

NEW LONDON COUNTY - WINDHAM - MYSTIC - RHODE ISLAND

Sound Waves

Volume 21

Issue 2

November 2010

CLUB LISTINGS
RESTAURANTS
CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS
& MORE

An
Interview
with

ERIC
JOHNSON

A Southern New England
Entertainment
Guide Since 1990

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2010

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ZEINER
BAND**

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Sat

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CAKE**

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PLAY**

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**SATURDAY
20th**

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with
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GUNS
& GLORY**

INSIDE THE WAVE

Music Notes	pg. 6
Bar Fly Journals	pg. 8
Band Dates	pg. 10
Concert Dates	pg. 11
Cover Story	pg. 14
Hearing Aid	pg. 18
Stan Back	pg. 19
Classifieds	pg. 22



Cover/Story Photos by Max Crace



MAILBAG

Dear Readers,

Well after 20 years we have changed our look! The ads are bigger and the consensus was that it is easier to read. It was a tough decision, changing something we have done for so long. But here it is! Send us your feedback on what you think.

A big reason that we went to a bigger size, is that the cost of printing Sound Waves in its original form was starting to rise. We wanted to keep our rates reasonable for our advertisers and we think we found a good solution that keeps everyone happy. Also the magazine is now printed on a more environmentally friendly paper. Another nice aspect about doing it this way is that we have full color option for every page. With this great add we have spent many hours redesigning the layout and all the ads. I'm sure we will be twinkling it over the next couple months, but we are excited about the possibilities of how we can take Sound Waves Magazine a step up.

Sound Waves Magazine has been a leading entertainment guide for many readers over the years. We thank everyone that have supported us. But the one thing has really surprised us is our web site. We have been averaging 2500 hits per day on www.swaves.com! The first week we average 3,000-8,000 per day! If you already haven't checked it out, you should. Sound Waves web site is exactly what you see here. We use the page flip technology. It's just like reading the street form. The only difference is that there are embedded links to the bands and advertisers. As well as MP3s of the CD reviews and for the cover story. There are also coupons to some of our advertisers only available online. So check it out and enjoy this month's issue.

Happy Thanksgiving
David L. Pottie
Editor/Publisher

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Sound Waves

November 2010
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Fri	Sat
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12 RON DRAGO	13 SUE MENHART
19 SUE MENHART	20 SHAWN TAYLOR
26 CHRIS & JOHN	27 DAVE LAUDON DUO

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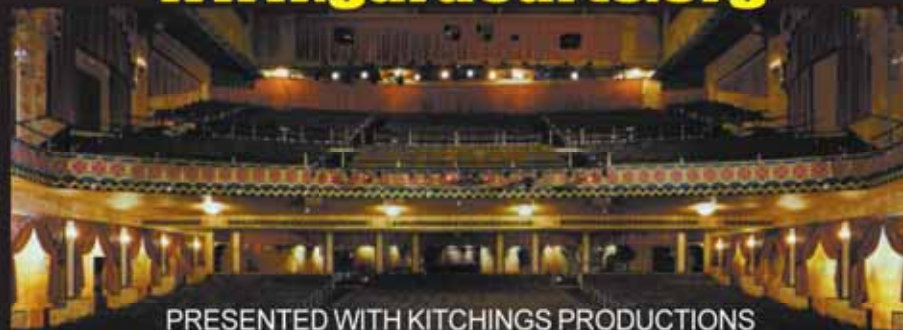
20th - **TBA**

27th - **THE SHARKS**



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MUSIC NOTES



"Elvis Has Left The Mine"

By Mark T. Gould

I've heard of timeless music getting you through a tough spot, but Edison Pena has put a whole new spin on that for me.

The 34-year-old Pena was the 12th of the 30 miners pulled from the collapsed San Jose, Chilean mine, but it's not just his courage and fortitude that people are talking about these days.

It's Elvis, as in Presley.

According to published reports, it was "The King" who helped Pena get through the 70 days in which he was trapped underground. Although he was an

infant when Presley passed away in 1977, he's a long time fan who led his fellow miners in singing Elvis songs to help relieve the boredom and keep them in a positive frame of mind while they awaited their rescue.

And, he touched more than one nerve with his actions. When the folks at Presley's longtime home at Graceland in Memphis heard about what was going on beneath the surface, they sent along a care package with a boxed set of CDs and picture of "The King" and asked that it be lowered into the mine for Pena.

In mid-September, word of Pena's passion for Presley reached officials at Elvis Presley Enterprises, the business arm of the King's legacy.

"We heard the news reports that he was an Elvis fan and that a picture of Elvis had gone down into the mine," said EPE spokesman Kevin Kern. "At that point, we discreetly liaised with some folks in Chile and found out where we could send a box of Elvis goodies -- some DVDs, CDs, a pair of Elvis sunglasses. Whatever could fit into the tube and provide some entertainment and comfort.

"So we did that quietly, as we didn't want to appear as if we were moving in on a tragedy."

It's hardly likely anyone who see it that way.

Peña and his comrades put the Elvis care packages to good use, entertaining themselves with sing-a-longs as they awaited their rescue.

As a result, and to celebrate the successful rescue, Elvis Presley Enterprises, in conjunction with the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau, has extended Peña an invitation for an all-expenses-paid trip to visit Memphis and Presley's home at Graceland.

"We had the idea to invite him to Graceland all along, and now that he has made it up out of the mine safely, this is a happy ending to a sad situation," said Kern.

The Graceland site includes the mansion, the graves of Elvis and family members, and various exhibits featuring The King of Rock 'N' Roll. Thousands of fans of his movies and music flock there each year from around the world to commemorate his death with a candlelight vigil.

Kern says he does not expect an answer from Pena to the invitation any time soon, saying there are more important things Pena needs to take care of.

"I'm sure they've got a lot of reuniting to do," Kern said.

