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Sound Waves

Volume 20
Issue 8
May 2010

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& MORE

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Interview
with

JIMMIE VAUGHAN

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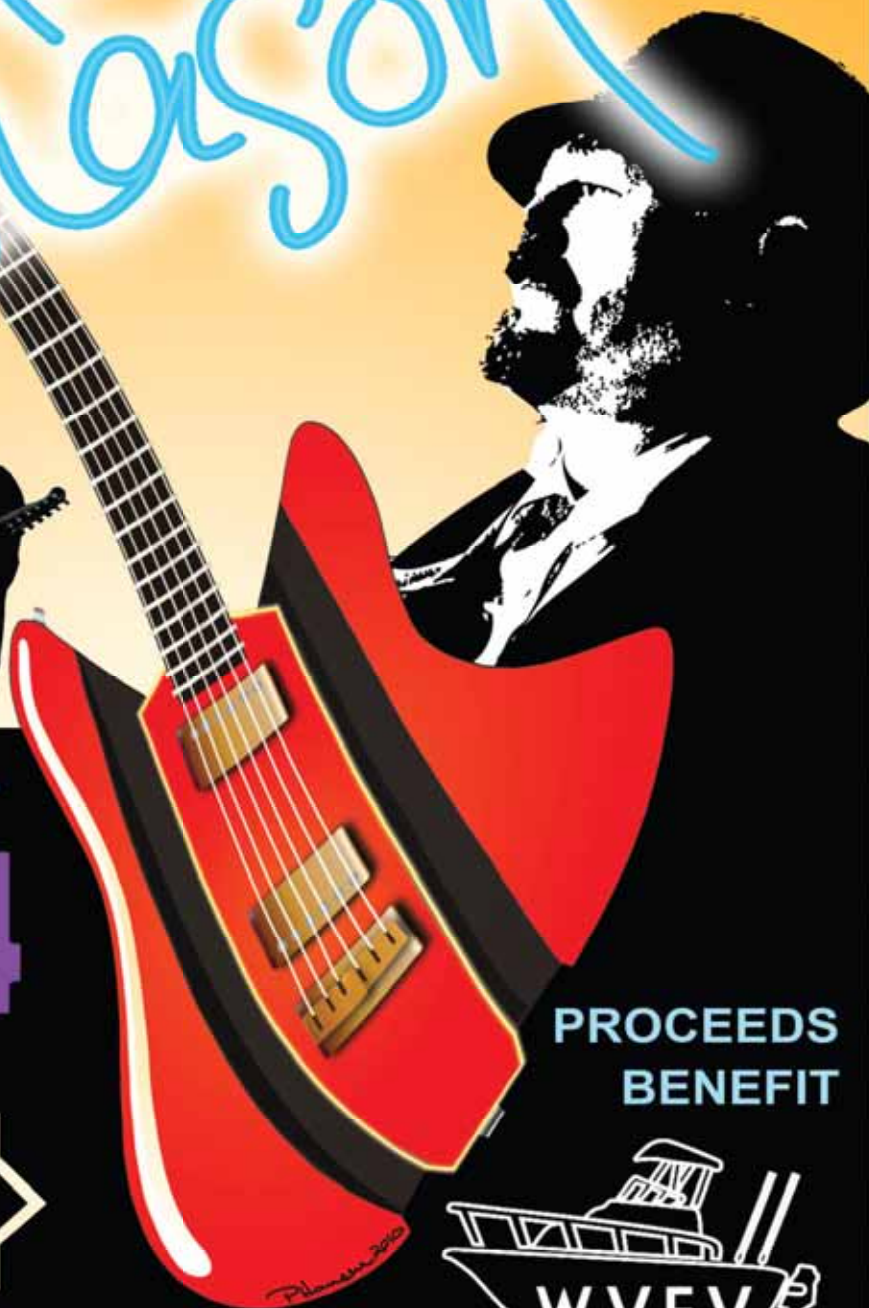


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Mothers Against Drunk Driving

Sound Waves

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28 BEN FRIERT	29 PRIVATE STOCK
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CONCERT DATES

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Alan Jackson

14 - Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, CT

Blues Traveler

21 - Lupo's, Providence, RI

Daryl Hall & John Oates

9 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Dave Matthews Band

28,29 - Comcast Theatre, Hartford, CT

Delbert McClinton

8 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Diana Ross

16 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

James Montgomery

James Cotton

20 - Mystic Theater, Mystic, CT

Neil Young

21 - Hanover Center, Worcester, MA

Pearl Jam

15 - XL Center, Hartford, CT

Puddle Of Mudd

14 - Webster Theater, Hartford, CT

Sugarland

21 - Comcast Center, Mansfield, MA

23 - Comcast Theatre, Hartford, CT

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Saturday, May 8 • 8 PM

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Friday, May 21 • 8 PM

Patty Larkin is part of the urban-folk/pop music phenomenon that spun off of the singer/songwriter explosion of the seventies, reinterpreting traditional folk melodies, rock, pop, bossa nova, drawing on anything from Dylan (Bob) to Dylan (Thomas).

