

NEW LONDON COUNTY - WINDHAM - MYSTIC - RHODE ISLAND

Sound Waves

Volume 20
Issue 12
September 2010

CLUB LISTINGS
RESTAURANTS
CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS
& MORE

An
Interview
with

EMMYLOU
HARRIS

A Southern New England
Entertainment
Guide Since 1990

1990



2010

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17 LAST RIDE	18 MAGNESIUM JAKE	19 TREASURE CHEST
24 NEVER ENUFF	25 ALTER EGO	

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Cover/Story Photo by
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Sound Waves

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17 BAND OF HUMANS	18 DAVE LAUDON DUO
24 SHAWN TAYLOR	25 RON DRAGO

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CONCERT DATES

Aerosmith

4 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Alice In Chains

20 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Bo Bice

19 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

Charlie Musselwhite

18 - The Met, Pawtucket, RI

Donna Summer

3 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Envy

29 - Jerky's Music Hall, Providence, RI

Joe Louis Walker

11 - The Met, Pawtucket, RI

Lady Gaga

16 - XL Center, Hartford, CT

Nickelback

28 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Quarrymen

26 - Garde Arts Center, New London, CT

Ryan Montbleau Band

10 - The Met, Pawtucket, RI

Shakira

17 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Sheryl Crow

25 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

They Might Be Giants

24 - Lupo's, Providence, RI

Toby Keith

24 - Comcast Theatre, Hartford, CT



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2010 Manhattan Short Film Fest

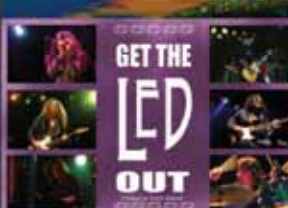
Thursday, September 30 • 7:30pm

Four Bitchin' Babes

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Friday, October 15 • 8pm

Health & Happiness Expo 7pm



Beatlegras onsis room

Saturday, October 23 • 8pm

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8 SOUND WAVES

MUSIC NOTES

"A Congressman Honors A Favorite Musical Son"

By Mark T. Gould



For Congressman Mike Quigley, you'd think this year was already busy enough.

He's running for re-election this November for his first full term representing Illinois's Fifth Congressional District in his hometown of Chicago, where he won a special election last year to replace Rahm Emanuel, who resigned to become President Obama's chief of staff. While in Washington, Quigley has been sitting on the Judiciary and Oversight and Government Reform Committees, where, well, let's just say, things have been a bit busy lately.

With a well-earned reputation as a hands-on, aggressive and forceful representative of his district, he's reportedly found time to work as a garbage collector to experience first-hand how hard the job is, eaten lunch in a school cafeteria to see what the government is doing about children's nutrition, and served hot dogs and soft drinks at popular eateries in his district to meet first-hand with his constituents.

Yet, despite his rigorous schedule, amid the pressures of being a first-term Congressman, he's made time for one of Chicago's favorite musical sons.

Last spring, Quigley sponsored a bill to name the Lakeview post office in Chicago after Steve Goodman, the popular Northside of Chicago songwriter who died of leukemia in 1984 at age 36. Goodman, as all good baseball fans know, was the author of "Go, Cubs, Go," the team's virtual theme song, as well as the poignant "Dying Cub Fan's Last Request." Music fans will also recall that, among a plethora of great songs, Goodman penned "City of New Orleans," arguably the greatest train song ever written, which was made a hit by Arlo Guthrie.

Both houses of Congress unanimously approved the legislation, which was signed into law on August 3 by President Obama, a Chicago native, albeit not a Cubs fan, but a White Sox rooter.

And, despite his other myriad responsibilities, Quigley said the decision to honor Goodman was an easy one.

"I chose Steve Goodman because of his contributions to

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folk music and the cultural heritage of the City of Chicago. He created some of this country's most stirring songs while battling cancer," Congressman Quigley said in an interview with Sound Waves.

"Today, we think of him each time the Cubs win a home game; he was a great Cubs fan, but his impact stretches far beyond the ivy-covered walls of Wrigley Field and it's important that we remember that he did so much more than pen 'Go, Cubs, Go,'" he added.

And, if you think this was just some hackneyed move by a politician eager for publicity, well, you don't know Mike Quigley.

"I'm a huge fan (of Steve Goodman)," the Congressman continued. "The Chicago music scene has always been a favorite of mine—from seeing some of the all-time great rock bands at places like the Metro, the Aragon Ballroom, and the old Chicago Stadium, to living in the same neighborhood as Billy Corgan during the Smashing Pumpkins' heyday."

OK, I'm betting the national debt that that your Congressperson has no idea who Smashing Pumpkins are, but, clearly, among many other things, Mike Quigley knows a thing or two about music.

"I first saw Steve Goodman at the Earl of Old Town in the '70s. That was my first experience with live music," he said. "When Johnny Cash, Arlo Guthrie and Willie Nelson think highly enough of you to sing your songs, then I think it's safe to say you're onto something". Most importantly, Goodman's family was involved in, approved of, and is very appreciative of the gesture, and the reaction in his Congressional district has also been heartfelt, Quigley said.

"The reaction has been terrific," he said. "We've worked closely with the Old Town School of Folk Music, an icon in Chicago music, and people all over the community are thrilled. This fall, we'll be marking the renaming with a celebration honoring Steve with music that will be a great way to pay homage to one of the all-time great songwriters and all-time great Chicagoans.

"(Steve's) family will join us for the dedication ceremony," he added. "I've been in touch with his mother, Minette, every step of the way and I can't wait for her to be a part of the celebration for her son."

And, Quigley said he had no doubt that President Obama, despite being a White Sox rather than Cubs fan, would sign the legislation.

"There was never any worry on this one," he said. "The President is a Chicagoan, so I knew he'd come through. Sox fans know Steve Goodman's contributions to music and Chicago, too."

But, Congressman, will renaming the post office branch after Steve Goodman, end the 102-year "curse" that Cubbies fan have lived with since they last won the World Series in 1908?

