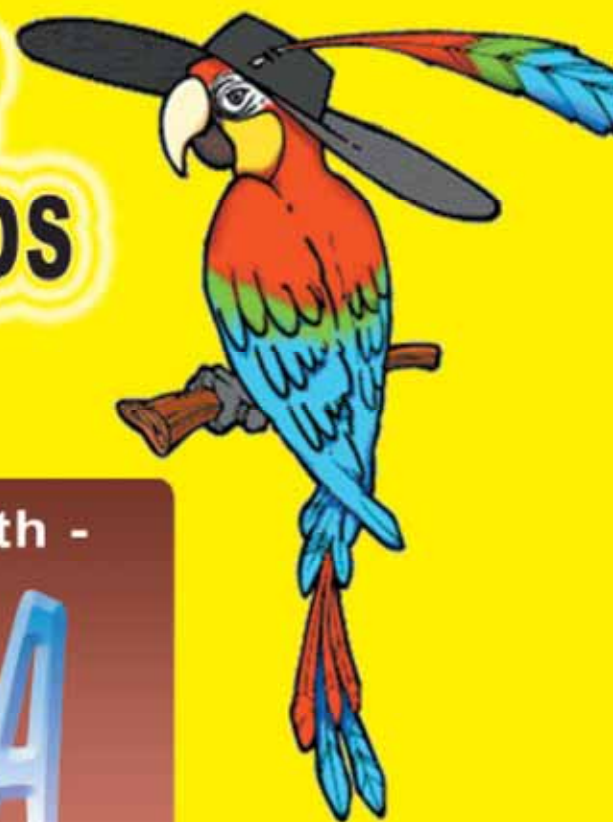
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9 - Suds Pub, Bethel, ME
10 - Wildcat Tavern, Jackson, NH
11 - Gritty McDuff's, Portland, ME, 6-10
16 - Hartford Road Cafe, Manchester, CT
17 - Downey's, Cheshire, CT
23,24,25 - Blue Moon, St. Croix, USVI
30 - Sage On The Waterfall, Chester, CT
31 - Lyme Art Association, Old Lyme, CT

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2 - Donald Oat Theater, Norwich, CT 8-10
3 - JC Hooks, Waterbury, CT
4 - Portuguese Club, Jamestown, RI 6-9:30
30 - Copperfield's, Warwick, RI
31 - Ancient Mariner, Ridgefield, CT

GOPHERBROKE

2 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
3 - Sneekers, Ashford, CT
9 - Hartford Rd. Cafe, Manchester, CT
10 - The Lodge, Southbury, CT
16 - Doodys, N. Branford, CT
17 - Billy Wilsons, Norwich, CT
23 - River Run, N. Branford, CT 7:30-11
30 - Penalty Box, Coventry, CT
31 - GW Tavern, Washington, CT

THE KEVIN CRANDALL BAND

9,23 - Schooner's, New London, CT

14 SOUND WAVES

KICK

2 - Rookies, Cromwell, CT
10 - Bourbon Street North, Hartford, CT
23 - Murphy/Scarletti's, Farmington, CT
24 - The Big Easy, Boston, MA

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3 - Sully's, Hartford, CT
23 - Pigs Eye Pub, Hartford, CT

PETE SERGE

10 - Jitters, Southington, CT

33Hz

3 - Brown Derby, Montville, CT
17 - Brookside Cafe, Preston, CT

VALENTINO

10 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
16 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT
24 - Dano's, Groton, CT

WORLD'S SMALLEST QUARTET

2,30 - Pattaconk, Chester, CT
3,9,31 - Billy Wilson's, Norwich, CT
8,15,22,29 - Mozzarella's, Dayville, CT
16 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
24 - Sneakers, Ashford, CT

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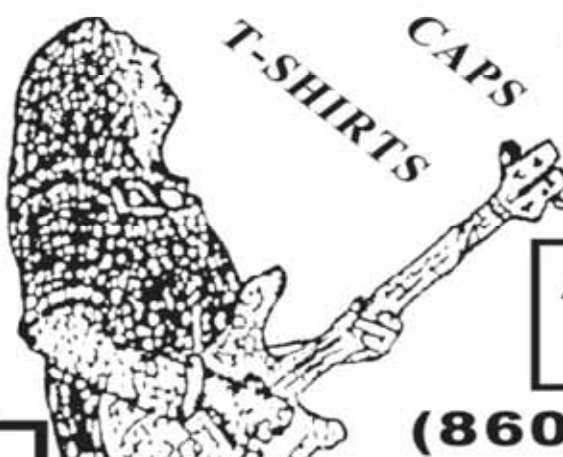
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16 SOUND WAVES

MUSIC NOTES

By Mark T. Gould

SWEET SIXTEEN

Maybe it's because I'm a lawyer who dabbles in music. Maybe it's because I'm a writer who dabbles in law. Whatever the reason, whatever the season, I get relatively inundated with CDs, tapes, contracts, what have you, from musicians who are trying to break into, or catch a break once they are in, the music business.

