

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

# Sound Waves

Volume 20  
Issue 2  
November 2009

CLUB LISTINGS  
RESTAURANTS  
CONCERT INFO  
BAND LISTINGS  
REVIEWS & MORE

An  
Interview  
with

Medeski,  
Martin & Wood

A Southern New England  
Entertainment Guide Since 1990



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**Sat**

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**7 FROM  
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WITH LOVE**

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& THE  
FUNBAGS**

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DISCOUNT**

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EGO**

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FISTED**  
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& KAIN**

**28 TBA**

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Party  
SUGAR**

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BAND**

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FRIDAY 13th

**PHIL  
NEWLAND**

FRIDAY 20th

**MIND, BODY  
& SOUL**

FRIDAY 27th

**TBA**

FRIDAY Dec. 4th

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**FRIDAY DEC. 4th**  
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we will.**



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# Sound Waves

**November 2009  
VOLUME 20, NUMBER 2**

**Editor  
David L. Pottie**

**Contributing Writers  
Bill Harriman,  
Mark T. Gould, Rex Rutkoski,  
Walter Modliszewski  
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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|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Wed. Night</b><br>Create Your Own<br>Pasta Night<br>\$9.99  | <b>5 CHRISTOPHER JOHN</b><br>\$2.50 Bud/Bud Light drafts                                         | <b>6 JAMES HARRIS</b>                    | <b>7 DAVE LAUDON DUO</b>                                     |
| <b>11 SUE MENHART</b>                                          | <b>12 BEN FRIERT</b><br>\$2.50 Bud/Bud Light drafts                                              | <b>13 SHAWN TAYLOR</b>                   | <b>14 THE SHARKS</b>                                         |
| <b>18 CHRISTOPHER JOHN</b>                                     | <b>19 RON DRAGO</b><br>\$2.50 Bud/Bud Light drafts                                               | <b>20 JAMES HARRIS</b>                   | <b>21 DAVE LAUDON DUO</b>                                    |
| <b>Tuesday Night</b><br>2 Entrees &<br>Bottle of Wine<br>\$25  | <b>26</b><br> | <b>27 PHIL NEWLAND &amp; CHUCK DAVIS</b> | <b>28 DAN STEVENS</b>                                        |
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# CONCERT DATES

## Dave Mason

6 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

## The Duke Robillard Band

20 - Black-Eyed Sally's, Hartford, CT

## Felix Cavaliere

14 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

## Jim Brickman

13 - Perf. Arts Ctr., Providence, RI

## Jimmy Buffett

21 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

## John Fogerty

27 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

## Lynyrd Skynyrd

19 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

## Maceo Parker

15 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

## Miley Cyrus

12 - XL Center, Hartford, CT

## Rob Thomas

7 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

## Roger Daltrey

7 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

## Sarah Borges & The Broken Singles

7 - Bank Street Cafe, New London, CT

## Steve Miller Band

8 - Perf. Arts Ctr., Providence, RI

## They Might Be Giants

27 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

## Toby Keith

6 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

## Trans-Siberian Orchestra

14 - XL Center, Hartford, CT

18 - Civic Center, Providence, RI

## Wynonna

29 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, RI

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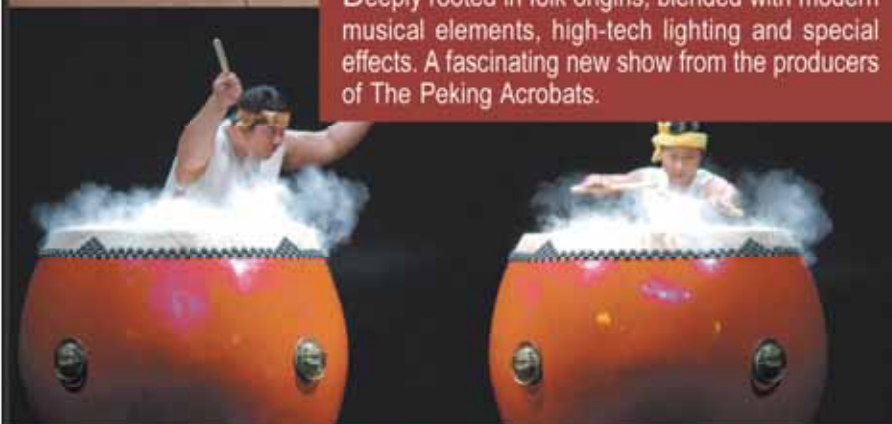
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\$1 Beef Tacos  
\$6  
Pitchers

