

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

Sound Waves

Volume 19
Issue 6
March 2009

CLUB LISTINGS
RESTAURANTS
CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS & MORE

An Interview
With

FLEETWOOD MAC

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FRIDAY

SATURDAY

6
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PHIL NEWLAND
ACOUSTIC
HAPPY HOUR

7
ALTER EGO
COVER HITS

13
**TEMPORARY
GRACE**
ALTERNATIVE HITS

VINCE THOMPSON
ACOUSTIC
HAPPY HOUR

14
**DARIK & THE
FUNBAGS**
ULTIMATE
PARTY BAND

20
DOUBLE FISTED
DAMN GOOD ROCK

KARL KELLY CO.
CLASSIC ROCK
HAPPY HOUR

21
WICKED PEACH
ROCK GODS

27
SuGaR
FUNK, HIP HOP,
DISCO, R&B

**MIND, BODY
& SOUL**
(FEAT. ANDRE)
R&B HAPPY HOUR

28
THE HOOLIOS
W/ SPECIAL
GUESTS

THE REDUCERS

**MONDAY NIGHTS
& WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**
CENTER STAGE KARAOKE
w/Mike Mrazik 9pm

TUESDAY NIGHTS
PUB QUIZ NIGHT at STASH'S
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Form a Team or Play Solo Hosted by
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Happy Hour
Fridays!

6-9pm

FRIDAY 6th

**PHIL
NEWLAND**

FRIDAY 13th

**SUNDAY
GRAVY**

FRIDAY 20th

**KARL KELLY
& COMPANY**

FRIDAY 27th

**MIND, BODY
& SOUL**

6-9pm

THURSDAY ~ MARCH 12th



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ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Corned Beef & Cabbage

Lunch & Dinner

Irish Drink

& Beer specials



STASH' CAFE
WII Bowling League

SUNDAY NIGHTS

See Mark or Graham for Details!

Friday March 28th



with Special Guest

**THE
REDUCERS**
THE HOOLIOS

Come Early and Have Dinner!

INSIDE THE WAVE

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Cover/Story Photo by
Neal Preston

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Mothers Against Drunk Driving



MADD.
Mothers Against Drunk Driving

DESIGNATED DRIVER

If your St. Patrick's Day
celebrations
include alcohol, please be
sure to
designate a driver before
the party begins. Don't
depend on the luck of
the Irish to get you home
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MAILBAG



Dear Readers,

It's been awhile since I have written this column, but I have some great news! As some might know we recently re-did our web site using a "page flip" technology that uses Flash. With this concept a person visiting the web site see's the magazine as it is on the street. But on the web we are able to embed MP3's and videos, plus have links to the bands and the advertisers. Thus making the online edition more interactive and informative. The web site can also be viewed on your cell phone, iPhone or Blackberry if you have Flash installed.

The web site is new and will continue to get even better as the months progress. But the great news is that we have been averaging 2,700 hits a day for the month of February! These stats are provided by Google Analytics, and can break the figures down to what pages, how long they view and where the viewer is from. These stats far exceeded my expectations!

So as we approach our 20 years in publication, Sound Waves Magazine is still growing. But we would not be where we are now if it wasn't for you the readers. By supporting our advertisers, you have helped to keep this publication free and a leading guide to entertainment in our area! Thank You!

Till next month

David L. Pottie
Editor/Publisher

Check it out & pass it on! ~ www.swaves.com

Sound Waves

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Editor
David L. Pottie

Contributing Writers
Bill Harriman,
Mark Gould, Rex Rutkoski,
Nicole Roberge, Bryan Farrell,
Don Sikorski, Dave Abare

Artist/Graphic Design
David L. Pottie

Advertising Sales
Ed Roach
860-434-2792
David L. Pottie
860-572-5738

Email
editor@swaves.com

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CONCERT DATES

Alice Peacock
13 - Wilde Auditorium, Hartford, CT

Britney Spears
26 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Carrie Newcomer
6 - Wilde Auditorium, Hartford, CT

Eddie Money
21 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Fleetwood Mac
Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

George Thorogood
13 - Fox Theatre, Mashantucket, CT

Keller Williams
24 - Lupo's, Providence, RI

Lil' Wayne
17 - Dunkin' Donuts Center, Providence, RI

Mark Erelli
17 - Wilde Auditorium, Hartford, CT

Morrissey
28 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Mötley Crüe
13 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Nickelback
8 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

The Robert Cray Band
7 - Garde Arts Center, New London, CT

Sarah Borges
& The Broken Singles
14 - Bank Street Cafe, New London, CT

The Wailers
13 - Lupo's, Providence, CT

Yo-Yo Ma
6 - Perf. Arts Ctr., Providence, RI



www.Swaves.com



MusicAndMore
www.gardearts.org

The Robert Cray Band

Saturday, March 7 8pm

For thirty-plus years Robert Cray has laid down track after track of good-time, uptown, low-down blues. He's won five Grammys and been nominated for 11 more, inspired critics to praise his soulful vocal and instrumental artistry, and earned respect from his peers.