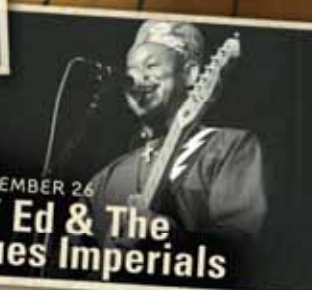
"What curse?" asked Quigley. "Every team is entitled to a bad century."



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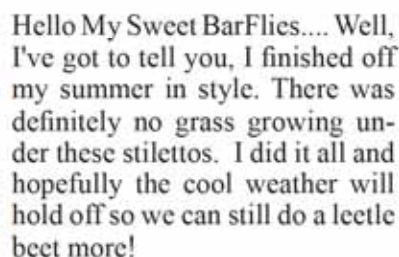


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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn



I saw KISS!! Yay!! I was lucky enough to find a connection (thanks Lauren, Bill and Dave) and got in to do an interview with one of the opening acts.

THE ENVY!! So, I arrived at MOHEGAN SUN at 3 on the day of what was known as KISS's "HOTTEST SHOW ON EARTH' Tour. There, I met up with my new best friend Tovi (pronounce Toooovi...i love accents) He was kind enough to escort me backstage to meet up with the guys in the Band.

The ENVY is the first band that Gene Simmons had signed to his new label Simmons Records. After auditioning dozens of bands over 18 months, The ENVY, five Canadians (oops, sorry Izzy!) four Canadians and a Frenchman, was chosen by Gene. And he couldn't have chosen hotter or more talented guys. The band, Shaun on vocals, Izzy on drums, Bodan on bass, Void on guitar and Jonny on keyboards, apparently contacted Gene Simmons after being signed and asked if they could possibly go on tour with KISS at sometime. Simmons sent back a list of all the North American Concert Dates. When Shaun asked if they were supposed to pick a date, Simmons reportedly said No...KISS was inviting them on all the Tour Dates!! Seriously...can you imagine?

Well, they were thrilled (of course) and I have to tell you after meeting them and watching them perform together, I feel Simmons made a Very Good Choice! Visit the THEENVYMUSIC.COM and download their music and you'll understand why. Songs like "Don't Let Go" and "Unfaithful" on a just released sampler EP on itunes let you hear their infectious pop/rock/alternative sound. A full length CD is due out this fall and you can also visit them on MySpace and FaceBook for more info, some awesome pix and a full schedule.

I went with my wonderful friend, Tami and Riggs and oh, what a time we had! We started off in the SKY BAR.. I had a Chocolate Martini that I could write about for hours, but we were there to see "The Hottest Show On Earth"! The ENVY came on and sounded awesome. Everyone in the place was on their feet.

The music of this band, I feel, was by far, the best and most infectious of the three bands which played before KISS came out. I mean, seriously, the place was Jammin'. Tami and I were dancin' and shakin', along with our friend, photographer Jonathan Blake, there to see the ACADEMY IS(another warm-up band)...Simply said, The ENVY was Fabulous! KISS came out and naturally ROCKED THE HOUSE! Gene and his tongue are my new best friends...the entire performance was definitely the "HOTTEST SHOW ON EARTH"

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Had a Blast!

Onward.. I visited the Charlestown Seafood Festival at Niniget Park this month. I brought a sweatshirt and I bought a bubble-blower and made the most delicious Chai-Martini's in a cute little (o.k. big) plastic container and packed up my chair(with cup holder) and went to watch DIRTY DEEDS! What a Blast! Saw Jon and Andrea and The Kelley's, Shannon and Kevin from KELLEY'S DELI in Westerly (oh yeah, saw them at DUSTY'S and the KISS Concert too....(stalkers?? oh, just kiddin')) Anyway...met a new cop friend ..kinda cute, Mike, but he was supposed to get me some red horns from the band... still waiting.

Went two days later to Ballards on Block Island and guess who I saw?(no, not the Kelleys) DIRTY DEEDS AGAIN! Cn I tell you what a Blast that day was? Tami, Ami, Brooke and Larry...plus the Richards...doesn't get much better than that. Lotta rump-shakin on the BALLARDS dance floor. Don't know about the rest of 'em, but I could barely walk for a week!

The Pawcatuck VFW is having Fall Ball with 80's theme on September 25. I received the call from Sweet Annie Bananie and said I would put out the word....so I am. I will definitely be going and I expect to see the rest of you there as well. The last one is still talked about to this day! Look for more details on FaceBook at Bar Fly.

Would like to wish my Mom, Miss Dawn, my best friend Bruce Mearns, Dave Pottie, Lisa Konicki and Mikey Nolan (Big 40) a Happy Birthday! Also Friends Trina and Rob and Eric and Ann-Marie will be getting married this month under this BarFlies Spy Eyes. Can't Wait!!

Sightings: 2CatZoo @ CLEATS Sounding Awesome; Rhonda and the Gang Partying Like RockStars at SNEEKERS for the FaceBook Party; Ron Drago @ WINDJAMMERS Deck singing Frank Zappa; and a Crazy Foam Party Happenin' at PADDY'S in Misquamicut.

Had a Fantastic Time this month and I actually have another busy month ahead of me. With the FALL BALL and the BREWS AND BLUES Event at the MYSTIC HILTON on Sept. 23 from 6-9, with the KARL KELLY band providing entertainment, you are sure to have a good time.



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Visit me on Facebook for up-to-date happenings, including many local invites and events with pix @ Bar Fly or post your event there! Visit swaves.com or Soundwaves on Facebook for more entertainment info. With all these tools you should be able to find something to do this month! Ciao for now, my Sweet Flies, until next month! (and yes, that is Gene's guitar in the pic)

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17th Fri. **YB1**

18th Sat. **THE SHARKS**

24th Fri. **RUDENESS**

25th Sat. **NATE MOTT BAND**

Oct. 1st Fri. **ALTER EGO**



Visit us on Facebook for info on scheduled bands, additions to the schedule or other events.
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The Green Stamps 9-17

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Columbia Fields 10-1

SmackDab 10-2

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11th - **Alter Ego**
18th - **Kevin Crandall Band**
25th - **Green Tea**