And, that's not all that "Elvis Nation" has in store for Pena.

Las Vegas' official Elvis, Jesse Garon, is sponsoring a star-studded vacation for Pena to "meet" his favorite entertainer. Pena's invitation includes a visit from Garon, showgirls, five-star accommodations, show tickets, buffets, and a renewal of his vows in a 1955 Pink Cadillac, with the "King," under the "Welcome to Las Vegas sign."

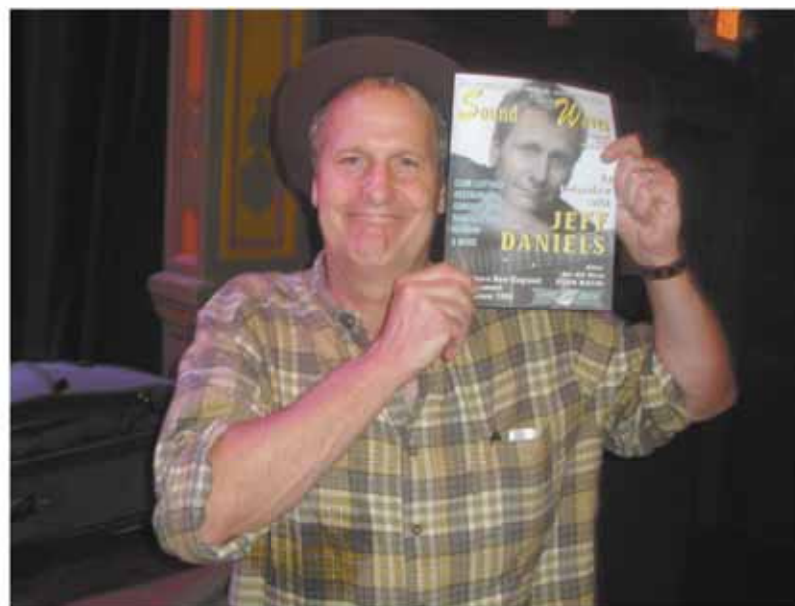
"How those men survived is nothing less than miraculous," said Garon.

6 SOUND WAVES

"All of the Elvis community and fans everywhere bonded together and have been inspired by the miner trapped underground since first hearing about the fan of the King on Facebook."

"When he feels up to it, we'll welcome him to Graceland with open arms and make him feel like a rock star," Kern added.

And, even if you thought Elvis was dead, Edison Pena has certainly kept the King's spirit alive.



JEFF DANIELS

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 ~ Gumbo
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 ~ Creole
 ~ BBQ Ribs
 ~ Alligator

	Thu	Fri
LIVE MUSIC	4 NEVER HOME	5 MYSTIC HORNS
	11 KEVIN MANZELLA	12 KEVIN CRANDALL BAND
	18 2 CAT ZOO	19 SUNDAY GRAVY
	25 <i>Happy Thanksgiving</i>	26 CHRIS BONKOWSKI
	2 TBA <i>Call for info</i>	3 MYSTIC HORNS

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17	DJ CHRIS Karaoke	18 BRIAN MURRELL	19 PRESTON FRANTZ HELLBENT & HEARTBREAKIN'	20 EXIT 6
24	OFF HAND	25 TBA <i>Call for info</i>	26 RAISE THE RENT WITH RED HOT STOVE TOPS	27 ROCK FACTORY WITH KATHY ELLIS

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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn



Hello My Sweet Flies...First, I must explain that because of our deadline dates, I am unable to tell you of my nights of drunken debauchery in Vegas with Ronnie, Lina and Shaun during Halloween Chaos Weekend, because I have not gone yet....but by the time you read this...I will have gone and be writing for next month's article...I promise!

Secondly, I am quite peeved that I was unable to attend the GET THE LED OUT show at the GARDE ARTS CENTER in New London. I love Led Zepelin and have always loved Robert Plant, so I really wanted to see the show on Oct. 30, but you know, conflicting schedules and all. Oh Well...hopefully next time.

Made it to the second annual JAMES "MITCH" CHRISTINA MUSIC FEST at the KNICKERBOCKER. It was a Blast! The whole Christina Gang was in attendance, including Buffy, Bobby and Dave. Also my son's former piano teacher, Jen Holden, was there looking as beautiful as ever. Also, I chatted with new FaceBook friend, Neal Vitullo of YOUNG NEAL AND THE VIPIRS fame. He's a wonderful guy and played as fantastically as he always has. It was great seeing everyone there and the proceeds all benefitted the RI Hospice, so it was nice to be able to honor a special man and a special cause.



Jimmy Christina & Jeff Pitchell

We have a Super "Secret Spy" report from one of the revelers on the recent SQUAWK WALK to benefit Rhode Island Foster Parrots. Yes people, that's Parrots not Parents. Anyways, heard from the Spy that it was a fun time with participants, including team leader, Melissa Meyers, walking the various Bars along the Route through downtown Westerly and Pawcatuck. Other feathered friends were Billy and Heather, Pamtastic and Edmund, and the ever lovely Darcy.

They started at CLYDESDALES then walked to BACKTRACKS, HILLTOP CAFE, DANNY'S, SENOR FLACO'S, 84 HIGH STREET, DYLAN'S and PERKS AND CORKS. They then headed into Connecticut for a stop at PRIME-TIME CAFE, then off to HOOTIES

GOOD TIMES CAFE for a Super Buffet!

The FALL BALL with the 80's theme I had told you about, was a huge success...not! Ashamed of all of you!! Well, actually, those of us who showed up showed our SUPER TEAM SPIRIT with some truly ghastly 80's outfits! Annie and Tom were dressed to the nines, I mean the 80's! We all had so much fun and the basket raffles and fantastic food made it all worthwhile. John G. was a dancing machine (can anyone say electric slide?), along with Holly McCord and Betsy, Ozzie and his wife Liz and actually quite a few others... just wished we could have raised a bit more money for the VFW. Oh well, maybe next year!