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8 SOUND WAVES

MUSIC NOTES

"Bee My Ronette"

By Mark T. Gould



When you think about it, the pairing was inevitable.

On the one side, the irrepressible tour-de-force Ronnie Spector, the leader of the Ronettes, the original girl group, and the inspiration for much of the emotion and attitude, be it from man or woman, that shaped early rock and roll.

On the other side, Connecticut's own crown jewel, Christine Ohlman, arguably the inspiration for what remains of the emotion and attitude that, despite her grand efforts, has somehow gotten lost in what passes for popular music today.

Yet, no matter what you think about the growth, or perhaps the decline, of popular music, there can be no doubt that these two extremely talented, feisty, musically provocative, distinctly coiffed women form the bookends of a sort, bridging the roots, the legacy and the power of our music.

So, it came as no surprise that, when Spector was tabbed to headline a recent Westport, Connecticut benefit, she reached out to Ohlman to help her out as a present-day Ronette.

One beehive to another, you might say.

"The gig, with a great group of musicians from Fairfield County called Band Together, was a pure pleasure," Ohlman said about the pairing in a recent interview with Sound Waves. "(Ronnie) has pipes of gold. When she opens her mouth to sing, the truth comes out, and it's a beautiful thing.

"The other two women singing with me, Anne Husick and Susan Didrichsen, were just great," she added. "We'd all gone to school on Ronnie's records, and what a kick to be able to sing those parts. Anne is in Ronnie's band, so she schooled us. Ronnie's latest CD, 'The Last Of The Rock Stars' is a wonderful testament to how fresh and vital her sound continues to be."

You could certainly say the same about Ohlman's latest release, "The Deep End," a broad showcase of her myriad talents, released some five years after her last record, and following in the wake of the deaths of both longtime mate and producer Doc Cavalier and her band mate, Rebel Montez guitarist/founding member Eric Fletcher. The similarities that led these two seminal performers to the same stage clearly resonate in Ohlman's recordings, including "The Deep End," which are as consistently soulful and passionate as her friend and inspiration Spector.

"I listened to the Ronettes as a baby girl on my grand-

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parents' big old radio in their Bronx apartment," Ohlman remembered. "The older sisters of my Bronx girlfriends all wanted to be Ronnie. Everybody had the hair. We were all inspired by her great voice and even greater style. We've only been friends really for about a year, and it's been a pleasure."

Ah, yes. The hair. Ohlman's most distinctive trademark, other than her soul-filled music is her towering beehive 'do, which, she confirmed in our interview, is "a direct result of being a Ronnie Spector fan, for sure." But, both "The Deep End" and her consistently kicking live shows with her band, Rebel Montez, confirm, there is an awful lot more to Ohlman than her hair.

Just like her friend and inspiration Ronnie.

"I've been told that the 'girl group' sound that Ronnie was such a big part of inhabits a corner of my music, too. Enough folks have told me this over the years that I've got to give it credence," Ohlman said.

"Truthfully, I just write what I write. My influences come from a lifetime of listening to and traveling the path of American popular music, and I've driven down many of its highways as a songwriter."

And, like her main influence Ronnie Spector, it doesn't get much better, truthful or deeper than Christine Ohlman.




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12 SOUND WAVES

BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn



Hello...my Sweet Bar Flies.. well as promised by yours truly (via Facebook) I am writing this article to you from the beautiful beaches of Aruba, baby. About ten days ago, I received an invitation from the lovely Miss Carr, to travel with her to Aruba, to meet up with the Aruban "Ambassador" Barbara Stillman and enjoy a relaxing vacation with the girls (which I am rarely known to do) so I booked a flight...and

Oh My God...am I Glad I Did!

Day One: We arrive in Aruba on a Monday Afternoon... Barbara (who shall only be known as "Thelma") greeted us at her gorgeous 4+ bedroom home with cold drinks (Aruba Aribes and Balashis) and burgers on the grill. We drank, we swam, we ate, we drank...well you get the picture. We were then off to the Marriott for more drinks (Aruba Aribes) at the Pool Bar (swim-up, of course) then of course, it was time to DRAG ME AROUND THE OCEAN ON A GIANT FLAT TUBE, with 3 other people hanging on to shoddy little hand holds for dear life. Took About 12 seconds for them to wing us off and send us crashing into the sea.

Did I mention, this was my first day and I'd only been there about three hours. O.K., Grouper sandwich back at the Pool Bar and we're off. Pour me into the shower, attempt some make-up and a hot dress and we're off. Madame Janette's is absolutely stunning...a big grove of trees, lots of twinkling lights, a Latin Lover, crooning melodies in the center. Just beautiful...but someone had a long, long day and it was time to jump into an Aruban Taxi and call it a day.

Day Two: Long walk to the 'Dunk...oh yeah, the 'Dunk, baby. Got 'em there too. Medium vanilla ice extra extra. Can it get any better than this? Well. It honestly can..I had the most fabulous time with Wendy, Thelma, Kirsten and Kelly, and I can't wait to do it again....the rest of this story will be kept a secret...because if I Told You...I'd Have To KILL YOU!