While I believe that I am far from an expert in the field, I do my best to review the records, pursue the contracts and offer advice, solicited and sometimes unsolicited, wherever and whenever I can.

But, sometimes, we all need to get knocked over the head with just what happens in the real world. To that end, I present the following, virtually unsolicited, advice, dropped on the Sound Waves doorstep; by someone who has obviously been both rocked and rolled. (Note: your ever-vigilant author has edited some of it).

"Advice to Young [Rock] Musicians"

1. Never start a trio with a married couple.
 2. Your manager's not helping you. Fire him/her.
 3. Before you sign a record deal, look up the word "recoupable" in the dictionary.
 4. No one cares whom you've opened for.
 5. A string section does not make your songs sound anymore "important."
 6. If your band has gone through more than four bass players, it's time to break up. (Actually, the bass players probably already realized it was time to move on.)
 7. When you talk on stage, you are never funny (author's note: even if the audience laughs).
 8. If you sound like another band, don't act like you're unfamiliar with their music.
 9. Asking a crowd how they're doing is just amplified small talk (note: how they are doing is probably too bored and drunk).
 10. Don't say your video's being played if it's only on local
- www.Swaves.com**

cable access.

11. When a drummer brings in his own songs and asks to perform one of them, begin looking for a new drummer IMMEDIATELY.

12. Another thing about drummers: they can take off their shirts or they can wear gloves, but not both.

13. It's not a "showcase." It's a gig that doesn't pay (or worse).

14. No one cares that you have a web site.

15. Playing in Ashaway and Pawcatuck doesn't mean you're on tour.

16. Although they come in different styles and colors, electric guitars all sound the same, so there's really no need to keep changing them between songs.

17. If you use a smoke machine your music sucks. Ditto a light show.

So, there you have it.

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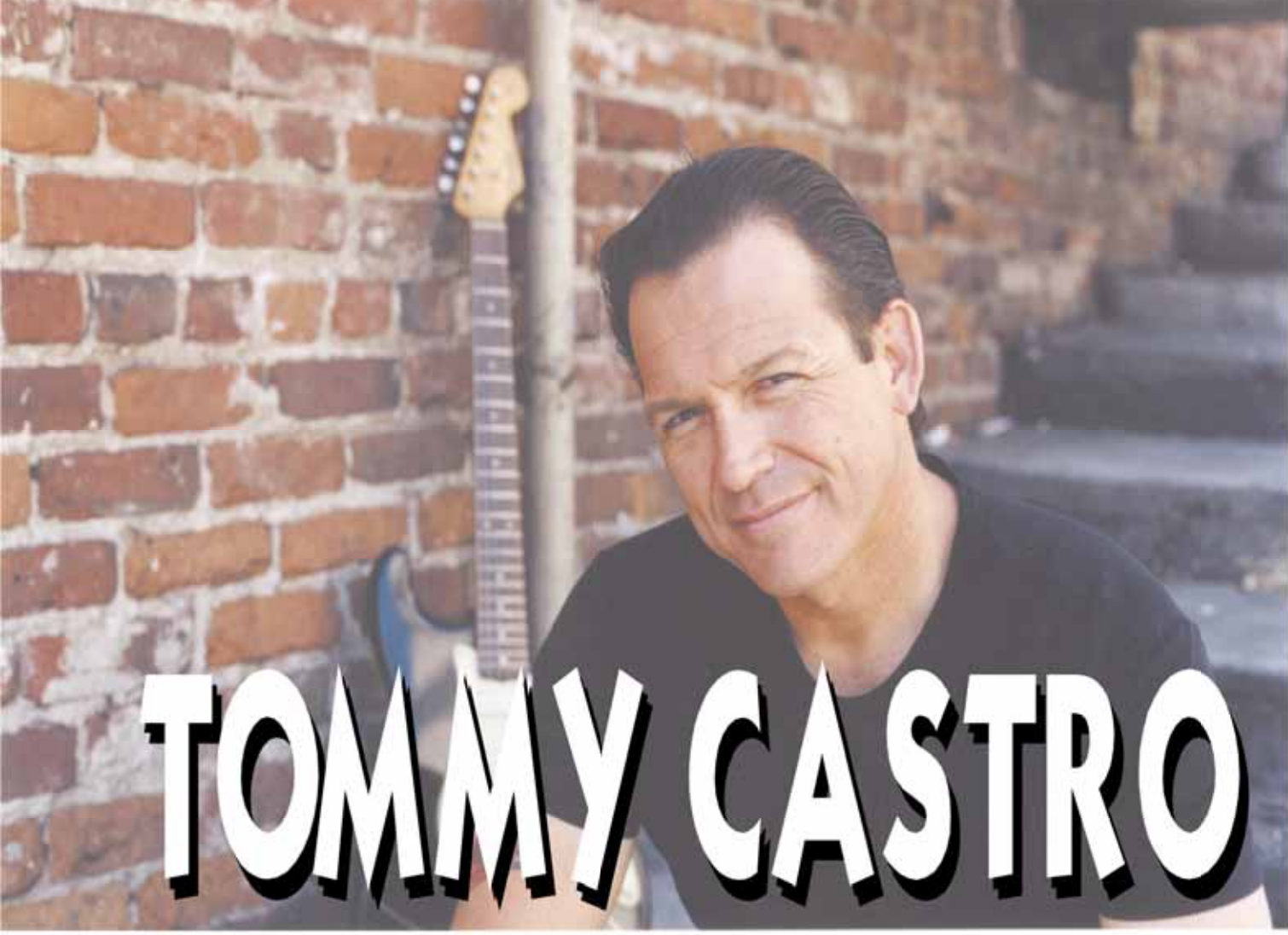
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SOUND WAVES 17

