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Sound Waves

Volume 20
Issue 7
April 2010

CLUB LISTINGS
RESTAURANTS
CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS
& MORE

An
Interview
with

JOE SATRIANI

A Southern New England
Entertainment Guide Since 1990

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9
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16
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17
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The Party of Fear

The recent events in our country have been disturbing. Mainly because of the actions of the Republican party. They have been branded the party of no, but in reality they are the party of fear. They have used fear tactics and lies to manipulate the American people. When G.W. Bush was in office he used this tactic to get us in the Iraq war. First it was WMDs, then it was to spread democracy when there where no WMDs to be found. If anyone protested this, his administration went on the offensive. Remember the Dixie Chicks? Remember the CIA spy that was exposed, mainly because her husband was a staunch opponent of the war?

But most recently it has been their actions during the Health Care debate. They where poisoning the public with lies.

Death panels! A socialist/Marxist take over of our government!

There are a lot of people that believe this stuff. And that is a scary situation. Look what is happening because of the hysteria the republican party has started.

- During the health care vote, as senators where entering the building, racial and homo phobic slurs where made. Their lives and their families lives where threatened via mail and telephone calls. And to add to this, Sarah Palin advertises a campaign to target people who supported health care for re-election by having a map with gun cross hairs on it.

I thought this was a country where you changed things through elections. The republicans lost in the last election and now they are still trying to be in control. At every possibility they are opposing anything the President is trying. The health care bill was basically the same bill that they put forth as an alternative to the Clinton bill. There where several other bills that where put forth by republicans, but when the President agreed to them the republicans voted no on their own bills. There are also many cabinet post unfilled because the republicans are fighting every nomination. And now in the news, some republicans are going to fight against the nuclear arms treaty the President just signed with Russia. Are these the type of people we want running our country? I say it's time we put a term limit of our representatives in congress. Maybe 3-4 terms.

A scary scenario about all this is what might happen if things are left unchecked. Does anyone remember the show Jericho? It was a story about a small town in the Midwest that was trying to survive after the US was attacked by nuclear weapons. 6 major cities throughout the country where destroyed from nuclear attack. The country was splintered off into sections of control trying to deal with the situation.

As it turned out, it wasn't an attack from another country or Muslim extremist. But an attack from within. The people behind it where the people that lost their power/control over the country. And this was their idea of how to get it back. The American people didn't know this and lead to believe these people where their salvation. The main villain was an ex high government official with strong ties to a conglomerate of big businesses. The scariest part of the show is that this guy looked like Dick Cheney! I couldn't sleep for days!



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**April 2010
VOLUME 20, NUMBER 7**

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³⁰ SUE MENHART	¹ SUE MENHART

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CONCERT DATES

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Big Brother & The Holding Co.

23 - Lupo's, Providence, RI

Guitar Shorty

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

Janis Ian

25 - Cultural Arts Cntr, Old Saybrook, CT

Johnny Winter

30 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

Martin Sexton

15 - Toad's Place, New Haven, CT

Poco

25 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

Rick Derringer

20 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Third Eye Blind

20 - Lupo's, Providence, RI

Trans-Siberian Orchestra

2 - Bushnell, Hartford, CT

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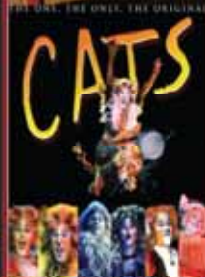


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MUSIC NOTES

"New York's Finest"

By Mark T. Gould



You just never know. You hope it will be great, just like you remembered them. Perhaps, if you're lucky, even better, but, then again, you just never know.

It happens every time there's news that one of my favorite rock bands is reuniting. Part of me can't wait to see and/or hear them again, but another part of me, the more cautious part, always frets that it'll never be as good as it was before. I've been through it with virtually every band that meant, and means, something to me. The Stones. Little Feat. Poco. The Blasters. The list goes on and on.

I know that I should be grateful that these extraordinary musicians who have meant so much to me are willing to bring back their magic, but, let's face it, not all of the "comebacks" have been good ones. Memories are many times best left untouched.

Which leads me to the Del Lords.

"Who?" you might ask. Well, if you weren't around New York City rock and roll, or what passed for it, in the mid-1980s, that is a good question. If you were there, though, what a ride they gave us.

For the tragically uninitiated, the Del Lords were founded in the Big Apple in 1984, at a time when rock and roll, at least for my heart and soul, was beyond stagnant. Part Sixties garage rock with the best elements of country, blues, and folk stirred in, they may arguably have been the very first of what we now know of as "roots rock." They were, unarguably to me, one of the finest, most moving bands that I've ever had the pleasure to hear play music.

But, whatever label you want to put on them, The Del Lords, guitarists Scott Kempner and Eric "Roscoe" Ambel, bassist Manny Caiati and drummer Frank Funaro, were, for my money, along with the Blasters, the very best band of their day.

In their short time together, the Del Lords released four classic albums, "Frontier Days," "Johnny Comes Marching Home," "Based on a True Story" and "Lovers Who Wander," that even today, more than two decades later, more than ably stand the test of time.

www.Swaves.com

So, it was with that usual mix of excitement and dread that I heard the news that, 26 years after they started, The Del-Lords were back together, working on new recordings. They released their work in progress, "Under Construction," an EP of rough mixes, on their website in March. In addition, their aforementioned albums have been re-released by Collector's Choice-American Beat, complete with bonus tracks and expanded liner notes.

