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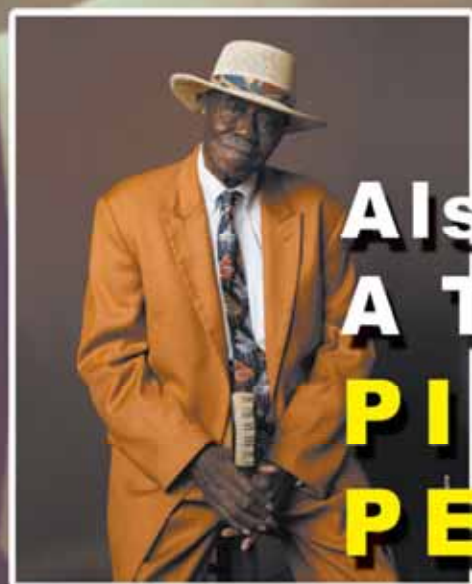


Waves

Volume 21
Issue 7
April 2011

**An
Interview
with
American Idol**

**CRYSTAL
BOWERSOX**



**Also
A Tribute to
PINETOP
PERKINS**

**A Southern New England
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Guide Since 1990**



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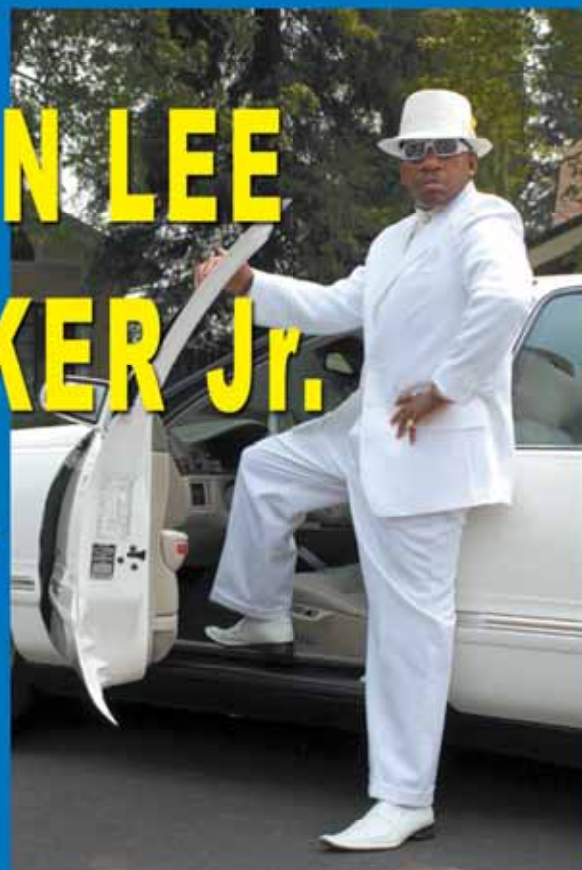
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8pm



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Fri

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PEACH**

⁸ **BIG BANG
BABY**

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BAND**

²² **"Battle of
the Beats"**

²⁹ **NO
SHAME**

Sat

² **DJ
MELEE**

⁹ **EXPLICIT**
FunBags
Production

¹⁶ **DJ
MELEE**

²³ **TBA**
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ALEX W**

Stash's Cafe
Happy Hour Friday
 6-9pm

Friday 1st
REWIND

Friday 8th
FUSION

Friday 15th
MELEANA

Friday 22nd
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& SOUL**

Friday 29th
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& HIGHWAY CALL**



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**"Battle of
the Beats"**

with
Nast Nate
 from Flowers and Kain
 & DJ Devine

Good
 Friday
 April
 22nd

Come Early and Have Dinner!
New Dinner Menu

INSIDE THE WAVE

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MAILBAG

Dear Readers,

This past month saw the passing of 2 great performers. One of the last great film stars, Dame Elizabeth Taylor and the soul of the blues piano Pinetop Perkins. We dedicate this issue to both of these great performers. Their talent lives on in their films, recordings and our memories.

I had the pleasure of meeting Pinetop a few times. His performances were some of the best I have seen. But my most memorable time was when he toured with the Muddy Waters Review. I was backstage with the band and Pinetop was sitting by himself in a corner. I went over and sat next to him and started up a conversation. After a few minutes he motioned for me to be quite, looked around and then reached along side his chair and pulled out a bottle of good bourbon. He poured us a couple glasses and over the next hour or so I had the most memorable time as he proceeded to tell me of his life and musical past. I'm sure we would of been there till dawn if the rest of the band hadn't said it was time for them to go. Rest in peace Pinetop. Thanks for the memories.

This month issue continues our tradition of interviewing an American Idol artist. There's a lot happening in the area, so check out the issue and plan a night out. After this past winter, I'm sure there's cabin fever going around. Make sure you mention that you saw an advertiser's ad in Sound Waves! They are what make it possible for this publication to remain free! Also check out our web site (www.swaves.com). We are averaging 2500 hits per day!

Till Next Month,
David L. Pottie
 editor/publisher

Sound

Waves

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 VOLUME 21, NUMBER 7

Editor
David L. Pottie

Contributing Writers
 Bill Harriman
 Mark T. Gould
 Rex Rutkoski
 Don Sikorski
 Walter Modliszewski
 Stephanie Shawn
 R. L. Oeser
 David Fidrych

Artist/Graphic Design
 David L. Pottie
 Larry Nadolsky

Advertising Sales
 Cato Johnson
 David Pottie
860-572-5738

Email
editor@swaves.com

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4:00 ~ 10:00 Dinner
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Real People

Fri	Sat
1 RON DRAGO	2 SUE MENHART
8 SHAWN TAYLOR	9 BEN FRIERT
15 CHRISTOPHER JOHN	16 SHAWN TAYLOR
22 LEADPAINT LICKERS	23 DAN STEVENS
29 TBA Call for info	30 BEN FRIERT
6 RON DRAGO	7 SUE MENHART

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MUSIC NOTES

"A Golden Oldie"

By Mark T. Gould



Three years of schooling, a bar room brawl, and almost nine decades of smoking and drinking.

