

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

Sound Waves

Volume 18
Issue 11
August 2008

CLUB LISTINGS
RESTAURANTS
MENUS
CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS & MORE

JOHN MAYER

Southern New England's
Leading Entertainment & Dining Guide

Also
A Writer's Writer:
A Tribute to Hal Levy



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Fri. 8th - **THE BUZZ**

Sat. 9th - **DJ UNDERCOVER**

Fri. 15th - **VERTIGO** *Special Hours*
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Sat. 16th - **TYPHOON FERRI**

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Sat. 23rd - **FAT BETTY**

Fri. 29th - **MY FIRE & Guest**

Sat. 30th - **STASH'S HOUSE PARTY!**

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WAR PIGS

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THE COUNTERFEITERS (2008)
 Wednesday, August 6 • 7:30 pm
 German/Eng subtitles/R/98 min



YOUNG@HEART (2007)
 Thursday, August 7 • 7:30 pm
 Comedy/PG/109 min



SINGALONG GREASE (1978)
 Friday, August 8 • 7:30 pm
 On-screen Lyrics/PG/110 min



IN BRUGES (2008)
 Saturday, August 9 • 7:30 pm
 UK/Belgium/R/107 min



THE BAND'S VISIT (2008)
 Sunday, August 10 • 7:00 pm
 Arabic/Hebrew/Comedy/Drama/89 min



SHINE A LIGHT (2008)
 Tuesday, August 12 • 7:30 pm
 Documentary/Color/122 min

**MISS PETTIGREW
LIVES FOR A DAY** (2008)
 Wednesday, August 13 • 7:30 pm
 Comedy/Color/PG-13/92 min

PRICELESS (2008)
 Thursday, August 14 • 7:30 pm
 French/Comedy/PG-13/104 min

*Evening of Film with
Connecticut Roots...*

SWIMMING UPSTREAM (2005)
 Friday, August 15 • 7:30 pm
 PG 13/Color/Australia/114 min
*Guest Appearances by: Writer
Anthony Fingleton & Producers
Howard and Karen Baldwin*

With Film Short
THE CURSE OF MICAH ROOD
 NR/Color/30 min

Guest Appearance by: Ron Palillo

MONGOL (2008)
 Saturday, August 16 • 7:30 pm
 Color/German/Russia/R/120 min

CARAMEL (2008)
 Sunday, August 17 • 7:00 pm
 Color/Lebanon/95 min

Sound Waves

August 2008
 VOLUME 18, NUMBER 11

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Concerts 2008 in the Park



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All Concerts Start at 6:30 PM

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- August 8, 2008 - The Cartells
- August 15, 2008 - Rock 'n' Soul Revue
- August 22, 2008 - The Black Burns

Rain Date is August 29, 2008

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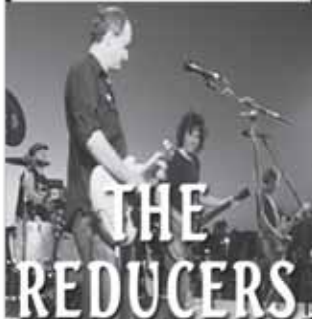
Wednesdays is MAGIC NIGHT 7pm

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8 Dan Butterworth Marionette Show	9 STEVE 7pm SMITH & THE NAKEDS
15 Caribbean Show for all ages	16 DICK 7pm CAMPO BIG BAND
 THE REDUCERS	23 YOUNG NEAL 7pm & THE VIPERS
	30 THE 7pm REDUCERS

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11:30 ~ 4:00 Lunch
Sun-Thurs
4:00 ~ 10:00 Dinner
Fri-Sat 4-11

HAPPY HOUR M~F 3-6
Free Wings & Discount Beers

Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Every Monday TOMMY G	Check Out Our Menu in the back pages	1 JAMES HARRIS	2 DAVE LAUDON DUO
6 CHRISTOPHER JOHN	7 TBA	8 PHIL NEWLAND & CHUCK DAVIS	9 BRANDON DAVIS
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20 GOPHER BROKE	21 TBA	22 PHIL NEWLAND & CHUCK DAVIS	23 OCCEDENTAL GYPSY
27 GOPHER BROKE	28 DAVE LAUDON DUO	29 JAMES HARRIS	30 BRANDON DAVIS

MAILBAG



Dear Readers,

It's hard to believe that when doing this month's issue, I was doing some ads advertising Labor Day weekend. I guess there is truth in the saying "Time flies, when you're having fun". But don't despair. We have the whole month of August, and there is a lot of great stuff going on within our area. Just check out the pages within Sound Waves, and get out there and enjoy!

The nice thing about this area is that there is always something to do. And most of it is free. Mondays is the "Stockroom Blue Mondays" in Mystic. Wednesdays is "Blues on the Beach" in Misquamicut. Thursdays is Esquer Point "Sound Waves on the Beach" (you got to love the name!). And Fridays is the music at Washington Park in Groton. Then Fridays and Saturdays is the excellent entertainment at the local venues. And my favorite.....Sandy Point on Sundays. Relaxing in the sun with good food, cool drinks and good friends. Also in August is when Deke finally says the water is warm enough and jumps in the water!

One event to look for this month is the opening of the Knickerbocker's side bar. The owners hope to have this open by the middle of the month. With the main section open by the Fall!

So till next time. Remember to tell the advertisers that you saw their ad within these pages! Because of them this publication remains free!