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Fri. 10th - **SANDY ALLEN & FRIENDS**
Wed. 15th - **BARB & SARA**
Thurs. 16th - **2 CAT ZOO**
Fri. 17th - **SUNDAY GRAVY**
Thurs. 23rd - **R.I.P.E.**
Fri. 24th - **VINCE THOMPSON & FRIENDS**
Wed. 29th - **KRIS BARKOWSKI**
Thurs. 30th - **IAN & MARCI**
Fri. Oct. 1st - **MYSTIC HORNS**

KARAOKE/DJ EVERY SATURDAY NIGHT



BAND DATES

ADDISON STATION

3 - Stanhope House, Stanhope, NJ
5 - Park, Willamantic, CT 2pm
8,22 - Samuel's Tavern, Springfield, MA
10 - Hanafin's, New London, CT
12 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
16,17,18 - Music Fest., Utica, NY
24 - Nikita's, Middletown, CT
25 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT

BAND OF HUMANS DUO

4 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
10,24 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
17 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT

BERRY BROTHERS

3 - Christophers, Groton, CT
11 - Sneekers, Groton, CT
25 - Stashes, New London, CT

BOB LAVALLEY

3,10,17,24 - Serapo, Westerly, RI 7-11
11,25 - Hilton, Mystic, CT

THE CARTELLS

6,13,20,27 - Terra Mar, Old Saybrook, CT 5:30-8:30
10 - Taste, Mystic, CT 6:30-9pm
17 - Donahue's, Madison, CT
18 - Jake's, Wallingford, CT
28 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 7-10:30pm

DAN STEVENS

3 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30
4 - Farmer's Market, Old Saybrook, CT 10:30-11:30am
4,18 - Angelico's, Glastonbury, CT 5pm
5 - Belltown Orchards, S. Glastonbury, CT 11am-2pm
5 - Indianfield Campground, Salem, CT
13 - Farmers' Market, W. Hartford, CT 3:30-5:30
15 - Community College, Manchester, CT 2-6
16 - Perigee, South Lee, MA
17 - Elmridge, Pawcatuck, CT 6pm
19 - Delta Grill, New York, NY Brunch

14 SOUND WAVES

23 - Farmers' Market, Simsbury, CT 2-4
25 - Chaplin's, New London, CT
26 - Festival, Westport, CT 11:30am
26 - Angelico's, E. Hampton, CT
29 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT

DAN WATSON

14,28 - Daniel Packer Inn, Mystic, CT
19,26 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT

DOGIE

& THE COWPIE POACHERS

8,15,22,29 - Fastnet, Newport, RI 11-1
17 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA 8-12

EIGHT TO THE BAR

3 - "The Kate", Old Saybrook, CT 8pm
5 - Town Beach, Westerly, RI 2-4pm
6 - Captain's Cove, Bridgeport, CT 3:30-7pm
11 - Bartlem Park, Cheshire, CT 5-7pm
11 - Beach Club, Madison, CT
17 - Swing 46, New York, NY

FREESTILE

3 - Stone House, Baltic, CT

THE GOAT ROPERS

3,5 - Francis Farm, Rehoboth, MA
4 - Bourne Park, Buzzards Bay, MA 7-11
10 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA 8-12
11 - Rodeo Bar, Manchester, NH
12 - Indian Ranch, Webster, MA 2pm
24 - The Lodge, Webster, MA

GREEN TEA

10 - Wood River Inn, Richmond, RI
25 - CC O'Briens, Pawcatuck, CT

HOPE ROAD

3,4,5 - Champlin's, Block Island, RI
6 - Skipper's Dock, Stonington, CT 2-6

JAMES HARRIS

3,24 - Elmridge, Pawcatuck, CT 6pm
4,5 - Paddy's Miscuamicut, RI 1pm
7,14,21,28 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
8,10,11,15,22,29 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
17 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
18 - 84 High Street, Westerly, RI
26 - Salt Water Farms, Stonington, CT 3-5pm

JAY DEMPSEY

& HIGHWAY CALL

10 - Sneekers, Groton, CT
17 - Stash's, New London, CT 5:30
24 - Burkes Tavern, Niantic, CT
25 - VFW, Montville, CT
30 - Dubliner, Uncasville, CT

Ms. MARCI

& THE LOVESICK HOUNDS

10 - Stonchouse, Baltic, CT

MUNSELL BROTHERS BAND

4 - C.C. O'Brien's, Pawcatuck, CT
10 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT
11 - Wood River Inn, Hope Valley, RI

THE PIRANHA BROTHERS

3 - Angelico's, E. Hampton, CT 7-11
11 - Jakes, Wallingford, CT

RED LIGHT

11 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
17 - Chacer's, Norwich, CT
18 - Ball's, Cranston, RI

SPECIAL 20

10 - Stash's, New London, CT 6-9
24 - Sneeker's, Groton, CT
26,27,28 - Foxwoods, Mashantucket, CT

STYFF KITTY

3 - Windjammer, Misquamicut, RI
18 - Sneeker's, Groton, CT
24 - Wood River Inn, Wyoming, RI
26 - Crandall Field, Ashaway, RI

SUE MENHART BAND

3 - Exchange, New London, CT
10 - Stash's, New London, CT
5:30pm
19 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 4pm
23 - Narragansett Cafe, Jamestown, RI
25 - Stanhope House, Stanhope, NJ

SUNDAY GRAVY

15 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
17 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

2 CAT ZOO

3 - Hanafins, New London, CT
4 - Dog Watch Cafe, Stonington, CT
16 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
22 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT
24 - Exchange, New London 6-9pm

VINCE THOMPSON

& FRIENDS

4 - Francis Farms, Rehoboth, MA 2-3
5 - Tamarack, Voluntown, CT noon-7
9 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10
24 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

WICKED PEACH

10 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT
11 - Playoffs Pub, Fall River, MA

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17,18 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT
25 - One Pelham E., Newport, RI

WILSON KANE

3 - Exchange Cafe, New London, CT 6pm
4 - Strawberry Park, Preston, CT 11:30am
4 - Cafe On Main, Colchester, CT
5 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 2:30pm
8 - Mooring, Guilford, CT 8pm
9 - Stryker's Cafe, Berlin, CT 8pm
10,16,24,30 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
11 - Casey's Pub, Groton, CT
12,26 - Griswold Inn, Essex, CT 7pm
15 - Serapo, Westerly, RI 7pm
17 - Gilligan's, Westerly, RI
18 - La Vita Gustosa, E. Haddam, CT 8pm
20 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
23 - Crooked Shillelagh, Branford, CT 7pm
25 - Aspen, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm

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Songs, to Emmylou Harris, are like precious gems.