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1/2  
PRICE  
Beef BURRITO  
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### - WEDNESDAYS -

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\$3 ~ Coronas/Lights

### - THURSDAYS -

1/2  
PRICE  
Chicken BURRITO  
\$3.75

### - FRIDAYS -

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- Band -  
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Saturday Night ~ Nov. 21st

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Wednesday Night ~ Nov. 25th

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# BAND DATES

## ALTER EGO

6 - Public, Middletown, CT  
20 - Stash's, New London, CT

## BORROWED TOYS

21 - Snecker's, Groton, CT

## THE CARTELLS

7 - Jakes, Wallingford, CT  
19 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10pm  
26 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 7-11pm  
27 - Fisherman Rest., Groton, CT 7-10pm

## DAN STEVENS

7 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI  
8 - Delta Grill, NYC, NY 12:30-3:30  
11 - Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA  
12 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT  
13 - Crown & Hammer, Collinsville, CT  
18 - Publick House, Newcastle, ME 6:30  
19 - The Bog, Waldoboro, ME 5pm  
20 - Harbor Inn, York Harbor, ME  
21 - Black Bull, Rockland, ME  
24 - Divine Wine, Niantic, CT 7pm  
27 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30  
28 - RiverWalk, Mystic, CT  
29 - Old Town Hall, Stafford Springs, CT

## DAN WATSON

6,24 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT  
8,22 - Harp-n-Hound, Mystic, CT

## DARIN KEECH

6,14,20 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT

## DOGIE & THE COWPIE POACHERS

11,18,25 - Billy Goodes, Newport, RI  
7 - Oak Hill Tavern, N. Kingstown, RI  
13 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA  
14,28 - VFW, Middletown, RI 8-12

## FULL CIRCLE

6 - Fado Pub, Lincoln, RI

## 10 SOUND WAVES

7 - Balls, Cranston, RI  
13 - Buddy's, N. Smithfield, RI  
14 - JC's Tavern, W. Greenwich, RI  
20 - Lou's Café, Manville, RI  
21 - Playoffs Pub, Fall River, MA  
28 - Part II Lounge, Johnston, RI

## THE GOAT ROPERS

6 - Hawthorne C. C., Dartmouth, MA  
8 - Holy Ghost Hall, E. Taunton, MA 2-6  
20,21 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA

## GOPHERBROKE

6 - Mango's, Branford, CT  
13 - Hub Bar, Canton, CT  
20 - Governor's Tavern, E. Hampton, CT  
21 - Blue Cottage, Branford, CT 8-11  
28 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT

## GREEN TEA

13 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI  
21 - The HUB, Johnson, VT  
28 - Wood River Inn, Hope Valley, RI

## HOPE ROAD

27 - Skipper's Dock, Stonington, CT

## THE JAGUARS

13 - The Stonehouse, Baltic, CT  
14 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT  
20 - Dan's Place, W. Greenwich, RI

## JAMES HARRIS

5,12 - Apizzo, Pawcatuck, CT 6:30 pm  
7,11,18,21,25 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT  
10,17,24 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT  
13 - 84 High Street, Westerly, RI 7pm  
15 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 4pm  
6,20 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8:30pm

## JAMES ROAD BAND

13 - Dubliner, Uncasville, CT  
16 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT  
25 - Surrrell's Pub, Jewett City, CT

## JAY DEMPSEY & HIGHWAY CALL

6 - Buckley House, New London, CT  
8 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT  
20 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT  
25 - Leon's, New Haven, CT

## THE KEVIN CRANDALL BAND

7 - Dogwatch Cafe, Stonington, CT  
13 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT  
25 - Hilltop Café, Westerly, RI  
28 - C.C. O'Brien's, Pawcatuck, CT

## Ms. MARCI & THE LOVESICK HOUNDS

14 - Gilrein's, Worcester, MA  
27 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT

## MUNSELL BROTHERS BAND

20 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT  
28 - June's Pub, Killingworth, CT

## RED LIGHT

6 - Sandy Bottom, Coventry, RI  
9 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT  
13 - Chacer's, Norwich, CT  
25 - Balls, Cranston, RI  
27 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT  
28 - Music Lady, Plainfield, CT