Till next month
David L. Pottie
Editor/Publisher

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Summertime means
sun and fun. Before
you include alcohol in
your plans, please
designate a driver -- it
may save your summer
and your life

CONCERT DATES

The Allman Brothers Band

20 - Dodge Center, Hartford, CT

"American Idols Live"

8 - XL Center, Hartford, CT

9 - DCU Center, Providence, RI

Pat Benatar

29 - Twin River Casino, Lincoln, RI

31 - Klein Auditorium, Bridgeport, CT

Joe Bonamassa

20 - Toad's Place, New Haven, CT

Bruce Springsteen

2 - Gillette Stadium, Foxboro, MA

Jimmy Buffett

3 - Fort Adams, Newport, CT

Popa Chubby

15 - Chan's, Woonsocket, RI

Coldplay

2 - XL Center, Hartford, CT

Neil Diamond

7 - XL Center, Hartford, CT

Steve Earle

2 - Fort Adams, Newport, RI

Aretha Franklin

9 - Fort Adams, Newport, RI

Levon Helm

3 - Fort Adams, Newport, RI

Kid Rock/Lynyrd Skynyrd

31 - Dodge Center, Hartford, CT

Maroon 5

15 - Dodge Center, Hartford, CT

John Mayer

23 - Dodge Center, Hartford, CT

Nine Inch Nails

7 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

8 - DCU Center, Providence, RI

Ted Nugent

23 - Lupo's, Providence, RI

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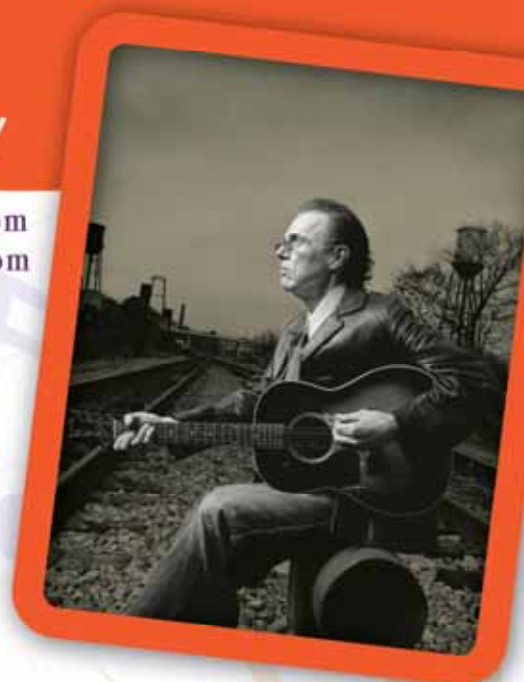
His new album, "Same Old Man," is climbing the charts,
as the Sunset Music Series presents:

Thursday, August 21, 2008

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Montgomery**

Gates open at 5:30pm
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**SATURDAYS
DJ DANNY O - 10pm**

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Full Menu from 11am

FREE POOL on Sundays

**2 Pool Tables ~ Big Screen TV
Golden Tee ~ Darts**

8 SOUND WAVES

MUSIC NOTES

"Of Horseshoes, Heroes and History"

By Mark T. Gould

"In the beginning, not so long ago
There were five country rockers
I saw the very first show
And I jumped up with the crowd
To give a standing hand
Livin', livin' in the band."

Backstage at the S. Prestley Blake Theater at City Stage in Springfield, Massachusetts, an exhausted, yet healthy and happy Poco guitarist/songwriter extraordinaire Paul Cotton sat sprawled on a chair, accepting congratulations and well-wishes from fans after a stunning performance last month.

"Man, I gotta sit for a bit," the 65-year-old, not so secret Poco weapon smiled and laughed toward a friend. "It's been a long day, and that was some show out there."

Indeed, it was. In an ever fast-paced world, to say you've done something for 40 minutes is quite rare, but when you've set the pace for a genre of popular music for 40 years, as Poco has, with blazing country rock records and incendiary live performances like the one in Springfield, well, you get to sit back, take a rest and take it all in.

Capturing it all, though, takes some doing, as this extraordinary band takes the road this summer to celebrate its 40th anniversary of rising out of the ashes of the Buffalo Springfield in the summer of 1968, the brain child of founding members Richie Furay, Jim Messina, and Rusty Young, whose collective vision paved the way for the merger of country and rock and roll music.

"Has it really been 40 years?" Young joked before the Springfield show, "I thought we just got started. Seriously, this has just been an amazing ride, with some great memories, fantastic fans, our 'Poco Nuts', and just a lot of fun."

The fun can get muted at times, though, like early in the day of the Springfield show, when the band flew in via the red-eye following two stunning sets in Colorado the evening before, to a dawn pick-up in Hartford, through a limo breakdown on the way to the show, and, consequently, very, very little sleep.

That might be easy to do when you're the star of "American Idol," but it's much more difficult to weather when you reach the age of these guys, for whom satisfying their fans and their audience has always been of utmost importance.

However, as worn out as they may have been, it, as always, never showed in their interaction with fans and friends before and after the show, and their weariness certainly didn't rear its head during a jaw-dropping perfor-

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mance, kicked off when Young threw out any semblance of a set list, and Poco performed such rare chestnuts as "Just For Me and You," "Ride The Country," which has only been played a handful of times since, gulp, 1974; and an encore of "Honky Tonk Downstairs," a seldom-played country weeper from their second album.

Add those to their standard repertoire of hits like "Crazy Love," "Heart of the Night," "Indian Summer," "Keep on Tryin'," and a host of others, and there's proof positive why this monumental performance generated a lengthy standing ovation at the end of the show.

But, come to think of it, that's been a common reaction at the almost four decades of Poco shows for a band that has always, always puts its audience first, and done things its own way, which is to say, at least to this long-time fan, the right, not to mention the only, way.

The core of the band remains strong with the incomparable Young's playing on steel guitar, mandolin and guitar setting the mood, alongside Cotton's vastly underrated singing and guitar playing. With them is Jack Sundrud, whose less than enviable task is to follow Randy Meisner and Timothy B. Schmit in the band's bass-playing pantheon. Listening to the emotion of his songs and his singing makes it clear that he may well be the best of the three. On drums, George Lawrence creates a more rocking and rhythmic sound, tweaking the Poco dynamic set by original drummer George Grantham, who was felled by an on-stage stroke the last time the band played in Springfield.

"I remember the feeling not so long ago

The kids came dancin',
Their hearts were romancin'
The music was live Poco...