Anyways...what a month, I tell you...Dave Turano sent an email that his band SOULSHOT has been nominated for a Motif Award in another regional magazine. I wish them the best in the Reggae/Jamm Band Category! I also received an email from TOM at CHAPLIN'S in New London, on Bank Street. Formerly Luca's, it is showcasing 1 and 2 piece bluesy bands. Check them out!

Had my Tax Day Party at the HANDLEBAR CAFE. Per usual, I had the always handsome DAVE CHRISTINA, rockin' the House! Michelle James is, by far, the best karaoke singer these ol' ears have ever had the pleasure of listening to. Lovely job, girl! Thelma stopped by with Lisa, Wendy and Nadine. Lisa even sang a quick tune

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with me! Although I really gave her no choice! (At least I didn't make you dance, Lisa) I wanna thank everyone who stopped by, for another fabulous night. I really enjoy seeing all of you.

Had our First Poker Run Last night...It went really well. The Pot was \$320...that's \$320 that is not in your pocket, because you didn't show up! I took Arthur and the always stunning Barbetta with me in the Street Rod. We were the leaders of the pack and what a pack it was. We had Rich and Court and Dave, etc. from somewhere faraway. They came in for a beer and were soon persuaded to take a chance and a cruise with us around town.

Our second stop was at HOOTIES "GOOD TIMES". He was hosting a benefit for the JOHNNYCAKE CENTER in Westerly and was offering an All-U-Can Eat Buffet for a \$5 donation to the Center. Everything was delicious, we watched the Derby, said Hello to Hootie and we were off!

Third Stop was the ANDREA in Misquamicut. The view is wonderful, air a bit nippy but definitely puts thought of summer in your mind. Met new friends Bob and Melissa? there and said Hello to Miss Rebecca. Nextesterly. So glad to see Miss Rosey bounced back! The Flood was devastating to many businesses in our area and thankfully a large percentage have reopened including CLYDESDALES which offers live entertainment and no cover frequently throughout each week. So stop by and say hello to Miss Rosey...tell her the BarFly sent you!

Back to the Bar and the winner of the \$320 was.... Fudd...sucks i know, but he was happy. Tipped me well and bought a round for the bar, what more could you ask for?

Well, gotta go.. busy, busy, busy. Wanna thank Ed Haberek for stepping up and Celebrity guest bartending for me at the KNICK last week. Heard he did well for his Charity and I will be stopping by to visit Patty Algieri at the KNICKERBOCKER CAFE soon, I promise. Happy Birthday also to Luna Mae who will be One! Visit me on Facebook at the HANDLEBAR CAFE or shoot me and email at barfly2u2@yahoo.com. Ciao for now, my sweet, sweet flies.



Luna Mae



May Marks Our One Year Anniversary!



May 16
Jimmie Vaughan & The Tilt-A-Whirl Band



May 29
The Pawcatuck River Blues Review

OPEN MIC NIGHT
EVERY WEDNESDAY @ 8PM

UPCOMING SHOWS

Sat, May 1 • 9pm • \$7 James Road Band (Classic Rock/Modern) Thurs, May 6 • 9pm NO COVER Chris MacKay & The Tone Shifters (Blues) Fri, May 7 • 9pm • \$5 Alter Ego Sat, May 8 • 9pm • \$20 John Cafferty & The Beaver Brown Band Hit Songs: "On the Dark Side" & "Tender Years" Thurs, May 13 TBA Fri, May 14 • 9pm • \$5 Never Enough (Rock) Sat, May 15 • 9pm • \$10 The Ravers (Roots/Rock/Reggae) Sun, May 16 • 9pm • \$40 Jimmie Vaughan! And The Tilt-A-Whirl Band	Fri, May 21 • 9pm • \$5 Special 20 (Funk/R&B/Rock) Sat, May 22 • 9pm • \$10 "The Beehive Queen" Christine Ohlman Current and long-time vocalist for The Saturday Night Live Band! Thurs, May 27 • 9pm NO COVER Joe Nigrelli & The Truth (Rock/Alternative) Celebrity Bartender 6-8p w/ Larry Hirsch & Debbi Bammer Proceeds to Benefit Stand Up for Animals (Free the Cats!) Fri, May 28 • 9pm • \$10 3 BANDS! Desolation Angels, Green Tea & Ripe CELEBRATE THE KNICK'S ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY! Sat, May 29 • 9pm • \$30 The Pawcatuck River Blues Review FEATURING: Duke Robillard, Greg Piccolo, Sugar Ray Norcia, Johnny Nicholas and an All-Star Band! Jonah Smith, Marcia Ball, Terry Adams Quartet in June! Check our website for details
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BAND DATES

ALTER EGO

7 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI
22 - Cleats, Westerly, RI
29 - Sandy's, Misquamecut, RI