...Kay, I'm back! Just saying good-bye to Greg Gray, in for another haircut with Bonnie at Team CoCo.

Saw STYFF KITTY at the WINDJAMMER for Barbara's End of the Summer Bash. They were Faaabbbuullooous! (finger snap)! Was also a combi-
8 SOUND WAVES

nation Baby Shower for her brother Tommy and his girl, Brandy, who are happily expecting a little girl soon! Congrats! Lotsa swag! Beautiful Wendy was there with lovely Larry, but sadly, Uncle Fuzz was not in attendance, so I was unable to practice my dance moves...:(

Speaking of Dance Moves, Wow! Went to SHRINE at MGM GRAND recently after the Athena Awards, where I was honored to be seated next to the dashing Art Smith and his beautiful wife Angie. The award was won by Mary Ellen Buckley... YaY! But all the nominees were special, being honored for all their tireless help in our community.

Anywho...onward to SHRINE, the dance party was definitely Going On!! Maria Allen, one of the Athena Nominees, was there with her entourage of beautiful people, including friend Charlene, who Did Not Stop Dancing for 3 hours straight! What a machine! Love the guys there, some in leather, some wearing plaid and others sporting massive mohawks...like I said "WOW"! Definitely putting it on my "Do It Again" List.

HOPE ROAD will be playing with SOUL SHOT at the KNICKERBOCKER on Nov. 26, which is the Friday after Thanksgiving. I can't wait. All the locals will be around because of the Holiday and we can all visit while listening to some great music (and maybe some dancing, Fuzz?). See you there!

And I want to Thank All You Wonderful People who were fabulous enough to invite me to so, so many HALLOWEEN EVENTS! There definitely seems to be ALOT of things Happening! So Secret Spy me with stories and pictures of your Party! Email them to me at BarFly2u2@yahoo.com or tag me (Bar Fly) on FaceBook so I can share them through Sound Waves or on my FaceBook Page! Can't Wait to see all the Funny, Scary, Sexy Pix!!

ALTONE'S will be reopening their Back Room with WILD CYPRESS on Saturday, November 13, I will be stopping by there and definitely be mozying over to see the crowd at UNCLE KRANKYS.....and I hope to see that collection on the bar again at ALTONE'S with Anne? ...ssshhhhh!

I also heard from Stephen Cersosimo with the band YB1. He plays acoustically with Mark Rogoff, but they also play with George Markham on Bass and Russell Holley on drums and will be jamming at GILLIGAN'S ISLAND on Nov. 26 and Dec. 10 and the HILLTOP CAFE on Dec. 17. Stop By!!

Want to Wish EveryOne a Happy Thanksgiving! I hope you all have a reason to be Thankful this Holiday Season. I would also like to wish my Number One BarFly Fan, Miss Shirl, a Big "Get Better Soon" wish! Miss Shirley has been feeling a tad under the weather lately. We will be taking you to lunch soon, girl! My Step-Father, John Mershon is also in my thoughts with his own "Get Better Soon". And that is what we should all be Thankful

Continued Page 16



Lisa Konicki, Wendy Carr and Jay Pallazola at the Shrine

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Live Music
Fridays

5

**DJ DAVE
CHRISTINA**

12

**BOBBY
CHRISTINA
& FRIENDS**

19

**KEVIN
CRANDALL
BAND**

26

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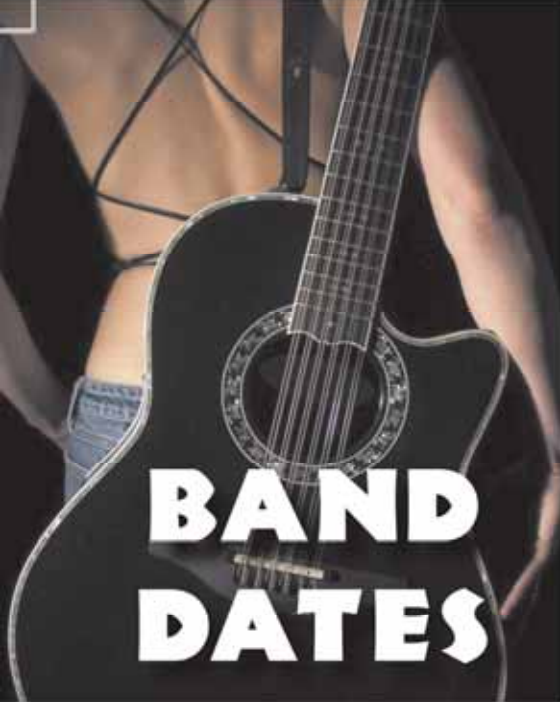
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BAND DATES

ALTER EGO

5 - Downtown B & G, Middletown, CT
19 - Junes Pub, Killingworth, CT

BOB LAVALLEY

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

THE CARTELLS

12 - Jake's, Wallingford, CT
17 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10pm
19 - Chacer's, Norwich, CT
20 - Angelico's, Glastonbury, CT 6-10pm
25 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 7-10:30pm
26 - Aspens, Old Saybrook, CT 8-11pm
27 - Donahue's, Madison, CT

CUCUMBER JONES

6 - Bridge Rest., Westerly, RI
26 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT

DAN STEVENS

5 - Chamard Vineyards, Clinton, CT 6pm
6 - RiverWalk, Mystic, CT
11 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
12,18 - Latitude 41°, Mystic, CT 8pm
13 - Harbor Inn, York Harbor, ME
14 - Dolphin Striker, Portsmouth, NH
17 - Divine Emporium, Niantic, CT
19 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT
23 - Red Lion, Stockbridge, MA
24 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 8pm
26 - Crown & Hammer, Collinsville, CT
27 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT

