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Sound Waves

Volume 20
Issue 3
December 2009

CLUB LISTINGS
RESTAURANTS
CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS & MORE

An
Interview
with

David
Archuleta

A Southern New England
Entertainment Guide Since 1990

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Sat

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**4 Stash's 5th
Anniversary
Party!**
SUGAR

**5 1800
BAND**

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& WEDNESDAY NIGHTS**
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of*



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by Junie Ambarwati

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EVE
INTO
CHRISTMAS
MOURNING



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Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Sound Waves

December 2009
VOLUME 20, NUMBER 3

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CONCERT DATES

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

18,19 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

Chris Brown

5 - Lupo's, Providence, RI

David Archuleta

17 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Duke Robillard

31 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

Esteban

26 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

J. Geils Band

31 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

John Prine

4 - VMA, Providence, RI

Kenny G

13 - Bushnell, Hartford, CT

Lionel Richie

5 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

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4 - Lupo's, Providence, RI

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18 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

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18 - Bank St. Cafe, New London, CT

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11 - Lyman Center, New Haven, CT



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ALL DAY
ALL NIGHT
OPEN AT 11am



MUSIC NOTES

"Music To My Ears"

By Mark T. Gould



As the leaves complete their fall, and we endure our fall into winter, the weather grows colder, so it's a nice time to peek back to a slight bit of everything, as music, as it always does, makes me feel warmer.

It was my birthday, I was in the glorious town of Siena, Italy this fall, and I was hearing some of the most beautiful, emotional music to ever pass through my ears.

We were tired, having traipsed up and down the hills of that astonishing medieval community, and were paused, listening to our local tour guide describe the breathtaking architecture and history of yet another jaw-dropping place of worship in a land full of them.

I had headphones in my ears, listening to her speak, and was staring intently at the magnificent edifice, when I first heard it, faintly, off to my left, and a bit out of my sight line. At first, I thought it was "Cats," but then I recognized it as "Night" from "Phantom of the Opera." But, it really didn't matter what the piece was, because I was slowly transfixed by the playing and the player.

It was a lone violinist. As we walked by, he barely glanced up, opening only mere slits in his eyes to acknowledge us. He closed them again, as his passion and emotion overcame him. He leaned into his instrument tucked into the crux between his shoulder and neck, and transported us across that chasm to where only angels play and hear.

It was, a very long way from home, truly a Renaissance moment, an unforgettable reminder of the beauty and passion of music, all music, in a place where beauty and passion may well have had its creation.

Over the past several months, my work commute has more than doubled, to upwards of 35 minutes or so each way. While this can be tedious, as anyone who drives through innumerable traffic delays to work can readily attest, it has one silver lining: it's given me a chance to listen, really listen, to more uninterrupted music.

Like the Beatles remasters. Now, since their September release, it seems as if entire forests have been cleared with the paper that's been used to review these remarkable recordings, replete with sonic arguments of whether the stereo or mono versions are better, how loud or bright the

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Thur, Dec 17
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remastered music sounds, and myriad other auditory observations about those little touches, an instrument here, a sound there, in the music that we've near heard before, although we baby boomers have shared an intimacy with these songs and records since our collective childhoods.

But, the relative brevity of the albums, some running as short as 30 minutes or so, permits a listener stuck in traffic the opportunity to scamper chronologically through the entire Beatles catalog in just a few days, once again in awe of just what those four Liverpoolians were able to accomplish in those seven or so short years that they graced us with their music.

Clearly, listening to the catalog, in order, from beginning to end, reveals that the majesty and mastery that permeates their early, somewhat simplistic love songs ("I Want To Hold Your Hand") remained as strong and imperative when their musical minds expanded ("A Day In the Life"), and was still percolating as they were breaking apart (the second side suite from "Abbey Road").

No one could touch them then, and no one can touch them now.

Although, while the Beatles were masters of the studio, another recent release showcases how a live band at the top of its game can take over a night.

The indomitable Rolling Stones have released the 40th anniversary box set of the gold standard of rock and roll live albums, "Get Your Ya-Yas Out," celebrating their 1969 stand at New York's Madison Square Garden.