BAND OF HUMANS

15 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
21 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT

THE CARTELLS

8 - Fisherman, Noank, CT 8-11
12 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10
28 - Donahues, Madison, CT
29 - Jakes, Wallingford, CT
31 - Terra Mar, Old Saybrook, CT 6-9

DAN STEVENS

7 - Elmridge, Pawcatuck, CT
8 - Holmberg, Gales Ferry, CT 1-4
14 - Leadbetter's, Fells Point, MD
16 - Bullfrog Brewery, Williamsport, PA
19 - Publick House, Newcastle, ME 6
20 - Dolphin Striker, Portsmouth, NH
21 - Black Bull Tavern, Rockland, ME
22 - Harbor Inn, York Harbor, ME
27 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
29 - Music Center, Coventry, CT 2-4
29 - St. Paul's, Willimantic, CT 7:30
30 - Fairgrounds, Durham, CT
31 - Vineyard, Clinton, CT 12-3

DAN WATSON

11,25 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
30 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT

DOGIE & THE COWPIE POACHERS

12,19,26 - Fastnet Pub, Newport, RI

FULL CIRCLE

8 - Triple P, Pawtucket, RI

14 SOUND WAVES

21 - Back Street, Warwick, RI
22 - JC's Tavern, W. Greenwich, RI
28 - Narragansett Café, Jamestown, RI
29 - Henry's, W. Warwick, RI
30 - World Resort, Sturbridge, MA 7pm

THE GOAT ROPERS

8 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA 7:30-11:30
21 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA 8-12
22 - Elks, Maynard, MA

GOPHERBROKE

5 - John Harvard's, Manchester, CT
8 - Old Farms Inn, Avon, CT 8-11
15 - Billy Wilson's, Norwich, CT 8:30
22 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
28 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT
30 - Stanley Park, Westfield, MA 6-8pm

GREEN TEA

28 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

HIT PLAY

7 - Sneeker's, Groton, CT
8 - Pleasant View, Somers, CT 6-10pm
14 - Stash's, New London, CT
28 - Griswold Inn, Essex, CT 8:30

HOPE ROAD

31 - Skipper's Dock, Stonington, CT 2-6

JAMES HARRIS

7 - 84 High Street, Westerly, RI
8,12,19,22,26 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
11,18,25 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
14,21 Elmridge, Pawcatuck CT, 6pm
16 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 4pm
29 - Tastings, Mystic, CT
30 - Windjammer, Westerly, RI 1pm

JAY DEMPSEY & HIGHWAY CALL

16 - Sneekers, Groton, CT 4-8pm
28 - Sneekers, Groton, CT

MUNSELL BROTHERS BAND

7 - Christopher's, Groton, CT
8 - Clydesdale's, Westerly, RI
14 - June's Outback, Killingworth, CT
28 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT
29 - Bank St. Cafe, New London, CT

RED LIGHT

7 - Stashe's Cafe, New London, CT
8 - Up On The Rocks, Hartford, CT
22 - Paddy's, Misquamicut, RI
29 - The Cannery, Southbridge, MA

SARAH T

14 - Burke's, Niantic, CT
28 - Dogwatch, Stonington, CT

THE SHARKS

7,23 - Sunset Ribs, Niantic, CT
14 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
28 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT

SPECIAL 20

5 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT
21 - Kickerbocker Cafe, Westerly, RI

STYFF KITTY

8 - Wood River Inn, Wyoming, RI

STONE GROOVE

14 - Christophers, Groton, CT
29 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT

SUE MENHART BAND

14 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT
15 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT
16 - Sneekers, Groton, CT
22 - Café on Main, Colchester, CT
23 - Bleachers, Bristol, CT
30 - Exchange, New London, CT

SUNDAY GRAVY

6 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
7 - Richoni's, Groton, CT
8 - Andrea, Misquamicut Beach, RI
14 - Stash's, New London, CT 5:30-8:30
15 - Wood River Inn, Hope Valley, RI
19 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
20 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
29 - RI Quahog Co, Newport, RI
30 - Back Porch, Old Saybrook, CT 3-7

2 CAT ZOO

7 - Dogwatch Cafe, Stonington, CT
8 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
21 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

VERTIGO

15 - Happy Jacks, Plainfield, CT
21 - Stonewall Tavern, Storrs, CT
28 - Hanafins New London, CT

WICKED PEACH

14,15 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT
22 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT
28 - One Pelham E., Newport, RI

WILSON KANE

6,20,28 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
7 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm
8,22 - Blue Cottage, Branford, CT 3pm

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- 8 - Hanafin's, New London, CT
- 9 - Exchange, New London, CT 4pm
- 12 - Sully's Cafe, Groton, CT 6pm
- 13 - Senor Flaco's, Westerly, RI
- 14 - 2 Wives Pizza, New London, CT 3pm
- 14 - Cafe On Main, Colchester, CT
- 15,29 - Aspen, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm
- 16,30 - Unk's, Waterford, CT 12pm
- 17,29 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
- 19 - Whitfields, Guilford, CT 7pm
- 21 - Gilligan's, Westerly, RI
- 22 - Wood River Inn, Wyoming, RI
- 23 - Griswold Inn, Essex, CT 5pm
- 27 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

Mail Listings to the magazine or
E-MAIL:

Editor@swaves.com



A Bluegrass "food-raiser" to benefit the Food Pantry in Willimantic...