DAN WATSON

4 - Latitudes 41, Mystic, CT 7-10 pm
9,23 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
14,28 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT

EIGHT TO THE BAR

5 - Twin Rivers, Lincoln, RI 8:30-12:30

10 SOUND WAVES

6 - Wright's Mill, Canterbury, CT 6:30-12
10 - Log Cabin, Holyoke, MA 1:30-2:45
12 - Marriott, Newton, MA
14 - Grand Pequot, Mashantucket, CT 7-10
19 - Maple Tree, Simsbury, CT
20 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI
21 - Elks Club, Leominster, MA 7:30-10:30
24 - Park Central, Hamden, CT 8-11:30
26 - Cypress, Middletown, CT 8-11:30
27 - Brightridge, E. Providence, RI 8-11

FULL CIRCLE

5 - Back Street, Warwick, RI
6 - Lou's Café, Manville, RI
12 - Maguire's, Smithfield, RI
13 - Grille 47, Pawtucket, RI
19 - Mulhearn's, E. Providence, RI
20 - Balls, Johnston, RI
26,27 - Cathay Pearl, Swansea, MA

THE GOAT ROPERS

5,19 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA 8pm
7 - Amer. Legion, E. Greenwich, RI 1-5
13 - House of Bud's, Hyannis, MA
20 - Rodeo Bar, Manchester, NH
26 - Amer. Legion, E. Greenwich, RI 7-11

GOPHERBROKE

4 - Cafe on Main, Colchester, CT
12 - Hub, Canton, CT 8:30-12
19 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
20 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT

GREEN TEA

13 - Wood River Inn, Richmond, RI

HOPE ROAD

26 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI
27 - Tammany Hall, Worcester, MA

JAMES HARRIS

2,9,16,23,30 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
3,6,10,17,20,24 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
4 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 6:30pm
5,18 - The Bridge, Westerly, RI
12 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
14,21,26 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
19 - 84 High Street, Westerly, RI

JAY DEMPSEY & HIGHWAY CALL

6 - Brown Derby, Montville, CT
26 - Sneeker's Cafe, Groton, CT

KEVIN MANZELLA & GREG D

2,16,30 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT
7 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 4-7pm
11 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
17 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT

kGb

5 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
18 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
24 - Music Lady, Plainfield, CT 7-9

MUNSELL BROTHERS BAND

11 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI
20 - Ivory Pub, Deep River, CT
27 - Clydesdale Tavern, Westerly, RI

RED LIGHT

12 - The Dubliner, Uncasville, CT
13 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
19 - Ball's II, Cranston, RI
24 - Music Lady, Plainfield, CT
27 - Chacer's, Norwich, CT

RIPTIDE

27 - Gilligan's, Westerly, RI

SEX & CANDY

4 - Bleachers, Bristol, CT
26 - Rivers Edge, Derby, CT
27 - T Place, Torrington, CT

STYFF KITTY

5 - Sneekers, Groton, CT
24 - Wood River Inn, Wyoming, RI

SUE MENHART BAND

13,19 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8pm

SUNDAY GRAVY

4,24 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
5 - Hanafin's Pub, New London, CT
6 - CC O'Briens, Pawcatuck, CT
12 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
17 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
19 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

2 CAT ZOO

3,17 - Hard Rock, Ledyard, CT
5 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
11,27 - Bridge Rest., Westerly, RI
18 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
19 - Hanafins, New London, CT

THE TIME TRAVELERS

20 - Cory's, Manchester, Ct

VINCE THOMPSON & FRIENDS

5 - Winchester Cafe, Portland, CT 8:30-12:30
12 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10
19 - Stash's, New London, CT 5-8:30

WICKED PEACH

12,13 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT
24 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT

WILSON KANE

2 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 7pm
3 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
4 - Anna Liffey's, New Haven, CT
5,11,19 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
6,20 - Aspen, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm
12 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT 8pm
13 - Mews Tavern, Wakefield, RI
17 - Whitfield's, Guilford, CT 7pm
18 - Serapo, Westerly, RI 7pm
24 - Cafe On Main, Colchester, CT
26 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm
27 - June's Outback, Killingworth, CT

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Al Green

5 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

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16 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

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20 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Bob Dylan

27 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Dave Mason

10 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

Eddie Money

20 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

Furthur

19 - DCU Center, Worcester, MA

Ian Anderson

21 - Veterans Memorial Aud., Providence, RI

Josh Groban

13 - Shubert Theater, New Haven, CT

Kal David

28 - Knickerbocker Cafe, Westerly, RI

Leon Redbone

11 - Met Cafe, Pawtucket, RI

Paul Barrere & Fred Tackett

8 - Hepburn Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Robben Ford

18 - Village Cinema, Mystic, CT

Robert Randolph & The Family Band

11 - Toad's Place, New Haven, CT

Sarah Borges & The Broken Singles

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

Smokey Robinson

13 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

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14 - Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, CT

21 - Park Theater, Cranston, RI

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6 - XL Center, Hartford, CT

17 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT



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Saturday Night ~ December 4th

NO SHAME



Texas guitar sensation Eric Johnson is certainly no stranger to guitar aficionados. His dazzling virtuosity and pristine guitar tone have made him one of the most revered guitarists of all time. He is also one of the most eclectic artists on the music scene today, as his stylistic range includes rock, blues, country, pop, folk, classical, and more. Due to his ability to craft such catchy melodies, his music is accessible to ordinary music fans as well as guitar fanatics. Eric's numerous recordings have earned him five Grammy nominations (and one Grammy award), a platinum album, and several top 10 instrumental hits like his signature song, 1990's "Cliffs of Dover."