Sponsored by: SNS Electric

Mariza

Sunday, March 15 7pm

Mariza is the new face of Portuguese fado, bringing modern sensibility to the folkloric style with charismatic stage presence.

Sponsored by: Olde Mistick Village

Jesse Cook

Thursday, April 2 8pm

World music sensation guitarist Jesse Cook merged his French, Gypsy, jazz and classical influences into his own style of "rumba flamenco." With six critically acclaimed studio albums, he has headlined concerts and festivals, and opened for such legends as B.B. King and Ray Charles.



MOMIX: *Lunar Sea*

Friday, April 17 8pm

Inventively staged by Connecticut's own Momix, *Lunar Sea* reflects life on the moon, as dancers glow in the dark and swim in the air defying weight and gravity!

Sponsored by: Robinson & Cole LLP

Buddy Guy

WITH OPENING ACT INDIGENOUS
Saturday, April 18 8pm

Buddy Guy is a Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductee, a chief guitar influence to rock titans like Hendrix, Clapton, and Beck.

Natalie MacMaster

Friday, May 15 8pm

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SOUND WAVES 5

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- MONDAYS -

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\$1 Beef Tacos
\$6
Pitchers

- TUESDAYS -

1/2
PRICE
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- WEDNESDAYS -

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ST. PATRICK'S DAY CELEBRATION

TUESDAY MARCH 17th

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- Saturday Night ~ March 21st -

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- Saturday Night ~ March 28th -

THE MUNSELL BROTHERS

- Saturday ~ April 4th -

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MUSIC NOTES

"Brave New World"

By Mark T. Gould



My music collection was getting too big for the house. At least, that's what my wife told me. And, since she's usually right (and I sincerely mean that, not just for this column), I had to start thinking about alternatives.

Now, you have to understand something. I'm doubly blessed in that I'm both in my 50s and, therefore, a child of the 60s. Or, is that cursed? At

any rate, for those who came of age musically in that time, it's been hard enough to wean us off of the now quaint concept of record albums (go check a history book or try a Google search, and you'll see what they were) and on the road of supposed progress toward compact discs.

For that revolution, we were clearly the wrong people at the wrong time. You kinda had to be there to get the beauty of it, but, for me, there was little better than slitting open the cellophane on a new record and getting whiff of the vinyl, before lovingly taking it my hands, putting it up to my eye, checking out the grooves, and dropping it on the turntable (go back to Google....).

Add to that interesting, eye-popping cover art and liner notes that you could actually read without a magnifying glass and, well, give me a moment's pause before I get too weepy all over this page.

And, of course, the album covers served a dual purpose, which I just might cover in another column someday.....

But, I digress. You see, I've always done my best, albeit grudgingly, to keep up with the changing times. So, I dutifully bought compact discs. Boy, did I buy compact discs; so much so that my album collection, which numbers easily into the thousands, is now dwarfed by the gluttony of those tiny spheroids.

I mean, I wasn't happy about it, but I did it. And, irony of ironies, the discs certainly took up much less space than the albums.

But, still too much. Or, so I was told.

So, what to do? I mean, I'd sooner cut off a vital body part than to stop collecting and listening to music. Given that, I started to ask around.

One great source was my friend Tony, who runs the snack bar at the courthouse where I work. Not only does the man make a mean chicken salad sandwich, but he's got exquisite taste in music.

I mean, where else can you get a dose of Ella, Sinatra,

Bird, Diz, Miles, Little Walter and Little Richard with your morning coffee?

Each time I'd venture into his lair, I'd hear jaw-dropping sounds emanating from Tony's environs, at just the right volume and, just as important to me, with good sound quality. Yet, stuck in the musical Dark Ages as I was, I scanned his counters for a compact disc player. None found. I looked for a computer, open to a radio web site. Nope. Heck, old crotchety me even glanced around for a turntable. Not.

So, I asked him, how are you getting such good sounds?

"Ipod," he said.

Ipod?

First, I thought he was talking Klingon (I told you I was old...). I didn't know whether to say "you're welcome," "thank you," or even "God bless you," so, being a learned judge, I went with the next best thing.

"Huh?" I responded, with all my usual tact.

That's when he pulled this little, and I mean little, contraption down from over his sandwich counter. "Ipod," he said again, holding it up to me. Frankly, it looked like a transistor radio to me (you can find out about them with a good search engine, too).

"Holds a ton of songs," he said. "You can program it to play whatever you want, whenever you want," he said. Then, he gave me the kicker.

"And," he said, "It takes up very little space."

Ah. "Very little space." Now, we were onto something.