Those concerts took place some five years before I had the opportunity to see the World's Greatest Rock 'n' Roll Band live, and I've been fortunate enough to see them about half a dozen times since then. Arguably, they never put on a bad show, but hearing this recording again impresses upon us just how essential the Stones were (and, arguably, are) as a live band.

The anniversary special also includes a separate disc of previously unreleased performances from the concerts, including an early version of the blues standard "You Gotta Move," which two years later made an appearance in, ironically, studio form on their classic "Sticky Fingers" album. Even more important, though, is a disc containing portions of the opening sets from B.B. King and Ike & Tina Turner, two acts, particularly the latter, whom the Stones emulate live to this day.

Some four decades later, "Ya-Yas" remains the gold standard for live rock 'n' roll albums.

I've probably seen 500 concerts in the more than 40 years that I've been listening to rock and roll, but two recent ones, both involving artists I've long admired but never seen live, stamped for me just how a damn close to perfect live show is just about the best musical elixir there is.

The first one, ironically, happened a wee bit back, in the

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BAND DATES

ALTER EGO

5 - Christophers Cafe, Groton, CT
18 - Mad Murphy's, Middletown, CT

BAND OF HUMANS

11 - Pier 27, Mystic, CT

BORROWED TOYS

5 - Crystal Mall, Waterford, CT 3pm
19 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT

THE CARTELLS

16 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10pm
19 - Jakes, Wallingford, CT
24 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 12-2pm/7-11pm
31 - PT Inne, Old Saybrook, CT

CUCUMBER JONES

20 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT 5-8pm

DAN STEVENS

4 - Skunk Hollow, Hartland 4 Corners, VT
5 - Café Atlantique, Milford, CT
9 - Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA
11 - Harbor Inn, York Harbor, ME
12 - Roadhouse, Woolwich, ME 6pm
13 - Dolphin Striker, Portsmouth, NH
16 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
19 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
20 - Delta Grill, NYC, NY 12:30-3:30pm
21 - Rodeo Bar, NYC, NY

DAN WATSON

6 - Harp-n-Hound, Mystic, CT
8,22 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
16 - Y-Knot Lounge, New London, CT

DARIN KEECH

4,18 - Daniel Packer Inn, Mystic, CT

DENNY LAINE

11 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

10 SOUND WAVES

DOGIE

& THE COWPIE POACHERS

5,19,26 - VFW, Middletown, RI 8-12
9,16,23,30 - Billy Goodes, Newport, RI

DOUBLE FISTED

4 - Sneeker's Cafe, Groton, CT
12 - Music Lady, Plainfield, CT
19 - Lake Tavern, Dayville, CT

EIGHT TO THE BAR

4 - Cherry St. Rest., Wallingford, CT
11 - Swing City, Cambridge, MA
12 - Hi-Hat, Providence, RI
26 - Infinity, Norfolk, CT

FREESTILE

11 - Stone House, Baltic, CT
19 - Uncle Krankys, Jewett City, CT

FULL CIRCLE

4 - Mulhearn's, E. Providence, RI
11 - The Call, Pawtucket, RI
12 - JC's, W. Greenwich, RI
19 - Balls, Johnston, RI
31 - Buddy's, N. Smithfield, MA

THE GOAT ROPERS

6 - Amer. Legion, Webster, MA 4-8
11,31 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA
20 - Amer. Legion, E. Greenwich RI 1-5

JAMES HARRIS

3,17 - Apizzo, Pawcatuck, CT 6:30 pm
5,9,16,19,23,30 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
8,15,22,29 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
13 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 4pm
18 - Elmridge, Stonington, CT 6pm
18 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8:30pm

JAY DEMPSEY & HIGHWAY CALL

11 - Sneeker's Cafe, Groton, CT

THE KEVIN CRANDALL BAND

12 - Dogwatch Cafe, Stonington, CT
18 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT

kGb BAND

9 - Dubliner, Uncasville, CT
11 - Dogwatch Café, Stonington, CT
19 - Sneeker's Café, Groton, CT 8pm

Ms. MARCI

& THE LOVESICK HOUNDS

19 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT

MUNSELL BROTHERS BAND

12 - C.C. O'Brien's, Pawcatuck, CT
19 - June's, Killingworth, CT
26 - Burke's, Niantic, CT