This has been a very busy and exciting year for Eric Johnson and his legions of fans, and 2011 looks to be even more exciting. Eric began the year as a performer on the Experience Hendrix Tour, where an all-star lineup of artists joined forces to pay tribute to the legendary music of Jimi Hendrix. At the conclusion of the tour, Eric put the finishing touches on his upcoming CD, titled "Up Close." This October, Eric went on the road once again with the Guitar Masters Acoustic Tour. As the name implies, three guitar masters (Eric Johnson, Peppino D'Agostino, and Andy McKee) brought their acoustic guitars together to perform and interact on stages across America. And finally, Eric will spend the rest of the year performing with yet another edition of the Experience Hendrix Tour. This is indeed a very busy and exciting time for Eric Johnson.

The Guitar Masters Acoustic Tour recently stopped at the Ridgefield Playhouse in Ridgefield CT, and the concert more than lived up to its name. Each guitarist performed an individual set, and the show was capped by a finale where all three collaborated to produce an aural feast of acoustic six-string mastery. Since Eric is best known for his blazing electric guitar work, this acoustic concert was quite a departure for him. Shortly before his performance in Ridgefield, Eric stated, "We've done several shows already, and it's been going great! It's been a lot of fun, we've had good attendance, and people really seem to enjoy it. I've played one or two acoustic songs on each of my past records, and I've been performing a lot of these tunes. I also have a bunch of new music that I'm doing for my section of the show. I'm trying to flesh out some new stuff that I want to record for a solo acoustic record in the future. The new music includes some bluegrass, country, folk, and a little bit of classical stuff." As Eric performed in Ridgefield, he clearly savored this opportunity to expand his musical horizons.

Now that the acoustic tour has been completed, Eric will once again strap on his Fender Stratocaster for the Experience Hendrix Tour. The next edition will also include performances by Steve Vai, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Jonny Lang, Ernie Isley, and Living Colour. The performances will be anchored by drummer Chris Layton (of Stevie Ray Vaughan & Double Trouble), and bassist Billy Cox, who performed with Jimi Hendrix at Woodstock. The upcoming tour includes a stop at the MGM Grand Theater at Foxwoods on November 4th at 7:30 p.m., and Aerosmith guitarist Brad Whitford will make a special guest appearance for this show.

14 SOUND WAVES

Regarding Experience Hendrix, Eric explains, "They asked me to do it a couple of tours back, and I did it just to see what it was like. I really enjoyed it, and this will be my third time. Jimi was a huge influence on me, and his music has served as a lifelong template for me. He placed a great prominence on the music and its composition, and within that there is great guitar playing. What you take away from it is the musicality and the songs." Asked about the particular songs he will be performing, he responds, "I've done some different songs each time, but I seem to gravitate towards 'Are You Experienced,' and I might do 'House Burning Down.' I'm not sure what my other songs will be. I might do some duets with other people, and I have a smattering of songs that I would like to do, such as 'Bold As Love,' 'May This Be Love,'

Love Or Confusion,' and 'Little Wing.' I also enjoy playing 'Like A Rolling Stone,' which is actually a Bob Dylan piece that Jimi famously performed." No matter what tunes Eric ultimately selects, his performances will surely do them justice.

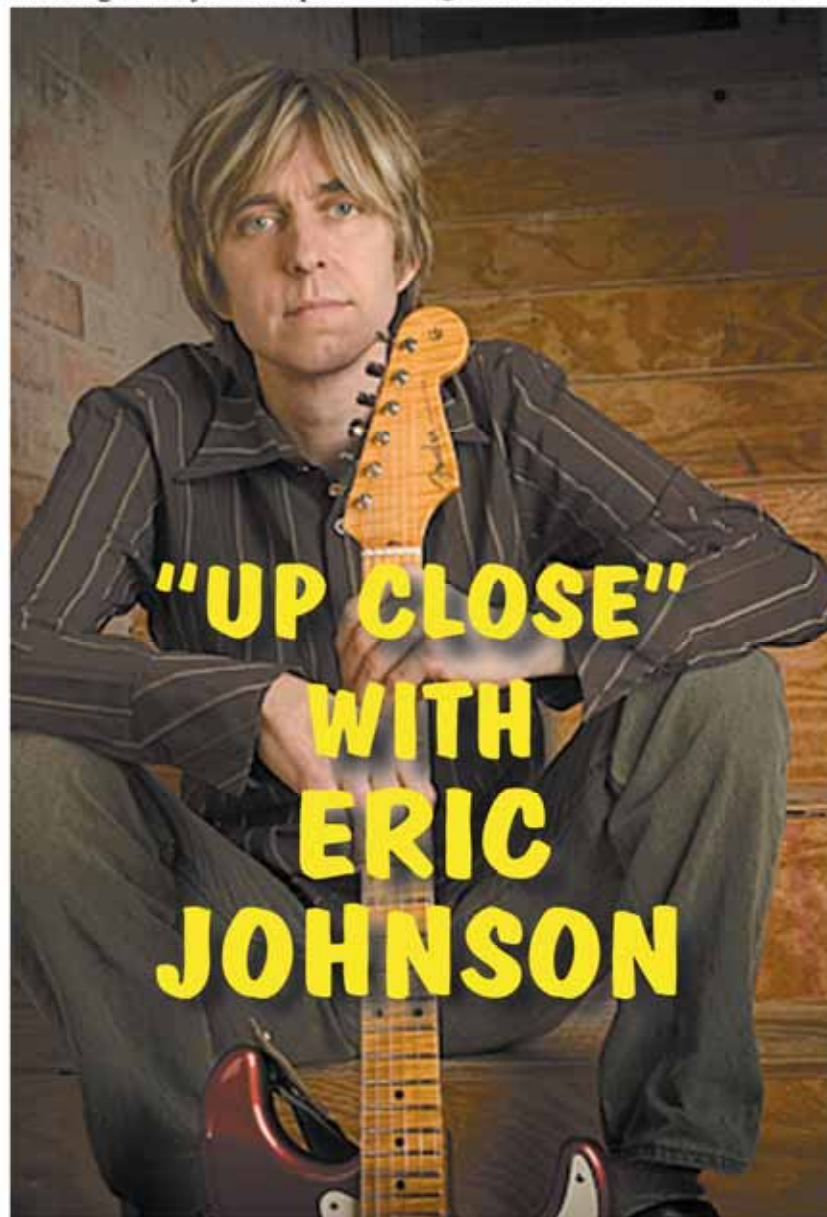
Eric Johnson developed a love for music at the early age of five, when he began taking classical piano lessons. By the time he took up guitar at age eleven, he already had several years of music lessons behind him, and he practiced relentlessly. "I pretty much played guitar all day long in my early years, as there was really nothing else to do but just get up and play guitar. Life was very simple then." Eric also spent a lot of time listening to several different styles of music. "A bunch of different people originally inspired me to play. When I was really little, it was Elvis Presley as well as the Ventures. Then came the Rolling Stones with Brian Jones, Jeff Beck, Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix, Wes Montgomery, Charlie Christian, John McLaughlin, Chet Atkins, Les Paul, Merle Travis, Joni Mitchell, James Taylor, and Simon and Garfunkel." Eric acknowledges the diversity of these influences by stating that he "had a musical identity crisis of sorts."