So, I went home, booted up the PC, and did some research. I started to learn about iTunes; downloading, uploading and merging music on my hard drive; sequencing the individual albums in the order that I want them, synching the music into playlists (synching? Who synchs music? Cripes, you just play the stuff, don't ya?), and music libraries. And, something called a click wheel, which is already driving me battier than I was before. And another things called a podcast, which I figured came from outer space, which, it turns out, wasn't that far off.

However, I absolutely drew the line at "shuffle." That wasn't up for even a 21st century discussion. It'll never happen on this boy's Ipod, at least in this lifetime. Artists place the order of their songs on their albums for a reason, so that listeners hear the whole release, in the order the artist wants, in its entirety, just like, ahem, those of us with record albums used to do. Even though that can take some time and commitment, that process is sacrosanct to me, even if these new gadgets are seemingly designed for those among us who possess the attention span of gnats.

I mean, I have to keep the 60s faith somehow, don't I?

It didn't take long for me to figure out what I needed. It's called (yes, I know you all know this already...ssssh... let me express here) a "120 g Classic." So, I ventured out to my local Do-Dads and Gadget store, aka "Best Buy," and, doing my level best to help out our economy, procured one, along with a nifty carrying case, a functional car adapter, which, to add even more irony, is essentially a blank cassette with a wire attached, and something called a dock connector cable.

Continued Page 16

WELCOME SPRING LUAU

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7pm-12am

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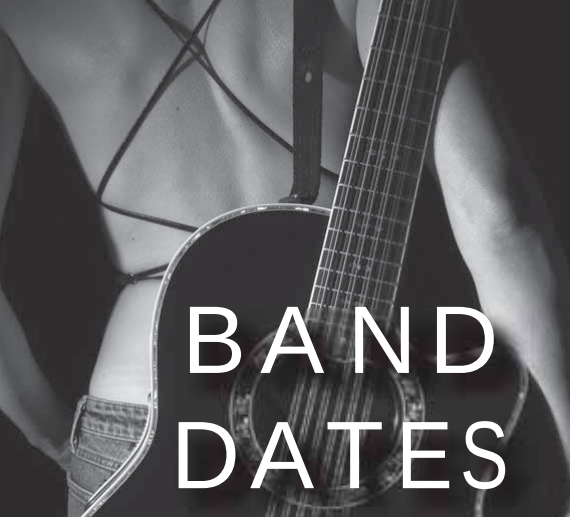
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BAND DATES