BLUEGRASS FOR FOOD

Sterling Park Campground
177 Gibson Hill Road, Sterling CT

Sunday, June 13, 2010

11:00 AM to 7:00 PM

Gospel Bluegrass Music

featuring:

THE GALLAGHER FAMILY BAND 11am

BREAK HEART HILL noon

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SAM TIDWELL & FRIENDS 2pm

CROSSOVER 3pm

EIGHT MILE RIVER BAND 4pm

MONADNOCK BLUEGRASS 5pm

NICK ANDERSON & THE GOSPEL FRIENDS 6pm

Admission to this all-day Gospel Bluegrass Music event is **FREE**,
but attendees are encouraged to bring donations of
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A truck will be on site at the festival to receive your donation.

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MC: Amy Orlomoski. WHUS-FM

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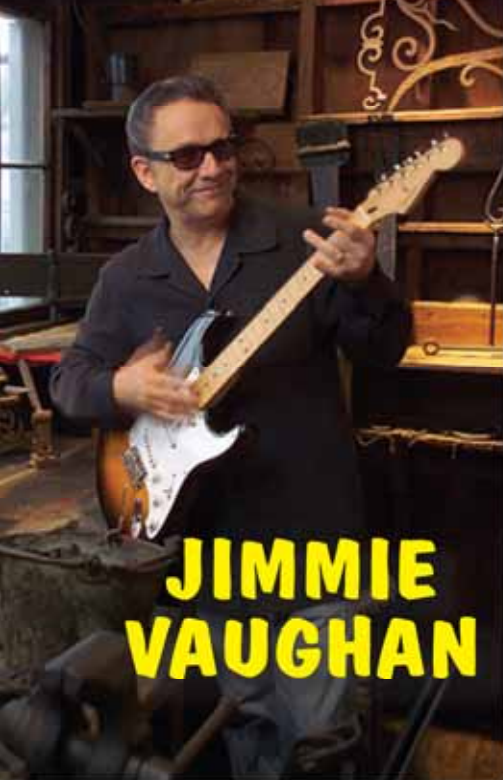
Friday Night ~ June 4th

EVER AFTER

Saturday Night ~ June 5th

HARD KNOXX





By Don Sikorski

Some people don't mind what they do for a living. Others may dread the thought of their workplace. Jimmie Vaughan proudly states that he has the best job in the world. And who could argue? After all, the 59 year-old Texan and blues guitar legend has been able to carve out a pretty good living doing exactly what he loves best; playing music. One of the most respected musicians of his time, Vaughan can claim over forty years of experience and a dozen albums to his credit. He

has truly found a musical formula that works. Vaughan's soon to be released effort, "Blues, Ballads and Favorites" (Shout! Factory) is due to hit the streets in July. His first new studio album in 9 years, Blues, Ballads and Favorites" offers Vaughan an opportunity to hand select his favorite tunes from a vast musical catalog and once again team up with many of his long-time musician friends. Featured are cover songs ranging from Jimmy Reed to Willie Nelson and everything in between, each customized with Vaughan's signature style. The results are vintage Jimmie Vaughan. "It was a lot of fun," said Vaughan of the new recording. "I just picked some songs that I wanted to do. To be honest, it was 100% selfish. They were just songs that I liked. Some of them were totally obscure, and then some of them were hits in the blues vein. In the case of "I'm Leaving It up To You", that was a #1 hit three times. Don (Harris) and Dewey (Terry) wrote the song, but that's not the version that people know. So I thought, I like this song; I'm going to do the bluesy version. It's a good song and I just liked it."

"Blues, Ballads and Favorites" is just that, totaling 13 tracks which range in musical style from melodic ballads (Wheel Of Fortune") to up-tempo shuffles ("How Can You Be So Mean") to jump blues (Roscoe Gordon's "Just A Little Bit" a particular standout). Vaughan successfully stamps each tune with his own signature sound. "I record like I'm doing singles," explained Vaughan of his approach in the studio. "I'll do two or three songs, and then the next time in the studio, I'll do two or three more. I'm over this idea, for the moment anyway, of going in and making an album. So I just go in and make 45's and then put them all together the way they work." Supporting Vaughan in his latest efforts are many long-time musical companions including George Rains (Drums), Billy Pitman and Derek O'Brien (Rhythm Guitars), Bill Willis (Hammond B3), Greg Piccolo (Tenor Sax), Kas Kasenoff (Baritone Sax),

Ephriam Owens (Trumpet), Ronnie James (Bass), and Lou Ann Barton (Vocals). Vaughan himself even dabbles in the harmonica on his cover of Jimmy Reed's "Come Love". "The guy that I was going to get was out of town", laughed Vaughan. "I have no chops, but I used to play the harmonica lot for fun."