"We are just the setting, polishing up that diamond and trying to show it off in the best way possible," says this American treasure and beloved singer-songwriter-musician.

Harris has received the music industry's highest honor, the Grammy, 12 times; been inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Grand Ole Opry, and was part of one of the most celebrated musical pairings in country-rock history, touring and recording with the legendary Gram Parsons until his death in 1973.

Her "diamonds" have sparkled through the decades and she says the satisfaction derived from combining beautiful words with "beautiful playing" is what continues to motivate and drive her artistically.

"When you get it exactly right, I get so much joy from that and it doesn't go away," she explains. "You are just so inspired by a good song. It really is about a good song and it doesn't hurt to have a great band and get a great groove together, but it's all about the song."

Turning 60 has not ebbed that inspiration.

She assures that she is still trying to expand her listening horizons and "to find the kind of music that resonates for what we know to be true at this point in our lives."

When you get to be 60, she already is on record as saying, "it's not like you stop living." "In fact," she adds, "I think you live more and do have something to say."

"I don't think you ever stop creating or yearning or being enthusiastic," Harris says. "That's a real important quality that isn't just for youth. We do need a little extra boost

maybe, but in a way the more we experience, the more we can experience."

Performing live continues to engage Harris. "The songs just come alive. They do (come alive) just sitting there by yourself if it is a good song. But if you are able to share that, the joy of playing a good song with a great band and having an audience to share that with..."

A lot of her audience has been there with her since the very beginning, she says.

"It's a great thing to have people not expecting you to do one thing or another and who are just happy to see what you will do," she says. She thinks that's what has kept her out on the road for so long.

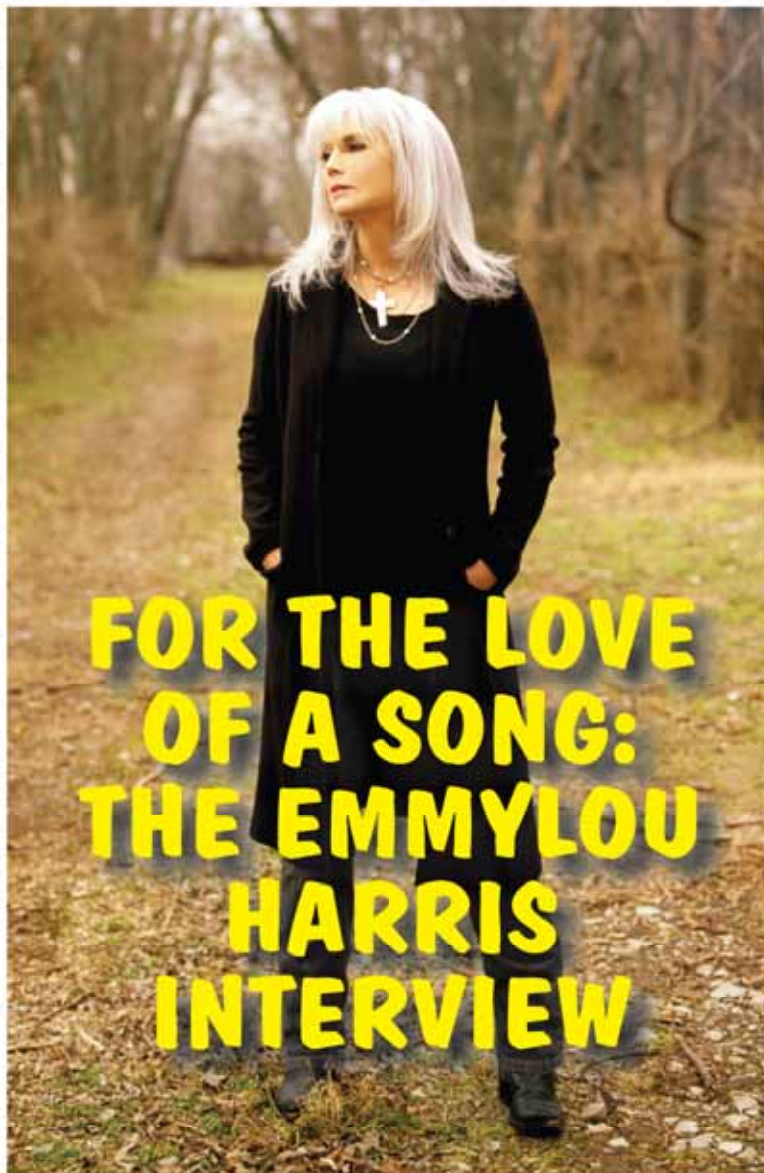
"I'm not locked into a formula. I don't have to do something over and over again where people expect the same thing night after night. I couldn't do that. I'm fortunate to have been just successful enough to do what I want to do, to have that freedom," she explains.

She has earned that freedom with wise choices, and opting for quality even at the expense of commerciality. Known for her winning collaborations, Harris recorded the landmark "Trio" album in 1987 with Dolly Parton and Linda Ronstadt. Neil Young, Mark Knopfler and Elvis Costello, among many others,

seek her artistic company.

Her latest "All I Intended," her first solo album since 2003's "Stumble Into Grace," includes a stellar assemblage of guests. Among them: Vince Gill, the McGarrigle sisters, old friends from the Seldom Scene and Glenn D. Hardin of her legendary Hot Band.

"I don't know if I really had a goal when I started. I knew I had to make a record," Harris explains through laughter.



By Rex Rutkoski

"I had taken a lot of time between records."

She had been on the road with Neil Young and Elvis Costello, performing with Mark Knopfler, assembling her "Songbird" boxed set of rarities and going out with Patty Griffin, Shawn Colvin and Buddy Miller for their "Three Girls and a Buddy" tour.