BORROWED TOYS

7 - German Club, Mystic, CT 7pm

BOTTOM DRAWER

8 - Sneeker's, Groton, CT 3pm

14 - Tamarack, Voluntown, CT 6:30pm

THE CARTELLS

7 - Aspen, Old Saybrook, CT 8-11pm

13 - Jakes, Wallingford, CT

19,26 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10pm

DAN STEVENS

6 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30

7 - C. C.'s, Southington, CT 7:30

10 - Painted Pony, Bethlehem, CT 7:30

12 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7

13 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT

14 - Public Library, Hartford, CT 3-4

14 - Pier 27, Mystic, CT 10:30

16,30 - Grand Central Station, NY, NY

18 - Public House, Newcastle, ME

19 - The Bog, Waldoboro, ME 5-7

20 - Suds Pub, Bethel, ME

21 - Harbor Inn, York Harbor, ME

26 - RiverWalk, Mystic, CT

27 - Fine Arts Coffeehouse, Milford, CT

28 - Vanilla Bean, Pomfret, CT

29 - Tamarack Lodge, Voluntown, CT 1-4

DAN WATSON

18 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT

26 - Black Sheep, E. Lyme, CT

DARIN KEECH

& BAND OF HUMANS

6 - Pier 27, Mystic, CT

13 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

20 - Pier 27, Mystic, CT

27 - Daniel Packer Inn, Mystic, CT

DOGIE &

THE COWPIE POACHERS

11,18,25 - Billy Goodes, Newport, RI

10 SOUND WAVES

12,19,26 - O'Brien's Pub, Newport, RI

DOUBLE FISTED

6 - Christopher's, Groton, CT

14 - Sneeker's, Groton, CT

20 - Stash's, New London, CT

21 - Chacer's, Norwich, CT

27,28 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT

THE GOAT ROPERS

6,27,28 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA 8-12

13 - Holy Ghost Hall, E. Taunton, MA

14 - Amer. Leg., Berkley, MA 7:30-11:30

29 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA 2-6

GOPHERBROKE

6 - School St. Bistro, Westfield, MA 7-11

7 - Yarde House, Hadley, MA

11 - Free Spirit Cafe, Vernon, CT

21 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT

27 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT

28 - Brew Pub, Granby, CT

GREEN TEA

20 - Pump House, Southbridge, MA

28 - Wood River Inn, Richmond, RI

JAMES HARRIS

7,11,18,21,25 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT

10,17,24,31 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT

13,27 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT

20 - 84 High St., Westerly, RI 8:30pm

JAY DEMPSEY

& HIGHWAY CALL

6 - Burkes, Niantic, CT

8,28 - Sneekers, Groton, CT

kGb

20 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

THE LOVE DOGS

21 - Community Center, E. Lymn, CT

7:30

MUNSELL BROTHERS BAND

6 - Hanafin's, New London, CT

7 - Boucher's, Hope Valley, RI

14 - Clydesdale's, Westerly, RI

20 - Burke's, Niantic, CT

28 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT

MYSTIC HORNS

13,20,27 - Knickerborcker, Westerly, RI

PIRANHA BROTHERS

7 - Lake Cafe, Stafford Springs, CT

21 - Oliver's Taverne, Essex, CT

27 - Free Spirit Cafe, Vernon, CT

RED LIGHT DISTRICT

13 - The Dubliner, Uncasville, CT

14 - The Brown Derby, Montville, CT

17 - The Phoenix, Norwich, CT

20 - Legends, Gales Ferry, CT

28 - Chacers, Norwich, CT

SUNDAY GRAVY

14 - CC O'Brien's, Pawcatuck, CT

27 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

2 CAT ZOO

6 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

7,17 - Black Sheep, E. Lyme, CT

15 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT 6pm

19 - Harp n Dragon, Norwich, CT

VERTIGO

5 - Harp & Dragon, Norwich, CT

27 - Dogwatch, Stonington, CT

VINCE THOMPSON & FRIENDS

7,28 - Tamarack, Voluntown, CT 6:30

13 - Stash's, New London, CT 5pm

WICKED PEACH

20 - Red Rock Bar, N. Kingston, RI

21 - Stash's, New London, CT

27 - Effin's, N. Smithfield, RI

28 - One Pelham E., Newport, RI

WILSON KANE

6 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI

7 - Burke's, Niantic, CT

12,26 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT

13 - Sobieski III Club, Deep River, CT

14,21 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT

15 - Harbour Seal, Westbrook, CT

19 - Seahorse Rest., Noank, CT

20 - Louie's, New London, CT

28 - Yummy Yummy, Niantic, CT

WORLD'S SMALLEST QUARTET

6 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT

7,27 - Brookside, Higganum, CT

13 - Elks Club, Westbrook, CT

14 - Cafe on Main, Colchester, CT

17 - Gelston House, E Haddam, CT

19 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT

20 - Chacers, Norwich, CT

21 - La Vita Gustosa, E. Haddam, CT

Mail Listings to the magazine or

E-MAIL:

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MARCH 13TH GORDONS B-DAY BASH - AMIDO BLACK /w SADPLANT : SOLACE IN SABOTAGE : ATLANTIC SKY

MARCH 20TH DANCE PARTY with RED LIGHT DISTRICT

MARCH 21ST METAL MADNESS FESTIVAL 2:00PM START 8 BANDS

MARCH 27TH WHITE ROSE CONFESSION & THE DRIVE WITHIN & THE LIFTED

WEDNESDAYS – OPEN MIC JAM AND COMEDY

MONDAYS TUESDAYS SATURDAYS – BEST MF KARAOKE ON THE PLANET WITH KJ BRYN - CONTEST\$

SUNDAYS – OPEN POOL – Wii BOWLING – NASCAR ON THE 100" PROJECTOR SCREEN 2.00 DRINK SPECIALS

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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn



Hello...my sweet, sweet friends. Unfortunately, February was not good to me. The weather was crappy and so was my attitude. I missed an engagement party for my friends Annie and Tom and I want to apologize. It was that crappy attitude. I wish them the best. I'd like to let everyone know about a luau that miss annie and the Pawcatuck VFW are planning as a fun time on March 21. I hope to see you all there in

your grass skirts and coconuts! It's gonna be a blast!

Well, it was February vacation for the kids and I brought my supremely special son Ricky to FIVE GUYS burgers and fries in Mystic. Those of you who know me, know of my affection for anything Mystic and FIVE GUYS is now on my list of good things in town. It's located across from the Mystic Hilton and another favorite restaurant of mine, GO FISH. The sushi bar is fabulous! Anyway, back to the FIVE GUYS....with their burgers and fries.....apparently, everything there is fresh....never frozen. At FIVE GUYS there re over 250,000 ways to order your burgers and fries (I gave up at two), and the Idaho fries are cooked only in peanut oil, and of course, everything is trans-fat free. Sounds fab? Well, it was!

As you may have heard, one of the Big Draws of FIVE GUYS is that they offer peanuts while you wait and woo-hoo.....you get to throw your shells on the ground. My God people....really?.....You need to throw the shells on the ground? Uh, apparently I missed out on the so happy to throw food items on the ground gene. I mean kids yes, I can see them enjoying this temporary freedom.... but adults? Frantically shelling peanuts, just so they can throw the shells on the ground? I mean the guy next to me, who basically sat on my shoulder while he waited for the table next to us to leave was like a freak. Ripping into his little cardboard boat of peanuts, tearing off their shells and throwing everything everywhere. Shells were everywhere. I had a fleeting moment where I wanted to knock his little peanut boat to the ground, but as you know, self-control is my mantra.