Do you remember then,
How the music made you feel,
When it all began"

Less than 24 hours after the end of that glorious, one for the ages Poco show, and only about 60 miles away, one of the band's co-founders, Richie

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 9 to close
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4-6
\$1.75 Drafts
50¢ off drinks
 ~ Free Buffet ~

Fri

Sat



2 The BUZZ

8 TBA
 Call for info

9 KUNG FU GRIP

15 TBA
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16 STILL FACE

22 LUMP FISH

23 UNCLE RUKKUS

29 RUN 4 COVER

30 BRANDED

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Continued Page 20

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I Fri. 8th - BLUE MIRACLES
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E Thurs. 14th - SLACK WATER
M Fri. 15th - STAN PYZANOWSKI
S Thurs. 21st - ROB & IAN
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16th - **THE PHANTOMS**
23rd - **BLUE REGION**
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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn

Wow, July was a busy month for this girl! My family and I celebrated the fourth at Vinny and Lisa G.'s house with their friends and family. They had some very good food including some mouthwatering steamers, which any local can tell you are just fabulous on a hot summer night. We finished the night with an unbelievably fantastic fireworks display put on by Vinny and his son, little Vinny. Really nice job, guys!

We also made it to the world famous(well, maybe just Connecticut and parts of Rhode Island) NORTH STONINGTON FAIR. What a great time! My brother-in-law Chris Cipriano, went to the tractor pulls on opening night, Thursday, with my sister Betsy and Chris's brother Frank. While there, they made an announcement that the NORTH STONINGTON FAIR was offering it's first ever, open to anyone, two wheel drive or four, street legal, SUV, Truck Pull. Bing, lightbulb goes on over Chris's head. He has an old Range Rover in his yard just sitting there doing nothing.

So Saturday night comes....Chris, Bets and I are decked out in our Handlebar Cafe tank tops and daisy dukes (helloit's a country fair, but Chris is not in his daisy's). Brother Frank is there, Cousin Jack, and his beautiful wife and son,,,,, Betsy , my son, Ricky and I made up the professional pit crew-slash-cheerleaders-slash-camera crew. My husband and I did some quick lettering and what do we have.....da, da, da, dahhhhh. The DERANGED ROVER....Oh, what a machine....

Lots of trucks showed up including my cute friend Kyle Crandall in his Dodge truck. They weighed all the trucks before the pull started to put them in their different weight classes. Well, Chris's DERANGED ROVER was in the 6000 lb. class. By the luck of the draw, or perhaps the alphabet, Chris got to go first. Marvin the announcer and his wife did an amusing job keep the crowd happy and moving things along, kinda. So, Chris goes first, but this is the first ever non-professional truck pull...so they put no weight on. Chris straps himself in, helmet on, backs up, puts it in neutral, hands up, gets hooked to the pulley thing and gets the O.K.

Well, off he goes tearing up the track, all 150t feet. With just that one pull, he's found his calling in life...the power of the engine, the roar of the crowd, the smell of cow crap and gasoline... my god, what more could any Red-Blooded American Male ask for? Uh....Another pull, you say....??? O.K. how 'bout five more pulls? ..because don't forget Chris was the guinea pig...they needed him to keep pulling to figure out what he and the rest of the trucks could do to make it competitive. He is in HEAVEN!!

Well, needless to say Chris was having so much fun, he had to also quickly enter his 10,000 lb. Chevy truck that he had used to trailer the DERANGED ROVER there.

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M-F
4-7

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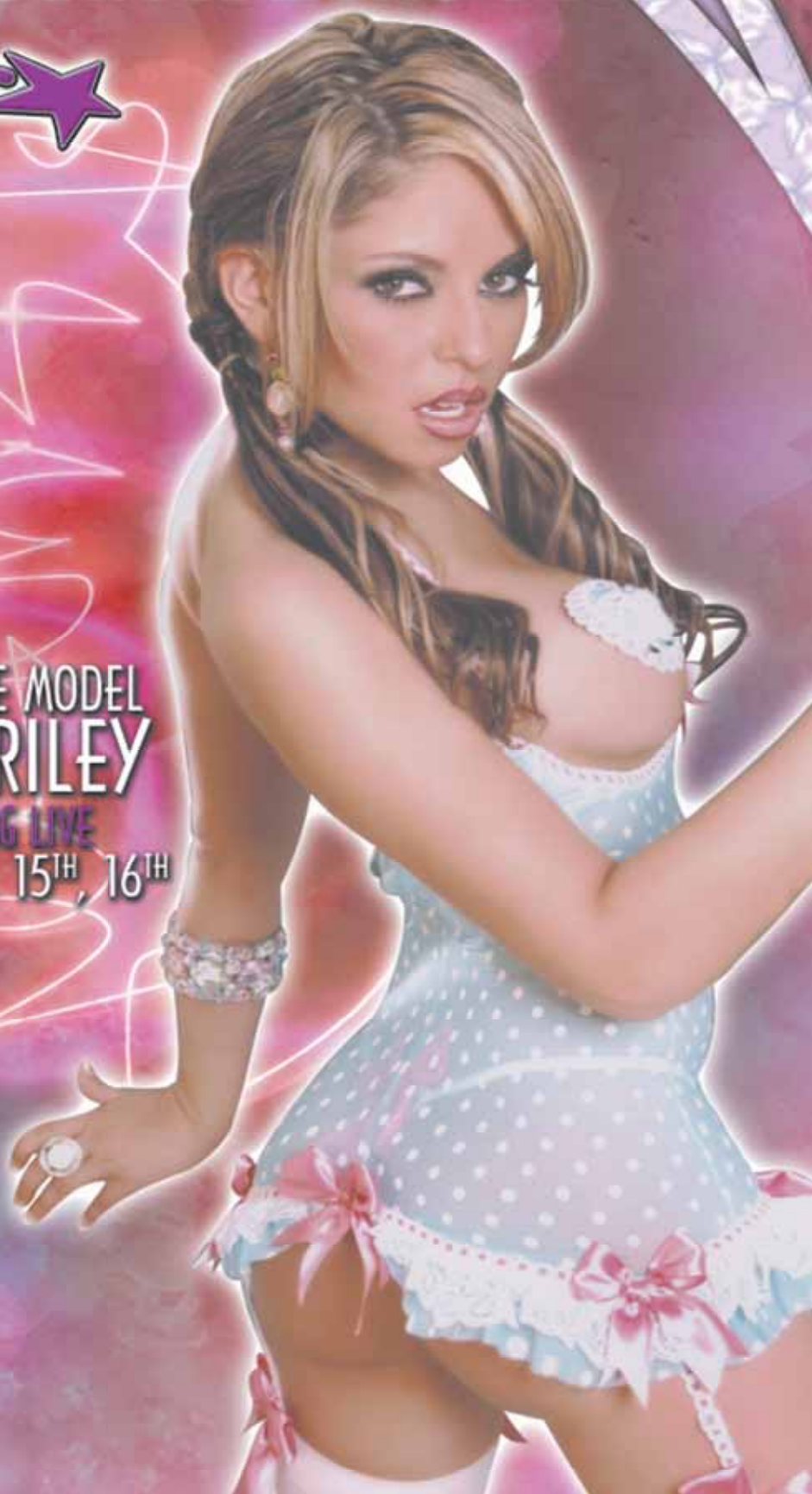
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FRI & SAT 12PM - 2AM