If that sounds like the life of a bluesman, it is.

Actually, it's some of the real-life saga of one of the last of the vanishing breed of first-generation Delta bluesmen, the remarkable and redoubtable piano pounder Pinetop Perkins, whose death at age 97 last month simultaneously silenced one of the most incredible careers of any musician and brought us, tragically, one step closer to the end of the era of those

blues giants whose migration from the Deep South after World War II ignited the spark that germinated into something we've come to call "rock and roll."

It almost begs the question to try to come up with another popular music performer who was as consistently good and had anywhere near close to the longevity of Perkins, who won a Grammy three years ago and again this year, at the ripe young ages of 94 and 97.

Think that's easy? Try it. Nobody else has even come close.

Just about every vignette of Pinetop's life is jaw-dropping. From his earliest days working and singing in the cotton fields of his youth, to his professional career starting with the legendary Sonny Boy Williamson on the King Biscuit Radio Hour broadcast from Helena, Arkansas, which led to his following the equally great Otis Spann as Muddy Waters' pianist, and, finally, to his acclaim from the energetic solo career he fashioned over the last two decades of his life, Pinetop Perkins' deeds were remarkable.

His longevity as a performer was remarkable in itself, given that he repeatedly said that he began smoking at age nine and didn't quit drinking until he was 82. Actually, he didn't release a solo album until he reached the age of 63; "Boogie Woogie King" was Perkins' first solo album in 1976. Beginning in 1992 with "Pinetop's Boogie Woogie," he released a string of 15 albums in as many years.

Ironically, Perkins first instrument was the guitar, and he didn't switch to the piano until 1943, after he was attacked by a patron with a knife in a juke joint, severing the tendons in his left arm, rendering him incapable of holding or playing a guitar.

Willie "Pinetop" Perkins dropped out of school after the third grade, taught himself the basics of blues guitar, and began entertaining at dances and house parties at age 10. He gave himself the nickname "Pinetop" because he liked the music of an earlier performer named Pinetop Smith.

While still a teenager, he left Mississippi and traveled to Chicago, but he eventually returned to the Delta, where he drove a tractor in the cotton fields. He returned to Chicago in the late 50s, and joined Waters' band about a decade later. He played with Waters for more than a decade, and other band members and he then formed the Legendary Blues Band, before he started his solo career, in his 80s.

And, then, the incredibly overdue awards started to come in, by the bucket full. In 2000 he received a National Heritage Fellowship from the National Endowment of the Arts. He was given a Grammy lifetime achievement award in 2005, and won a Grammy in 2008 for the album "Last of the Great Mississippi Delta Bluesmen: Live in Dallas" (Blue Shoe Project), a collaboration with his contemporaries Henry Townsend, Robert Lockwood Jr. and Honeyboy Edwards.

Remarkably, Perkins also won a Grammy in February of this year for best traditional blues album for "Joined at the Hip: Pinetop Perkins & Willie 'Big Eyes' Smith." That win made Perkins the oldest Grammy winner, edging out late comedian George Burns, who was 95 when he won in the spoken category for "Gracie: A Love Story" in 1990.

"He was a legendary bluesman, and a master piano player," said Neil Portnow, president of The Recording Academy that awards the Grammys.

"(He was) a force to be reckoned with, his robust playing style and distinctive voice were unmistakable," Portnow added. "Whether performing solo or jamming with other notable talent, his charisma and energy stood out in every song. His legacy has informed and inspired so many generations, and will continue to do so for many more to come."

Portnow's certainly right in that regard. Over the years, Pinetop Perkins' influence on other piano players was enormous. He has also been credited with teaching Ike Turner how to play the instrument, and more recent stars such as Elton John, Billy Joel and Gregg Allman have all said they were influenced by his high-spirited playing style.

One of the those disciples, Anthony Geraci, a great local player and personal friend of Perkins, may have put it best when he wrote on his Facebook page after Pinetop's death that "I hope we're all as fortunate as Pinetop to be playing the blues at 97 years of age."

Amen to that.



Pinetop Perkins & Editor David Pottie

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²² Young Neal	²³ TBA Call for info
²⁹ TBA Call for info	³⁰ Missguydid
⁶ Flesh Hammer	⁷ Brewzer Face First

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BAR FLY JOURNALS



By Stephanie Shawn

Hello, My Sweet BarFlies... Well it was my Birthday Month and I definitely "Partied Like a RockStar"! So many events...so few days in a single month..What's a Girl to do?... Hit as many parties as possible (it's my birthday..it's my birthday), and that's what this girl did!

Had my own Personal Party at the HANDLEBAR CAFE in Pawcatuck on St. Patrick's Day with everything from corn beef and cabbage to green undies and beer! The party was thrown by my two beautiful friends, Lina and Stacie,(who was also celebrating a Birthday, herself) and our event was fabulously DJ'd by Paul from A&M ENTERTAINMENT. (always

available for your event!)



If you weren't in attendance that evening..YOU MISSED IT!! Wow, what a night! We had a Blast!. (seriously, one of our best parties, ever!) Lina and Ronnie brought me their favoritest wedding cake, as my bestest birthday cake... Ever!! . DEELISH!! The St.Paddy's Day (yes, it was a combo party) corned beef and cabbage made especially

by Sweet Sharon White was wonderful, Darla with her crabby dip (also celebrating a birthday), Walt and Kevin Slocum, two more of our many Birthday Celebrants...Buster Shawn celebrating in style with Two T-Shirts, one an Irish Theme and of course, the obligatory Birthday Boy T-Shirt made by FINISH LINE SIGNS for me, for all the birthday boys and girls (by the way, cleavage was perfect, Brenda!)