We placed our order, got our peanut boat and a table and waited for our number to be called. I made a little napkin square placing peanut shells on it, as did Little Ricky. Imagine my surprise when our number was called after less than five minutes. Hardly enough time to even make a dent in our peanuts. I had a cheeseburger, which is actually two patties, with mustard, barbecue and jalapenos. I know, I know...I'm a freak. Anyway, the jalapenos are actually unmarinated, freshly sliced jalapenos, which I'm not really used to, but were surprisingly delicious. Little Ricky had a small cheeseburger, actually a single patty, with onions and

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ketchup. We both agreed.....really, really good. The food is definitely fresh and the atmosphere is fun. We can't wait to go back!

My next jaunt was another lunch at STASH'S in New London. Another old-time favorite of mine, I've been going to STASH'S for years. I went with two friends of mine and just had the best lunch in a long time. As soon as I arrived Jen, our delicious bartender had a ever fantastic Stoli, Seven, splash of Cran, a favorite. It was rather slow when we arrived, but it was a late lunch at three and I think we missed the lunch crowd and the after work crowd had yet to arrive, Oh, and did I mention, it was a Monday, not really a big action evening.

We had a order of Chicken Tenders and Fries, Cobb Salad, Nachos with Chili and Salsa and chips with a garden salad. It was all deelyish!!!!!! Jen was attentive and I really had a good meal. Unfortunately, my mind was not completely on my meal, because I had noticed a rather large banner with the headline "PSYCHO MIDGET WRESTLING". Well, I was fascinated. I mean, how many chances are we gonna have to see psycho midgets? I gotta go!

As I've said, February was not very kind to me. Perhaps it's more of that lovely karma biting me in the ass or just life, but I'm hoping the month of March will be better as it is my birthday. It is also the birthday of my sweet husband, Ricky, Sr. who is turning 50 on March 7. I am having quite the party for him on Saturday night, March 7 at the new KNICKERBOCKER CAFE. JoJo, from LEG-ENDS in Gales Ferry will be doing the karaoke for the party, and I would like to invite all of our friends and family. It starts at 7 o'clock. And yes, it is a SURPRISE!!!!!! Can't wait.....

And as for the PSYCHO MIDGET WRESTLING..... oh yeah, we WILL be there!! We are meeting at the HANDLEBAR CAFE on Thursday, March 12...for a ROAD TRIP!!!! Be there around 7o'clock. We will be leaving around 8 o'clock for STASH'S. Hope to see you there, cause it sounds like a good time to me!

Well, I think you can see I have a lot going on in the month of March.



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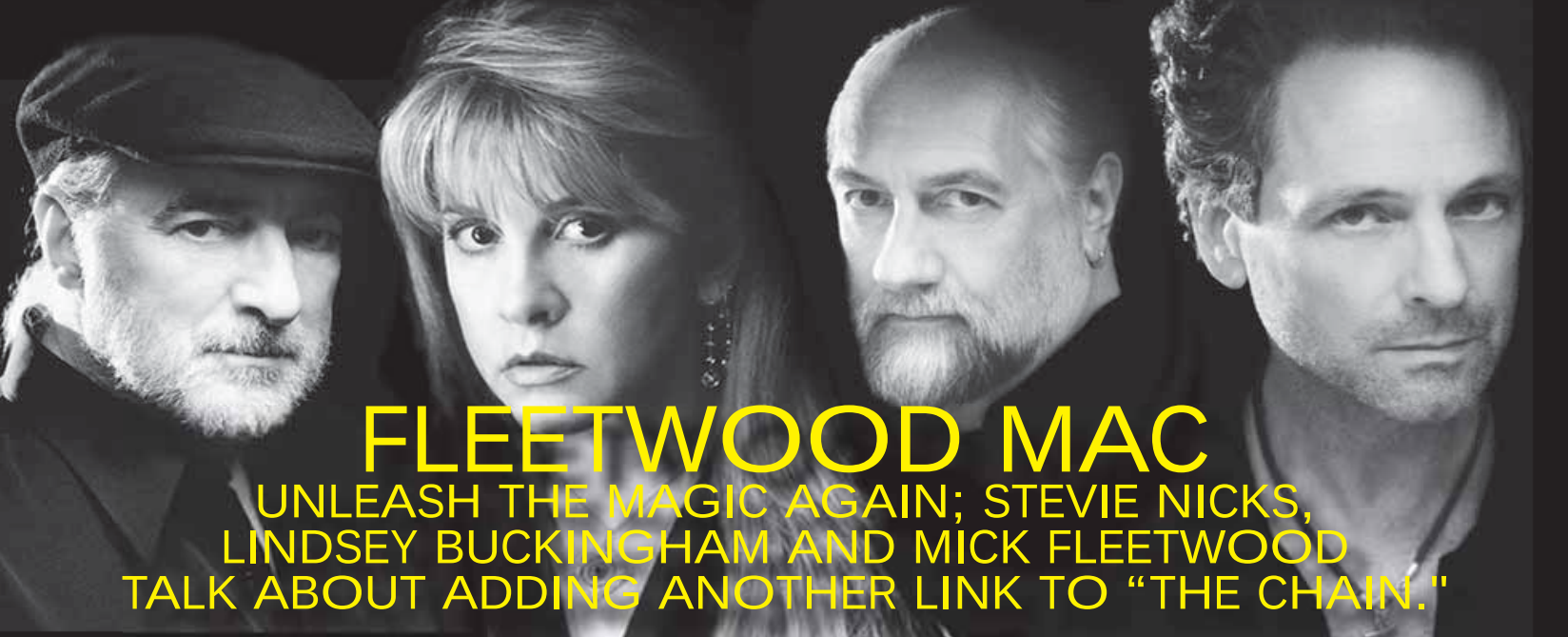
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FLEETWOOD MAC