Even better, at least for this longtime fan, was the news that the band was playing its first live gigs in 20 years, starting with two unannounced one-offs, a house concert in Rhode Island and a "happy hour" show at Ambel's Lakeside Lounge in New York City, before embarking on a recently completed seven-city tour of Spain. Yet, my old concerns still there. Would they still move me, and other fans, they way they did back in the day? Or, would they be a shell of their old selves, content to collect the money, but only the money?

Knowing the Del-Lords, I shouldn't have worried. Listening to a download of the NYC gig proves that, after so many, hey, too many years, the Del-Lords still know how to rock the house and, in the process, move their fans. So, concerns dismissed, I wondered what led to this long-overdue reunion? So, I checked in with Ambel, one of the most underrated great guitarist out there and a purveyor, in his own way, of the intricacies and intimacies of rock, midway through the Spanish jaunt.

"We had a promoter in Spain who was a huge fan of the band," Ambel said. "He kept asking Scott if the Del-Lords would tour. Late last year it sorta started to seem like we could do it. So we put a plan in motion to make it all happen.

"Logistically, it's all pretty challenging," he added. "Scott lives in LA. Manny lives in Houston, and Frank is a professional musician playing pretty much full time with Cracker. NYC (where Ambel resides) had to be our staging point, so a lot of stuff fell in my corner to get together. We did some rehearsals, then played the house concert in Rhode Island. It was a great way to get started. We did one more rehearsal then played the sneak show at the Lakeside.

"We tried to keep it quiet. We still needed a real gig under our belt before heading to Spain for the tour. The house concert and the Lakeside shows were both really fun for us. Overall it was moving and psychedelic to be together again playing songs with old friends for a group of old and new friends" he said.

And, according to Ambel, no one, especially a skeptic yet loyal Del Lords fan like me, should get the idea that this was just a nostalgia trip for the band.

"It has been a lot of fun to work on the new music," he said. "For me, it has been great to work with Frank, who is a really great drummer, better than ever. Scott brought



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Fri. 23rd - WILSON KANE

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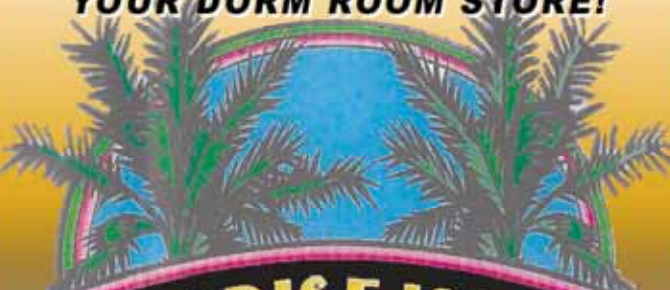
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in a bunch of new songs that were really 'Del-Lords' songs. We started working on them first, just Scott and me, and then we got Manny and Frank involved.

"We didn't want to go on tour without some new music," Ambel added. "I wanted to work on Scott's new songs and use my experience (as a producer) to bring them home as a new record.

"I figured that these shows were for real fans, and that real fans would probably like to hear what we were up to, so the idea of the EP became the goal. We will start working on the rest of the album after we get back to the States."

And, it appears, from Ambel's point of view that the camaraderie continued in Europe.

"It's been great over here," Ambel reported. "Spain has always been a special place for all of our bands since coming here as the Del-Lords in '89. Something about the Del-Lords message of personal freedom really resonates with people here. It's been great to play with Scott, Frank and Manny. So many things are familiar, and, in other ways, it's all quite new."

Unfortunately, for those of us in the States who want to see the band and who missed the two warm-up gigs, Ambel is a bit circumspect about a tour here, but does hold out some hope.

"The US is so large, it is mighty hard to get around with all the costs nowadays," he said. "We'd like to play some US gigs, but it's ultra challenging logistically with band members so busy with their individual pursuits, scattered around the country. I don't think we'll be able really tour until we have the record done."

"The EP, website and the Spain tour are a start for us, Ambel added. "Who knows what's next? It has been a blast, especially after 20 years."

Especially. It was a long, yet, rewarding wait for Del Lords fans.

See, some reunion dreams do come true.



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ED & LINDA ROACH

Sound Waves Magazine was started in August of 1990. At the time it was just me and an enthusiastic salesperson Ed Roach.

Without out Ed, this magazine would not be where it is today.

Ed was a great salesperson and supporter of the concept that is Sound Waves.

Ed and his lovely wife Linda recently retired to the warm south.

I will miss our talks and meeting at our 2nd office.

From my heart ~ Thank you my friend
David L. Pottie - editor/publisher



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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn



Hello My Sweet BarFlies!
Well, Again, What a Difference a Month Makes! Don't know if you heard those dirty, nasty rumors that I may not be quite the depraved Biker Chick that you were hoping I was? Not true, I tell you. I just needed some warmth! Went to Daytona Beach for the 69th Annual Bike Week Celebration...but it was CCOOOOOLLDD!! Seriously people, we are talking 46

degrees with a 30 mile an hour wind cold. Sorry, couldn't really take one for the team for ya. :(

I flew down on a Monday...partied like a RockStar with Buster, Spike, Katrina and Jimmy...bought a new return ticket and flew home Wednesday morning. Really... cold girls wearing nothing but goose bumps is just not my thing. I wanted to cry for the SunFlower Girl in front of BOOTHILL SALOON cuz it was blatantly apparent by the tears streaming down her icicle-encrusted face that she was Not Having A Good Time. Oh well, there's always next year!!

On a much Brighter Note. What a Fabulous Time at my Birthday Party!! I want to say "Thank You So Much" to all the wonderful people who showed up to celebrate with Betsy, Artie and myself on our Special Day! The place was packed..jamming I tell you..DAVE CHRISTINA did a fantastic job as our Grand Marshall slash DJ slash Karaoke King.