It was great, the crowd was really into it and I have to hand it to Chris, he did a great job, kept his cool under the pressure and pulled off a fourth in the DERANGED ROVER and came in First in the Chevy!!! Fabulous !!! It's always fun to go to the Fair and see people you haven't seen in a while, includin Tom Miner and his handsome son Kyle, North Stonington's own Dan Bill, and well you know the fair...practically everyone in town.

My next jaunt was to SUNSET RIBS. For those of you who've never been, you really need to try to get there before the summer ends. With two fantastically scenic decks overlooking Niantic bay? I'm telling you the view, alone is worth the drive. The food was delicious and a three man band, with a big bass, was playing right out on the deck doing a rockingly good job of entertaining the large crowd. Oh, and they were pretty hot, too.. Although it was a pretty busy night, the waitstaff did an excellent and efficient job. There were some hot waitresses also. Love to people watch. Especially if there are good-looking people to look at. I must also mention the security guys, cuz I can and cuz they were flirty and cuz I thought they were hot too. O.K. back to the bar.... I had a..... you guessed it.... Cosmopolitan, and sat with friends watching the sun set. It really is beautiful, I had a fabulous time there and I can't wait to go back!

I also made a quick trip to the bar and grille at Dodson's Dock, the DOGWATCH. LOVED IT!!! It's newly remodeled from the old Boom, and looked fantastic. The bar was beautiful, the food was delicious(I had the Dog-watch salad with chicken and a lime cilantro vinaigrette) and of the course, being on the water in Stonington, the view was fantastic! As I said... LOVED IT!!

I'd also like to say hi to Joel Reid and faithful reader, Mike Nolan and say congratulations to he and his beautiful wife, Jill, on the birth of their first child, a daughter, Sarah. Also, a sad goodbye to Ed Shortoff, a fabulous father, grandfather and friend to many, after a long, courageous battle with cancer. He will be sadly missed.

On a happier note, I will be heading to Sturgis South Dakota this month, for the STURGIS MOTORCYCLE RALLY, so be ready for some outrageous stories and pix.... if DAVE will print them....Hope to hear from you soon at BARFLY2U2@YAHOO.COM.....See ya next month!!!!



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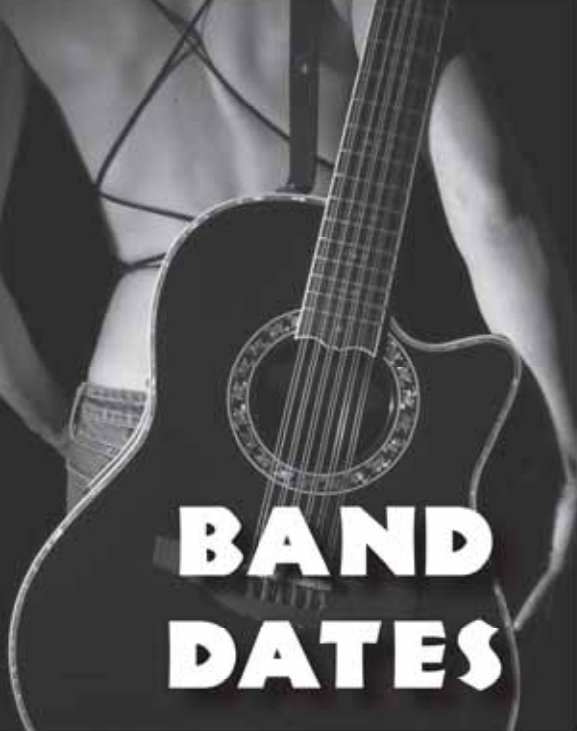
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BAND DATES

CHRISTOPHER JOHN

1 - Joe Bombers, Torrington, CT
15 - Free Spirit, Vernon, CT
30 - Oliver's, Essex, CT

DAN STEVENS

1 - G. W. Tavern, Washington Depot, CT
2,31 - Little Stone House, Guilford, CT
12-2:30
2 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30
6,20 - Andrea Hotel, Misquamicut, RI 8:00
8 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 8:00
9 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
10 - Delta Grill, New York, NY 11-2:30
12,19 - Point Inn, Old Saybrook, CT
13 - Town Green, Ivoryton, CT 7:00
21 - Angelico's, E. Hampton, CT 6-10
22 - C. C.'s, Southington, CT 7:30
23 - Olde Mistick Village, Mystic, CT 2-4
23 - Café Atlantique, Milford, CT
26 - Dolphin Striker, Portsmouth, NH
27 - Unity College, Unity, ME
28 - The Bog, Waldoboro, ME 4-6
29 - York Harbor Inn, York Harbor, ME
30 - Coveside, S. Bristol, ME