SPECIAL 20

18 - Richoni's, Groton, CT
27,28 - Atruim, Mashantucket, CT

STYFF KITTY

11 - Bank St. Cafe, New London, CT
19 - Wood River Inn, Wyoming, RI
31 - CC O'Brien's, Pawcatuck, CT

SUE MENHART BAND

4 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 8pm
13 - Pennell's Auto, Montville, CT 1pm
29 - Dam B & G, Lexington, SC

2 CAT ZOO

5 - Hanafins, New London, CT
10 - Cleats, Westerly, RI
11 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
12 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
19 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT
23 - Harp-n-Hound, Mystic, CT

VINCE THOMPSON & FRIENDS

10 - Bulkley House, New London, CT 7-11
12 - Sneekers Café, Groton, CT 8pm
17 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10

WICKED PEACH

18 - Playoffs Pub, Fallriver, MA
31 - Stashs Cafe, New London, CT

WILSON KANE

4 - Dogwatch Cafe, Stonington, CT
5 - B&G Lounge, S. Windsor, CT
10 - Gilligan's Island, Westerly, RI
11 - Clydesdale, Westerly, RI
12,31 - Aspen, Old Saybrook, CT
15 - Hot Rod's, New London, CT
16 - Whitfield's, Guilford, CT
17 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
18 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
19 - Pavillion Rest., Ashaway, RI
26 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT
27 - Little Man's Dinner, Westerly, RI

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RIPTIDE

SATURDAYS

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THE BUZZ

DEC 12th
FLOWERS AND KAIN

DEC 19th
INABLACKOUT -
GUERRA - EYES OF
THE DEAD - TBA

DEC 26th
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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn



Hello...My Sweet Bar-Flies..Oh, how I've missed you!! Lots going on this past month and for the next couple of months, so let's get right down to it! I went to the second annual Men of Westerly Revealed at the GRANITE THEATER in Westerly this past week and had a great time again! For those of you that don't know... the proceeds from the calendar that is sold featuring local business

men are used for many great charities in our towns, including area food pantries, the WARM SHELTER, and the JOHNNYCAKE CENTER.

All the lovely ladies present (and some men) had a great time...the guys from HILLTOP were featured along with some of PADDY'S crew, VALENTI'S, CHOCOLATE TEMPTATIONS, LARRY HIRSCH, Dave Trachnida from the WESTERLY SUN and many others. Good lookin' bunch of guys all getting naked for a good cause (can't beat that with a stick), so buy a calendar for someone you love (or don't love) this Holiday Season to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

Onward...Been trying to build some enthusiasm in town, so I had a Wii "Bowling for Cash" night at the HANDLE-BAR CAFE...worked out becauuuutifully (insert old man rubbing his hands together gleefully). We each put in 10 bucks and played in teams of two. Winning team (bracketed) takes pot. Jessica "Reddi" Reynolds was my beautiful partner and we had a fabulous first round with me getting a high score of 242! Huh? I don't even know how to play... next round, uh, not so pretty...I think I scored 100 and Jess about the same, Cheryl and Andre were a team and were on fire!! Anyone who knows them must realize that they are not going down easy (big snicker, Cheryl) and they actually almost stole the Championship, but Pamtastic and Bruce were the Ultimate Wii bowling Champions of the evening, winning the pot and stealing the hopes and dreams of all of us. A special Hello to my good friend AAlllllllban, who snuck in for a quick game.

Every week will be "Game Night for Cash" at the HANDLEBAR Cafe on my Thursdays. I will also be offering free food, so stop in and join us for a game of Darts or Pool or Wii Bowling....we will choose a different game each week! Oh Yeah, Jell-o shots are back!!! I almost forgot and they were made with love...and mucho boozo, so I hope you drop by!!