## SIREN

7 - Uncle Kranky's, Jewett City, CT  
13 - Sports Bar, N. Windham, CT  
25 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT  
27 - Chacers, Norwich, CT

## STYFF KITTY

25 - Wood River Inn, Wyoming, RI

## SUE MENHART BAND

5 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI  
11 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8-11  
20 - Sneekers, Groton, CT

## SUNDAY GRAVY

5,25 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI  
7 - Wood River Inn, Hope Valley, RI  
14 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT  
19 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT

## 2 CAT ZOO

13 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT  
18 - Harp-n-Hound, Mystic, CT  
21 - Hanafins, New London, CT  
27 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

## WICKED PEACH

14 - Playoffs, Fall River, MA  
20 - The Ruins, Providence, RI  
25 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT  
28 - One Pelham E., Newport, RI

## WILSON KANE

4,18 - Whitfield's, Guilford, CT 7pm  
5,19 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT  
6 - Governor's Tavern, E. Hampton, CT  
7 - Aspen, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm  
11 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm  
12,14 - Gilligan's, Westerly, RI  
13 - Angie's Pizza, Mystic, CT  
15 - Griswold Inn, Essex, CT 5pm  
20 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm  
21 - Pavillion, Ashaway, RI 7pm  
25 - Clydesdale, Westerly, RI 7pm  
27 - Mews Tavern, Wakefield, RI  
28 - La Vita Gustosa, E. Haddam, CT

Mail Listings to the magazine or  
E-MAIL:

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| 12<br>Call for line-up<br>Never A                        | 13<br>Call for line-up<br>Cover                  | 14<br><b>THE JAGUARS</b>                   |
| 19<br><b>SUNDAY GRAVY</b>                                | 20<br><b>ONE JACK MOVE</b>                       | 21<br>Call for line-up                     |
| 26<br>Call for line-up                                   | 27<br><b>MS. MARCI &amp; THE LOVESICK HOUNDS</b> | 28<br>Never A Cover                        |



# BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn



Well, hello my Sweet BarFlies...another fabulous month has gone by, along with a Halloween to remember at various local HotSpots, which I will tell you about when my Secret Spies report in! I was in Vegas for Halloween so I'm just gonna have to wait 'til and get all the juicy details when I return. I had quite the busy month, with many different events to tell you about...and ooooh, I'm so excited!!

cited!!

My first fab fun time came on a Sunday afternoon. My BarFly traveling partners were Johnny G., Cheryl, Andre and of course, our Baaafatha, Danny Bell. We started our Sunday afternoon off at CLYDESDALES in Westerly, where Rose was celebrating five fabulous years in business. Congratulations! Rose put out quite the spread, (prime rib, mashed taters, vegetable medley and rolls) all absolutely delicious! She had bands playing pretty much all day including Wilson Kane playing while I was there and really doing a great job. Loved 'em!!

We then headed over to the KNICKERBOCKER. They were hosting their First Annual Music Fest benefitting Hospice RI. and What A Turn-Out!! The event was in memory of James "Mitch" Christina and it appeared, to this girl, that every Christina in the area made a showing. I saw Young Neal (in a gorgeous red shirt) and the Vipers with a fantastic Dave Howard, Bob and Fran Christina, Lisa Marie, Johnny and the East Coast Rockers and many more musicians all joining together for an awesome cause. I Loved It! Oh, and did I mention that the entire town of Westerly turned out for the show, and sweet Dave, our editor, also made a rare appearance. It was nice seeing everyone out, filling up the dance floor and just having a great time.

I also made it to the WESTERLY COLUMBUS DAY PARADE with my son Little Ricky. My husband was with me... sorta, he drops me off....gets a call for a tow, leaves me again and again And then shows up at the last five minutes pretending like he was there the entire time. Oh wedded bliss! I just love the parade. It's long, it's got everyone in the area in it, lots of bands and cool floats. I think it's the best parade in the area and I was thrilled to see my favorite Ed's....St.Clair and Haberek, both looking fabulous. The Stonington, Westerly and Chariho Cheerleaders and Football Teams were all there and my vote goes to Westerly for best-looking this year! Loved the blue and white! Sean McGill was represented in many different vehicles and I've decided I'm gonna try and get my car in for next year to give him a run for his money. Whaddya think, Sean?