A photograph of Tommy Castro, a man with dark hair, smiling and leaning against a brick wall. A guitar is visible behind him. The name "TOMMY CASTRO" is overlaid in large, bold, white letters with a black outline.

TOMMY CASTRO

By Don Sikorski

Tommy Castro is a charismatic and personable musician that tends to work year round. His fellow musicians are also seasoned veterans not afraid to tackle an ambitious touring schedule. But Castro may have to do some convincing to get his bandmates to join him for two January shows in Connecticut. Castro and the boys are scheduled to visit Black Eyed Sally's in Hartford on Thursday, January 22nd and follow that show with a trip to Uncasville and an appearance in the Wolf Den at Mohegan Sun the very next night. But the Connecticut winter weather might be a bit of a shock to Castro and company, who will be fresh off a show schedule that includes New Year's Eve in Southern California followed by the Delbert McClinton Sandy Beaches Cruise to the Bahamas January 11th-18th (those interested might want to check out www.delbert.com and consider booking for 2005 since this year's cruise is sold out). Castro's Connecticut stop appears to be part of a "cold weather sandwich" with dates scheduled in Buffalo, Pittsburgh, and Cleveland as well, followed by the band's second tropical cruise of the year, the Legendary Rhythm and Blues Cruise from February 7th-14th. Not a bad way to start the New Year. "We feel

18 SOUND WAVES

super lucky to get on both cruises again," said Castro on his return invite to cruise the Bahamas. "I'll guess I'll just enjoy this while it lasts".

Tommy Castro grew up in San Jose, California and was influenced by his older brother Raymond to play the guitar at the early age of 10. His self-described musical style is identified as a combination of traditional blues, classic soul, and roots rock and roll. "We combine all of those styles and then play what we like," said Castro of his final product. Consider Castro's extensive influences, starting with the great B.B. King and running the gamut from singer/songwriters Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett, John Hiatt, Bob Dylan, and Van Morrison to rock/blues staples like Buddy Guy, Chuck Berry, Eric Clapton, and Keith Richards. It's no wonder Castro's sound can't be pinned down to a single genre. As Castro simply states about his band's choice of material, "We play what we like".