Ironically, it was football that may have provided the groundwork for Jimmy Vaughan's musical career. Growing up in Dallas, Texas, football was king, and young Jimmie was told that playing football would be his path to acceptance at school. His junior high career at left half-back was short-lived, however, as a rough tackle resulted in a broken collarbone and a three month confinement to home for Jimmie. "A friend of my Dad's gave me an old guitar with four strings on it," recalls Vaughan. "The first day I had it, I learned how to play Jimmy Reed, except it was wrong. But it sounded good. And I'm still doing that." Jimmie was now hooked, and he had now found his passion in life. Playing in a number of bands around the Texas area, his first notable band, The Chessmen, also featured drummer Doyle Bramhall and would once open for a young Seattle guitarist named Jimi Hendrix. Vaughan would later team up harmonica player Kim Wilson to form The Fabulous Thunderbirds in 1974. The band earned a strong following in the Austin area and would release their self-titled debut recording on CBS/Epic Records five years later. Vaughan would stay with the T-Birds another 10 years through 1989's "Powerful Stuff" before departing for a solo career. His next recording would be his most successful commercially, as "Family Style" would deliver the music that everyone wanted to hear, a collaboration between Jimmie and his little brother Stevie. The younger Vaughan brother had by then become a six string legend in his own right, and both made the most of their chance to record together. The "Family Style" album still carries a strong significance for Jimmie, who is grateful to have had the opportunity to record with Stevie Ray before his passing on August 27th, 1990. "When I was a little kid and Stevie was a little kid (Jimmie was four years older), somebody would come over to visit my parents and my Dad would say, 'Jim, get your guitar and come out here and play a song'. After a while, it became 'you boys get your guitars and come out here'. We would play a song, and they would always say, 'that's good. Maybe one of these days you boys could make a record together'. Later on, the record company started asking for it. That record ("Family Style") was a deliberate attempt to make a hit record and get on the radio. And I'm glad we did it, because it was a lot of fun. Of course, no one could have imaged what was going to happen." Ironically, Stevie is pictured on the back of the "Family Style" album playing that very same guitar that big brother Jimmie first learned to play Jimmy Reed songs on.

In addition to a new album, Jimmie Vaughan will also be making a stop in the area when he and his band visit The Knickerbocker in Westerly, RI on May 16th. The South-eastern Connecticut music roots run deep for Vaughan, and a return to "The Knick" will surely bring back some fond memories. Names such as Duke Robillard (Vaughan's

eventual replacement in the Thunderbirds), Ronnie Earl, Al Copley, Greg Piccolo, and Fran Christina can all claim ties to the area. "Those days were a lot of fun," recalls Vaughan. "I haven't played the Knickerbocker since the 70's. We used to play there with Duke (Robillard) and with Roomful (of Blues). And I still play with those guys today". In more recent years, Jimmie Vaughan's personal life has also changed since his last solo recording, "Do You Get The Blues", in 2001. "I got married and had twins," said Vaughn proudly of his new responsibilities. His 6 year-old girls have already grasped their Dad's musical influences, singing and learning to appreciate a variety of musical styles. Jimmie also has the luxury of appreciating music for what it is without having to worry about the next record. "I still play music every day," said Vaughan. "It's more important for me to play and to feel good about my playing than it is to have two albums a year or anything like that. I want it to feel good, and sometimes you have to step back and look at it. There's a method to my madness; doing what feels right." Vaughan is also comfortable with his musical direction, and his success has been the result of doing what he believes in. "I've always pretty much completely ignored the music business", said Vaughan of his approach. "Every time I've put out a record, it's all different. And they said, well you can't do that. They've all said that, from the first time we've made a record, they said you couldn't do that. Nobody wants to hear a band that plays 12 bar blues, why do you want that harmonica, and why do you want to play like that for. Nobody cares. They've been telling me that my whole life, and when I hear that, I think, well maybe I'm onto something here."

With each recording, Jimmy Vaughan continues to expand his musical horizons yet at the same time remains true to what he does best. "I think my style has evolved a little bit," explained Vaughan. "You can tell it's me from the first time you've ever heard me to now. It sounds the same. That just happened naturally, I guess, from playing all the time. I learned from my heroes. At first, I tried to copy them. I stole a little bit from each one. I'd rather say "steal" than "borrow", because if you really want to make it yours, you have to steal it. The guys that I love, Buddy Guy, B.B. King, they all learned from what they loved. And I listened to the same guys that they listened to because they told me about them. They had their own songs, and I wanted to be like them, so I made it my business to figure out what to do." Eric Clapton came out when I first started playing. I heard him and I just went "wow". A striking similarity between the careers of Clayton and Vaughan is certainly the loyalty that each had portrayed to deep rooted blues music. "I guess there are plenty of other people out there doing stuff they don't love," explains Vaughan. "I just like the kind of music that moves me," Vaughan explained. "I figured out when I was a kid that there's a whole world of music out there and you need to go find what it is that you want; what flicks your switch, and just reject the rest. Because nobody can tell you what you like." Jimmie Vaughan's success can certainly be attributed to his loyalty to what he believes in. "I don't