Throughout the 70s and 80s, Eric was a fixture on the Austin, Texas music scene, where he became an underground legend known for his jaw-dropping

guitar technique and his amazing versatility. Eric developed a fanatical following, and his admirers included Stevie Ray Vaughan, ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons, and Steve Morse of the Dixie Dregs, who commented that "Eric is so good it's ridiculous!" During this period, Eric contributed his guitar work to recordings by Christopher Cross, Cat Stevens, Carole King, and several others. He eventually was signed to record an album of his own, and he released "Tones" in 1986.

Although "Tones" was not a huge seller, it generated a significant amount of media attention that would lead to Eric's later success. For example, he appeared on the cover of Guitar Player Magazine along with the amusing caption, "Who is Eric Johnson & why is he on our cover?" Any reader who took

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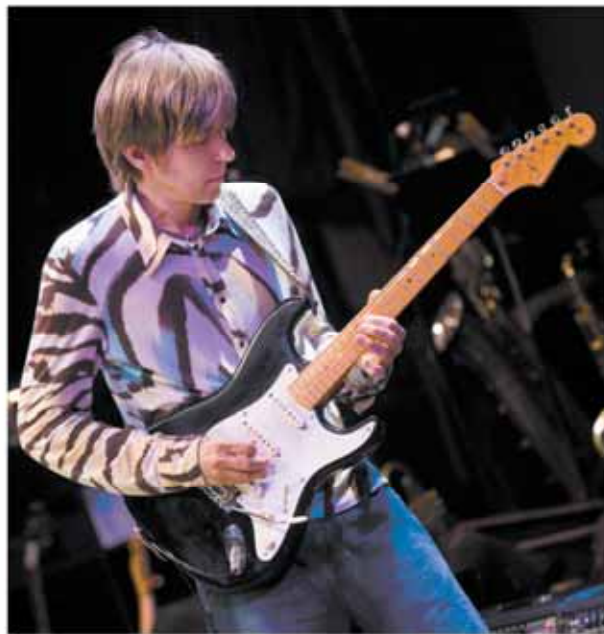


By Walter Modliszewski

the time to listen to "Tones" immediately learned the answer to this question. The record was a mix of instrumentals and vocal tunes, and in addition to showcasing his amazing guitar abilities, it revealed that Eric was an excellent singer and a brilliant songwriter. From this album, Eric received his first Grammy nomination for Best Rock Instrumental Performance for the funky and ferocious "Zap."

After his impressive debut album ran its course, Eric retreated to the woodshed for the next few years to work on the follow-up that would ultimately become his breakthrough album. He released "Ah Via Musicom" in the summer of 1990, and the record sold moderately for the first few months. However, in early 1991, the blazing instrumental "Cliffs of Dover" began popping up on commercial FM radio stations across the country, and Eric Johnson had a bona fide hit on his hands. Following this came the bluesy "Righteous" and the melodic "Trademark," and both songs received heavy radio airplay. "Ah Via Musicom" remained on the album charts well into 1992, and it was eventually certified platinum. To top things off, Eric took home the 1992 Grammy award for Best Rock Instrumental Performance for "Cliffs of Dover." Eric Johnson had truly arrived as an international guitar superstar.

After completing months of touring, Eric took a well-deserved rest from the music industry. He re-emerged in 1996 with "Venus Isle," and the new record was well worth the wait. Unfortunately for Eric, the music industry had changed considerably in the years immediately preceding this release. Specifically, the rise of Grunge and Alternative music had caused FM rock radio stations to become much less supportive of Eric Johnson's more traditional sounding music. Although "Venus Isle" was every bit as wonderful as "Ah Via Musicom," it did not receive the amount of airplay that it deserved. Regardless, the album was well received by Eric's fanatical following, and record sales were more than respectable.

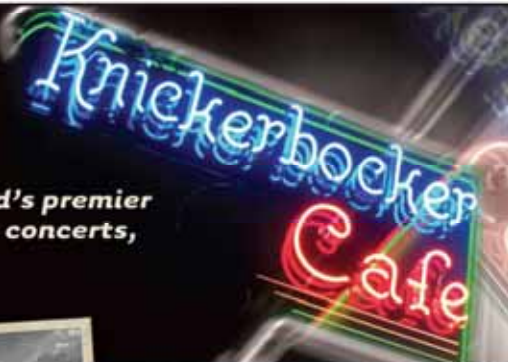


the CD and DVD "G3 - Live In Concert."