UNLEASH THE MAGIC AGAIN; STEVIE NICKS, LINDSEY BUCKINGHAM AND MICK FLEETWOOD TALK ABOUT ADDING ANOTHER LINK TO "THE CHAIN."

By **Rex Rutkoski**

Mick Fleetwood believes his band is a "glorious accident" that probably was meant to happen "because it's going on for so long."

Decades down the road, the multi-platinum, multi-Grammy winners just keep going.

The long running Anglo-American Rock'n'Roll Hall of Famers are back together and on the road again for the first time in five years, under way with their "Greatest Hits Unleashed" North America tour.

"There's these very odd couplings of people, but when they join together there's a chemistry that's immediate. You turn around and go, 'That's what this is about,' " explains the amiable Briton, one of the founders of Fleetwood Mac.

Fleetwood says he feels confident that the band is going to surprise the audience in some ways.

"I think people are really going to have just a hell of a lot of fun. All the energy is about that for us: choosing all the lovely songs that we know for sure people really know. And we've had fun really resculpting certain segments of the show which will remain secret until you see us," he explains.

This is the first time that they don't have a new album per se to promote, a fact, say members, that allows them more freedom to just focus on delivering the well established goods in concert.

(There is, however, the iconographic "Rumours" CD -- certified diamond, signifying sales of over 10 million copies -- scheduled to be re-released as part of a special CD/DVD boxed set on Reprise Records in conjunction with the tour dates. The set is to include several songs from "Rumours" in their original demo form, along with unreleased tracks recorded during that time period and never-before-seen DVD footage of the band from the "Rumours" era.)

"I actually feel quite excited to be able to go out and just relax into playing a body of work you know," says guitarist Lindsey Buckingham.

He had asked that the band give him a space of about three years so that he could put out some solo work, which

he did. "I wanted to explore the more esoteric side of what I do, the more adventurous side if you want to call it that, and do a couple of tours behind those albums and to get two albums out in a fairly rapid succession."

That was a great "little break," he acknowledges. "I got a lot out of my system and I learned a lot doing that. I think I can bring a lot of what I learned back into the band," he says. He will not stop making solo albums, he adds, but for now he was ready to jump back into the fold of "the larger machine" that is Fleetwood Mac.

Even when they take significant periods of time apart, they never think of themselves as a band that has broken up, Buckingham insists. "We always feel that there's a time to be together and a time to be apart," he says. "And because of that and because hopefully as individuals we continue to evolve and to gain insight and to gain appreciation, not only for the road we've been down but for each other (too), the (Fleetwood Mac) songs can take on a bit of a new life every time you revisit them."

Collectively, he reminds, they have a body of work that they have been fortunate enough to become part of the fabric of music culture. "And we all try to do our best to sort of hold certain lines and to move forward with our sense of ourselves, and our own sense of the band. And so you know that is part of what we do -- just go out and recreate those same songs," he explains.

The challenge of being on the road again is in trying to keep things fresh night after night, he acknowledges.

Buckingham: "But you know that's part of being a professional and it's also a part of being in a band where you've been together a long time and you can keep finding new things and new contexts for those songs to mean something to you personally and to share."

Fleetwood agrees.

"You know we don't do this very often. We do it when it feels right. We are at a place in our lives where all of us have, God knows, dedicated in the early days a huge amount of investment of time and distraction to personal needs, etc., for Fleetwood Mac," he says. "We are past that because the nature of time has taken people into solo

careers and doing wonderful things that they need to do, (including) raising families that were not even thought of you know 25 years ago, etc. But when we do it, we try to do it right, even with some of the complications that come with it."

He assures they don't attempt it when it does not feel right. "And this feels really right to be doing this now," he adds. "We do this because it's the right time to do it and everyone feels free and open and upbeat about what we're doing. And that's how we hit that stage."