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HEARING AID

Jeff Beck

"Emotion & Commotion"

Over his decades-long music career, Jeff Beck has covered numerous styles including blues, psychedelic rock, hard rock, rockabilly, and jazz/rock fusion. For his first studio record in seven years, the firebrand guitarist has returned with an eclectic mix of tracks that demonstrate his incredible versatility even further. "Emotion & Commotion" features Jeff's amazing playing backed up by a 64-piece orchestra on several songs. The record also includes contributions from a trio of singers: Grammy-winning soul singer Joss Stone ("I Put a Spell On You" and "There's No Other Me"), opera singer Olivia Safe ("Serene" and "Elegy for Dunkirk"), and jazz singer Imelda May ("Lilac Wine"). The result of these collaborations is yet another fine addition to the long list of excellent Jeff Beck records.

Jeff Beck first emerged on the music scene in 1965 when he replaced Eric Clapton as the lead guitarist in the Yardbirds, the blues/pop/psychedelic rock band that remarkably also launched the career of Led Zeppelin's Jimmy Page. Beck's 20-month stint marked the band's apex, and his guitar playing provided the fuel for this band's explosive sound. After Jeff was "thrown out" of the Yardbirds, he formed the Jeff Beck Group along with singer Rod Stewart. Unfortunately, this great blues rock band broke up on the eve of the Woodstock Festival, where they were scheduled to perform. A few years later, Jeff made a bold decision to turn down an offer to join the Rolling Stones, and he instead launched a solo career as an all-instrumental jazz/rock fusion artist. This decision produced two of the greatest guitar records of all time: "Blow By Blow" in 1975 followed by "Wired" in 1976. Since then, Jeff has continued to push the boundaries of rock guitar with one excellent release after another.

Jeff Beck's guitar playing is very hard to describe, as there is simply no other guitarist on the planet that sounds remotely like him. His playing features dazzling technique and endless creativity, but what sets him apart from all of the other guitar greats is his unique ability to coax so much raw emotion from

his instrument. After witnessing one of Jeff's performances, Eric Clapton proclaimed that "Jeff is probably the finest guitar player I've ever seen." On a different occasion, Jimmy Page seconded this notion by stating: "No one has ever equaled what Jeff has done." Upon hearing Jeff's music, it would be extremely hard to disagree with either of these two assessments of his playing.

"Emotion & Commotion" opens with "Corpus Christi Carol," a light instrumental that features Jeff's expressive playing backed by the orchestra. These seemingly disparate elements work perfectly well together. The album then kicks into high gear with "Hammerhead," a rockin' instrumental with a deep groove that is reminiscent of his jazz fusion work in the mid 1970s. This track is followed by "Never Alone," a somewhat lighter instrumental that is also in the jazz fusion vein. The record then takes a sharp left turn with Jeff's instrumental guitar interpretation of Judy Garland's vocal performance of "Over the Rainbow." Jeff has described this unusual version as follows: "It has that Jeff Beck-wackiness to it. Anyone else would probably get arrested." In another ambitious guitar interpretation of a vocal performance, Jeff takes on Luciano Pavarotti's performance of "Nessun Dorma" from Puccini's opera "Turandot." It has been said that the human voice is by far the most expressive instrument. On this track, Jeff demonstrates how his Fender Stratocaster can certainly give the human voice a run for its money.

Perhaps the most enjoyable song on the record is Jeff's cover of the rhythm and blues classic "I Put a Spell On You." Joss Stone's soulful vocals blend perfectly with Jeff's explosive guitar playing, and the chemistry between these two performers is unmistakable. The song has been released as the album's first single, and millions (perhaps billions) of lucky viewers watched this dynamic duo's performance of it on the "Idol Gives Back" television special. If there is any justice in this world, "I Put a Spell On You" will rocket to the top of the Singles Chart. Upon hearing this excellent collaboration, one cannot help but wish that these two amazing performers would record an entire album together.

Overall, "Emotion & Commotion" is certainly the "lightest" recording of Jeff

Beck's career. Although Jeff has apparently decided to reduce the "notes per bar" ratio somewhat, the new record features some of his most beautiful playing ever. Since he delivers every note with such intense feeling, most Jeff Beck fans will not care that the record does not contain as much ripping guitar work as they've been accustomed to. The record serves as a reminder to his legions of fans that they should always expect the unexpected from this unique musical genius.

- Walter Modliszewski

Toby Walker

"Speechless....For Once"

Loose Truth Records/

www.littletobywalker.com

Frankly, we could call this "Toby Walker Finally Shuts Up," and it would be a high-spirited compliment for this one-of-a-kind performer.