As a matter of fact, I think we are gonna do it again to celebrate my sister Christine's Birthday in April on the 15th...another Thursday Night. So mail in your IRS Check then come cry in your beer and wish Christine a Happy Birthday with me and at the HANDLEBAR CAFE!!! I've texted DAVE CHRISTINA and he is ready to take the reins again and help us throw another fabulous bash! See ya at 6! For some spring-like IRS Drink Specials!

Well, I worked with Wendy Carr recently from PRIME-TIME CAFE, on the Westerly-Pawcatuck Border. Wendy had called me to work a private party with her at CONN COLLEGE in New London. "Sure" I foolishly blurted out when asked, "I have no plans" With those words, though, I sealed my fate. I showed up all "casual like" at PRIME-TIME expecting a little chitchat...a little coddling...maybe a small bit of handholding...not a shot. Our Miss Wendy was off like a shot the moment I came through her doors.

We raced off in the SuperCool Van like deranged Speedsters with Liquor bottles klinking and clanging in the back like psycho musical chimes...a few roadblocks later we arrived at our destination...pedestrian walkways ...not on our watch...our sweet Miss Wendy jumps the curb...floors it and we arrive at the front door...i mean, really, we are literally

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At the Front Door!!! Six thousand pounds of Liquor and mixers up two flights of stairs later...my completely sweat drenched ass was done! I wanted to cry!

The always thinking Wendy quickly whips out some coconut water "to hydrate me" and starts setting up the bar. Coconut Water? I wanted a BigMac and my couch...But I quickly set aside my aching muscles and blistered hands and set to work. Let me tell you, I thought I could work, but I couldn't even come close...the girl is a Machine!! Lotta fun...good and generous people at the Party and even though my back, arms, hands, legs and feet were aching masses by morning.. it felt kinda good, you know, like touching a bruise. Wendy, if you ever need me again, girl, just gimme a call...I'm all in.

So, my sister Betsy and the "Crew" hit the Pawcatuck VFW for a "Comedic Hypnotist". Apparently while I was busting my ass, people were laughing it up in Pawcatuck. The hypnotist brought a few of our friends on stage, like John Gavitt, Andre from Cheryl and Andre, Karen from Karen and Derrik and Mike Vargis...well apparently...it was quite hysterical...I know, I know, John...you remained very manly, but I hear that Miss Karen was having the time of her life singing to GREASE, working out to the theme from ROCKY and dancing like a cage girl from the sixties!!! Work it, Girl! And Andre, I don't think the purpose of Hypnotism is to get in some nap time. Wake Up!

Heard the lunches and dinners at the PAVILION in Ashaway are Fabulous...oh, that was me...and they have an AROUND THE WORLD IN 18 HOLES Mini-Golf Range that looks fantastic...with Egyptian Pyramids and Easter Island Heads, Penguins and the Parthenon...can't beat that with a stick...bring the kids! Also I received a report that the Fish and Chips at GILLIGAN'S ISLAND are Too Die For! Stop in and say hello and have something Delicious To Eat!

SUE MENHART is apparently quite a busy girl. She appears at local and not so local bars and restaurants and sings and plays accoustically and also with a band. I guess according to her mood. Well, I hear she is in the running to play at the LILLITH FAIR, which I have been to, and is an absolutely fantastic showing of GIRL POWER. Anyways...she needs your vote...check her out on FACEBOOK for voting news

I also heard that my BARFLY Friend, Justin Adamson, of SPACEWHALE fame, played an exciting show at BANK STREET CAFE along with SHAKEDOWN. Sorry I couldn't make it, but heard you did a Fabulous Job! Maybe next time...Also hoping to catch STYFF KITTY at SNEEKERS in Groton on April 23 or at the WOOD RIVER INN in May...we shall see!! And I am on my way to see Patty Algieri at the KNICKERBOCKER CAFE. I hear she is a big Fan and I want to find out about some upcoming shows.

Anyways, quite an exciting month for this tiny Botfly, as you can see, (saw a Botfly on Animal Planet...can't get it outta my head)...STIX N STONEZ are continuing their "Summer Bash" promotion, so follow them at each of their shows and you can possibly win a party with them



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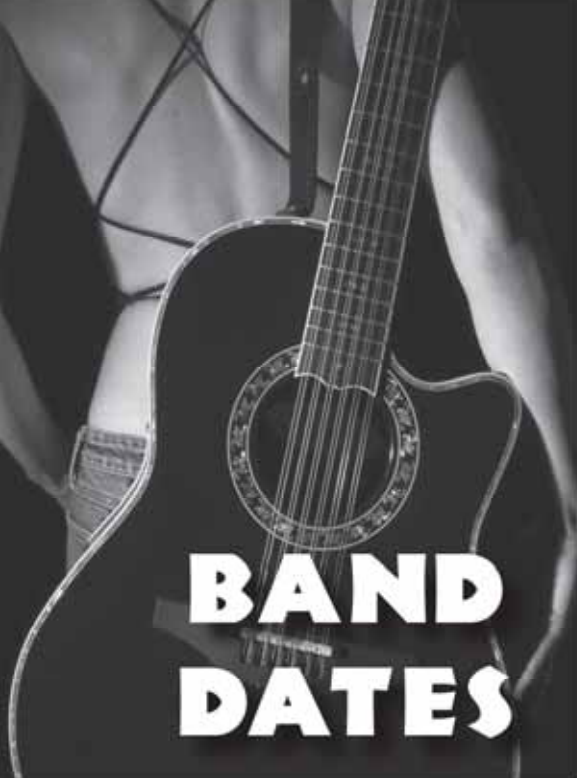
APRIL 24
Mark Hummel's
Blues Harmonica Blowout!