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NOVEMBER 7  
Al Copley



NOVEMBER 8  
Kat Edmonson



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## UPCOMING SHOWS

### WEDNESDAYS...

NIGHT BEFORE THANKSGIVING  
Wed, Nov 25 / 9p / \$10  
Sugar

### THURSDAYS...

Thur, Nov 5 / 9p  
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Sue Menhart Band

Thur, Nov 12 / 9p  
NO COVER  
Far Off Place

Thur, Nov 19 / 9p  
NO COVER  
Loraine and  
The Hot House Band

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Thur, Nov 26 / 9p / \$12  
Greg Piccolo  
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Fri, Nov 13 / 9p / \$8  
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Fri, Nov 20 / 9p / \$5  
Never Enuff

### Fridays cont...

Fri, Nov 27 / 9p / \$8  
Soul Shot

### SATURDAYS...

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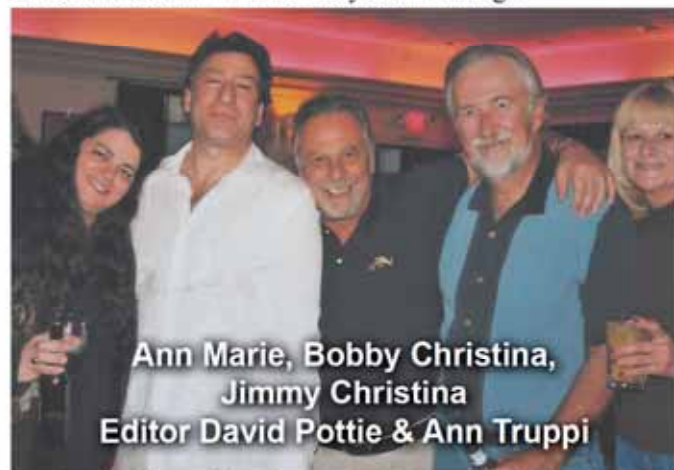
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Speaking of Sean's, did anyone catch the pic of Sean-nie O'Brien in the Westerly Sun for "30 years ago today" Hope they framed that Bad Boy and have it hanging in a Place of Honor down at CC O'BRIEN'S. I'm gonna have to stop by and check it out! Classic!

I also made a stop this month at APPLEBEE'S in Westerly for a Westerly-Pawcatuck Chamber of Commerce Business After Hours meeting...whew, got that? Anyways, my favoritest waitress Miss Rebecca Johnson was there along with sweet Cindy Vocatura serving my wine. Also met cute Lori Ann from APPLEBEES ( I think we are gonna host a joint affair on November 16 at CoCo's Salon in Pawcatuck offering Silpada Jewelry, Pampered Chef and my Designer Handbags along with good food and Fanatastic Drinks...everyone is invited to start your Christmas Shopping with us at 6.)

Everyone showed up to APPLEBEES.... cuz we knew the food was gonna be good! Fergie was there with his wife Sharon looking as fabulous as ever. Can Not Believe who I saw there...Mr. Dennis Bilius...oh yeah!...Apparently, he is a Weichert Realtor along with his buddy Brian. We had a blast! Lisa, Wendy, Heather and Jessica were there, pushing me to be a "wench" for the \$4000 Treasure Chest Local Community Lottery. All the proceeds will benefit various community events that the Chamber puts on. I can't wait cuz God Knows...I can "wenchit". The drawing will be held on December 2 and you have a 1 in 6000ish chance of winning the \$4000, plus many other prizes. Can't beat that with a stick! For more info contact the Chamber at [www.westerlychamber.org](http://www.westerlychamber.org).



Ann Marie, Bobby Christina,  
Jimmy Christina  
Editor David Pottie & Ann Truppi

Onward!!.... We then cruised down to PERKS AND CORKS in downtown Westerly. Oh my....can anyone say CHAI MARTINI? Apparently PERKS AND CORKS Signature Martini and I have bonded! We are truly in love! I met the owner of PERKS, Bryan Keilty and he is one of the "lucky ones" doing a thriving business in the downtown area during these crappy economic times. But....you'd never know things were crappy at Perks...the place was packed! and it was a Wednesday!