It really is a blessing in many ways, says vocalist Stevie Nicks. "We all feel really blessed to be in each other's company and we're getting along great and it's fun. Everybody seems to be genuinely having a good time," she says.

It is a role switch for members who have been doing solo work.

"I think I've noticed that more this time than I have ever noticed it before that; at 60 years old, being in a band you're not the boss," she says. "And I always wanted to be in a band from the very beginning. When I was 17 I wanted to be in a band." When you're in a band, you're a team; when you're in solo work, you're the boss, she says.

Nicks: "So I'm not the boss now and I've realized that. I've decided that I really actually do like being the boss, but I've been in Fleetwood Mac for so long that I understand how to not be the boss and to be a part of a team and to be a team player, because we've been doing this for so long."

In the beginning, she adds, she really had no interest in being a solo artist, because she loves being in a band.

"But then after you've been in your solo work and done, like I have, 11 solo albums, where I am absolutely the boss, you get used to being the boss," she says. "So now I'm back to not being the boss and it's OK and it's good for everybody I think to be knocked down a little bit like that. And so you have to go back to the gambling table and figure out a way for all four people to be happy."

She likens it to a relationship and says she does not worry about her solo career when she is in the band.

"When I'm in one relationship, I am not in another one. So I am in this relationship right now (with the band) until we say, 'We're now going to go back out and do other things.' I'm very happy to be part of Fleetwood Mac right now," she says.

Nicks is philosophical about the question of keeping things fresh.

"It stays fresh because we never stop playing. Basically what we are are entertainers," she suggests. "If this band never made it big, we would still be playing all the clubs because we are entertainers. So when we go on stage we're performers. We're performance artists, that's what we do. So it isn't a question of keeping it fresh because it's what we love."

Buckingham says it is always reassuring to him whenever he hears an artist who is doing something on his or her own terms. "Because I think that's the only way you survive over the long term," he says.

"There will always be groups like Radiohead that have

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managed to navigate that line between commerce and art on their own terms. I'm always looking for that."

Fleetwood cites U2 as another example. "I think they have an ethic about what they do and what they want to try and support in a fairly non-political way. And that's been a great vehicle for them," he says. "Seeing things like that fascinates me and certainly makes me feel good about the music business -- that people are still able to do that and keep some sense of their integrity."

That has been important to Fleetwood Mac, he suggests. "You see certain periods with artists that you see things to potentially steer away from," he explains. "And I think we've been able to do that, not always with the greatest of ease because sometimes there had been little bits and pieces coming in from the outside. Luckily, I think Fleetwood Mac as a band has had a fairly self-created destiny for the most part. And for that I'm really, really happy and I love to see that in other artists."

When he looks back, he says he realizes that his band's ability to survive change has been somewhat of a miracle. "It's a wonderfully interesting story," he believes. "It's still about individuals experiencing and giving their individual thing without being totally swallowed up by Fleetwood Mac," he explains. "It's always about pushing forward and changing and keeping it fresh."

Fleetwood: "Creatively, we were able to hold our audience. We play through our front line and we have been blessed that people coming in bring that talent into Fleetwood Mac. I think that's the story of Fleetwood Mac, if you look at it and put all the music that we've done for better or for worse. It's turned out to be a great blessing and a real unique story."

Buckingham likes the idea of perhaps being a band of destiny.

"You tend to just sort of see the irony in the songs and you tend to see maybe the heroism a little bit that we possessed really," he says. "We saw that we had this destiny and we saw that we had to rise above the personal difficulties. And we saw that the music could actually have redemptive power for us and could be a symbol of that for other people."



Music Notes Continued

I've been using it for about a month now, and, while I'm still in the middle of a steep learning curve (just the other day, I had to sheepishly ask Tony how to fast forward through a song...), I did manage to learn the most significant feature of the iPod Classic:

It holds about 30,000 songs.

Or, as my wife might say, about half of my music collection.

C'mon, honey, this is progress. Like the man said, it's change that I can, er, ah, I hope, believe in.

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RUSH

"Snakes & Arrows Live" DVD

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Rush is a band that continues to deliver fresh and innovative music accepted by their legions of long-time, loyal fans and music critics alike. Anthem Entertainment has recently released the 3 DVD set "Snakes & Arrows Live", available in both standard formats as well as on Blu-ray Disc. The DVD follows in the footsteps of 2005's "Rush-R30". The band also produced the "Rush in Rio" DVD in 2003. Yet even with the presence of these recent offerings, there's still plenty to showcase from Toronto's trio in "Snakes & Arrows Live".