She recorded "All I Intended to Be" in Nashville and Los Angeles between October of 2005 and March of 2008.

"I really just went in, had some songs I loved for a long time and started with that," she recalls. It was produced by Brian Ahern, Harris's ex-husband, and engineered by Donovan (CORRECT) Cowart, both of whom collaborated with her on her "Elite Hotel," "Luxury Liner" and "Blue Kentucky Girl" albums.

"I knew Brian would optimize what we had and make it a good record," she says. "I had some songs I had started with and rummaged through cassettes. I actually still have cassettes," she assures, laughing. "And there were some people I wanted to work with specifically."

She wanted it to be song specific. "I don't know if I had the focus I usually had when going into making a record," she admits. "But Brian pushed and I needed that. I was as surprised as anybody that the record made sonic and emotional sense to me."

The result, she says, became somewhat of a look back on some of the people she worked with through the years and songs she loved but had never recorded, as well as her own writing. "I didn't touch every place I've been in 30 years, but we did a pretty good job of covering a lot of it."

The artist refers to herself as "a finder of songs, a gatherer of songs." What does she look for in that search?

"I don't know what that one thing is, but it's very, very lyric oriented," she replies. One great line can do it for her. "How can you resist?" she asks. "I look for that poetry that kind of rings true for you."

Revered songwriter Harlan Howard was on to something when he described country music as "three chords and the truth," she suggests.

Harris says this CD started coming together with "Shores of White Sands," a Jack Wesley Routh composition that speaks to surviving a failed love. Harris said she was drawn to it when Warner Bros. Nashville artist Karen Brooks first recorded it in 1982. Brooks added harmony vocals on Harris' interpretation.

Harris' "Take That Ride" is a frank conversation with God. Dolly Parton sings harmony on Harris' "Gold."

CONTINUED PAGE 24



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HEARING AID

Esperanza Spalding *"Chamber Music Society"*

Heads Up International

"Jazz ain't notching but soul. It's the voice of my people"

- Esperanza Spalding

The buzz has been building about bassist, vocalist, and composer, prodigy Esperanza Spalding for years now. With her 2010 Downbeat Jazz Critic Poll Awards for Acoustic Bass and "Rising Star" and a much-anticipated August 17th release date for Chamber Music Society that buzz is about to crescendo!

"Chamber Music Society" is Ms. Spaulding's follow up to her highly acclaimed best selling 2008 major label debut entitled "Esperanza". Recorded at the age of twenty-three, it yielded "a bewildering array of influences-fusion, funk, soul, R&B, Brazilian samba, and Cuban son, pop balladry and chanted vocalese, -with lyrics sung in Spalding's three languages, English, Portuguese, and Spanish." Her Heads Up debut rose very quickly to #3 on the Billboard Jazz Chart and has been heralded as "jazz for the iPod generation". Esperanza, became the best selling album by a new jazz artist in 2008 and remained on the Billboard Jazz Charts for 70 weeks. Promoting Esperanza on The David Letterman Show in June of that year, Paul Shaffer called her "the coolest guest we've ever had". Not too shabby for a 23 year old who just three years earlier became the youngest faculty member of Boston's Berklee School of Music and side woman to the likes of Herbie Hancock and Pat Metheny. She has also toured with her former Berklee teacher, master saxophonist Joe Lavano. I recently caught her performing at Central Park's SummerStage with McCoy Tyner, Ravi Coltrane, and Francisco Mela, who she has toured with in the past as well.

It certainly doesn't hurt when formidable jazz talent like Metheny are quoted as saying Esperanza Spalding possesses the X factor! Call it what you want, because Ms. Spaulding's star continued to rise in 2010 when she was personally selected by President Obama to perform (as per the tradition of one laureate invited artist to perform) in honor of the 2009 Noble Prize Laureate, President Barak Obama and again the following day at the Noble

Peace Prize Concert. She has performed at the White House on several occasions. Apparently, Michelle Obama really digs her. In 2009, Esperanza Spalding won the Jazz Journalists Association Jazz Award for "Up and Coming Artist of the Year" and the Jazz Week Award for "Record of the Year".

Esperanza Spaulding became the most searched person, and the 2nd most searched item, on Google after her February 7, 2010 appearance on Austin City Limits. On March 15, 2010, The New Yorker's John Colapinto did a must read article about this amazing young woman. In any article or review I have read about Esperanza Spalding there are reoccurring superlatives. Brilliant, prodigious, young, beautiful, heavenly, and new hope for jazz, redefines jazz, breathing fresh air into the world of American jazz, transcends musical genres, are the key words and phrases employed repetitively to describe Esperanza Spalding and her music.

On her second release for Heads Up International, Esperanza Spalding juxtaposes elements of jazz and classical music within the tradition of chamber music. Gil Goldstein co-produces Chamber Music Society with Ms. Spalding. Goldstein has produced Diana Krall and Natalie Cole and widely employs lush orchestrations with a penchant for string arrangements.

Inspired by the classical training of her younger years and backed by drummer Terri Lynne Carrington, pianist Leo Genovese, guitarist Ricardo Vogt, and percussionist Quintino Cinalli, Ms. Spalding "creates a modern chamber music group that combines the spontaneity and intrigue of improvisation with sweet and angular string trio arrangements". "Spalding's voice soars and provides an angelic counterbalance to her deep bass work". The results are no less than stunning!

Chamber Music Society begins with a composition Ms. Spalding developed from a William Blake poem. "Little Fly" showcases a stellar string trio as it enhances her vocals and bass chops into a melodic piece that is as quiet as the calm before a storm. The string trio is made up of well-known classical violinist, Entcho Todorov, violist, Lois Martin and cellist, David Eggar. "Knowledge of Good and Evil", and "Really Very Small", two other compositions penned by Spalding are studies in contrast. The former being enigmatic and circular while the latter is percussive, funky, and

taunt.

"Chacarera" is a jagged, percussive, and complex composition with manic strings and some aggressive piano interludes. Esperanza Spalding's vocal is the scat of angels. "Wild is the Wind" is a heavy brooding composition about longing and desire with angry strings and what to these ears sounds like a melodica. It has beautifully rendered poetic vocals that stun the senses with a delivery of drama and catharsis. Were it a Broadway musical it'd be the eleven o'clock number and be nominated for a Tony!