PERKS AND CORKS offers live music just about every night and 99% of the bands are local. Saw a lot of familiar faces there, but many more that I did not know. Glad to meet so many new people in this very friendly crowd. Saw my buddy, Eric Bliven with his new girl, Paul (an



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# MEDESKI, MARTIN & WOOD

By Bill Harriman

Medeski, Martin & Wood are an improvisational jazz trio who are as popular in the jam band world as they are with a hard core jazz audience. Based in New York, they've been together now for nearly twenty years. With countless live performances under their belts along with about twenty studio recordings they are a band at the peak of their musical powers. John Medeski plays the organ, piano, and electric keyboard. Billy Martin is the drummer and percussionist. Chris Wood plays the bass. Recently they started their own record label called Indirecto Records and the result has been a slew of new music. In fact, on November 24th the band will release a box set called "Radiolarians: The Evolutionary Set." This comes after the release of three CD's called "Radiolarians I," "Radiolarians II," and "Radiolarians III." Musically speaking, things have never been better or more creative for Medeski, Martin & Wood.

Keyboardist extraordinaire John Medeski has performed with musicians as diverse as Jaco Pastorius to Iggy Pop. He's also toured with both Trey Anastasio and Phil Lesh. Earlier this decade he had a band called The Word which played a bluesy gospel style of music and featured Robert Randolph along with Luther and Cody Dickerson of the North Mississippi All Stars. In 2006 he put together a band called The Itch with Eric Krasno of Soulive along with drummer Adam Deith. In addition to all of this John has written original music for three feature films. They include a 2006 movie called "Day on Fire" along with two other films set to be released in the next calendar year called "Audrey the Trainwreck" and "In Praise of Shad-ows." This phone interview took place on the afternoon of Wednesday September 23rd 2009.

**BH** – Tell me a little about the new box set that Medeski, Martin & Wood is releasing in November?

**JM** - "It's all the stuff from the Radiolarians. It's all three discs and each one has a bonus track. Then there's also a live CD. There's a remix CD with remixes by DJ Spilky, Dan the Automator, Scotty Hard, DJ Logic, DJ Olive, Mr. Rourke, a whole bunch of people. And there's also a DVD which has a film made by Billy Martin. It's sort of the

making of the Radiolarian stuff along with some stuff on the road called Fly in a Bottle. There's also some bonus material in there too that's pretty good. There's a pretty wild video by this guy Grey Gersten and another short snippet video that Billy did, a kind of crazy one. There are also two vinyls with selections from Radiolarians that we thought would be cool to hear on vinyl. Obviously we couldn't fit it all."

**BH** – With all this new material is this the best creative surge your band has ever had?

**JM** - "Well I guess in terms of CD output for sure. But now that we have our own label we can do whatever we want. So it has been nice to be able to do it this way. The problem is that people don't buy CD's. (LOL) We've managed to try to get as

much stuff out as we could in the past when we were on record labels. And we were able to squeeze something out between our record deal with Ryco and Bluenote. We were able to get the Tonic CD out which made for two records in a year which was good for us."

**BH** – You have a disc called "A Go Go" that you made with John Scofield. Tell me how that came about? I understand he contacted you?

**JM** - "Yeah, he called us. He somehow got our one eight hundred fan line and left us a message. It was pretty funny. The story goes we were in Hawaii and we went into town to check our messages about once a week. And there's a message saying 'hi this is John Scofield' and we thought it was a joke by one of our friends just messing around. But it was really him and we did the A Go Go record."

**BH** – If someone like Scofield would call then I have to assume that you get offers from other guitarists on a regular basis?

**JM** - "Not as many as you think but definitely we hear it a lot from guitar players that they want to play with us."

**BH** – What is the song writing process for an instrumental trio like MMW? When does a jam session turn into something you want to record on a studio album? In other words can you describe the MMW songwriting process for me?

**JM** - "In the case of Radiolarians we did all that before we went on tour. We sat and we played and we created the music that we did over the course of each tour and at the end of each tour we would record that set of music. In general what we do is we play and either you hear something while you do it or you go back and listen to it if you recorded it. And what we'll do is we'll pick snippets out and we call them seeds. We listen to them and think about them and try to play them again and just develop them sort of like the way any composer would compose something. You take an initial impulse and write it down or remember it and decide that this is going to be something that defines this piece of music and then take it from there and develop it in whatever way that it leads you to



develop it. And that's kind of what we do together. We talk about it and we say 'let's try this,' and if that doesn't work we'll try something else. We'll play a section for a while and then move to the next section. The thing about all of our music is that we like to improvise so every piece is a structure or framework that provides some musical elements to be improvised. We don't necessarily play the tune, then solo, and then play the tune. There are so many different ways to create structure and we try to explore a lot of them."