DOGIE & THE COWPIE POACHERS

1 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA
6,13,20,27 - Billy Goodes, Newport, RI
17,31 - Amer. Legion, E. Greenwich RI 1-5
23 - Fair, Rochester, MA 8-11

DYN-O-MYTE DISCO REVIEW

2 - Sproutstock, Kerhonksen, NY
6 - Shelton Town Green, Shelton, CT
9 - Harbor Park, Middletown, CT
13 - Town Green, Wallingford, CT
14 - Fresh Meadow, Lake Success, NY
15 - P. Sam's Bar & Grill, Torrington, CT

14 SOUND WAVES

16 - Geraldine's, W. Springfield, MA
22,23 - Cruise Ship, Weirs Beach, NH
28 - Riverfront Plaza, Hartford, CT noon
29 - Vibz Uptown, Hartford, CT

FRANK & BEN

1 - Ivory Restaurant, Deep River, CT
5,19 - Daniel Packer Inn, Mystic, CT
8 - Main St. Tavern, Old Saybrook, CT
30 - 84 High Street, Westerly, RI

THE GOAT ROPERS

3 - V.F.W., Uxbridge, MA 2-6
15 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA
16 - Cruise, Onset, MA
28 - Beach Shell, Hampton Beach, NH
30 - Fitzgerald's, Webster, MA

GOPHERBROKE

1 - School St. Bistro, Westfield, MA 7-11
3 - Town Green, Branford, CT 6-7:30
6 - John Harvards, Manchester CT
14,20,27 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8-11
15 - Cambridge House, Granby, CT
16 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
22 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT
23,30 - Frankie's, Westbrook, CT 7-10
24 - Town Green, Westbrook, CT 5-7
30 - Olde Mistick Village, Mystic, CT 2-4

GREEN TEA

8 - Sandy's, Misquamicut Beach, RI
16 - Wheelhouse, Narragansett, RI
30 - Acoustic Cafe, Bridgeport, CT

JAY DEMPSEY & HIGHWAY CALL

2 - Burkes Tavern, Niantic, CT
6 - Beach Concert, Waterford, CT
14 - Esker Point Beach, Groton, CT

kGb

22 - MVP Sports Bar, Norwich, CT

MIKE SAVINO / THE SONS

1 - Anna Liffey's, New Haven, CT 5pm
1 - Side St. Bar, Hamden, CT 10pm
2,21,22 - Ivoryton Tavern, Ivoryton, CT
3,31 - Driftwood, Clinton, CT
4,11,18 - Outback, Killingworth, CT
7 - Gilos, E. Hartford, CT
8 - Stepping Stones, Canaan, CT
9 - Fresko's, Avon, CT
14 - Skyline, Windsor Locks, CT 5-9
15 - Jroos, N. Haven, CT
16 - La Boca, Middletown, CT
22,23 - Green, N. Haven, CT 6-9
29 - Ivory Rest., Deep River, CT

NEW INERTIA

2 - The Harp, Amherst, MA
9 - C.J.'s, Adams, MA
16 - Brickhouse, E. Haven, CT

30 - Strykers, Berlin, CT

NVRKNO

17 - Catfish Tourny, Portland, CT
23 - Brown Derby, Montville, CT

RED LIGHT DISTRICT

8 - Surrell's, Jewett City, CT
15 - The Dubliner, Uncasville, CT
16 - Music Lady, Central Village, CT
30 - The Pavilion, Old Lyme, CT

SUNDAY GRAVY

6 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

SUSAN MENHART BAND

1 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT 8pm
9 - Tumbleweeds, Niantic, CT 3pm
16 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 11pm
26 - Oakdale Pavilion, Montville, CT 6pm

VERTIGO

2 - Hot Rods, New London, CT
15 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT

WAR PIGS

10 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT
22 - Backstage, Groton, CT

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1,29 - Main St Tavern, Old Saybrook, CT
7,24 - Angelico's, E. Hampton, CT
8,30 - Ray's Seafood, Westbrook, CT
9,13,23 - Gelston House, E. Haddam, CT
14 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT
15 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
23 - Gelston House, E. Haddam, CT 7-11

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SOUND WAVES 15

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- September 6th -

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&
HIGHWAY CALL

- September 13th -

HARD KNOXX





JOHN MAYER

Follows the light

By Rex Rutkoski

John Mayer is fairly certain about what his real responsibility is as an artist.

"It is to stay true enough to myself to let it happen on its own, not to get in my own way and think about what people might want to hear," says the five-time Grammy winning singer-songwriter-guitarist.

His job, he explains, is to shut off the outside world enough to let himself breathe and do what comes naturally, what's in his blood. "What is not natural is saying, 'I really want to impress people right now,'" adds Mayer. "That's a terrible place to write from. Every time I've ever gotten up out of a chair frustrated and grabbing my hair, it was because I sat down for the wrong reason. I sat down and said, 'God, I want another song.'"

Many of the songs he does have, and more, are showcased in the new "Where the Light Is: John Mayer Live In Los Angeles," a 2CD, DVD and Blu-Ray package Columbia is billing as a special release. It was filmed at the Nokia Theater and directed by Danny Clinch.

It includes three distinct sets: an acoustic performance, a rare set with the John Mayer Trio (Mayer, Steve Jordan and Pino Palladino) as well as a "Continuum" CD set featuring Mayer's full band. It is the first new release since the heralded "Continuum" album became available in the fall of 2006 and includes each of the elements for which the artist is known: acoustic songwriter, electric guitarist, bluesman and vocalist.

It offers Mayer's own hits, as well as versions of blues and rock favorites such as Hendrix's "Wait Until Tomorrow,"

Tom Petty's "Free Falling" and Ray Charles' "I Don't Need No Doctor."