Gretchen Parlato and the great Milton Nascimento make guest appearances and contribute exceptional vocals to a composition apiece. Parlato appears on "Inutil Paisagem", while Nascimento duets on a folk song entitled "Apple Blossom". Both songs possess delicate vocal interplay that complements each artist's vocal range and style. "Apple Blossom" is as gentle as a summer breeze and much welcomed after the dramatic standing ovation in my mind after "Wild"! "Inutil Paisagem", the other duet begins a cappella and morphs into bass runs over percussive scat and lyrics sweetly sung in Portuguese. It concludes with both vocalists a cappella scatting percussion. Winter Sun is a syncopated, circular romp and "Short and Sweet" ties this modern chamber music masterpiece of a project into a bow of perfection.

Chamber Music Society is "the work of a brilliant young musical talent" who fearlessly "challenges the limits of jazz and its relationship to other forms of musical expression". It is the first of two of her current projects. The other is Radio Music Society and due for a spring 2011 release. It will feature "an exciting new repertoire of funk, hip hop, and rock elements fused into songs that are free from genre". Esperanza Spalding is "passionate about trying to push the music into the future, to bring in fresh influences and voices to prevent jazz from becoming merely a museum piece." If any of her amazing accolades have piqued your interest, be certain to run and not walk to whatever remnants of a record store that still exists in the ruins of the recording industry in your town and purchase Chamber Music Society. It could be the coolest move you make as Summer 2010 wanes into a distant memory.

***** - Richard L. Oeser

Modest Mouse

"No One's First and You're Next"

Sony: Epic Records

In this day in age, music seems to have lost its creativity and originality. Musicians and performers have taken to the notion that they are bound to the common sound, the sound in which people are used to hearing. Because of this right-sided music, artists who break down the walls of structure and classification are often overlooked. One band that seems to live by this liberated style of music is Modest Mouse.

The Mouse is different than other artists because of one thing; they can't be classified under one category, one sub-genre. After putting out five studio albums and nine EPs, Modest Mouse has established an original sound that is made up of a unique blend of punk, grunge, folk, blues, and not to mention (the occasional) horn section, which adds a polka-esque feel to some of the tunes. All of this is topped off with one of the most talented vocalists in music right now, Isaac Brock. Brock's voice is an explosive asset to the band; presented with such force and power, yet melodic to fit the accompaniment.

The band's new EP, "No One's First and You're Next" is different than previous albums, yet at the same time, very similar. To explain myself, the EP is a healthy combination of new music, but intertwined in that new music is older material that did not make it onto "Good News for People Who Love Bad News" and "We Were Dead before the Ship Even Sank." For an avid Modest Mouse listener, one can clearly note elements of the previous sounds and styles. "Whale Song," originally planned on being put on "Good News for People Who Love Bad News," captures the prominent guitar riffs that fans know and love from previous works, but is presented with a more progressive style.

"No One's First and You're Next" is such a unique album because, although is a compilation of older material, all the songs blend so perfectly with each other that it is as if they had been written chronologically. For somebody who has never heard Modest Mouse before, this is a fantastic album to give your ears the pleasure of listening to, because you not only get a glimpse of Modest Mouse's current talent, but you walk the stepping stones of their whole career. Modest Mouse has been on a musical journey, breaking down the walls of the common sounds

and providing the listener with an original feel and angst. If one were to try to categorize Modest Mouse in any one genre of music, it fits perfectly in only one slot: Modest Mouse.

- David Fidrych

Marty Stuart

"Ghost Train: The Studio B Sessions"

Sugarhill Records

With the deaths of Johnny Cash and Waylon Jennings, and the advancing age of Merle Haggard, Kris Kristofferson and George Jones, you might be concerned that real country music, what the immortal Harlan Howard referred to as "three chords and the truth," that great American tradition, might drift away.

Thankfully, we have nothing to worry about, so long as Marty Stuart is around to write it, sing it and play it. Simply put, if Stuart keeps making records as vital, important and emotionally moving as "Ghost Train," traditional country music will always be with us.

Actually, the breadth and depth of "Ghost Train" starts with Stuart's atmospheric liner notes, written about an experience he had in his hometown of Philadelphia, Mississippi. As such, it's the perfect introduction to these 14 wonderful songs, all of which harken back and reflect the best of that music and that locale.

Every emotion brought out by the best of country music is present here. You want a train song that would make every writer from Jimmie Rodgers to Hank Williams to Steve Goodman proud? Check out "Ghost Train Four-oh-Ten." A classic male-female duet that rivals George Jones and Tammy Wynette? Cue up "I Run to You," performed with Stuart's wife, the always outstanding Connie Smith. A ballad or two to break your heart? Listen to "A World Without You," followed by "Drifting Apart." And, if you really want those three chords and that truth, check out "Hangman," which is about just what it seems, and was co-written with Johnny Cash just a few days before he passed away.

"Studio B" is, of course, the classic Nashville studio, where so much wonderful country music was recorded over the years. With this release, Marty Stuart has shown that his name should be mentioned in the same breath as the giants who recorded within those walls.

- Mark T. Gould

Alejandro Escovedo

Street Songs Of Love

Fantasy Records

I cannot eject Alejandro Escovedo's *Street Songs of Love* from my car stereo. I listen to it over and over again. There is nothing mechanically wrong, I just want to. Released on June 29th on the Fantasy label and produced again by Tony Visconti, it showcases Alejandro Escovedo's rock and roll heart. He rips it out of his chest and holds it out in your face pumping the Austin Texas blood of Joe Strummer, Iggy Pop, and Lou Reed. It is leaner and lighter than Real Animal, his musical autobiographical masterpiece homage to these same heroes as well as his most commercial outing in decades.

Alejandro Escovedo has culled an incredible body of work in those decades and *No Depression* magazine had enough foresight to anoint him "Artist of the Decade" in the mid-nineties. He has never let them down.

I got hipped to Alejandro Escovedo about the same time. I was reading an *Audiofile* Industry periodical article about the greatest live recordings of all time. Escovedo's *More Miles than Money* was cited as a live music document that rivaled the Allman Brothers' *Live at Fillmore East*.