UPCOMING SHOWS

NO COVER THURSDAYS Apr 1 / 9p / NO COVER Joe Nigrelli & The Truth Fri, Apr 2 / 9p / \$5 Never Enuff Sat, Apr 3 / 9p / \$10 Soul Shot EASTER SUNDAY! Sun, Apr 4 / 8p / \$18 Roomful of Blues NO COVER THURSDAYS Apr 8 / 9p / NO COVER Fat Betty and Celebrity Bartender w/ Jamie Silvestri & Jenn Luther from 6p-8p. Proceeds to Benefit Westerly Adult Day Care Fri, Apr 9 / 9p / \$5 Special 20 Sat, Apr 10 / 9p / \$8 Johnny & The East Coast Rockers NO COVER THURSDAYS Apr 15 / 9p / NO COVER Ripe	Fri, Apr 16 / 9p / \$8 Preston Frantz Hellbent & Heartbreakin' Sat, Apr 17 / 9p / \$12 Jeff Pitchell & Texas Flood NO COVER THURSDAYS Apr 22 / 9p / NO COVER The Sharks Gansett Beer Wooden Nickel Night! Fri, Apr 23 / 9p / \$7 Dog Bite Sat, Apr 24 / 9p / \$20 Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowout w/ Sugar Ray Norcia and Magic Dick NO COVER THURSDAYS Apr 29 / 9p / NO COVER The Goods Fri, Apr 30 / 9p / \$10 Sugar
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Jimmie Vaughan and John Cafferty in May!
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BAND DATES

BAND OF HUMANS

10 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT

BAREFOOT TRUTH

2 - Stone Church, New Market, NH
3 - Main Pub, Manchester, CT
9 - Wheelhouse, Narragansett, RI

BORROWED TOYS

24 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT

DAN STEVENS

3 - Crown & Hammer, Collinsville, CT
8 - The Bog, Waldoboro, ME 5pm
9 - Black Bull, Rockland, ME
16 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30
20 - Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA
22 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
23 - Angelico's, Glastonbury, CT
24 - RiverWalk, Mystic, CT
25 - Delta Grill, NYC, NY 12:30-3:30pm

DAN WATSON

13,27 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
25 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT

DOGIE & THE COWPIE POACHERS

7,14,21,28 - Fastnet Pub, Newport, RI

EIGHT TO THE BAR

2 - Town Hall, W. Hartford, CT
10 - ST JAMES, WATERTOWN, MA
30 - CNOTE, HULL, MA

THE GOAT ROPERS

23 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA

14 SOUND WAVES

25 - Amer. Legion, Webster, MA 4-8

GOPHERBROKE

7 - John Harvard's, Manchester, CT
10 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT
17 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
24 - Billy Wilson's, Norwich, CT
30 - Hub Bar, Canton, CT

GREEN TEA

17 - Wood River Inn, Hope Valley, RI
30 - Pump House, Southbridge, MA

GRUNGE DAY

3 - DraftHouse, Shelton, CT
8 - Bleachers, Bristol, CT
15 - All Stars, Manchester, CT

JAMES HARRIS

2,26,30 - Elmridge, Pawcatuck, CT 6pm
7,10,14,21,24,28 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
6,13,20,27 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
11,25 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 4pm
15 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 6:30pm
16 - 84 High Street, Westerly, RI
17 - Tastings, Mystic, CT
29 - Voodoo Grille, Mystic, CT

JAY DEMPSEY & HIGHWAY CALL

3 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT
17 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT
23 - Stash's, New London, CT 6-9
30 - Burkes, Niantic, CT

kGb

2 - French Club, Jewett City, CT 5pm
9 - Dog Watch Café, Stonington, CT
30 - Mozzarella's, Dayville, CT

Ms. MARCI & THE LOVESICK HOUNDS

18 - Little Man's Diner, Westerly, RI 3-6

MUNSELL BROTHERS BAND

9 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT
10 - Bank St. Café, New London, CT
17 - C.C. O'Brien's, Groton, CT
24 - T's Place, Torrington, CT

THE PIRANHA BROTHERS

9 - Elks Club, Westbrook, CT 6:30-10
16 - Lakeview, Coventry, CT
30 - Free Spirit Cafe, Vernon, CT

THE SHARKS

9 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
16 - Elmridge CC, N. Stonington, CT
22 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

SPECIAL 20

9 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

STIX N STONES

3 - Christopher's, Groton, CT
24 - Bank St. Café, New London, CT

STYFF KITTY

9 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT
23 - Sneekers, Groton, CT

SUE MENHART BAND

3,30 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT
9 - Exchange, New London, CT, 6-9pm
16 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT
20 - Hard Rock Café, Mashentucket, CT
23 - Inn & Suites, Groton, CT
24 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT

SUNDAY GRAVY

9 - Stash's, New London, CT 6pm
16 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
21 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
24 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

2 CAT ZOO

2 - Dogwatch, Stonington, CT
9 - Hanafins, New London, CT
10 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
29 - Hard Rock Cafe, Mashentucket, CT
30 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

VINCE THOMPSON & FRIENDS

9 - Tamarack Lodge, Voluntown, CT
6:30-9:30
22 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10
29 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT 7-11
30 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT
5-8:30

WICKED PEACH

3 - One Pelham E., Newport, RI
16,17 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT
24 - Legends, Gales Ferry, CT