The Blu-Ray disc features a picture-in-picture experience with Jordan and Palladino as well as a live downloadable "Belief" backstage performance. Other extras for the Blue-Ray and DVD include a Mulholland Drive acoustic performance.

It seems most appropriate to offer such an extensive live package, because the concert experience remains a special platform of expression for Mayer.

He views concerts almost on a spiritual level, calling them "a very innate act of celebration, human appreciation and group reveling." His goal on stage, he explains, is to be able to stand in front of thousands of people "as if I am completely in the moment every moment."

He is singing what he wants to sing based on the emotion of what that day feels like to him, he explains. "That's what comes out of my mouth and guitar. That impacts people. They know anything can happen," Mayer says. "I enjoy getting on stage, being handed a guitar that is in tune, taking it off mute, knowing that the very moment I want to play a note I can play it. People are waiting on me and I'm waiting on me, and I have no idea what I'm going to play. That's the biggest joy in life."

He prides himself in trying not to succumb to clichés. "I'm not being trite. I'm not being a parody of myself and in finding a new kind of color to adopt for myself, it's not this or that: it's singer-songwriter, but it's also blues guitar player, it's also comedian," he says.

It is about responding to the previous night and the night before that, he explains. "I like giving people something they don't want to miss the next time. It's a show with little twists and turns and curves. It has me being silly and stupid and compassionate and completely deep."

Mayer says his music goes through an evolution on stage, especially after he makes a record and plays the songs for a year. "It will have changed but it allows me to grow," the artist says.

He likens it to a computer "with a whole bunch of upgrade slots." "With a lot of these songs, the rim of the top of the cup is a lot higher than what I've done with the song on the record so that I can keep adding on stage," he adds. "I can play these songs on stage and look around in between some of my parts. I can breathe, I can think, I can ad-lib. It's basically building in your own improv."

Whether on stage or in the recording studio, Mayer has built a comfortable home for himself

"You get in front of a microphone, you've got stuff to say," he says. "It's not because you want to put another song on the plastic that's gonna come out in the store; you say it because you have to get it out, and you can't get it out any other way."

When he writes a song about a particular subject, he says he is not doing it because he needs to fulfill a requirement for someone but because he himself needs to. "The question is, 'Is what I love what other people love?' Maybe someday that's going to fall out of sync and then come back into sync again," he theorizes.

He is philosophical about the subject of artistic continuity. "There's nothing to reinvent, there's no rethinking, no retooling, no updating," he explains. "It's just more; it's just continued. People always want to see one record as the calling card, and anything that happens after that record is a giant leap or a transition or an experimental phase. No, it's not. What if you knew nothing? What if it's just the way it falls? You make a record and you're not done, so you put another 10 songs out, and I'm not done with that, either."

Mayer takes the approach that he has a lot of time to explore his creativity. "I don't need to be the hippest thing in my day," he says. "Give me an inch, I'll make the most of it. Give me another inch, I'll make the most of that."

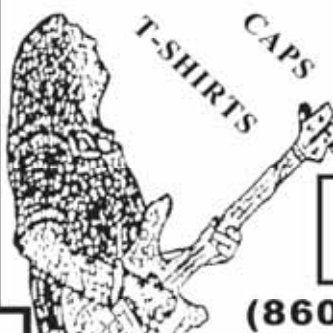
He says he still has a lot to prove and hopefully a lot of time in which to prove it. "You don't like this one? I'll make another," he theorizes.

He knows how to stay focused. "I don't feel like I've got to squeeze from the bottom of the tube to get anything out," he assures. "It's just a trust in yourself that you don't really have to worry too much. All I have to do is not lose my head, not lose who I am as a person and live my life."



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SOUND WAVES 19

A Writer's Writer: A Tribute to Hal Levy

By Mark T. Gould

I knew the magnificent writer Hal Levy for many years, and it took the Beatles to get him to smile for me.

But, more on that later.

It may seem weird to equate a sportswriter with a politician, but, when you think about, Tip O'Neill and Hal Levy had a lot in common.

The late Speaker of House once famously said that "all politics is local." Likewise, Hal Levy, who may well have been the "Speaker of Sportswriters," and certainly was a writer's writer, clearly knew, way before the Internet took over, that "all sports is local," and he spent the vast majority of a tragically too short, yet monumentally influential, life walking that talk.

Levy, who passed away last month at age 61 after almost three decades as the sports editor and executive sports editor of the Shore Line Newspapers, based in Guilford, started his career at the late, lamented Groton News and, its then sister publication, the Norwich Bulletin.

It was at the latter where I, a freshly scrubbed and somewhat obnoxious young reporter with visions of Woodward and Bernstein, first ran into him in the mid-70s.

I'll never forget the first time we met. Well, make that sort of met. Levy was seated behind a paper-laden, overflowing desk in the Bulletin/News sports department, one foot on the desk, cigarette smoke circling his fiefdom, multiple half-drunk coffee cups littered around him. I marched through, and he growled at me, "so, you're the guy from Daily Campus. Big (expletive) deal." I had no idea who he was, but later learned that he had started his sports writing career, as did I, at UConn's Daily Campus newspaper.

We spoke little that summer, but I noticed that he didn't speak to many other reporters, either. But, I did manage to see him checking me out from time to time, in the news room, out of the corner of his eye.

A year later, I was hired full-time at the Bulletin, and assigned to the Montville bureau. I was in my little cubby-hole office in Uncasville one afternoon, when the door opened. In walked Levy, still puffing on a cigarette, still with a coffee cup in hand.

"I figure if you're gonna cover this town, you oughta know what the bleep's going on," he growled at me.

That started a great journalistic affair, as this beautiful, cranky guy taught me how to think like a reporter, how to find a story, develop a level of trust with sources, how to personalize and localize, how to never take standard answers for granted, and how to keep digging and digging. He also reviewed copy over my shoulder as I wrote it in that little satellite office, all the while puffing on his ever-present cigarette, and chugging his coffee, making me, day-by-day, a better writer and reporter.