Named after a song from Real Animal, the new material finds the Sensitive Boys firing on all cylinders. They blew the roof off City Winery in SoHo each of the three sold out nights of the cd release shows. The Boss, who graces *Street Songs of Love* with guest vocals, jumped on stage with them at the Stone Pony in Asbury Park for a few closing numbers a couple of weeks later. The Sensitive Boys are David Pulkingham on guitar, keyboards and background vocals, Bobby Daniel on bass and background vocals, and senior man Hector Munoz on drums and background vocals.

The evolution of *Street Songs of Love* can easily be traced to a two month Tuesday Night Autumn residency at the Continental Club on South Congress Avenue in Austin, TX where the new material was crafted and honed directly before a hometown audience.

"The goal was to present three new songs each week. (Guitarist) David Pulkingham and I would play them in their barest form, sometimes just a verse and chorus, present it as a song and bring the band out to show the audience how we could come up with an arrangement of the song." "It was very cool because it was like a work-



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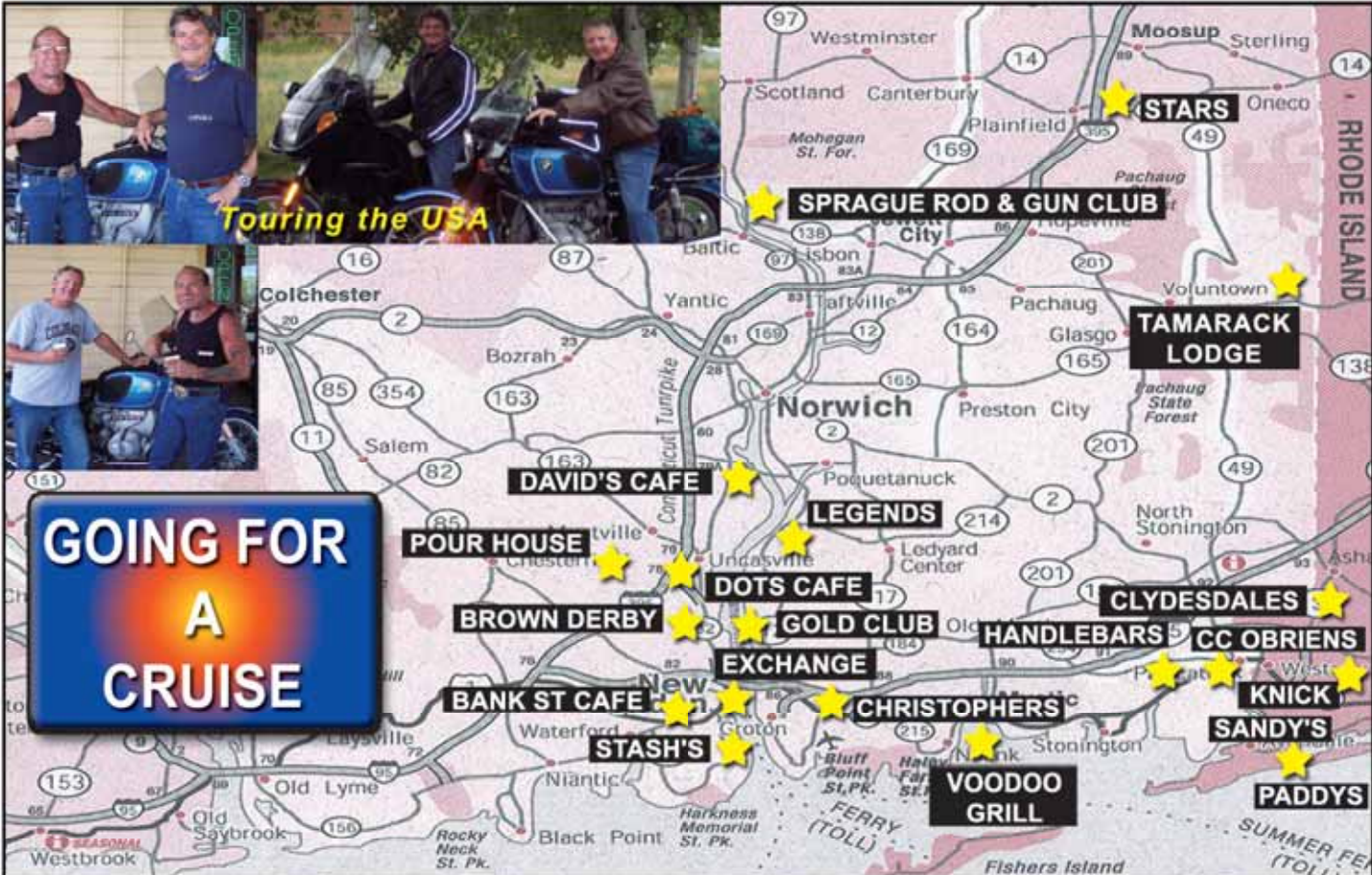
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Cover Story Continued

She also takes on Mark Germino's "Broken Man's Lament" and Merle Haggard's "Kern River," as well as Tracy Chapman's "All that You Have Is Your Soul" and Jude Johnson's "Hold On."

"I think it is important to pick material that has a long shelf life," says Harris. That's why a song she has been singing for decades can still be fresh to her, she explains.

Why her music resonates for people is a mystery for which she is grateful, she says. "It's wonderful to find people who also seem to like the same kind of songs," she says. "They are songs that don't really grow old, but grow old with us and still (reflect) the experiences of who we are. As we get older and richer from our experiences, these songs reflect that."

"I sing a lot of sad songs too," she adds. "We experience sadness in our lives. Sad songs give credence to what we feel. They make us feel not alone."

As to what she hopes people take from her music, Harris says, "I hope they get what I get from music, and not just my music. It's almost like a part of my spiritual life." There's the music of Buddy Miller, Bruce Springsteen, Dylan, Neil Young, Mark Knopfler, Pete Seeger "and all the people from the first time I heard folk music." It woke her up she explains, making her ask, "Why do I feel this way?"