We sang, we danced (electric slide, macarena.. something else that's a little bleary?). It was really a fun time! Ginger came with her friends, along with Dino, the Baaafatha, Arthur (another Birthday Boy), Lee Whewell, James Miller, the always gorgeous Mrs. Kevin Slocum..Kris! John Riley, my niece Candice Stamm, Dave Donovan with wifey Sue (yes, another Birthday Girl), Dave Christina, Alicia O'Neil, Sean Banks, Terry Shea, Bill Medberry, Gary Roy, Jim Campo, Rocco and Lisa and so many more...hon-



estly a wonderful party! (I know, I know, I'm gushing!)

Ok...that was one of many, as I've mentioned! I then went with some good friends to the BOATHOUSE in Mystic and had one of the best lunches I've had in awhile! Tami, Stacie, Lina, Pam and

Wendy, with her gift of a Tiffany Pocket Pen...what more could a girl ask for... (Deborah?) took me out for the Lobster Salad...which was what seemed to be many lobsters stripped of their shells, delicately placed atop a bed of mixed greens with a savory vinagrette dressing. Truly mouthwatering!! Along with a Cosmo? Heaven! Thanks, to the Staff at the BOATHOUSE (Will?) and to my dear friends!

And theennnn... Thank You to my Wonderful Children. Birthday Dinner at 84 HIGH STREET. The whole family was present and along with my trusty Cosmopolitan, we had a fantastic meal, including Ten Penny Beer, scrumptious Prime Rib and a Seafood Thai Dish that was delectable! And then... lo and behold, my good friend Gene Parise appeared to entertain the masses with Michael Burke from the band KOZMIK GHIA! Wonderful! Oh What a Night!!

Neeexxtt...train trip to NEW YORK CITY..oh yeah! Tami and Jane took me for a fabulous overnite trip to the City That Never Sleeps! We dined on Soupy, cheese and crackers, along with Vodka-infused Gummi Bears, Mudslides and



Bloody Marys on the train. (yes, all on the train!) We stopped at our hotel (nice one!), jumped in a rickshaw and leered at Cute Boy's Rickshaw Butt as he cycled us over to the IRISH ROGUE for some Burgers, Fries and Slaw (needed

more of a base, people, cuz there was some drinking going on!).

Then into a taxi to visit the always decadent LUCKY CHENG'S DRAG CLUB on the lower East Side. Wow...never been? Gotta try it at least once! I left our table for the lap dance competition (oopsie, did I say that?) and when I returned, Jane introduced me to our waitress Jessica...then she pointed out Jessica's Mom, Gretchen! Huh? JANE!! It's a drag club!! They're all men! No, not these two, she says...uh, Ya Jane, all of 'em...like seriously? Where did she think we were going? And I Laaughhhed....

Had my "Big Girl Toy Party" at COCO'S SALON and OMG! I think our "instructor" had seriously never seen anything the likes of which she was forced to endure that cold, cold late March Evening! We were out of control talking, laughing, touching... "things". Oh Boy! She definitely earned her

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TUESDAYS - Open Pool

Wii Game Night

WED. - Steak Night

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FRIDAYS - DJ Grand

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SAT. - Bartender/Waitstaff

Night ~ Drink Specials

SUNDAYS - 25¢ wings

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money that night! But as they say...what happens at the salon...stays at the salon...but I will tell you that I received a Lovely Hostess Gift that makes me very, very happy!

Wow..what a month! Tired? I am! But a BarFly can never rest! So much going on in April and with the weather turning...Poker Runs! Can't Wait! Also, heard from my Facebook Friend Matt Sinner that BREWZER will be playing at LEGENDS on April 16. See you there! Bill Thibault let me know that the GROUNDSTAKERS will be playing at SNEEKERS on April 29!

And of course, so much in the world is going to S**t, Japan is having an awful time, but what a dignified people. Many benefits are planned on their behalf...HANAFIN'S is hosting the NL Rotaract with SUNDAY GRAVY for some much needed disaster relief! We do what we can in the short time we are given on this Good Earth...



Speaking of short times...Guess it's time to let you in on My Little Secret... I will be DANCING WITH THE STARS at VENICE RESTAURANT on May 1! Holy Shmoley, how'd I get into this one? Well, I am hoping I come out of this with a bit more grace and maybe, just maybe, a slight ability to Dance! This is a fundraiser put on by Deb Pendola of the BRADFORD SCHOOL and it's in the 7th year!! My dance partner will be our very own Stonington First Selectman ED HABEREK! Tickets are available at COCO'S SALON, STONINGTON TOWN HALL, BRADFORD SCHOOL and many other spots...FB me if you need info! Wish Us Luck!!

Busy month, Kris Starks invited me to the El N' GEE for the ON-

FIRES, READY SET RIOT, ROCK N ROLL BABYMINDS and SKRATCH HAPPY! Also BANK STREET CAFE will be rockin' with AGRIPPA93, MATTHIAS STEELE and NO GOOD BASTARD!

Also wonderful news...Stash is back! STASH'S CAFE is promising to bring some added excitement into our Rock N' Roll Futures. We wish you the best and look forward to your Spring and Summer Line-ups! Also SecretSpy Steven Slosberg again reports in that his night out with ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL at the KNICKERBOCKER CAFE was Faabuulous! (insert a SecretSpy Fingersnap or two). He was apparently aswinging away with his crew all night long to this Grammy Award winning Band! Thanks, Secret Spy!

Get to the Border on Saturday Night at HOOTIES for their DJ Dance Party that I hear gets especially hot and heavy around 11! And of course, you can't go wrong with Karaoke with Sean at DAVID'S CAFE on Tuesdays or stop at VODOO GRILL for some etouffe and watch KEVIN & GREG or the MYSTIC HORNS!