WILSON KANE

1,17 - Mews Tavern, Wakefield, RI
2 - Clydesdale, Westerly, RI
3 - La Vita Gustosa, E. Haddam, CT
7,21 - Sully's Cafe, Groton, CT
8,22,30 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
9 - Penny Lane Pub, Old Saybrook, CT
10 - Angie's Pier 27, Mystic, CT
14,28 - Whitfield's, Guilford, CT 7pm
15 - Hard Rock Cafe, Ledyard, CT
16 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
23 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
25,27 - Griswold Inn, Essex, CT

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Prizes & giveaways
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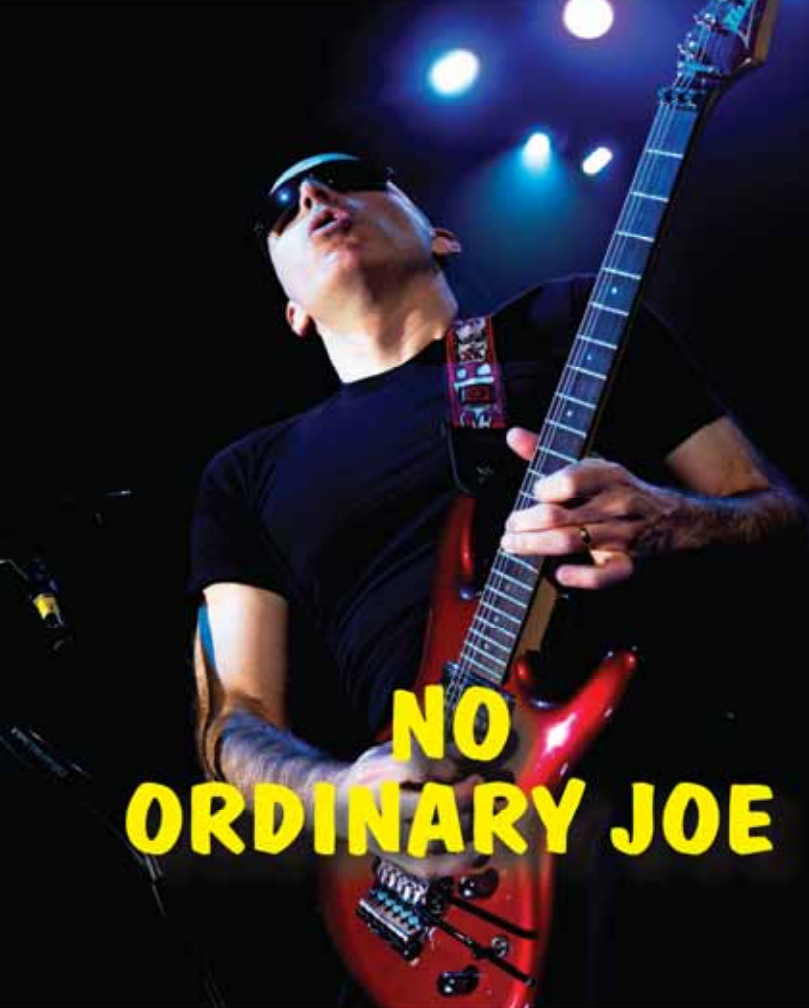
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By Walter Modliszewski

Throughout his 25-year career as a solo recording artist, guitar virtuoso Joe Satriani has continually blazed new trails in the arts of music composition and guitar playing. With his current venture as a performer on the 2010 Experience Hendrix Tour, Joe has apparently come full circle. As the story goes, Joe quit his high school football team on the day of Jimi Hendrix's death in order to devote his life to the guitar. The Experience Hendrix Tour features several amazing artists banding together to pay tribute to Jimi Hendrix, the legendary man and his equally legendary music. Other performers on the tour include Eric Johnson, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Aerosmith guitarist Brad Whitford, Ernie Isley, Living Colour, and bassist Billy Cox, who performed with Jimi Hendrix at Woodstock and with the Band of Gypsies.

Joe Satriani initially gained worldwide attention as a "guitar teacher of the stars," as his former students include Steve Vai, Kirk Hammett (Metallica), and Larry Lalonde (Primus). Then, after years of performing as a sideman for various artists, Joe recorded his first full length solo record, *Not of This Earth* in 1985. Although the record was not a huge seller, it clearly foreshadowed the tremendous success that Joe would later enjoy. It is an excellent "guitar record" that can be enjoyed by all, as each song combines virtuoso technique with gorgeous melodies. This is a combination that Joe has successfully employed throughout his recording career.

Joe followed up *Not of This Earth* in 1987 with *Surfing With the Alien*, the record that forever changed instrumental rock guitar. For this record, Joe brought a pop sensibility along with a willingness to explore several different styles of guitar playing. The instrumentals on this recording combined elements of hard rock, pop, blues, funk, jazz, new wave, and surf music. The result was a unique sounding record that is still just as exciting to listen to today as it was 23 years ago. The album spawned three hit singles, as the title track, "Satch Boogie," and "Always With You, Always With Me" all became rock radio staples. *Surfing With the Alien* broke into Billboard's Top 30 album chart, and it was ultimately certified platinum.

The musical and commercial success continued for Joe Satriani, as his next two records, *Flying In a Blue Dream* (1989) and *The Extremist* (1992), were both certified gold. During this period, Joe's song "One Big Rush" was featured in the film "Say Anything," and "Summer Song" was utilized for a widely aired television commercial for the Sony Discman. Joe's immense popularity proved that there was an audience for music that didn't fit into tidy categories, and his success opened the door for the slew of rock instrumentalists who have since followed his path.