Yet, as the time passed, while I had come to realize that, under that tough exterior, Hal was basically a pussy cat, I

Music Notes Continued

Furay, was just about to start a sound check before his show at the FTC Stage One in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Furay, now 64 (although he still looks at least a decade younger than he is) and recently recuperated from double hip replacement and knee surgery, was admittedly tired from a series of several back-to-back dates on his first full-band tour of the East Coast in many years, in support of his terrific, new double live album (see review elsewhere in this issue) and he was justifiably concerned about losing his voice. Nonetheless, before the show, he greeted long time fans and friends with the friendly, earnest rapport and genuine smile that makes him one of the truly 'nice guys' in his business.

"I am so pleased that you came out tonight," Furay told the crowd as he took the stage. "We're going to take you on a journey through 40 years of music."

And, what music it is. Starting with his years in the Buffalo Springfield, through Poco, the Souther Hillman Furay Band and his both secular and non-secular solo work, Furay gives witness to the legacy of Poco, and his, influence on popular music.

Seemingly energized by a crowd that gave him standing ovation after standing ovation (much like his former band mates had the night before), Furay's strong voice (yes, it never gave out) still retains that boyish and innocent charm and wonder that makes his work all the more special.

Soaked in sweat from a breathtaking almost two-hour show, Furay appeared upbeat afterward.

"All right," he said. "We made it."

That might be a fitting epitaph for Furay and Young's dream, and the influence of their work with Poco, casting a giant shadow to this day on both country and rock music, even after a mind-boggling 40 years.

Just think about that for a minute. Poco has been performing for 40 years. And, as this weekend pointed out, both from their performance in Springfield and their co-founder's own show just a few miles away in Fairfield, they still give it their all, and put a smile, and a warmth, on every fan's face.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again.

Long live Poco!

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Having been one of the founding members of two of the most important groups of the Sixties, Buffalo Springfield and Poco, it is safe to say that Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Richie Furay's place in musical history is secure. Given that, it's all the more amazing, and a blessing, that Furay, at the age of 64, still has the wondrous voice and rapport with an audience that has staked his claim for over four decades of remarkable songs and performances.

That is all the more evident when listening to the rapture of those classic Furay, Springfield and Poco classics, including several covers of his former band members' work, on *"Alive."* Recorded over two nights in his native Boulder and nearby Denver, Colorado late last year, the double disc finds that jaw-dropping Furay voice, still rich (no pun intended) with love and happiness, ringing out.

Opening with the moving Poco tribute, *"When It All Began,"* followed with that great band's very first recorded song, *"Pickin' Up The Pieces,"* Furay adds a medley of Neil Young songs that he sang on the first Springfield record, and follows that later with a banjo-laden, new arrangement of Stephen Stills' *"Go and Say Goodbye,"* which was also recorded by Poco. Other Springfield highlights include *"Child's Claim to Fame,"* and *"Sad Memory,"* the very first Furay song to appear on a Springfield album.

Furay also does great justice to his second great band, Poco, including a cover of Jim Messina's *"You Better Think Twice,"* along side such chestnuts as *"Hurry Up,"* *"Make Me Smile,"* *"C'mon,"* *"Just In Case It Happens,"* *"Good Feelin' To Know,"* and the set closer, a stunning *"Let's Dance Tonight."* He also bridges the gap between the two with the still beautiful (just like its subject, Furay's wife of 41 years, Nancy) *"Kind Woman,"* which was also recorded by both bands and featured the first joint studio work of Furay and Poco co-founder Rusty Young.

He also does not neglect his post Springfield and Poco years, performing *"Falling In Love"* and *"Believe Me"* from the first Southern Hillman Furay Band album, and *"Forever With You,"* *"Callin' Out Your Name,"* and the title track from his most

recent solo album, *"The Heartbeat of Love."*

Fans of Furay's non-secular work will also enjoy his renditions of *"Rise Up,"* and the emotional, lump in your throat, stunning encore of the breathtaking *"In My Father's House,"* which Furay dedicated to his mother, who passed away the night before the performance.

There is no doubt, listening to this superb, career-spanning live collection, that Furay's mother is indeed smiling down on him, for the legacy that he has created, the joy in his voice and performance, and the exemplary life that is mirrored in his songs.

***** - Mark T. Gould

GANDALF MURPHY AND THE SLAMBOVIAN CIRCUS OF DREAMS

"The Great Unravel"
2008 Slambovian Music

Gandalf Murphy and The Slambovian Circus of Dreams is an unusually long name for an unusually unique band. Their music transcends boundaries not only of musical genres but also of those between the cosmos and ourselves. This family of musicians embodies the very essence of enlightenment and rides along with us on the leading edge, revealing us to ourselves; while helping us to sing and dance ourselves right out of the doldrums and into our envisioned joys.

"The Great Unravel" is their latest CD of 12 original songs all written by mastermind and lead singer Joziah Longo. If you took Bob Dylan, his poignant prose and harmonica, then added some Pink Floyd, Nirvana and Ian Anderson's flute, you'd come close to what The Circus sounds like. This CD is a mix of loving, empowering and inspiring lyrics with gentle rhythms and polished instrumentation that's truly alive. This New York based band's mostly-Folk fans are as fanatical about this Circus as are sports fans with painted blue bodies; they are addicted to the natural high one reaches when immersed in something that's so extraordinary. Until you're fortunate enough to see them in person, catch this CD and take a ride.

Admittedly, Joziah is aided by his an-

cestors who "send songs down whole" to him - which could explain why so many of them seem to have a supernatural power to transport the listener to a state of being that's "out of this world". Here he leads off singing *"Desire"* a cappella mentioning the ghosts right off the bat. He's joined by his wife, Tink Lloyd, a feisty and demure beauty who plays an endless list of instruments including the accordion, cello and theremin. Sharkey McEwen, let's the light shine through his genius of both producing their CDs and his musical offerings. He's riveting on guitar and mandolin with brazen riffs that fly off into the atmosphere taking your heart along with it. Tony Zuzolo holds steady on the drums, filling the background with a rich fullness like the white chocolate panache on a slice of cheesecake. Adding a cherry or two on top, twins Chen and Orion have followed their parents on stage playing bass and various percussion/ keyboards, respectively. It's a family affair that entertains kids of all ages and will entice the child inside of you out to play, if you let it.