Eric Johnson has since continued to release ground-breaking solo records, and his upcoming release is sure to maintain the high level of virtuosity and eclecticism his fans have come to expect. While Steve Miller, Jimmie Vaughan, Jonny Lang, and Sonny Landreth make guest appearances on this new record, Eric's transcendent guitar playing and songwriting will most likely remain the heart and soul of his music. Eric explains, "I have a new CD coming out that I finished about two months ago. It contains fifteen songs of electric music, and it's called 'Up Close.' It's slated to come out in December, and I really like the way it turned out. It's cool! I'm three songs into an acoustic CD as well, and I'm going to try to get that going next year."

During this period, Eric joined forces with two other highly acclaimed instrumental guitarists (Joe Satriani and Steve Vai) for the first G3 Tour. This was an unprecedented event, as never before had these three premier guitarists appeared and toured together. The tour produced a string of sellout dates, thereby confirming the enduring popularity of virtuoso instrumental rock guitar music. The blistering performances of each artist were captured for

Continued Page 16



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Bar Fly Journals Continued

for this Holiday Season ..Our Health! (or what we have of it). This month, your homework?, call someone from your past and let them know that you've been thinking of them, let them know you care! You will both feel happier and thankful to be alive! Happy Birthday, Dad and Ciao for now, my Sweet Flies...I love ya!!

Cover Story Continued

2010 has certainly been a very busy and exciting year for Eric Johnson, and it appears that 2011 will continue the trend. "After the second leg of the Guitar Masters Acoustic Tour in January, I'm going to take a little time off. Then I'm going to try to construct a band to go out on tour to support the new record. I'm also going to continue to work on the solo acoustic album." It is a safe bet that Eric's legions of fans will have a lot to be happy about in the near future.