Never known as a band to cut corners, "Snakes & Arrows Live" is filmed with 21 high definition cameras in widescreen format and offers viewers a personal look at the band both as musicians as well as personalities, complete with introductory, comedy-laced skits demonstrating that Geddy, Alex, and Neil have settled comfortably into their rock and roll personas. The shows are comprised of the band's 2007 tour in the Netherlands, with bonus footage filmed in Atlanta, Georgia in the summer of 2008. Viewers are privy to the feeling of almost walking up on stage beside the band (with shots next to Lee's keyboard or from behind Peart's massive drum kit), and the camera crew does an outstanding job in detailing both the complexities of Rush's musical offering as well as the personal interaction between band members, who have performed together as a musical trio since 1974. The diverse track listing delves into the archives to pull out rare gems like "Entre Nous", "Circumstances", and "Witch Hunt" alongside a number of new tracks from the Snakes & Arrows disc and the expected selection of Rush standards like "Limelight", "Tom Sawyer", and "Freewill". With a total running time of over 220 minutes and a healthy dose of comical outtakes, "Snakes & Arrows Live" has plenty for the casual fan to the fanatic.

Rush is a band that has taken the term progressive rock and expanded the definition. Geddy Lee (bass/keyboards/vocals – at times all three at once), gui-

tarist-extraordinaire Alex Lifeson, and percussionist Neil Peart (also the band's lyric writer) each possess a mastery over their own musical discipline while at the same time demonstrate a musical longevity that has eluded their peers. The virtuosity and complexities are woven in to the cloth of straight ahead rock, appreciated by their loyal fans and admired by their musical students. "Snakes & Arrows Live", their band's latest textbook, is sure to meet all expectations and then some.

**** 1/2

- Don Sikorski

Bruce Springsteen *"Working on a Dream"* Columbia Records

Bruce Springsteen has been able to do something that's proved elusive for virtually all of the 70's era rockers: remain not only relevant, but to craft fresh and invigorating music that's held on to fans of old and brought him countless new ones. In this decade alone he's released two stellar disks in "The Rising" and 2007's "Magic", the latter's writing/recording sessions which are the birthplace of some of this new disk, "Working on a Dream".

Springsteen has enjoyed unprecedented success in that he's been able to blend works of folk-music inspired acoustical numbers with romp and stomp pop-flavored tunes like "Glory Days" and "Pink Cadillac" as well as dramatic, arena busting epics like "Rosalita", "Born to Run" and "Badlands" and still been able to remain true to himself and his fans. With "Working on a Dream", Bruce has continued this trend, though his songs have been stripped somewhat of the angst and raw energy that permeated so much of Magic. The opening track, "Outlaw Pete" is an eight minute epic that is straight out of the Phil Spector playbook complete with multi-layered sounds and textures. I didn't feel that it worked well on the first playing but it's since grown to be a favorite with repeated listenings, as is often the case with Springsteen tunes. "My Lucky Day" follows and really picks up on the feel that Magic had, which is welcome. It's obvious that Springsteen has enjoyed his relationship with Producer Brendan O'Brien (Pearl Jam, Rage Against the Machine) and their collaboration has helped keep Bruce's sound current and honest.

"Queen of the Supermarket", a mildly sappy ballad about the longing for a checkout girl in a grocery store, is another example of

how Springsteen can inject real emotion into a story that would otherwise seem convoluted if not pathetic. While it doesn't surpass the fantastic "Drive All Night" from the 1980 release "The River", it's a disk highlight for me. "This Life" and "What Love Can Do" are also Magic stowaways, but remain fresh and intriguing enough. "Good Eye", a stompin' blues number that I could hear (wishfully) Buddy Guy adding vocal and guitar work to, is another highlight of WOAD and will hopefully be included in his set list when he hits the road this year. Perhaps one of the stand-out tracks for me on this disk is the shuffling, over-too-quick "Tomorrow Never Knows", which is flavored with bits of Country and Bluegrass and will have feet tapping and heads bobbing with it's infectious simplicity.

Other standouts from the disk include the title track "Working on a Dream", "Kingdom of Days", which reminds me a bit of "Your Own Worst Enemy" from Magic, and "The Last Carnival", a haunting melancholy number that's a tribute to his recently deceased longtime keyboard player Danny Federici, who made his last collaborations with the E Street Band on this disk. Most of you will recall that Springsteen wrote the disks closing track, "The Wrestler", for the Mickey Rourke film of the same name, and won the Golden Globe for doing so. It's a great bonus track to close the CD and wraps up an album that continues a brilliant streak of songwriting for Springsteen this decade. "Working on a Dream" is the result of an obviously more hopeful and inspired Springsteen (it's no shocker that he is a huge Obama supporter and was relishing the moment that Bush left office), and even though I have never been a huge fan of overly political songwriters, I have to applaud Bruce for being able to continue to write great music without anguish and frustration as his only motivator; so many artists falter when pain is no longer their muse. I hope this next decade, no matter the political climate, continues to be conducive to a Springsteen that's still at the top of his game.

**** 1/2

- Dave Abare

***** Excellent

**** Highly Recommended

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