Had a Girl's Nite recently at COCO'S SALON and it would have been a beautiful thing if only I had gone home at 9:30 instead of putting in an extra couple of hours at the bar next door, but a BarFly's gotta do what a BarFly's

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I Fri. 11th - **WILSON KANE**
V Sat. 19th - **OUTER LIMITS**
E Sat. 26th - **TBA**
M Sat. Jan. 9th - **HOWARD'S COUNTRY BAND**

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gotta do! We had Pampered Chef with Arlean Bednar, and Dot was there with Silpada Jewelry...I also trekked to New York the day before to fight with the Chinese men....(miss, miss...you take this...you take this ..10 dollar..10 dollar..what you want miss?...huh.. two for nothing?) (sarcastically) (insert your own Chinese accent), so I had a few of my own items for sale..lotta fun. Gotta say hi to the girl's who came...Katrina and Paula, Rebecca Biatch, Janie, Miss Chris, Tami and Amy, Lisa, Shelly and Kim and Lydia and our other Lydia, Miss Texeira, with the the girl's from HI-TECH...and many others. Wine was flowing etc. fun night for everyone (I vaguely remember something about Tony Torrey naked with a chainsaw? Lisa???) I look forward to the next one!!

I celebrated my friend Frank's mother's birthday (Miss Donna) at LUCKY HOUSE on the night before Thanksgiving with the family and we had a fun time. Lots of locals out enjoying a night of Chinese Cuisine and celebrating the fact that they didn't have to cook anything for that one night. Saw Sam Bliven for the first time in my life, Larry's daughter Laurie Gavitt with John Lallo, Russell LeBlanc with his lovely wife, Patty and Rox, Buster and Howard, Steve Turrissi (looking well) and the ever fabulous Robin Mantzaris. Nice time with good friends. A night with friends and family..priceless (well actually it was about 140, but it took a while to get the check).

Onward to sweet Jess and my night out selling Raffle Tickets for the WESTERLY-PAWCATUCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. Our mission, (should we choose to accept it, and of course we did!) was to sell Raffle Tickets for the Treasure Chest Lottery they were holding using whatever means available to us. Of course, that mission must include low cut tops and tight bottoms....it's a given! What a Hoot...the previous treasure Chest Girl's had been spotted locally sporting proper pirate garb to go with the treasure chest theme....but us? Oh no....we laugh in the face of convention! Corsets? Yes. Pirate Boots? Yes. Skin Tight Jeans? Yes. Big Wild Hair? Yes....oooh got myself a little excited there!

We stopped at many of our local haunts..GILLIGAN'S ISLAND (the big man himself was MIA) but I know he would have supported us if he'd been there; CLYDESDALES, where apparently I caused some marital problems with my pool partner and his late arriving wife...oh well, making friends wherever I go. The same could be said for my stop at CC OBRIENS, where we met up with some old friends, especially Texas Todd and Gary. Love ya guys! The place was packed as usual, and it was good to see all the familiar faces from the area I'd like to thank everyone for supporting us that night (and yes I do think the boobs and big hair helped), we had a blast and did very well for the CHAMBER, if I do say so myself!

Well, my sweet flies...Christmas is coming and I hope everyone out there has a special someone to share the Holidays with. There are many exciting events going on in the area, so I recommend partaking of all the local merriment (perhaps New Year's Eve with me at the HANDLEBAR CAFE, where I will be holding an Early Bird Party with karaoke starting at 5! Plenty of food and Cool Raffles and



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David Archuleta

By Bill Harriman

Let's go back to the evening of May 21st 2008. We're at the Nokia Theater in Los Angeles and it's the American Idol finale. Nearly Forty million viewers are tuned in to hear Idol host Ryan Seacrest announce the final results of season 7. He's on stage with the two finalists when he steps up to the microphone as the house lights dim. "Here we go America," he says. "Ladies and gentlemen, David and David, the winner by twelve million votes of American Idol 2008 is David..... COOK!"

What? Wait a minute! Wasn't he supposed to say David Archuleta? Wasn't he the one who was destined to be an American Idol winner? You could practically hear the shrieks of despair from teenagers across the country. Each week during the spring of 2008 this shy, humble, somewhat fragile, squeaky-clean, and (dare I say) adorable kid from Murray, Utah wowed the judges and endeared himself to the television viewers with his perfect pop voice and commanding stage presence. When he sang there was a maturity about him that belied not only his seventeen years of age but his bashful and innocent demeanor as well. He may have finished second but he was the unquestionable star of Season 7.