And so, another month drifts slowly by (who'm I kiddin? it's flying, baby) so get out, visit some local clubs or restaurants...patronize the locals, avoid the chainstores! Happy birthday to my sister, Christine! Check with me on FaceBook at Bar Fly for upcoming events, news, gossip, and pix of all of us! Tag me if you want your pic to be seen on my page when you're out and about and you happen to snap a particularly entertaining (or scandalous) pic! Ciao for now, my Sweet, Sweet Flies!



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	7 GENERAL CLUSTER	8 SUNDAY GRAVY	
	14 BRIAN MERRITT	15 SOUL SEARCHERS	
M U S I C	21 IZZY & MARCI	22 CHRIS BONKOWSKI	Serving Lunch & Dinner
	28 GREEN TEA	29 2 CAT ZOO	
	5 SOUL SEARCHERS	6 MYSTIC HORNS	

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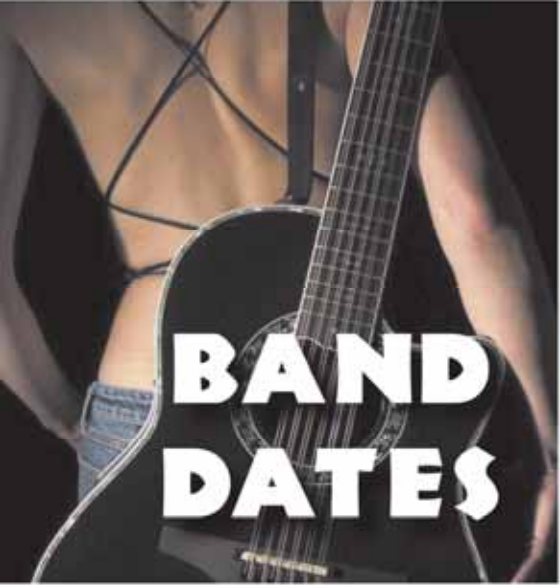
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BAND DATES

ALAN SEMENOVICH

2 - Independent Theater, Stonington, CT

BOTTOM DRAWER

9 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT

BRANDT TAYLOR

1 - Cady's Tavern, Chepachet, RI
2 - P.Sams, New Hartford, CT
8 - The Village, Woodstock, CT
9 - Shakers, Chepachet, RI
15 - Stonehouse, Occum, CT
16 - Raya's, Groton, CT
22 - Hop Meadow, Simsbury, CT 7pm
23 - Spruce St Tavern, Clinton, MA
29 - Mozzarella's, Dayville, CT
30 - Austrian Club, New Britain, CT

THE BUZZ

16 - Gilligan's, Westerly, RI
30 - Rhino Bar, Newport, RI

CATHY KREGER

29 - Buttonwood Tree, Middletown, CT

CUCUMBER JONES

9 - Bridge Rest., Westerly, RI

DAN STEVENS

2 - Old Town Hall, Stafford Springs, CT 1-3
3 - Saltwater Farm, Stonington, CT 3-5
4 - WCNI 90.9 FM 7pm
6 - Whitfield's, Guilford, CT 7pm
7 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
10 - Delta Grill, New York, NY Brunch
12 - Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA
14 - Latitude 41°, Mystic, CT 7pm
15 - Rhinecliff Hotel, Rhinebeck, NY
16 - Mimi's, Huntington, PA
17 - Bullfrog, Williamsport, PA
22 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30
23 - RiverWalk, Mystic, CT
27 - Publick House, Newcastle, ME
29 - Suds Pub, Bethel, ME
30 - Black Bull, Rockland, ME

10 SOUND WAVES

DAN WATSON

3 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT
7 - Cleats, Westerly, RI
12,26 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
21 - Latitudes 41, Mystic, CT 7pm
28 - Bridge Rest., Westerly, RI 8pm

FORVEVER YOUNG

16 - Independent Theater, Stonington, CT

FUSION

1 - Sunset Ribs, Waterford, CT 8-12
8 - Stashes, New London, CT 5-8:30

THE GOAT ROPERS

22,30 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA 8-12

GOPHERBROKE

1 - Cafe on Main, Colchester, CT
15 - Tuscany Grill, Middletown, CT 7:30pm
24 - Boston's Pizza, Manchester, CT
30 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT

GREEN TEA

9 - CC Obriens, Pawcatuck, CT
28 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
30 - Wood River Inn, Richmond, RI

THE GROUND SHAKERS

2 - German Club, Mystic, CT 2-7pm
8 - Shortie's Pub, Oakdale, CT
9 - Holiday Bowl, Groton, CT
29 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT
30 - Harbour Towers, New London, CT

HOPE ROAD

22 - Ocean Mist, Matunuck, RI

JAY DEMPSEY & HIGHWAY CALL

2 - Brown Derby, Montville, CT
20 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
25 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 7pm
29 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT 6pm

JIM CARPENTER

8 - All Souls, New London, CT

KENNY MEHLER

8 - Dubliner, Uncasville, CT
9 - Hanafin's, New London, CT
12,19,26 - Hard Rock, Mashantucket, CT
14,21,28 - Plan B, Glastonbury, CT
15 - Chicago Sam's, Enfield, CT
16 - Groggy Frog, Southington, CT
22 - Nikitas, Middletown, CT
23 - Dish, Hartford, CT
29 - The Well, Cromwell, CT
30 - Eli's, Hamden, CT

KEVIN MANZELLA

8,13,21 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic CT
9 - W B Cody's, Westerly, RI
15 - 84 High St., Westerly, RI
16,29 - Bridge, Westerly, RI
30 - Dog Watch Cafe, Stonington, CT

kGb

8 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
15 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 8pm