**BH** - Also, what is the thought process when it comes to naming these instrumental songs? Why is one tune called "Junk Yard," another called "Walk Back," and still another called "Free Go Lily" for example?

**JM** - "Well some of them are already named. Free Go Lily is an old traditional tune so that one is easy. Some of them, to be honest, they get working titles and sometimes those titles stick. And other times, as a tune really develops and starts to take on a life of its own, its name could be the name of the key with some indication of what's going on musically. But then in that case it's really not a very good title for a song. Usually after a song is created we start to think what is this? What does it mean? Then we try to come up with a name. It's not really that easy and it's kind of strange because in this day and age there are so many tech names for songs and the pop world created the need for these catchy titles."

**BH** - Of course the jam band world is known for its one word song titles.

**JM** - "Yeah and the thing about instrumental music is that Beethoven, Mozart, and Bach, they didn't title things. They were numbered like Opus one or Opus two. And in that way the music was beyond words. So a lot of times when we come up with a name we try to come up with something that is sort of poetically related. In general we just try to find a balance between something that is kind of abstract in the title yet it still relates to the song."

**BH** - I'd like to touch on a couple of the new songs. I liked "Professor Nohair." I assume that was a nod not just to New Orleans piano great Professor Longhair but also to your own hairstyle?

**JM** - "Yes, of course. The funny thing is that was a groove that we came up with a long time ago and we rediscovered it. Chris Wood would be the one to tell you which recording session it was from but it was years ago. We found it and thought it was pretty cool and we revisited it and we created that piece of music. That tune was called Professor Nohair from the second it started. It's definitely a nod to Professor Longhair but also just to that New Orleans piano sound. I love that music."

**BH** - Also the only song that wasn't an original is "Baby Let Me Follow You Down." Why did you guys cover that one?

**JM** - "Well, good question. I think Chris Wood actually suggested it. I mean we try a lot of things and over the years we have done the occasional cover. But when we do

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a cover it's got to be something that we can really make our own and have something to say with that is ours. Yet I think the piece also is something that we don't do a lot, whatever you want to call it, that twelve/eight bluesy ballad. So it was fun to throw that into the mix. Also, it's a great tune. It's bluesy and soulful but it's not really blues in the traditional and formal sense of the blues. But it's fantastic. And it's an old song. Dylan made it famous but it goes way back."

**BH** - Finally on the 3rd disc there's "Koda." I imagine you must be really proud of that one. It's really a standout track.

**JM** - "Yeah, it's cool. That was a stringy, plucky string instrument we played when we were in Japan. You play the strings with a pick and you press these little buttons that hold down and cut the string off at varying places that create the intervals. I sort of retuned it because it's like five strings and they're usually all tuned to the same note but I tuned them to chords. But yeah, we like that one."

**BH** - You know John, for a jazz trio you guys have certainly been embraced by the jam band world.

**JM** - "The jam scene wasn't around when we started. We have been part of it I guess since it started. We saw it develop around us. We saw it happen. When we first started that scene wasn't there. I mean Phish was around and people were going to see Phish. And down south Widespread Panic was around. And we would go down south and play and we were hooking up with people like Colonel Bruce Hampton and some musicians who used to play with Sun Ra out in Birmingham. And we played with Michael Ray from the band Cosmic Crew. I don't know if you remember him, he's also played in Sun Ra's band as well. It was a pretty wild and eclectic bunch of music. Also, there's a promoter down in Knoxville named Chuck Burley who used to do Lollapalooza and I think he lost his shirt but it was a pretty amazing collection of music. This was really before the jam scene. In a lot of ways it sort of predicted the jam band scene, this eclectic pile of music all based around combining all different kinds of music from rock to jazz to whatever. And in a way the jam scene has grown, especially in terms of the audience. In some ways it's really amazing and in other ways I think it could be more creative. But it's an amazing scene and we're grateful to be able to have people come out and hear us play."