The reality is there's always more than one winner each year when it comes to American Idol. Both David's got recording contracts with 19 Recordings/Jive Records and both were quick to release self titled CD's. Young David's CD has sold close to a million copies and featured the hugely successful hit single "Crush." In fact David Archuleta now has a second CD out called "Christmas from the Heart." The disc is filled with traditional songs such as "Joy to the World," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "Silent Night," "O Holy Night," and "What Child Is This?" among others. There are also a couple of more contemporary ballads included such as "I'll Be Home for Christmas," and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." David will be touring the country singing these songs and

spreading Christmas joy throughout the advent season.

Connecticut is rapidly becoming a popular destination for David. He first played here on August 8th of 2008 when the American Idol tour stopped at the XL Center in Hartford. He was here again with the Idols on September 6th of 08 when the tour came back to the Arena at Harbor Yards in Bridgeport. Once the Idol tour was over David was back again less than two months later on October 29th when he hosted the Boo Bash at the Connecticut Expo Center in Hartford with former Idol winner Jordin Sparks. Early in 2009 David toured for the first time fronting his own band. Although there was no Connecticut appearance, he did play a show in Northampton, Massachusetts on March 2nd. However, he was back in Hartford a few months later when he opened for Demi Lovato on June 21st at a sold-out XL Center. Now David will be back in Connecticut once again when his Christmas tour takes him to the magnificent MGM Grand at Foxwoods on the evening of Thursday December 17th. This phone interview was done on the morning of Wednesday November 4th.

BH – Congratulations on your new "Christmas from the Heart" CD. You must be really proud of it.

DA - "Yeah, you know with every project you try to put a lot of work into them. So when you really get involved in a project and work hard to make sure you did all you can to make it the best that you could, you feel a very close connection to it. It's like it's your baby. So it was a good project for me to work on."

BH – I'm familiar with all of the songs except "Pat-a-pan" and "Riu Riu Chiu." Could you tell me a little bit about those tunes?

DA - "Those are some of my favorite ones on the album actually because they bring a different element that people usually don't connect with Christmas. 'Riu Riu Chiu' is a renaissance kind of song. It's an early Christmas carol that people aren't really familiar with but it has a mysterious sound to it and really captivating music to it. And plus, it's Spanish and I loved being able to do a Spanish song on the Christmas album. It was really exciting for me because I'm half Honduran so being able to give something to that side of my culture was really great for me. And then with 'Pat-A-Pan' that right now probably is my favorite song on the album. I don't know the history behind it but it's a pretty simple, generic song. We had to add a chorus to it because it was the verse over and over. And I sing the beginning in French and that's my first time ever trying to speak French at all. It was a real challenge and I was nervous at first because I didn't know if I was singing the words right at all. But I had a friend who I called the night before to come and help us out and make sure I was saying all the words correctly because if I'm going to be speaking French and trying to reach out to people who speak French I want to make sure I'm doing it the right way and respect them. Because this is their language and it's a beautiful language and I don't want to be messing it up in any way. But it was real fun and I love

the mystical beginning with that song. And it's one of the more up tempo, fun songs on the album. I feel it stands out on the album because of how different it is."

BH - Also it must be nice to include your own original Christmas song "Melodies of Christmas."

DA - "With 'Melodies of Christmas' it was funny how little time we had. I was on tour and trying to record the other Christmas songs at the same time. So with 'Melodies of Christmas' it was literally the last thing that we were working on before we had to finish. We wanted to talk about how Christmas, and the songs of Christmas, affects people and what kinds of memories are brought back because of these songs. So it's just kind of describing how Christmas music affects people during that time of the season and that time of year."

BH - It looks like you put together a nice tour for the holidays with two shows in Utah and then home for Thanksgiving before hitting the road and being home for Christmas.

DA - "I don't know if we're going to be home for Thanksgiving or not. We're trying to work that out though because I've never missed a Thanksgiving with my family. Even last year I was in New York for the parade. I did that in the morning and flew back during the day and was able to have dinner with my family in the evening. So I haven't missed a Thanksgiving yet but we're trying to figure out how I can spend as much time home until I have to go to the next city and rehearse there. Because the next date I have after Utah will be in Michigan with a symphony orchestra there. So it will be interesting to see how we can manage the schedule for everything. Family time is just as important as anything else."