KUNG FU

7 - The Spot, Providence, RI

THE LAST CHANCE BLUES BAND

15 - Stone House, Baltic, CT
16 - Raya's, Gales Ferry, CT

Ms. MARCI

& THE LOVESICK HOUNDS
23 - Stage Right, Woonsocket, RI 8:30pm

MUNSELL BROTHERS BAND

2 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT
8 - Christopher's, Groton, CT
9 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT
15 - Hilltop Cafe, Westerly, CT
23 - Ivory Pub, Deep River, CT
29 - Wood River Inn, Hope Valley, RI

THE PIRANHA BROTHERS

1 - Panama's, Agawam, MA 7:30pm
8 - City Steam Cafe, Hartford, CT
22 - Free Spirit, Vernon, CT

RED LIGHT

2 - Balls Sports Bar, Johnston, RI
6 - The Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT
9 - Two Brothers Cafe, Voluntown, CT
16 - The Club, Danielson, CT
23 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
30 - Surrrell's Pub, Griswold, CT

RICHARD SHINDELL

8 - All Souls, New London, CT
9 - Sanctuary Concerts, Chatham, NJ
10 - Friends of Music, Middletown, NY

SARAH T

15 - Portuguese Club, Stonington, CT
30 - Burke's, Niantic, CT

SAVAGE BROTHERS BAND

15 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

STYFF KITTY

23 - City Sports Grille, Groton, CT
30 - Sneeker's, Groton, CT

SUE MENHART BAND

2 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8-11pm
8 - Holiday Bowl, Groton, CT 5-8pm
15 - Vanilla Bean, Pomfret, CT 7:30-9pm
22 - Cafe on Main, Colchester, CT
30 - Harbour Towers, New London, CT 7pm

SUNDAY GRAVY

7 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
8 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
16 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
20 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
23 - The Andrea, Misquamicut, RI

SWIM THE MIND

16 - Germano's, Colchester, CT
29 - Up Or On The Rocks, Hartford, CT

2 CAT ZOO

2 - Dog Watch Cafe, Stonington, CT
8 - Hanafins, New London, CT
14 - Bridge Rest., Westerly, RI
15 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
29 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT 10pm

VINCE THOMPSON & FRIENDS

10 - Cuban Revolution, Providence, RI 5:30-9

WICKED PEACH

1 - Stashes Cafe, New London, CT
13 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT
16 - One Pelham East, Newport, RI
22,30 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT
23 - Knickerbocker Cafe, Westerly, RI

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CONCERT DATES

Christine Ohlman

30 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

The Duke Robillard Band

9 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI
29 - Black-Eyed Sally's, Hartford, CT

Ellis Paul

9 - Wilde Auditorium, Hartford, CT

Harry Connick Jr.

22 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

James Cotton

1 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

John Lee Hooker Jr.

21 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT

Jonah Smith

16 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

Kenny Chesney

8,9 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Marcia Ball

2 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

Neil Young

22 - Perf. Arts Ctr., Providence, RI

Poco

15 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

Ryan Montbleau Band

13 - Toad's Place, New Have, CT

Ricky Martin

17 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Roger McGuinn

22 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Trans-Siberian Orchestra

10 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Yanni

5 - Perf. Arts Ctr., Providence, RI



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3 LOCAL BANDS





By Bill Harriman

As the 10th season of American Idol moves along towards next month's finale we thought it would be a great idea to catch up with Crystal Bowersox, the indisputable star of last year's season. In all the years that American Idol has been on the air there have only been eight women who have broken through to become successful recording artists. There is Kelly Clarkson and Carrie Underwood who are superstars. After that there is Fantasia Barrino, Jennifer Hudson, Katharine McPhee, Kellie Pickler, Jordin Sparks, and now last year's runner-up Crystal Bowersox. That's pretty much it. But with that said they sure are an interesting and talented group of women. They all have their own unique musical styles ranging from country and pop to soul and rock and they all have American Idol to thank for where they are career-wise. It's also safe to say that by the middle of May we'll be adding the name of Pia Toscano to the club but that's a story for another day.

Crystal Bowersox has always been a little bit different from the usual contestants that the general public is used to seeing on American Idol. A multi-instrumentalist and a gifted singer/songwriter, with her dreadlocks, blue jeans, and flannel shirt she comes across as the quintessential "indie artist" as opposed to the kind of commercial pop star that Idol looks for.

With Crystal Bowersox we have a young woman who at the age of seventeen left her home town of Toledo Ohio and a strained relationship with her mother and moved to Chicago with dreams of making it in the music business. Two years ago you might have seen her playing for tips at a train station or maybe singing at an open mic in an area club. When Idol held auditions in Chicago in the summer of 2009 Crystal, who now was a twenty-four year old single mom, was encouraged by friends to give it a shot even though she had never seen the show. When she finally got in front of the judges, including guest judge Shania Twain, she sang the Janis Joplin classic "Piece of my Heart" and got her golden ticket to Hollywood. The rest, as they say, is history.

With her American Idol journey now behind her Crystal is truly living the dream. She recently married her longtime friend and fellow musician Brian Walker and her new CD called "Farmer's Daughter" has gotten excellent reviews. "Farmer's Daughter" is all original material with the exception being a cover of the Buffalo Springfield classic "For what it's Worth." All the songs are very personal and heartfelt, especially the title song which has garnered much attention. Singing about her mother Crystal includes the lyrics "You'd come home with bourbon breath, Jack in the air. And when you broke my bones I told the school I fell down the stairs." The last time someone from Idol sang about their mother it was Carrie Underwood in the tune "Mama's Song" where she sings "Mama there's no way you'll ever lose me." Quite the contrast isn't it?

This phone interview took place on the afternoon of Friday March 4th. Crystal was in her car at the time taking her son to Chuck E. Cheese!

Crystal how is it for you these days dealing with the fame and recognition that American Idol has brought to you?