For my money, and many others fans of the incomparable Walker, this release, his first fully-instrumental solo record, takes on a veritable musical history lesson on acoustic guitar, but may also be a double-edged sword. Not that it isn't great music, it is, pretty much like anything Walker touches with his muse. The flip side to an all-instrumental release is that you don't get to hear his incredible singing and the outrageous story telling that permeates his other records and live shows.

But, that doesn't really matter, because his exquisite, tasteful, just about perfect choice of material makes this as special as any of his other splendid recordings and his spellbinding live performances. Frankly put, the man can flat out pick it and play.

The record opens with a gorgeous rendition of the classic "Sweet Georgia Brown." If you are a Harlem Globetrotters basketball fan, you've heard this one before, but not in this master's hands, er, fingers. Think he can't be contemporary amid the classics? Think again. Walker gives immaculate, original interpretations of the Allman Brothers' "Little Martha" and "Whipping Post" (try the latter on acoustic guitar and make it work like Walker does, and you know you are in the presence of guitar genius), along-

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side Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer," (aka the theme song from "The Sting), The Beatles' "Norwegian Wood," Freddy King's "Hideaway," the equally smokin' "Dallas Rag," and bless him, an elegant, "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" that radiates the equal parts joy, wonder and longing that make that song so special.

Toss in his stand-up version of "Stars and Stripes Forever," which makes a listener wistful for parades, hot dogs and apple pie, and you've just about got the best acoustic panorama of American musical history that you'll find anywhere.

But, then, over his career, everything has been special in Walker's hands. Yes, Toby Walker has finally shut up, but this absolute gem of a record screams brilliance and taste at you, and that's something we always want to hear from him.

**** 1/2 - Mark T. Gould



Cover Story Continued

know if it was because I was selfish or if I was thick-headed or smart. I don't know. It just seems like the most satisfying way to do it is to go out and seek what it is that you love. And that's all I've done. I've got the best job in the entire world."

Jimmie Vaughan will visit The Knickerbocker Café in Westerly, RI on Sunday evening, May 16th. Check out www.theknickerbockercafe.com for ticket information.

JIMMIE VAUGHAN DISCOGRAPHY

FABULOUS THUNDERBIRDS:

- The Fabulous Thunderbirds (1979)
- What's The Word (1980)
- Butt Rockin' (1981)
- T-Bird Rhythm (1982)
- Tuff Enuff (1986)
- Hot Number (1987)
- Powerful Stuff (1989)

VAUGHAN BROTHERS:

- Family Style (1990)

SOLO:

- Strange Pleasure (1994)
- Out There (1998)
- Do You Get The Blues? (2001)
- On The Jimmy Reed Highway (with Omar Kent Dykes) (2007)
- Blues, Ballads and Favorites (2010)



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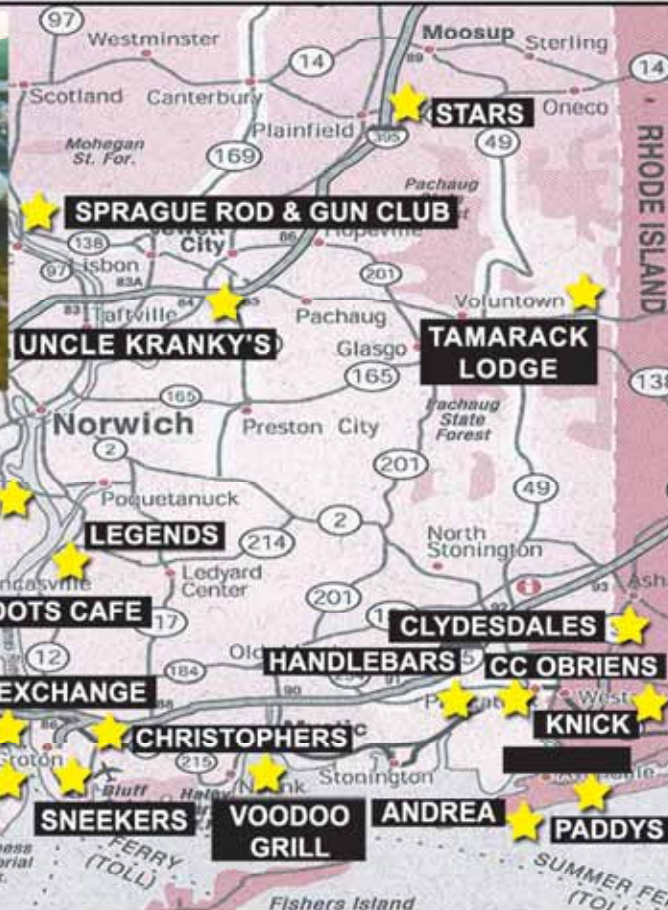
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FLOWERS & KAIN ~ 10pm

The 28th ~ **SUGARFREE**

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The 16th ~ **TBA** ~ 4 to 8

The 23rd ~ **GENERAL CLUSTER** ~ 4 to 8

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RIPTIDE

MAY 15th

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MAY 22nd

TBA - BOOKING
Check Website

MAY 29th

THRUST

JUN 5th

AMIDO BLACK