After stints in a number of Bay Area bands, Castro fronted his own band and released his self-produced debut record "No Foolin'" in 1993 before cranking out four strong efforts on the Blind Pig label: "Exception To The Rule" (1995), "Can't Keep A Good Man Down" (1997), "Right As Rain" (1999), and "Live

At The Fillmore" (2000). Those recordings, along with Castro and his band's three year gig as the house band for NBC's "Comedy Showcase", brought Tommy Castro and his music into the national spotlight and provided greater exposure. "Guilty Of Love" was released in 2001 on the 33rd Street label (Blind Pig also offered "The Essentials Tommy Castro" that same year, comprised of a dozen selections from his four Blind Pig records as well as a bonus video track). Since then, Castro and his Manager Miki Nord co-founded Heart and Soul Records and have released "Gratitude", Castro's 7th record and first on Heart and Soul. "Gratitude" has Castro returning to his

musical roots with a tribute record paying homage to many of his major influences over the years. "The record was a tribute to the people that I was inspired by the most," explains Castro of the record's concept. "Although to cover them all, I really would have needed two discs. The rehearsals reminded me of being a kid again; just jamming along. We were just doing some of the songs we love. Some were songs that we had been playing for a long time, so we didn't try to sound like the original. They were definitely our versions of the songs. Besides, they've already been done better than I can do it," Castro laughs. He sums up the "Gratitude" effort best by offering his approach to playing music: "Everything I do is totally shaped and inspired by these artists. Then I try to let my influence shape what I do".

Most recently, Castro joined fellow singer/songwriters Lloyd Jones (guitar) and Jimmy Hall (harmonica, tenor saxophone) on a project for Telarc Records titled "Triple Trouble". While some All-Star jam recordings suffer from a general lack of direction or overcompensation of competing musicianship, "Triple Trouble" avoids that trap, finding three musicians who compliment each other's musical personas quite nicely with inspiring results. Mix in

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the rhythm section of bassist Tommy Layton, drummer Chris Layton, and keyboardist Reese Wynans (better known as "Double Trouble" when supporting another pretty well-know blues guitar slinger a decade ago), and the result is six veteran musicians with an affinity for classic blues and soul music cranking out some of their favorite tunes to the likes of James Brown, B.B. King, and the Beatles. "I really admire Lloyd and Jimmy, and thought it would be helpful to expose them more to my fan base as well," explains Castro of his decision to accept an invitation to play on the record. "And then add the guys from Double Trouble, and it was a great musical combination. They basically just threw us in a room together. We got some ideas and brought in a few originals and that was it." Fans that have heard the disc hope to hear more from Castro and Triple Trouble, including a possibility of a tour sometime in the future.

Right now, Castro and the band are busy preparing for a busy 2004. His bass player Randy McDonald recently released his own debut record entitled "On The Wildside", a collection of four original compositions and seven covers. The band has also added a new drummer, Chris Sandoval, who replaces Billy Lee Lewis and will be joining the band on their upcoming tour. And Castro continues to ride the wave of success and appears to have no plans to slow down anytime soon. "We have a great fan base that keeps telling us they like what we're doing," said Castro of his success in the industry. "We wouldn't want to do this if nobody wanted to hear us".

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PERSPECTIVES

" 'Indie' Shouldn't Mean 'Amateurish' "

by Kenny Love

For several years, I have frequented the CD Baby web site to learn of new artists who have arrived on the celestial front and who are now demanding to be seen. And, concurrently, during that time, I have witnessed what is an ongoing albeit negative element in many of the artist bios that are presented on the site.

And, from reading the bios, it is readily apparent that the professionalism of these artists ends where their last note is strummed because many of the bios reek of amateurism. Some examples are below:

1. "This band is what the love child would be between Elton John and Celine Dion."

Note: I would pay to see that love child.

2. "This hot lady is destined for superstardom."

Note: No, she's not because by merely uttering such, statistics reveal that she is most likely to fail.

3. "This can't miss because it's a hit!"

Note: Nope, it is likely headed south faster than a meteorite.

Bragging rights, hype and egos aside, along with superseding the right to "toot your own horn," these types of statements show many independent artists for what they truly are...amateurish.

I have even seen cases where artists start out in the third person viewpoint, but become so wrapped up in their own stories that they dance and switch between viewpoints, which is the multiple personality darlings for the field of psychiatry. For one thing, truthfully, you have never been the best artist, nor will you ever be the best artist, regardless of how well you feel you sing, play or perform. And, that is, primarily, due to both perception and perspective, combined with the incredible number of artists in existence.

So, let's just throw that theory out with the baby's bath water. And, this is also because there were, undoubtedly, previous artists better and there will be future artists whom are much better, both musically and technically, as well.

With advertisements, one is allowed such leeway to boost and muster as much hype as possible in order to achieve a desired result, particularly, since advertisements are, generally, being paid for.

However, with bios, such as are the vehicle on CD Baby, facts should be presented in the "passive" form of news and should serve to inform without crossing over into the "active" spectrum of promotion.