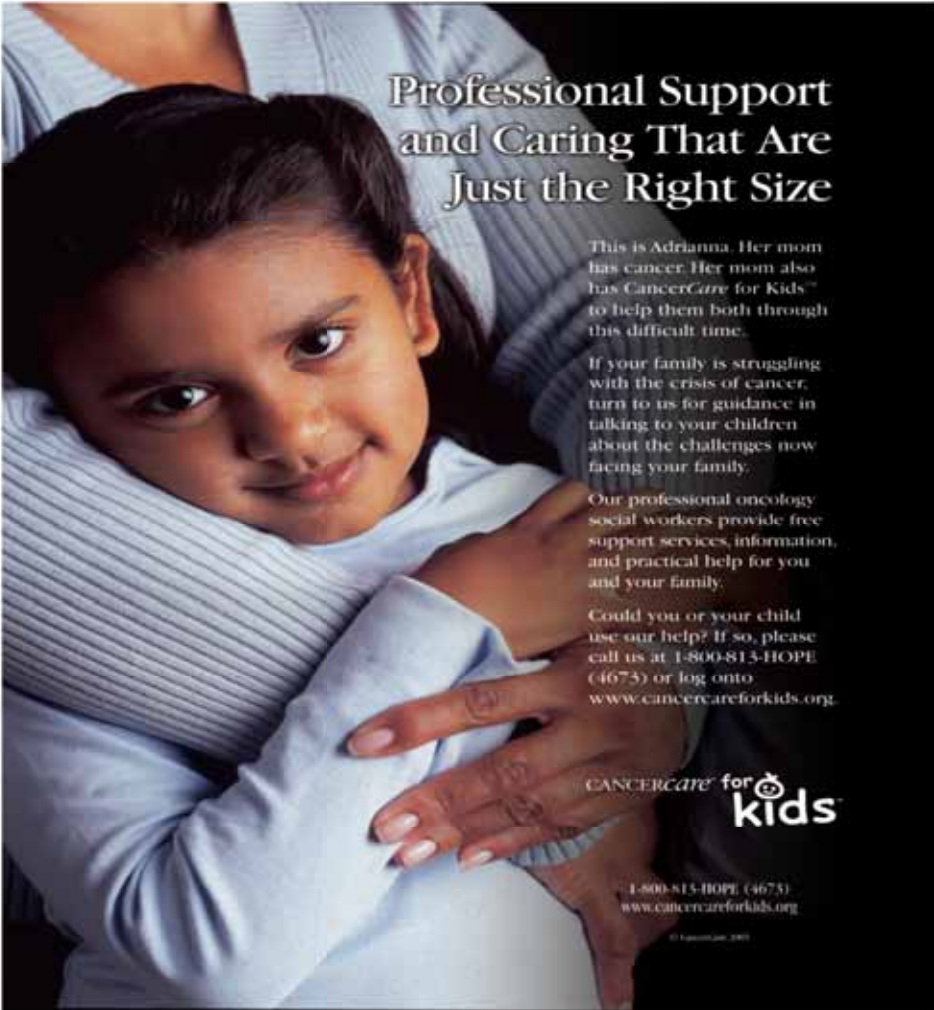


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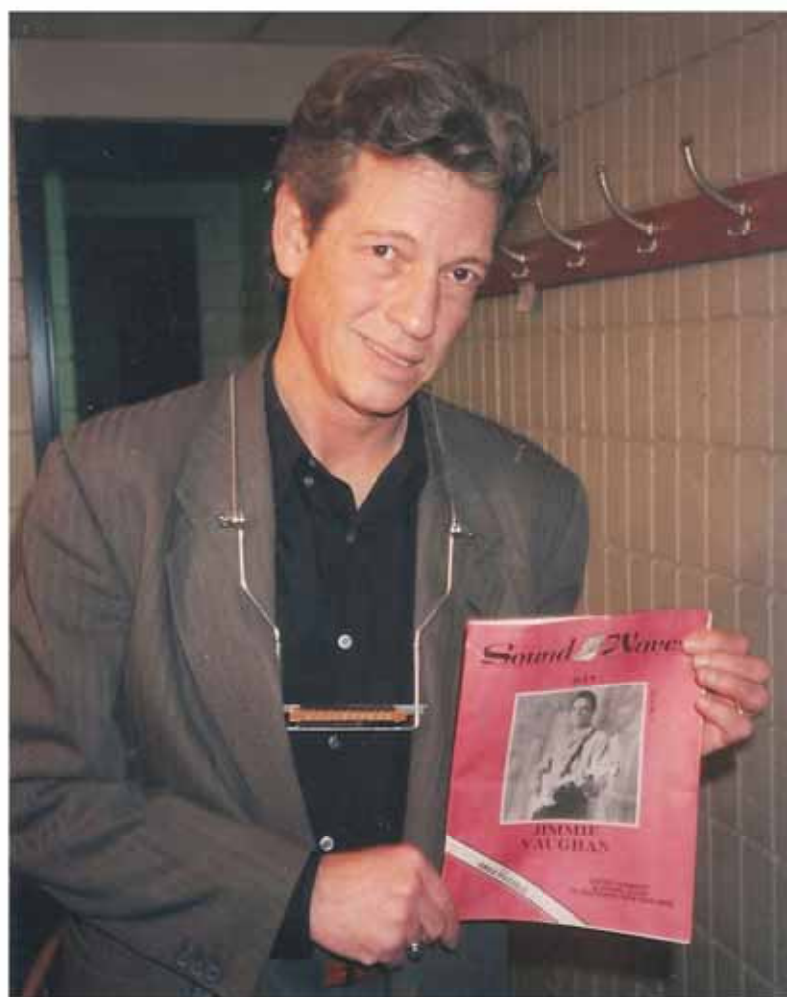
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SOUND WAVES 17

HEARING AID

Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters

"Spread The Love"

Stony Plain Records

Listening to this, Ronnie Earl's 20th album in a brilliant, yet comparatively low key career, conjures up a plethora of influences. Yet, the most basic is that Ronnie, having successfully fought demons that some blues poseurs can only have nightmares about, has emerged with the best album of his storied career.

Recorded locally, in Massachusetts, it consists of 14 dynamic instrumentals, the majority of which Earl wrote or co-wrote. Clearly a disciple of the "less flash is more" school that showcases his playing rather than any false histrionics, Ronnie alternately pays tribute to a number of influences, including Duane Allman on "Skyman," Guitar Slim on "Blues for Slim," to Kenny Burrell on "Chitlins Con Carne," and perhaps even Ry Cooder, or maybe as far back as Son House, on "Blues for Bill," an all-acoustic track that closes the album.

To my ears, after repeated listenings, the sound is closer to Jeff Beck than anyone else, but the real joy of Earl's music is that he manages to sound a bit like others, yet only, ultimately, like himself, and there's not a lot of players today who can make that claim as well as he can. He's bluesy, he's soulful, he can be, at times, even downright funky, but at all times he's clearly Ronnie Earl.

With "Spread The Love," Ronnie Earl can also spread the word – that he is one of the very best guitar players out there today.

****_{1/2} - Mark T. Gould

CoCo Carmel

"First Fruit"

There have been many wonderful tributes to the late, great, and somewhat underrated Delaney Bramlett, but none as warm, embracing and loving as this from the incredibly talented Coco Carmel, his ex-wife.

As Carmel explains in the liner notes, this marvelous record was recorded, under the tutelage of Bramlett, over the course of more than a decade, from 1988 to 2001. Upon repeated listening, it is clear that not only did Carmel learn

her lessons well, but she has stupendous talent in her own regard.

Carmel and Bramlett wrote or co-wrote all of the tracks on the record, a few, most notably "I Don't Know Why," will be familiar to longtime Bramlett fans. Yet, this is clearly Carmel's show, playing saxophone, bass and guitar, as well as offering her earnest, yet atmospheric, voice to the proceedings.

And, I absolute dare you to listen to "Rest in Peace," the final track and a personal tribute to Bramlett, who died in 2008, without getting more than a bit misty eyed. Accompanied to her current partner, former Domino and Bramlett musician, the incomparable Bobby Whitlock on keyboards and slide guitar, Carmel offers the perfect epitaph to a stunning record.

As most fans know, Bramlett surrounded himself with many great musicians, among them Eric Clapton, George Harrison, Dave Mason, and Whitlock, among others. With this release, CoCo Carmel stands proudly on the pedestal with them.

****_{1/2} - Mark T. Gould

Ann Savoy & Her Sleepless Knights

"Black Coffee"

Memphis International

If you think that class and sophistication is missing from much of today's popular music, take a listen to Ann Savoy.

Well versed and traveled in the Acadian sounds of her South Louisiana, Savoy nonetheless offers in "Black Coffee" a veritable smorgasbord of Americana through swing, Tin Pan Alley, blues and, amazingly, even Parisian classics.

As such, every track is essential and righteous. Savoy and her exquisite band move from the humor of the title track, "Black Coffee," through the backroom, lights are low, antics of their cover of Bessie Smith's "Whoa, Tilly, Take Your Time" and "You've Been a Good Ole Wagon," and the dreaminess of unearthed gems like "Nuages," "Embraceable You," and Johnny Mercer's "If You Were Mine."

In an often flat, boring musical landscape, the style and grace of Ann Savoy subtly embraces you and takes you on

a musical journey that, in much lesser hands, is far lacking these days.

****_{1/2} - Mark T. Gould

***** Excellent

***** Highly Recommended

*** Good Addition to Collection

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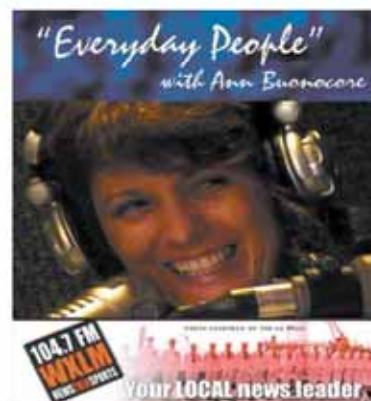


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