"The Great Unravel" causes you to question all you think is true, and makes you wonder about our place in time and the significance of these few years before 2012. *"Everyone Has A Broken Heart"* is actually a sing-along which can lift you out of the blues if you do sing along, and *"Light A Way"* tenderly encourages us to use our inner spirit to lead others (and ourselves) to our dreams and fuller selves. *"Naniwan"*, sung mostly in Chinese, was written for their debut in China, when they were the first band allowed in after a 20-year ban of Western musicians, while *"Bobby's Kinda Dumb"* reveals a humorous streak. *"Already Broken"* can also be found on Sir Paul McCartney's CD *"Familiar Mysteries"* put out in 2002 by The Garland Appeal. Their aim is to fight cancer through music, being inspired by the life of Linda McCartney. The songs on this CD, along with all of the music by Gandalf Murphy and The Slambovian Circus of Dreams, offer a therapeutic effect, and can "Heal what ails ya".

You've got to experience the whole effect to feel it, so listen often and take the moments of excitement and joy from a live concert back home with you for everyday revival. www.slambovia.com

*** - Anne-Marie Cannata



S.M.V.

"Thunder"

Heads Up International

For those of us in the ever-expanding bass hero crowd, the Bass Player Live! concert in October 2006 was something of a godsend. Stanley Clarke, Marcus Miller, and Victor Wooten, arguably three of the greatest bass players alive, let loose a blazing three-way bass jam. Many of us thought this was a mere novelty, and we'd never see the likes of it again.

Fortunately for us, however, we were wrong. Barely two years after the concert, Stanley, Marcus, and Victor have reunited under the moniker S.M.V., once again challenging the conception of bass as a sideline instrument with their latest release, the aptly titled *Thunder*. Featuring the legendary trio along with an impressive roster of guest musicians including Chick Corea, George Duke, and Butterscotch, *Thunder* lives up to the general hype one may expect upon its release.

Unlike most virtuoso projects, *Thunder* strives to create a cohesive musical canvas instead of relying on flashy solo-based indulgence. The end result is a solid album that runs the gamut from funky hip-hop beats ("Thunder", "TutTu") to arco/pizzicato acoustic bass coupled with arpeggiated slap 'n' tap counterpoint ("Milano", "Classical Thump") and beyond. Despite the variety of styles employed, *Thunder* still maintains its sense of direction and avoids the pitfalls of excess.

All three bass players share writing credits on the album, and it's readily apparent that none took too much precedence over another. What is most impressive about this album is how fluid the interplay between Stanley, Marcus, and Victor stays through its entirety. Each player finds his own space to operate in without infringing on anyone else's territory. No one player stays in the limelight longer than another, and there's no sense of competition whatsoever. This sense of equality is crucial in maintaining *Thunder*'s balance. It would be easy for any of these legendary players to get carried away, but luckily for the listener, Stanley, Marcus, and Victor strive to serve the almighty groove, giving us a fantastic album and breaking new ground for bass players everywhere.

1/2

- Eren Lee



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Hal Levy Continued

had never really seen him let down his guard and smile. Well, within a year after I met Hal, he had me over to his house in Montville. We were talking over a couple of beers, and I mentioned music. I asked what groups he liked. It was one of the few times that I saw his gruff exterior melt.

"There's nothing like the Beatles," he said, actually grinning from ear to ear.

It was a special, musical moment for both of us.

We remained kindred spirits until I left for greener, and perhaps greater, pastures a few years later. Hal? He still kept it local. Virtually ignoring what ESPN, the Internet and other more worldly outlets did to sports, Hal kept the focus on local high school and other amateur football, basketball, baseball, cross country and soccer games and leagues, sometimes operating as a virtual one-man local show. Along the way, he collected more awards and honors than you can count, including being inducted into the Connecticut High School Coaches' Hall of Fame, the New England Press Association Hall of Fame, the Connecticut Collegiate and Scholastic Softball Hall of Fame, the Branford Sports Hall of Fame, the Middletown Sports Hall of Fame and the Shoreline Conference Cross Country Hall of Fame.

There were a ton of talented writers and editors at the Bulletin and News in those days. John Peterson (still the only guy I would crawl through the snow to get a story for), Tom "Tiny" Perry, the magnificently clever Carl Sygiel, the amazing Andy Thibault, and a host of others. Yet, it was that gruff, yet sweet guy, behind his ever-present cigarette and coffee, who taught me to think and write like a reporter.

And, talked to me about The Beatles.

Like his favorite group, Hal Levy was one of a kind, in so many ways.

REVIVAL DEAR

"Revival Dear"

Uspin Records

Imagine, in these woebegone, vapid days of what can barely be called music that there is a new group with a timeless, deep and soulful feel that just makes a listener feel good, right and just at the same time.

Impossible, you say? Well, it's not. Check out "Revival Dear," the outstanding debut release from the so talented that it should be illegal Eddie Orso and Shelley Hayes, a pair of Canadians who are drawing righteous comparisons with so many of the past and present stellar acts emanating from north of the border.

It is just so rare, make it extraordinary, in these pre-programmed times of studio wizardry masking serious lack of talent that two people can make an album sound so fresh, so detailed and yet so delicately simple and emotional at the same time.

From the electric bounce of the opening track, "Town That I've Known," to the timeliness of "Hog Tied," to the beauty and pathos of "Hometown Down Heart," and all the other great tracks, Orso and Hayes sound magnificent together. All together, they have constructed one of the classic albums of the year.

"Revival Dear" is amazing. I haven't felt this good about music from Canada since the heyday of The Band.

***** - Mark T. Gould

***** Excellent

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