BH - You have an orchestra in Michigan? Aren't you traveling with a touring band?

DA - "I have a traveling band with me with this tour. The Michigan date is a little different because they invited me to come as their special guest for the orchestra, whereas for the rest of the tour it is just my performing band with the normal theater setup of doing a show. For the most part they are the same people that I've been doing shows with. Some of them I've been touring with since the beginning of this year."

BH - Besides the Christmas CD will you still be singing songs from your self titled debut CD?

DA - "Yeah, I still feel that that's what the people are familiar with and that's what people relate to me through. So we're going to have a little pop section. People always want to hear 'Crush' and stuff so of course I'm going to sing that and give a fun recognizable song set. So I'll give a little bit of the pop stuff in a section of the show."

BH - Also I noticed that you have an opening act named Benton Paul. Can you tell me a little bit about him?

DA - "I actually met him when he opened for me at a Sundance thing back in January. He opened up for me

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at one of the shows at the Sundance Film Festival. He also opened up for me in my Utah show. He does some great music. He's a really talented guy from Utah and I just have really enjoyed his music. We've had some jam sessions too and I think people are really going to enjoy his music because it's not too out there or too crazy. It is music I think that everyone can really enjoy. He's great artist."

BH - Can you contrast the differences between the touring you're doing now compared to the tour with the American Idol group?

DA - "The difference between then and now I guess is that was my first time ever touring and so it was so new to me. I didn't know what to expect or how to deal with things. But now it's my fifth tour and I've definitely gotten the hang of things and you learn how to keep your endurance going because it's easy to blow out your voice the first show and then not have a voice for the rest of the shows. You learn how to pace yourself and get into the routine of things and understand how it works. With this tour versus the American Idol tour I'm by myself. I don't have everyone else there. Instead of just being part of the show you are the show. You have to learn how to keep your energy going in the show and keep the emotion in all the songs going every night. But it's really something I enjoy doing and it's so much fun."

BH - Are you able to get out and do a little sightseeing when you tour?

DA - "I know that there are some days off that I have that they're thinking about filling with other things. But it's nice to have days off too because you get to see different places and get to know what it's like in different parts of the country. Because even though it's all the United States, it's really fun getting to see the differences in all the places I see along with the different cultures too. It's even amazing how different the food can be or just what the nature is like from the mountains to the oceans to the plains. I remember in Ohio getting to see the Amish country. It was so cool just being able to see that. We have so much here to enjoy and learn from. It's always fun getting to do the touristy things too because those memories really stick out to me during a tour."

BH - Yeah, I guess a guy your age shouldn't be going from the bus to the hotel to the stage back to the hotel and then back on the bus.

DA - "You're right because it can get pretty monotonous when you don't have any breaks from that routine of going inside the bus to inside the venue to on the stage and then back into the dressing room back inside the bus and then go to sleep and wake up and do it all again. It's like you're always inside. I always joke about how pale and how much of a ghost I look like now because I never see the sun. But it's nice being able to have a little break because sometimes, even if there's a show that day, I try to make a little bit of time if there's something fun to do in the city that we're in because it makes the memory of that

city all the more enjoyable."

BH - Do you enjoy coming to Connecticut? December 17th will be your 5th time here already.

DA - "Connecticut has always had some of the best crowds. And I love that there's such supportive fans in Connecticut that just really enjoy the show. Like with the summer tour, our first show with Demi Lovato was in Connecticut so it was just a great way to start the show. I remember driving through there in the fall last year and all the colors. I was taking pictures because the trees were so beautiful. One of memories of last year is just driving through Connecticut and I remember going to a radio station there and also doing the 'Boo Bash' in Connecticut too. I just loved the old fashioned style of some of the areas of Connecticut and the colors! I really enjoy nature so I'm always looking at the sky and the trees and the mountains."

BH - By any chance did you happen to see the Michael Jackson movie?