In 1996, Joe joined forces with two other highly acclaimed instrumental guitarists (Steve Vai and Eric Johnson) for the G3 Tour. This was an unprecedented event, as never before had these three premier guitarists appeared and toured together. The blistering performances of each artist were captured for the CD and DVD *G3 - Live In Concert*. Joe has since reprised the G3 Tour several times, and the other guitarists have included Yngwie Malmsteen, John Petrucci (Dream Theater), and Paul Gilbert (Mr. Big).

Joe has since continued to release ground-breaking solo CDs and DVDs, and his latest release *Live In Paris: I Just Wanna Rock* was filmed during his 2008 tour in support of his previous CD, *Professor Satchafunkilus and the Musturbation of Rock*. The new DVD (and the two-CD companion collection) captures his band's performance of a 22-song set that combined classic Satriani tunes with a generous helping of new songs.

For Joe Satriani, 2009 was arguably his most successful year yet. After years of recording and performing as an instrumental solo artist, he finally realized his lifelong dream of forming a bona fide vocal oriented rock band with Chickenfoot. This new band includes vocalist Sammy Hagar and bassist Michael Anthony (both formerly of Van Halen) and current Red Hot Chili Peppers' drummer Chad Smith. The band's eponymous debut album is filled with high energy, riff heavy, and downright funky songs that are absolutely contagious. The band enjoyed a successful world tour, and the record was certified gold. In this age of eroding CD sales, this is a truly stunning achievement. The future for Joe Satriani is indeed very

bright (and busy), as he will now be juggling the demands of his solo career with those of Chickenfoot.

I had the pleasure of speaking with Joe while he was on the road for the 2010 Experience Hendrix Tour, and our conversation is provided as follows:

How has the Experience Hendrix Tour been going so far?

JS: It's been fantastic! It's very fresh in my mind because I've been writing these tour blogs for "Music Radar" and I've had to encapsulate every day. It is a wonderful experience for all of the players without a doubt because it's the only kind of a tour where you get so many musicians together. We're hanging out every day, we're traveling together, and we're listening to each other every night. The main thing is that none of us are playing our own music. We're all away from our main gigs, and there's no self-promotion going on. We're all focused on celebrating the music of Jimi Hendrix, so this creates a different feeling on tour. Everyone's having a great time, and the audience is loving it.

How did you get involved in the Experience Hendrix Tour?

JS: I got a phone call from John McDermott and Janie Hendrix, the CEO and directors of the Experience Hendrix foundation. They've done about five tours, and I've been invited to each one of them. This time, I actually had time. Usually I'm busy. I'm out of the country on tour, or I'm in the studio and I can never really take part. I only played at one show on the very first tour many years ago. This time it was perfect timing. My Chickenfoot tours were finished, and my solo tours were done. I actually was going to spend four months at home just working on the next Chickenfoot record and my next solo record. When this offer came in, I said "Yeah, let me do it!"

Which Hendrix songs have you been performing, and why did you select these particular songs?

JS: I've been doing the instrumental "Third Stone from the Sun," "Foxy Lady," "All Along the Watchtower," and "Red House." The way John McDermott likes to arrange this for the musicians is that he asks everyone to give their top five songs, and then an additional top ten Hendrix songs, that they would like to play. He then gathers all the information, and then he decides who would constitute a good pairing of players. He came back to me and said: "How about doing these four songs, and how about using Living Colour as your band?" I thought that was brilliant, and it turned out to be not only a great choice of songs but a great pairing of musicians. We have a great time every night, me and Living Colour.

Since you're doing this tour, is it safe to assume that Jimi

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Hendrix was a major influence on your music and your guitar playing?

JS: Yes. Jimi Hendrix was a major influence without a doubt. He was the reason I started playing guitar. I gave up sports and decided to be a guitar player the day he died, and I never looked back. I was actually a drummer starting at age nine, and I struggled with it. Then I started to get into the music of my older sisters and my older brother, and one of those artists was Jimi Hendrix. As soon as I heard him, I became his number one fan. So I was pretty devastated when he passed away, and that changed my life.

What other artists did you listen to during this period?

JS: I grew up listening to everything that my older siblings were listening to. Through them, I listened to early American rock and roll, R and B, blues, Motown, and the British Invasion. As I started to become a bit more self-aware, I started to listen to what was becoming what we call "rock" today. Starting at around 1966, I began listening to that style of music: Jimi Hendrix, Cream, Jethro Tull, and The Who. Those bands were creating a new style, whether they knew it or not.

I also listened to a lot of jazz. My parents were of the jazz age, so they played a lot of jazz music in the house. I listened to Miles Davis, Wes Montgomery, and John Coltrane, and I then got into "fusion." I studied classical theory in high school, and I studied bebop with Lenny Tristano. I just wound up with a somewhat unusual style that is the sum total of all of those influences.

How much did you used to practice when you were learning how to play guitar?

JS: As much as I was allowed to. When you first start out, it's tough to get past an hour of real practice. You spend a lot of time just fooling around, or playing with friends. I tried to increase it from a half hour to an hour, to an hour and a half, and to two hours. When I was in high school, I started to wake up early to practice an hour before school. Then at night, I would try to put in another hour or two. In between after-school activities, jobs, homework, all that kind of stuff, it was always very difficult. My family likes to remind me that I was always practicing. I brought my guitar everywhere, and I insisted that I had to play. So I guess I was pretty serious about it.

How much do you practice nowadays?

JS: I don't really get a chance to practice the way that I used to. It's not really the same. When you start out, you don't know stuff. You don't know harmonic minor harmonized in thirds in every key. Practicing that stuff takes weeks to commit to memory. Once that is committed to memory, that kind of practice isn't necessary anymore.