Music is like food, almost something you can't live without, she says. "It makes us feel alive." Songs can bring words and images to life, she adds.

As for new projects in her life, Harris says she has gravitated to a virtual second career in dog rescue with Bonaparte's Retreat, a shelter rescue and foster program she established in the backyard of her Nashville home. "That's very, very important in my life. I named it after my dear departed companion who traveled with me. He was a shelter dog."

She says she became involved in the rescue community to try to make a better world for dogs. "They touch my heart so much. They really have become incredibly important to me. I go on the road because I love it, but also to pay for dog food (she laughs)."

He was 11 when he died. Harris was so devastated by the loss that she wrote "Not Enough," which is on the new album, to express her love for the animal. She says that her love for animals often influences her music.

Harris embraces the future with enthusiasm. "The important thing is to stay fresh and inspired by what you are doing," she says. "Songs will do that for you...and people."



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shop that people could attend."

After the run at the Continental Club, Alejandro Escovedo and the Sensitive Boys took their music to the people and toured for three weeks. They played the new songs every night. "Each tune took on a life of its own. Tempo changes, arrangement changes, and a constant lyrical evolution – some of them were just sketches really – and then they would become what they became, either because of people I would meet along the way, so the lyrics and the story wasn't complete until I got into the studio."

The result is a new album that is both robust and tender and features both hard riff rockers and sensitive ballads. Collectively, the new material tells the story of people missing something. All 13 tracks are about love and the myriad of its various forms. "The album became a collection of love songs, love songs which cover a lot of different aspects of love – kind of the mysterious quality of love, the tragic quality of love the enlightened quality, the spiritual quality, even the parental quality...It's always been a pretty heavy part of my life. I guess it is for all of us." "Street Songs of Love" is dedicated to Alejandro's dear friend, Turner Stephen Burton who produced, played, and sang on his first three albums and passed away last year. Chuck Prophet again has collaborated with our long time local hero from Austin, TX as his songwriting partner.

Directly out of the gate of this endeavor are three crushing rockers. "Anchor" has a great big hook and is a garage roots ripping scorcher. It is fittingly the single of Street Songs of Love. "Anchor" and "This Bed is Getting Crowded" were the initial two tunes fleshed out from the Tuesday night, two month run on South Congress in Austin, TX. Sandwiched in between is "Silver Cloud" again featuring David Plukingham's wrenching guitar work. It is undiluted galloping garage rock with Escovedo shouting, "I'm a fool for love". "Come on and fool me". Bobby Daniel lays down the slinky bass line on "Street Songs" a gutter glam number with hand claps about a pot smoking street urchin, "Dancing on a beach head night, moving for money on some bad advice" and "gliding her hips to a Les Paul scream".

Two very special guests grace Street Songs of Love. Mott the Hoople's Ian Hunter contributes vocals to "Down in the Bowerly", hands down the best-written song on the album. Inspired by Escovedo's angry man, outcast, son Paris

Diego, a skateboard punk graffiti artist. "I want to see you on the street making a scene for everybody" sings Escovedo on this most tender of ballads. "The song basically says that I will love him and that I will support basically anything he becomes because I love him just the way he is, I encourage him to pursue his own dream. No one ever told me those kinds of things when I was a kid except for songs I listened to on the radio and on records. Ian Hunter's songs were a large part of that for me. "Alejandro Escovedo often encores with "All the Young Dudes" to this day.

The other guest vocal on Street Songs of Love is none other than the Boss himself. With Springsteen belting along beside him on a song called, "Faith" – "You gotta have faith in the one that you love. You gotta have faith in the mystery above" – musical styles converge for some "deeply felt no holds barred performance based rock n' roll".

Tender Heart is an angry stomp with Hector Munoz pounding the skins. "I got a dream, do you want to be in my dream", shouts Escovedo. I got a tender heart, do you want my tender heart", he snarls.

The instrumental that closes Street Songs of Love, entitled "Ft. Worth Blues" co-penned by Plukingham and Escovedo could very well be the finest conclusion to a rock n' roll record since Little Martha closed "Eat A Peach".

Nothing this Austin, TX hero has ever done has been sub par. Street Songs of Love presents 13 striking songs about the pursuit of love from the rock and roll heart of a Texas Troubadour. Perhaps it will give Alejandro Escovedo the long overdue recognition he so rightly deserves. "Sing a song for the undesired. Sing a song for the lonely lovers." To love and be loved... What's in your car stereo?

***** - Richard L. Oeser

MITCH WOODS

"Gumbo Blues"

Club 88 Records / Vizztone
Label Group

In terms of musical heritage, the city of New Orleans is a piano town. And not many play New Orleans style piano as well as Mitch Woods. Woods' latest effort, "Gumbo Blues", is a well-deserved tribute to New Orleans rhythm and blues legend Smiley Lewis and other musical pioneers of the New Orleans R&B sound. Listeners will soon gain an appreciation for both of these artists.

While the classic Lewis tracks all appear,

Woods' admiral vocal work gives each of the selected tunes his own personalized touch. Those not familiar with the musical legacy of Smiley Lewis or the writings of Dave Bartholomew are in for a real treat. "I Hear You Knockin'" was a #1 song for Dave Edmunds in the U.K. "Shame, Shame, Shame" was selected by Aerosmith to be part of their blues tribute CD "Honkin' On Bobo". "One Night" was covered by Elvis Presley. And "Blue Monday" was subsequently a big hit for Fats Domino (following in the footsteps of "Blueberry Hill") and has been covered by everyone from Cat Stevens to Bob Seger to Huey Lewis. In fact, Dominos' popularity during his peak may have overshadowed much of Lewis' musical contributions. On "Gumbo Blues", Woods also brings with him a very talented group of players. Herbert Hardesty's tenor saxophone was the sound of Fats Domino's band for 60 years. Guitarist John Fohl, bassist Cornell Williams, and drummer Eric Bolivar are locked in tight for the ride through a dozen tracks guaranteed to get the toes tapping. Woods' energetic renditions of Smiley Lewis' under-appreciated work make "Gumbo Blues" more than worthy to stand alongside New Orleans best recordings.

***** - Don Sikorski

***** Excellent

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