DA - "No but we're planning on this week. My aunt she went and saw it and she really wants to take me. And we've been trying to figure out how with my schedule. Like right now we're on our way to a recording session and they last all day sometimes. But we're trying to figure out a night to go see 'This is It' because Michael Jackson is one of my biggest influences but he's influenced like everyone. Some of the earlier songs I'd sing were some of the Jackson 5 stuff and he's really one of my favorite artists so I can't wait to see this because I've heard a lot of really great things about it."

BH - Are you planning on following the lead of some of the other Idols and trying your hand at acting? Have you taken any acting classes?

DA - "I haven't taken any acting classes recently but I've been just kind of practicing on my own a little bit here and there sometimes. Mainly I've been focusing on music and trying to figure out how I can grow the most in my music. But I think acting is fun. I did some little appearances on 'Hannah Montana' and 'iCarly,' some of the kid shows and I had so much fun. So I would not mind doing it at all again. And if there is an opportunity for me to do it again or at least practice and take some classes some time then I'd be totally up for it."

BH - Because of your success on American Idol you've been able to surround yourself with older experienced musicians. Has this luxury helped you grow as an artist?

DA - "Yes, especially in my writing. I think that is such a big part in growing as an artist and as a musician. Especially just recently I've been learning so much and it's something I've always really wanted to do. Before I'd think I stink at writing and there's no way I'm going to be able to do that. But in Nashville when I was there three weeks ago we were able to write six songs in a week. And yesterday we wrote and finished a song. So it's really a big improvement for me for someone who wouldn't even

be able to finish a song in like two months. That's how long it would take me before. Now being able to work with other people and learn from them and just really enjoy it. That's what I love about it. I love the challenge and I love being able to learn and observe how other people work too."

BH - I don't want you to look too far into the future but what are your immediate plans for 2010?

DA - "I'm already getting back into the studio. That's what I've been doing in between finishing the Christmas album and the Christmas tour. I've been working on the next album already and in the beginning of next year I'll be getting involved with the next album even more. I'll be meeting with new writers and working with writers that I've worked with before to really get involved with the writing this time around."

BH - What's your opinion on the new American Idol with Ellen Degeneres and no Paula Abdul?

DA - "I think it will be a lot of fun having Ellen there. I love Ellen and I think she's so funny and everyone really loves her. So I think it will bring a new vibe to it and a new audience to the show as well. And it will be interesting to see what she says. She always has clever, witty things to say and I think people will really enjoy watching her."

What a treat it is to have David Archuleta in our area singing songs from "Christmas from the Heart" just a week before Christmas Eve. For those of you who will be that the MGM Grand on December 17th I hope that you get the chance to personally wish David a very merry Christmas. Also, the kid turns all of 19 on December 28th. So wish him a happy birthday as well!

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Bar Fly Journals Continued

Prizes to be given out to all of our partygoers! Come see old friends and make new ones). If you have any questions email me at barfly2u2@yahoo.com . Also if anyone would like to join me for a night out to see a local band.... SOULSHOT at the KNICK?.. GIRL'S NITE at CHRISTOPHER'S?.. Karaoke with DAVE CHRISTINA on a Wednesday at CLYDESDALES? STICKS N STONEZ? Dinner with Steve at STASH'S? Lemme know, I'll be awaiting your email (between visits to farmville..I know, I know..I'm outta control) lemme know!!! Seriously, I am eagerly awaiting your letters and emails!!!

Lastly, I'd like to say Happy Birthday to my dear father Bill Mitchell and a Happy Anniversary to my sweet mother Dawn and the ever fabulous John Merston!! And to all of you...Merry Christmas to All and To All A Good Night!



Music Notes Continued

summer of 2008. We had gone to a free concert by Los Lobos on the Hamden, Connecticut green. The opening act was Christine Ohlman and Rebel Montez, probably one of the best, if not the best performers in our area. I knew Ms. Ohlman's pedigree, the Saturday Night Live band, and her own distinguished career, and had long made it a point to see her, but, for one reason or another, never got around to it.

Shame on me. It was apparent from the first notes what I had been missing. The first thing you notice about Ms. Ohlman is her distinctive beehive hairdo. And, before you think she's some cartoonish "wanna be," the second thing you notice about her is her talent.