I guess I spend more time writing with the guitar on, and then once something is written, it's new to me. I then have to teach myself how to make it work, and how to apply myself. That is a new kind of practicing. It's more of a "professional" kind of practicing. Back when I was young, I certainly didn't play as many shows or make any records. A lot of that pre-professional workout has been replaced by serious music making.

How do you think your latest DVD compares to your many previous DVDs?

JS: It's completely different in a lot of ways. We started out making DVDs trying to document the event, so the camera work was always pretty straight-ahead. Even pedestrian at times. When it came to making a "B roll," after the second or third DVD there was this attitude that we had to somehow break the monotony of the documentary type of performances. We began providing behind the scenes shenanigans. That sort of thing turned into a high art. Anyone who puts out a DVD has got to include a B roll. In fact, the DVD retailers will tell you that it's not really the performance that sells the DVDs. It's the B roll, the extras, and the interviews, and the goofing around backstage that really sells the stuff.

This time around, I wanted to do something different and I didn't really know what. I thought that we already had five or six of these things out, and I couldn't imagine putting out another one. Then we were approached by Gunther Kutsch (director), and he had a very different idea about it. He wanted to try to make the DVD look like what it would look like if you were actually at the concert. You're really surrounded by the light show. You're being hit with these images on these really tall LED screens, and you're caught up emotionally in the music. You're next to people who are all really into the show, and that was from his experience being at our shows. Our previous DVDs didn't really capture this. They looked more like a TV show where everything is plain and simple. Gunther got the idea to bring the true concert experience to the home DVD viewer. So he shot the movie and spent quite a bit of time editing, and trying to get the spirit of it into the disc.

The odd thing about the B roll of this DVD is that it is the opposite of all of the other DVDs. Instead of the B roll containing goofing off in front of a home camera, it's a very serious professional interview. It's an interview that I'm very proud of, and I feel it should have been done many years ago. I think the fans get a true insight, without any fooling around, into how I feel about touring, playing, and the writing process, making records, my influences, things like that.

Please tell me how the band Chickenfoot was formed.

JS: The back story is that I had been in a band with Sammy Hagar, Neil Schon, Michael Anthony, and Deen

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Castronovo about six years ago for a very brief period. I played one radio show with them, and the band broke up before I could even try to arrange my schedule to play with them.

Fast forward to February of 2008, and Sammy called me out of the blue and invited me to come to his show in Vegas. He told me to bring a guitar and jump onstage at the end of the night for a little celebrity jam. He mentioned that Chad Smith and Michael Anthony were going to be there, and the three of them had been playing together for about six months. He said it was a really rockin' trio, and they needed a fourth member to make it work. So I was thinking that I would just go down and have some fun, but what happened was during our sound check it sounded so good. And when we did the show, it just really clicked. We walked offstage and said: "Wow! We sound like a real band, and we should do something about this." We sort of shook hands and committed to somehow get together to see if we could write songs and really make something of it.

Who came up with the band's name?

JS: Chickenfoot was a name that Sammy had improvised one night before he was going on stage. He was a teenager, and he had to come up with a name for the band he was in. As he was walking on stage, the announcer asked: "What are you guys called?" He just said "Chickenfoot." Apparently, it became a funny phrase for him, and any time he was doing a project that may not take off, he would call it Chickenfoot as a temporary name. He mentioned it to me that night in Vegas, and I actually thought it was a really cool name. It ended up being a perfect name for us.

The Chickenfoot record doesn't sound at all like any of your solo records, nor does it sound like Van Halen or the Red Hot Chili Peppers. How did you guys develop such a unique sound?

JS: We really didn't go out of our way to sound like anything. What we tried to do was actually just make sure that the record sounded exactly how we sounded when we first played together. The very first set of recordings that we had were a bunch of demos. I had written a bunch of songs and sent them to Sammy, and Sammy had written some lyrics. We all got together at Sammy's studio, and we recorded four or five of these songs. As a band, we just arranged them and recorded them right away.

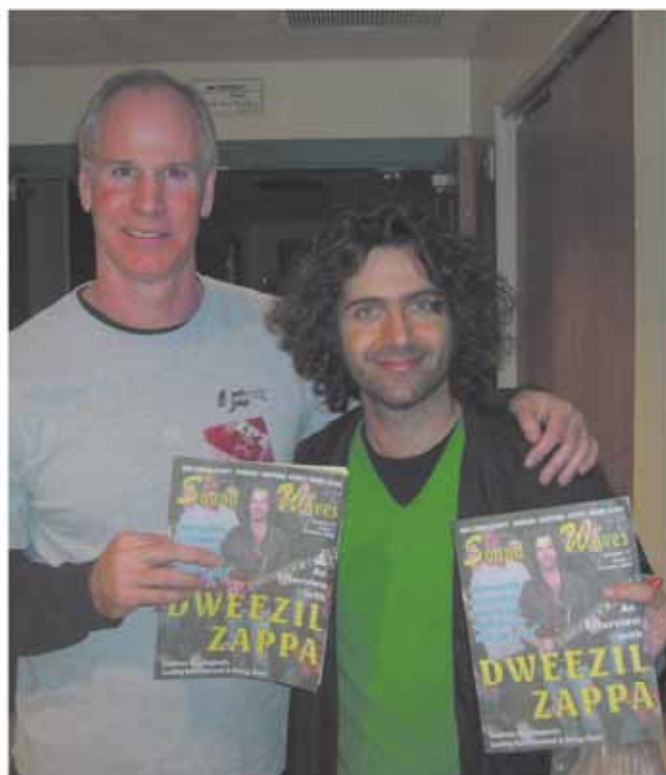
We then started to live with it, and we spent about two months apart before getting back together again. When we first got back together, everyone said: "You know those recordings we made are actually kind of cool." It was because everybody noticed what you just said. It didn't sound like me, or the Chili Peppers, or Sammy's solo records, or Van Halen. It had something else about it, so we all thought that we should just keep doing that. Let's

not try to get clever about it. Let's just write and record, and whatever we sound like, that's what we sound like. We made sure that that was the hallmark of the record.