CB - "Well I've been traveling a lot and usually in airports or on the airplane I'll be recognized and it's fine. I don't feel any different. I understand that there will be people who know who I am, at least publicly and that's fine with me. I say hi and it makes them smile. It's nice to be able to put a smile on someone's face. It's very cool."

What's it like seeing your new CD on display at record stores?

CB - "Well I haven't been to a record store in a while and there's not very many of them left sadly. It's awesome and I'm definitely blessed to be where I am and have the opportunities that I've had and hopefully will continue to have."

I thought covering the Buffalo Springfield song "For What It's Worth" was an interesting choice. What was the reason for including that tune?

CB - "The idea was brought up by David Bendeth who was the producer on 'Farmer's Daughter.' He said 'why not this song?' and I know the song. I've heard it a million times from my parents and their era of music and it's a timeless classic. It will always ring true no matter what is happening in the world but more so now than ever. It's important that the youth stand up for themselves and what they believe in and be active and aware and conscience of what is happening around you."

I know you've been asked quite a bit about the title track. Let me just ask you about the feedback you've gotten from people.

CB - "I've gotten some good and some bad. A lot of people have said that it's too heavy, it's too heavy of a topic but that's exactly why I wanted it to be my first single and it's also the reason that I've gotten messages from fans who said that it affected them and changed their lives in a personal way. They could relate somehow to the content of it and start to heal from it. Airing it out helps you get over it. That's how it was for me. The song for me is a positive song in that way because I don't carry that emotion around with me anymore. It's in the song, it's out of me. It was definitely cathartic."

I thought that the video of the song was excellent. What I took from it is that it's obvious your son will never have those issues.

CB - "Definitely, it's a conscience choice to end cycles. Maybe your mother or father went through something as a child and they brought it to you and you went through the same thing. It was my decision whether or not I wanted my son to have that kind of life and I chose not to. I want him to have the very best and have the opportunities that he deserves."

Let's change the subject. I understand that you recently had a nice experience at the Grand Ole Opry. Can you tell me about that?

CB - "Yeah definitely, Pete Fisher had invited my husband and me to the Grand Ole Opry to just stand in the back of the stage. So we were just there and kind of in awe of everything happening and watching people walk by. It was just nice to be there but then Pete wanted to announce my presence to the audience and I said 'ok sure.' And he said 'Crystal's in the house' and I walked out and waved and that was that. And then a little time went by and Vince Gill comes over and asks if I could play a song and started geeking out! I've dreamt about that moment, that's a huge thing. That's writing a part of my personal history and part of the Opry's history, it's so big to me and I was very flattered and flabbergasted that it happened and it felt really good."

I heard that you sang "Mine all Mine." That's a very sweet song.

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CB - "I sang 'Mine All Mine' which is a song about simplicity. You don't need a lot of things and you can get by on love if you want to."

I like the first track "Riding with the Radio." It's what you like to call good ol' rock and roll.

CB - "I don't know about that. I like to write songs and I like to sing songs and I gave it my best shot. I don't know if it lives up to all that but if people enjoy it then I will have achieved my goal."

I recently saw a video of you at a radio station at the Children's Health Care of Atlanta. Can you tell me about that?

CB - "That was part of the Ryan Seacrest Foundation. In that hospital they built a studio that broadcasts throughout that hospital and a few other local hospitals. The kids can watch it in their room. They can call in and talk to the deejay and it's just an interactive thing in the hospital for the kids to do. The equipment there was phenomenal. So it's just a little way to shed a little light on a child's day who maybe otherwise wouldn't have had a brighter day and it was great to be a part of that."

I know that childhood diabetes has been a pet project for you. How can people help?

CB - Go to JDRS.ORG - juvenile diabetes research foundation. You can just do a google search and a lot of stuff comes up as information on where you can volunteer or how you can donate or how to be involved and be active in it. Before I always wanted to donate but couldn't because I didn't have the money to and thankfully now I can donate time and money and try to help anyone else who is going through what I go through. It's a nice thing to be able to contribute."

Getting back to "Farmer's Daughter," tell me about the song "Mason" that you sing with your husband. Is that your son's name?

CB - "It's one of his names. We call him Tony. It's Anthony Levi Mason. Part of the reason that Mason is in his name is because of my husband's song 'Mason.' It's huge for us. It's a very sentimental song for our family. We sang it at our wedding right after we said I do. To us it's an epic love song."

I also liked the song "Arlene." What's the story behind that tune?

CB - "I wrote 'Arlene' last summer towards the end of the American Idol's live tour and Arlene was our tour bus driver. I was just inspired by her. She's just tough, honest, and thorough with a great work ethic. She was just all about getting stuff done and being strong as a woman. She said that no one had ever written a song for her in thirty years of rock and roll trucking. So I took it upon myself to write a song for her."

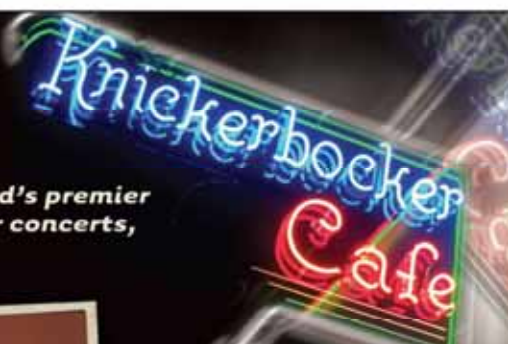
I know you have a couple of shows coming up but are there plans for a major tour - hopefully to New England?

CB - "I believe there's some stuff coming up but I don't have a set tour or anything but I'll be playing shows all summer long. My schedule is filling up fast. So keep your eyes posted and hopefully there will be a show near you. I've got a lot of stuff coming up but I just can't announce anything yet. Just keep your eye on my website. We're basically adding all the time."

Have you been doing a lot of writing? I bet that pretty soon you'll be thinking about your next CD.