**BH** - In my opinion the jam scene started in August of 1995 when Jerry Garcia died.

**JM** - "The kids out there now barely know who the Dead are which is kind of mindblowing to me. They're like the same age of the kids who were coming out twenty years ago. For them Phish was that band, which is kind of wild. The thing is I knew that there was a scene for what we did but I never listened to the Grateful Dead. I grew up playing jazz and I didn't have anything against them it's just not what I was in to. I was more in to the progressive jazz/rock stuff or fusion, whatever you want to call it. I liked



Bob Marley, Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Wonder but I hadn't really heard the Dead. But when I was in college in music school I ran into a trombone player who lives in Charlotte North Carolina now and he and another guy were dead-heads but they were also going to classical music school. And they had all kinds of cassettes of live Dead shows. I was in to collecting Coltrane bootlegs. But they dragged me to a show in Providence in the mid-eighties and when I was there it blew my mind with what was going on there, even outside of the music. And in the middle when they do the drums and space that whole thing I remember thinking 'wow there's like twenty thousand people here and they're actually sitting through this.' It made me realize that there are people out there looking for something more than your typical pop music. And to be honest at that time I had no idea I was even going to be an electric keyboard player in any way, shape, or form. At that time of my life I was just playing piano mostly. But I think at that show a seed was planted in my head that maybe twenty thousand people aren't going to come out to see me but there's got to be some fragment of those people that are also open and open minded enough. Because there was an open minded thing there that was kind of mind blowing, that these people are open minded enough to be ready for something new. For something that is improvised and a little more coming from jazz than let's say the Dead was. Maybe there's some who would like to hear drums and space all night? So we knew it was out there when we first

**Continued Page 20**

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**SOUND WAVES 17**



## Bar Fly Journals Continued

accidental beer spewer) with his girl Christina and then her fabulously freakish similar twin...ooooh scary. Tara from AK DASHER in Stonington Borough was also there with Pamtastic. The host of the evening was a personable Billy Joel look-a-like who greeted everyone with style and grace. Oh, and say Hello to Abby for me, the best bartender you could ask for. Just a Fabulously Fun Time!

And of course, I ended up at CLYDESDALES, watching Pamtastic warble "Do You Know The Way To San Jose?". There outta be a law....anyways, it was Rosey's Birthday and karaoke was in the air, but this time I decided to leave it to the experts...Miss Pam and Miss Rosey entertained us throughout the evening and can it really get any better than that?

Next month I can tell you there are quite a few events going on including the Sue Menhart Band on Friday Night at the KNICK on November 6th. Plus...and I swear to you...honest to God, I am gonna make it to CHRISTOPHER'S LADIES NIGHT. I will...honest! I hope Turkey Day is a day spent with those who care about you...if not...have a good time at one of wonderful local Restaurants or Bars. After a couple of drinks, perhaps someone will have that special look and give you a warm feeling! I wish you all the luck!

Well, as you can see, it was quite the busy month for me and next month promises to be even busier. I'd like to hear from you...I know you're out there...I want to say a quick hello to Mark Brown, a loyal BarFly reader from now on....He Promised! And a Happy Birthday to my nephew Danny. E-mail me any exciting BarFly Stories that you have and I will try to get them in here....So Ciao for Now my Sweet BarFlies and send something interesting to me at [barfly2u2@yahoo.com](mailto:barfly2u2@yahoo.com). See ya next month!!!

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## Cover Story Continued

went out and played. You know the first time I learned a Dead tune was when I played with Phil Lesh and Friends. And it was fun to really listen to their music and get into it. Of course everyone knows the sound and the classic hits just from being alive but I never really delved in to it. So it was fun to delve into it but way back then it really planted a seed that there's a whole other culture out there of people looking for something more expansive in every way."

**BH** – What are some of the future projects for John Medeski apart from MMW?

**JM** – "One of the things that I'll be doing is a solo piano record. Also, I've been working with this guitar player named Tisziji Munoz. We're in the middle of actually working on a three record project right now and we did a once a month run this summer up in Woodstock, New York. He's an incredible guitar player and he's also sort of a spiritual leader and guru of sorts. It's definitely very powerful music."