Once self-promoting artists learn to make the distinction between these two elements, and also learn to utilize both effectively, only then can they truly gain the best results for their projects through mass exposure, thus, showing that being indie doesn't mean being amateurish.

Editor's Note: Kenny Love serves the Music industry as a record promoter, media publicist and label executive. Get more info at <http://www.MuBiz.com>, or email him at kenlove@txucom.net.



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"GET READY TO ROCK AND ROLL

HEARING

THE BEST IN BLUES- 2003

Once again I've asked Dave Wyatt to give us his choices of the best blues recordings of 2003. Dave, as many of you already know, is the proprietor of the Tumbleweeds Record Store in downtown Niantic. Dave has an encyclopedic knowledge of blues music and, like me, is very opinionated. Needless to say, all of our selections can be found in his store.

Dave's list:

1. **Bernard Allison** "Kentucky Fried Blues" Ruf Records
2. **Joe Bonamassa** "Blues Deluxe" Medalist Records
3. **Renee Austin** "Sweet Talk" Blind Pig
4. **Jony James Blues Band** "In This World" Blue Wave Records
5. **Jimmy Thackery & The Drivers** "True Stories" Telarc
6. **Kim Wilson** "Looking For Trouble" MC Records
7. **Buddy Guy** "Blues Singer" Silvertone
8. **Duke Robillard** "Exalted Lover" Stony Plain Records
9. **Tommy Castro** "Gratitude" Heart and Soul Records
10. **Sonny Boy Terry** "Live At Miss Ann's Playpen" Doc Blues Records

Bill's list:

1. **Lucky Peterson** "Black Midnight Sun" Dreyfus Records
2. **Michael Burks** "I Smell Smoke" Alligator Records
3. **Nick Curran & The Nitelife** "Doctor Velvet" Blind Pig
4. **Bernard Allison** "Kentucky Fried Blues" Ruf Records
5. **Michael Hill's Blues Mob** "Electric Storyland Live" Ruf Records
6. **Sonny Rhodes** "Texas Fender Bender" Greater Planet Entertainment
7. **Eddy Clearwater** "Rock 'n' Roll City" Bullseye Blues
8. **Jimmy Thackery & The Drivers** "True Stories" Telarc
9. **Ronnie Earl** "I Feel Like Goin', On" Stony Plain Records
10. **Rory Block** "Last Fair Deal" Telarc

OK - so there you have it. Dave and I agree on Bernard Allison and Jimmy
www.Swaves.com

Thackery. Look for a Sound Waves cover on Bernard in 2004 - we're way overdue there. And finally, although he wasn't a blues man, I would still like to dedicate this year's top ten to the memory of Warren Zevon.

- Bill Harriman

THE BACON BROTHERS

"Live: No Food Jokes Tour "

Forosoco Music

Often times "live" and "Best of" CD's fail to present the true essence of a band. They teeter between promotional and over emotional material. With the Bacon Brothers latest release, their first live CD/DVD, this isn't the case. In fact, if you don't own any of the band's growing CD repertoire, I recommend that you seek out this one first. This is a live set where the band selects pieces of the whole that become equal to, if not better than any of the individual CDs. Led by the renowned actor Kevin Bacon and his brother Michael, The Bacon Brothers is not your typical actor-led band. Music is serious business to this group. Backed by a set of stellar musicians, brother Michael is the muse and spiritual leader of this group. However, it can't be denied that Kevin is the reason people first come to see this group live. But the band has a musical groupie following, not just a bunch of people that want to see Kevin Bacon, the actor.

Setting itself apart from the typical 'actor's sidebar band,' The Bacon Brothers have been involved in a regular recording and touring schedule since 1997. With three CDs under their belt, their musical personality is quite developed, and for all I've alluded to about the band's overall musical talent, when you see them live, Kevin is certainly the focal point as the singer and story-teller. On the 18 track, 2 CD set, and the separately sold, 92 minute DVD (which includes a couple bonus tracks), we hear the true essence of a Bacon Brothers band concert. I have been to one of these concert in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, and so can attest to this. Though certainly not acting, one finds that the band's performance, and

AID

particularly Kevin's, has the precision and animation found in a well written and acted movie - one that you love to see over and over again.