CB - "I've written about three new songs in the past couple of weeks. You know I am kind of antsy but I want to give this one the love and attention that it deserves but I'm constantly writing and creating. It's just part of who I am. It is just something that happens all the time. I don't have any specific other projects going on or anything but I'm getting to play with some amazing musicians and Jon Popper is going to join me at South by Southwest and that's incredible to me that he would even consider playing with me now. Like he

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knows who I am, that's crazy to me. So I'm in a really good place in life and in my career and I just hope I get to do this forever."

Have you been watching the new season of American Idol and do you have any favorites?

CB - "I haven't really been watching but someone recommended that I check out Casey Abrams. He's the only contestant that I've actually seen and I thought he was great. I haven't seen the competition though so it's not an educated guess but I'm rooting for Casey."

I assume that we will see you back there on the Idol stage some time soon?

CB - "Um..... You'll just have to wait and see! Nothing is confirmed so we'll see what happens."

Recently Crystal Bowersox teamed up with BB King as representatives for OneTouch which is a type of glucose monitoring system for people with diabetes. Maybe you've seen their commercial? If not then undoubtedly you'll be seeing Crystal soon enough when she makes her triumphant return to the American Idol stage. And if you happen to miss that then maybe you'll run into her hanging out with her son at a local Chuck E. Cheese.



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Bridgeport, CT -- Gathering of the Vibes, the Northeast's premier summer music festival, announces initial lineup including: FURTHUR featuring Phil Lesh and Bob Weir, Jane's Addiction, Elvis Costello & The Imposters, moe., The Levon Helm Band, John Butler Trio, Tedeschi Trucks Band, Dr. John and the Lower 911, Taj Mahal Trio, The Rhythm Devils with Keller Williams, Steve Kimock and Reed Mathis, Ivan Neville's Dumpstaphunk, Toots & The Maytals, Dark Star Orchestra, Ryan Montbleau Band, David Gans, Assembly of Dust, The McLovins, King for a Day and Bridgeport's own Deep Banana Blackout. The New Mastersounds, Big Gigantic, and others to headline the Late Night Stage.

The second round of artist announcements will be made within the next 2 weeks. Vibes continues its tradition of embracing new, undiscovered artists, alongside legendary performers by reviewing 2,400 submissions via the Vibes website and Sonicbids, for an opportunity to perform in front of 20,000+ music enthusiasts. Over 40 bands will perform on multiple alternating stages at Seaside Park's 370-acre beachfront venue.

"Gathering of the Vibes continues its musical evolution and remains true to our roots with this year's lineup," says festival founder Ken Hays.

The Vibes is an all ages, family friendly event, offering an exclusive Family Camping area, Kids Corner, and a Teen Scene that includes interactive workshops and a "Teen Vibes Stage" offering musical instruction and jam sessions with main stage artists.

For the first time, Vibes is offering single day VIP tickets. VIP Vibesters can look forward to rock-star parking, a stage-side chill tent, catered meals, snacks and beverages.

All tickets and camping passes are on sale and available now at: www.gatheringofthevibes.com.

Fans traveling to and from New York can ride the Metro North, Port Jefferson Ferry or return on the late night "Vibes Party Bus" with shuttle service to Penn Station, Grand Central Station and NY Port Authority, post Friday and Saturday night sets, departing at 3:30 a.m. Hotel packages with complimentary shuttle bus service are available at: www.gatheringofthevibes.com/hotels.

For over a decade and a half, Gathering of the Vibes has been a frontrunner in creating an online community whose year round support is dedicated to helping make the world a better place through charitable causes and environmental initiatives. Vibes 2011 is dedicated to the memory of Michael J. Potashnick, the "Voice of the Vibes," co-Emcee since 2005, and a cherished member of the Vibes family since its inception.

Follow Gathering of the Vibes on Facebook, Twitter, and Myspace, or check the message boards for the most updated festival information.

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FAREWELL TO A LEGEND PINETOP PERKINS

7/ 7/1913 - 3/ 21/ 2011



On July 4th 1976, I had the pleasure of meeting Muddy Waters and his band members in Providence, RI. At the prompting of Luther "Guitar Junior" Johnson, I asked Muddy if I could sit in with him at one of his upcoming shows at The Shaboo Inn in Willimantic, CT. I was fortunate enough to not only sit in with him there but several times following that night. During that period of time I got to know Muddy and his band members very well. Pinetop Perkins was one of those band members until he and the others parted company from Muddy's band in 1980.

When I was asked to write this article I felt privileged, but how could I possibly keep it from becoming a book? I have so many SWEET memories and lessons I learned from Pinetop Perkins, my "Papa Willie."

When word of Pinetop's passing hit the media my Facebook page began filling up with comments from people who had met Pinetop through me. Those memories have been a comfort to me. God bless you all for sharing.

I think my my deepening friendship with Pinetop began when a band I was in called The Dail-Tones opened for him at The Church House Inn in Providence, RI. He had just begun his solo career and he was listening to us from the sidelines. I was really nervous, wanting to impress him with my band. When I left the stage he came up to me and said, "You stole my song, I was gonna do "Teeny-Weeny Bit" an' you stole it!" I felt SICK and so sorry! Then he told me that I did it so well and that I got him all excited. OMG! I felt flattered. He taught me a valuable lesson that night. ALWAYS check with the other band(s) you're performing on the same bill with so you don't do the same songs. I knew there were no hard feelings on his part when he called me up to sing with him when he did his set!

Fast forward to a show Pinetop did at The Ocean Mist in Matunuck, RI. He called me up again (now this is getting to be a habit) and I loved every second of it! After the show, he said he would be going back home, then coming back in a few days for more shows in New England. I said no way, I'm kidnapping you! So me, Pinetop and my friend "Piano Jack" Perotta spent a week hanging out together. One night, we went out for Chinese food. A friend, Bing Hing Chin, had a restaurant called Joy May in Providence, RI. Bing LOVED the blues and Pinetop loved good Chinese food so the match was perfect. Bing would not let Pinetop pay for the food and had him autograph just about everything in the place. Pinetop referred to me that night as his "God-daughter" and from then on he was my "Papa Willie."