As you know, there has been a lot of talk about a collaboration record between you and Steve Vai. Are you guys any closer to making this a reality?

JS: I don't think we're any closer. The funny thing is that both Steve and I are extremely driven composers, and so there's never any down time for us. We're always working on something. We keep saying that we should do something together, but we also know that it's extremely important for both of us to continue to find the time to do what we're driven to do. Which is to write our own original music. So I don't think it's very high on our list to tell you the truth. I think what we expect from each other are more solo projects.

You have to understand that we have been playing together since we were teenagers. It's not like it's something that hasn't happened yet. We've collaborated since we were little kids. The fact that it's not on a record doesn't really mean anything to us.



Writer Bill Harriman & Dweezil Zappa



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HEARING AID

Gil Scott Heron

I'm New Here

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"Gil Scott Heron is a self-proclaimed bluesologist". "I'm New Here", his first recording in 16 years is as remarkable a return as any we are likely to witness this, or any year. Although there is little new creation on the regrettably short 28 minute release, the production possesses a structure and purpose rarely encountered in music these days.

Only a madman would dispute that Gil Scott Heron's 1974 masterpiece "Winter In America" is not a timeless seminal icon in the cultural lexicon of American life in the 1970s. It got steady rotation on my turntable aside Jeff Beck's "Blow by Blow", Zappa's "Apostrophe", and Stevie Wonder's "Inversions". It was that vital.

Several other searing takes on American life in the seventies soon followed. Anthems like, "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised", and "Whitey On the Moon", elicited accolades like "spoken word poet laureate", and fore father of hip hop. Make no mistake about it. "Gil Scott Heron is a very important piece of the soul music jigsaw."

After watching Ohio fall in the 2004 Presidential Election, I contemplated "Winter in America" again as a metaphor for the Bush/Cheney years.

"Frozen aspirations, frozen hopes...the season we are trying to get over is "Winter in America".

The irony of its timeliness is that it translates to the newness of the Obama presidency and the convoluted, partisan Health Care Debate that has consumed our Tea Bagging nation for the past 15 months. I resurrected and began singing "Your Daddy Loves His Girl" to my toddler daughter from this gem from the past and wondered what happened to Gil Scott Heron? The reason I even bring this all up is, "I'm New Here" is as dark, stark, and haunting as "Winter in America" is timeless, brilliant and iconic.

Americans starve for scandal. Covering scandal is an entire industry. We are all voyeurs when our public figures publically unravel. Like Art Pepper, or Jaco Pastorius, Gil Scott Heron's genius has been smothered by addiction, homelessness, jail time, and a lack of meaningful intervention during his trajectory. Don't even get me started about criminalizing a medical issue. Producer Richard Russell found Gil Scott Heron rotting in a Riker Island jail cell on drug charges three years ago. He could not fathom that this once great American artist didn't have things to say. Dates at Tribeca's, SOBs, (the only venue that would hire him) soon followed and "Im New Here" is the remarkable result of their collaboration.

Since no music was written in prison, the artist and producer spent a great deal of time exploring songs Gil Scott

Heron could cover, ranging from Robert Johnson's standard blues to Smogs Alt Folk. This industrial and "Spartan" production seems designed to showcase the effects of age. Heron, employs his experiences to impact and enhance the recording with additional emotional resonance. He examines his own drama here and in a narrative entitled "Your Soul or Mine" from the place he defines as "a wilderness of heart break and a desert of despair". "If you've got to pay for things you've done wrong, I've got a big bill coming at the end of the day", he chuckles knowingly in an interlude called "Being Blessed". "It's always easy to forecast others doom", he laments near the end of this impressive new release. The Robert Johnson cover, "Me and the Devil", is the centerpiece, dark and brooding. The video, which accompanies it, is apocalyptic, and haunting, with masked, skateboard gangs, marauding a post hip hop world. Heron, transforms the title track cover of Smog's "I'm New Here" into something fresh, new, and all his own, with his age weathered baritone.

If the effects of age, drug use and Gil Scott Heron's willful unrepentance are thematic here, his cover of Bobby Blue Bland's hit "I'll Take Care of You" -like his cd release dates at the Blue Note, at the beginning of March - are a tender reminder that this "old school New York City griots" "still got game. This is not party music. This ain't no lovers rock. "I'm New Here", is a startling and direct battle for your soul and mine! "Peace go with you, Brother".

- Butch Oeser

BAR FLY JOURNALS CONTINUED

as your entertainment this summer! They started off at the BROWN DERBY in Uncasville and will playing at the BANK STREET CAFE on April 12 and again at the BROWN DERBY on May 22. With the winner being announced at the MUSIC LADY in Central Village, CT on May 29. Good Luck to all!!

A Sad Fare Well should also be given to Faithful BarFly Readers Madeline and Huey..you will be missed by all who knew you and who's lives you touched. I want to also mention that the FACEBOOK PAGE for the HAN-DLEBAR CAFE is doing Fabulously Well. Become a Fan and Post pix of your RockStar Nights Out or if you have a band or pictures of your Favorite Band you can post them on our page or post links...I love this idea! Hope to see you all there! And if you want to email me with any events send to barfly2u2@yahoo.com. Ciao for now, my Sweet Flies!



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