**BH** – Finally John, do you watch American Idol?

**JM** – "No but my parents watch it and I do end up seeing a certain performer here and there. I'm aware of it but I don't watch it because I don't really watch that much television. Where I'm coming from in terms of music is so the opposite of that. I want to get into the true source of music in its most ancient cosmic sense and healing sense. American Idol is the new way to make it in the music business for sure now that the whole hit record thing is over. Everything has its place but I am no longer that interested in music as entertainment although I love it and do enjoy music that is for that. But in terms of what I do I just don't have time."

As Medeski, Martin & Wood await the release of "Radiolarians: The Evolutionary Set" they will continue a relentless touring schedule that will include a stop at Lupo's Heartbreak Hotel in Providence on December 4th. Separately, John will be at The Stone in New York City for a run of shows in early November. Billy Martin will be there as well for a couple of shows. Chris Wood just wrapped up a handful of shows out west with his guitar-playing brother Oliver. The two tour as what else? The Wood Brothers! For additional information about Medeski, Martin & Wood just check out their website at mmw.net.

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# HEARING AID

## LUCY BONILLA

### "Rolling Higher"

Lubo Music

Just a brief listen to Lucy Bonilla's music and it is evident that there is something special. With a voice to be reckoned with, the Brooklyn born musician certainly packs a solid punch on her latest effort, "Rolling Higher". Passionate and energetic from the very first note, "Rolling Higher" successfully transitions across multiple genres while maintaining the core of Bonilla's musical message. This effort certainly strengthens Bonilla's status as an up and coming musical talent.

Lucy Bonilla's debut release, the 5-track EP "Something Out Of Nothing" (2000), provided listeners with an accurate introduction to Bonilla's soulful blend of rhythm and blues. With positive acclaim from that effort, Bonilla's sophomore effort, "The Big Picture" (2004), delivered an even deeper blues feel and further heightened her reputation as a new talent on the blues music scene. Now, with the release of "Rolling Higher" (Lubo Music), Bonilla further expands her musical boundaries by incorporating the influences of guitarist/songwriter/producer Jim Weider, who lends a hand with all three. The results are a diverse creation of songs that move fluently from uptempo to relaxed. The opening title track, "Rolling Higher", digs right in, driven by searing guitar chops and fueled by Bonilla's energetic vocals. From there, Bonilla and company transition nicely into a melodic run, with soulful tracks like "You Are My Refuge" and "I Can Get Used To This" highlighting a sound reminiscent of Bonnie Raitt, Susan Tedeschi, Etta James, and Janis Joplin. Not bad company to be in. "It's A Different World Now", penned by Weider, is another highlight on "Rolling Higher", delivering melodic chops that are optimistic and upbeat.

Depending on the songs' mood, Bonilla's versatile voice possesses the ability to bring listeners to a candlelight restaurant late Saturday night or a southern Baptist church the very next Sunday morning. Stir in a healthy dose of funk, jazz, gospel, and blues, and you will arrive at the Lucy Bonilla musical recipe. "Rolling Thunder" further exemplifies

that Bonilla is an artist that will definitely continue to cook.

\*\*\*\*

- Don Sikorski

## ROBERT CRAY

### "This Time"

Imagine this, you put the radio on and you hear a DJ "That was "Chicken in the Kitchen" from Roberts Cray's newest release "This Time" the soulful bluesman is still cookin' it up fresh and tasty". Wouldn't that be nice if local FM radio played something new in between classic rocks greatest hits..

"This Time", produced by Cray's is his 15th studio album. Keeping Jim Pugh on keys, Richard Cousins returning from his 90's lineup on bass and newly added Tony Braunagel on drums the CD is not a departure from his signature style. Forty seven minutes of silky vocals and clean lead guitar this album defines adult contemporary music. The title track a 7 min-

ute slow ballad is a tune you can get lost in the middle with Pugh's piano and Cray's picking. "That's what keeps me rockin" written by Braungel, a blues rocker, could be another regular included in radio's playlist.

Robert Cray is touring to support his new LP. Unfortunately he is not scheduled for the Garde Theatre this time. He will play Calvin Theatre in Northampton, MA on November 8th and House of Blues, Boston on November 19th.

Along with Robert Cray, Ian Hunter, Steve Winwood, JJ Cale and Cat Stevens all released CDs in 2009 that deserve more airplay. It would be refreshing if FM would include some of these artists newest fare, after all how many times must we endure Frampton coming alive.

\*\*\* 1/2

- Joe P



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