Recorded live on February 18, 2003 in Englewood, New Jersey, this CD presents a pretty fair collection of music from all three CDs, along with an Everly Brothers Medley, and of course, the infamous, yet never-boring, Kenny Loggins hit "Footloose" from the Bacon movie of the same name. Some of the highlights include the opener, "Woman's Got a Mind to Change," Summer of Love (Woodstock '99), and the audience grabber "Baby Steps." Beyond the numerous interludes filled by Kevin's stories behind the song, what stands out on this CD is the diversity and dexterity of the 6-piece band, and in particular, the various string instrument capabilities of Michael.

Though the band takes from folk, rock, soul, and country, as their first CD's title, "Forosoco," tells us, one will see that they lean more toward a country-pop style with a bit of rock and roll mixed in. This is why they have, and will continue to, appeal to a wide array of audiences. And when you see or hear this CD somewhere, remember to keep in mind that this is an accomplished musical group with a lead singer who happens to be a great actor, too. Make no mistake, Kevin means business. He writes and co-writes most of the band's songs, and their songs are written and sung from the heart.

- David Geller

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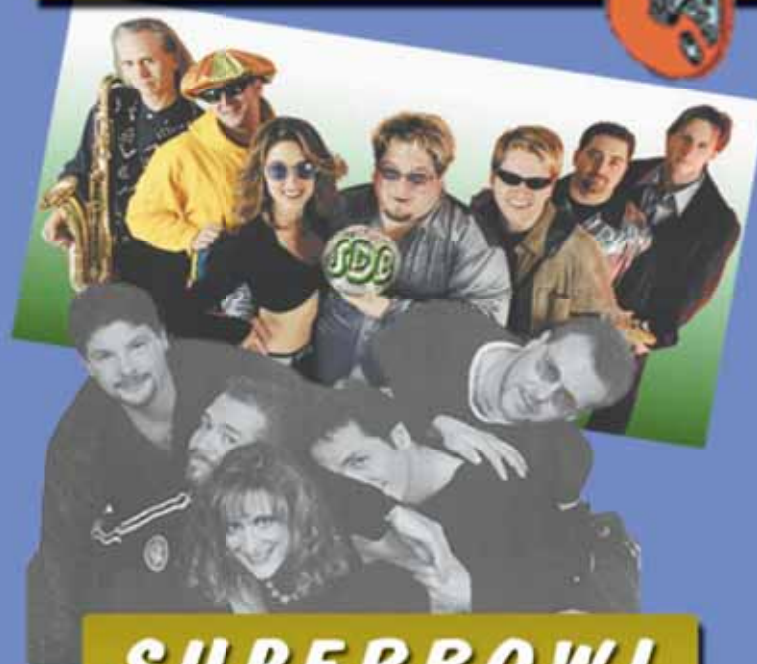
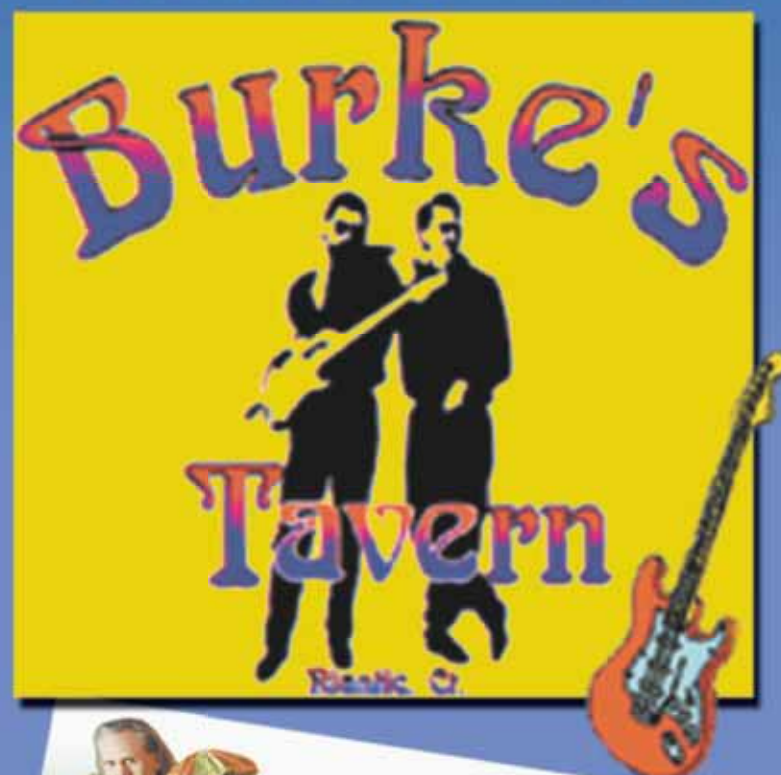
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