Both are enormous.

I've long been a fan of blues and so-called roots music, and this lady, and her band, delivers the goods. It's all but impossible to win over a crowd as the opening act, but Ms. Ohlman and her band did it. I know it may sound sacrilege, but I thought they were better than Los Lobos that night, and, if you've ever seen Los Lobos, well, you know this ain't faint praise.

The second show was more recent, about a month or so ago. We were given free tickets to see the Steve Miller Band at the Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford. I've long been a fan of his, but, for some reason, like with Ms. Ohlman, never took the time to see him live, either.

This show was mere weeks after the passing of his long-time band mate Norton Buffalo, but Miller shook off the

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grief that he must have been feeling, and packed in a show for the ages. Yes, we got all the hits, including two versions, acoustic and electric, of "The Joker," but what was remarkable was his electric blues set in the middle of the show. I had forgotten what a great guitar player Miller is, and that he had started out in San Francisco over four decades ago as the Steve Miller Blues Band. This night, his covers included Freddie King, B.B. King, and Albert King, hell, all the Kings, and he made us realize that behind the hits machine of the Seventies lurks a deep-felt player and singer.

Oops. Time to go hang holiday decorations.....and, then, hopefully, some more listening time to the music that keeps me sane.

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By David L. Pottie

In 1843, Charles Dickens wrote a classic novel called "A Christmas Carol". It was about a penny pinching miser called Scrooge, and a young boy named "Tiny Tim". The young boy was dying because he couldn't get sufficient medical care for his illness. He was dying because of the lack of money.

It is 166 years later and Americans are in the same situation today. A new study conducted by Harvard University and the Cambridge Health Alliance, found that 45,000 Americans are dying each year, because they don't have insurance. The mortality rate among Americans under the age of 65 who are uninsured, is 40 percent higher than among those with insurance. In 1993 a similar study found the difference was only 25 percent. We are moving backwards! We are letting people die because they do not have insurance. On the list of preventable deaths we are 19th. Canada is 6th, England 16th. We are 19th!

There is the argument of the cost of Health Care Reform. Where will the money come from? Are we burdening our children with debt? The cost has been estimated to be around \$900 million over 10 years. Knowing the Government, this cost will be higher. But what price can you put on American lives? Don't you want your money to go to saving lives? I want my taxpayer money going to help Americans live.

So far the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have topped \$935 Billion since 2001 and increases at a rate of \$177M per day, \$7.4M per hour and \$122,820 per minute. And have cost over 4,000 brave young Americans their lives with over 60,000 have been maimed. Opponents of the Health Care Bill support this expense! Our taxpayer money is being spent not saving American lives, but sacrificing them. With Health Care Reform we could be saving 45,000 Americans each year!

A new report also shows that the majority of bankruptcies today are because of medical expenses. Today's America has become a society where the rich live and the poor die. Where we worry about if we can afford to live. And right now somebody's family member is dying because they can't afford that treatment or prescription. And the way by which the playing field is leveled, and the costs that are inflated to all of us are reduced, and the money that I don't have to spend on saving my life or a family member can go instead to saving your life or family member, well that's called health care reform!

The people opposed to the health care reform bill, a vast majority of them Republicans, have said to take it slow and that they can come up with a better plan. Well they

have said that every decade since the 60's. In 1963, when Medicare was passed, the Republicans shouted that we are becoming a Socialist government. Making the same arguments now that they did then. This health care bill might not be perfect, but are we willing to wait another decade. Isn't it time for a change. Isn't that time now! Isn't it time to stop bailing out the fat cats and to start helping our fellow Americans live!

In the classic "A Christmas Carol", Scrooge was visited by 3 ghosts. Each showing him the past, present and future. The past showing the good and carefree times. The present showing the trials and tribulations of the day. And the future showing the dire consequences of our actions. But in the end we are told the future can be changed. It is my Christmas wish that those opposed to health care reform experience some kind of epiphany and realize the dire consequences of what the future might be without health care reform. May they all be visited by Scrooge's 3 ghosts this season.

As Tiny Tim cries at the end of the story "God Bless Us, Every One!"

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!



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