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On to one of my fondest memories of Pinetop. On October 23rd, 1999 my band at that time called Ms Marci & The Bar Chords played with at Burke's Tavern in Niantic, CT. It was billed as a Sunday afternoon jam session, featuring "Mr. Pinetop Perkins." Normally, Pinetop did not like to play on Sundays. "That's The Lord's day," he said, "but I'll do it 'cause you asked me to." We had a dinner and then rehearsal at our home the night before that gig. I made one of Pinetop's favorites... "scrambled hamburger" as he called it (sloppy joe) and home made corn bread and we jammed into the night. By the time Sunday came, we were all charged up and ready to jam at Burke's. Several people showed up to have the privilege of jamming with a genuine blues legend... Mr. Pinetop Perkins! My husband Jim found a sculptor from RI who made walking canes, and the band chipped in to buy one.

At the end of the show, we presented him with that custom made piano walking cane. Pinetop treasured that cane and was seen holding it on several of his CDs and at his performances. The day that followed, we entertained Pinetop at our home and he saw our son Jimmy Hooper's two story fort complete with a basement he had dug and exclaimed, "Now I've seen everything!" Can you imagine how that felt for a 13 year old to hear that from an 86 year old man who had seen so much? That's just one of the many things that has endeared me to Pinetop. He was a caring person first and foremost!

Through the years our friendship grew. We'd talk regularly on the phone and I'd go to see him perform. He had me sit in with him many times. There were times that he'd call me on the phone out of the blue. And it would always seem like he would call just when I needed a friend with encouraging words. We'd always end our conversations with heartfelt sentiments. I'd say, "I love you" and he'd answer, "I love you, too!" He would follow with, "I'm gonna gitcha!" And I'd reply, "Not if I git you first!" We'd laugh and we'd say "Bye, bye...bye for now."

In the last decade of his life, Pinetop saw several friends of his pass on. Many of them much younger than him. All of those deaths touched him. Some very deeply like his friends Cliff Antone, Calvin "Fuzz" Jones and Ike Turner. Sometimes I'd call him to see how he was doing. Even though he was sad, he'd always say, "Well, (death) it's a debt we all gotta pay!"

Monday, March 21st he woke up, had breakfast, played cards and laid down for a nap and never woke up. He was found lying in his bed with his hands folded behind his head and his legs crossed...resting in peace!

- Ms Marci Chevian-Hooper



Pinetop Perkins & Ms. Marci

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2011 NANTUCKET NECTARS SUNSET MUSIC SERIES PROUD TO WELCOME BACK FOUR FAN FAVORITES

The Newport Yachting Center event venue and marina announces that four fan favorites are returning to this summer's 14th Annual Nantucket Nectars Sunset Music Series.

Sat., June 25 - Indigo Girls

The Indigo Girls, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers, released their self-titled album in 1988 and its hit single, "Closer To Fine" proceeded to go Platinum and win the Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Folk Recording. The band was also nominated for Best New Artist that year. The Indigo Girls took off from there by releasing several albums in the 90's that went Gold or Platinum, including Rites of Passage featuring "Galileo," the duo's first Top 10 Modern Rock track. After releasing a live DVD, titled Live at The Roxy, in 2009, the Indigo Girls continued to celebrate their long-standing passion for live performance with their 2010 release, Staring Down the Brilliant Dream. The two-disc CD features 31 live recordings, each hand-selected by the Grammy-winning duo to capture the most memorable moments of their 2006-2009 shows. The duo's latest released is a holiday CD, Holly Happy Days.

Fri., July 22 - The Robert Cray Band w/ Special Guest Shemekia Copeland

Elected to the 2011 Blues Hall of Fame by The Blues Foundation in Memphis, TN, bluesman Robert Cray is back by popular demand thanks to memorable performances at the 2007 and 2009 Sunset Music Series. Cray was first signed to Mercury Records in 1982 after years of regional success on the West Coast. After winning the distinguished W.C. Handy Blues Award in 1985, Cray's fourth release, Strong Persuader, received one of his five Grammy Awards a year later while the crossover single, "Smokin' Gun," gave him wider appeal and name recognition. By the early Nineties, Cray's name was immediately associated with his soothing, soulful voice, crisp guitar work and modern blues sound. Most recently, Cray appeared multiple times on Eric Clapton's Crossroads Guitar Festival and supported "Slowhand" on his 2006-2007 world tour. Cray's latest release is Cookin' in Mobile.

At a young age, special guest Shemekia Copeland is already a force to be reckoned with in the blues. She's opened for the Rolling Stones, headlined at the Chicago Blues Festival, scored critics choice awards on both sides of the Atlantic (The New York Times and The Times of London) and shared the stage with such luminaries as Buddy Guy, B.B. King, Taj Mahal and John Mayer. After a critically acclaimed 1998 debut recording, Turn the Heat Up!, she released Wicked in 2000 and it garnered three Handy Awards (Song of the Year, Blues Album of the Year, Contemporary Female Artist of the Year) and a Grammy nomination. Copeland's most recent awards include, "Best Female Blues Artist" by Blues Blast Magazine and "Female Blues Artist of the Year 2010", by Living Blues Magazine. This month she will be appearing on Austin City Limits Live and her latest release is, Never Going Back. Copeland opened for Susan Tedeschi at the 2009 Sunset Music Series to rave reviews and this time she will perform a longer set before Cray hits the stage.

Thurs., August 4 - Guster

Forming after a chance meeting between three Tufts University undergrads in the early 1990s, Guster is known for its soaring harmonies, inventive guitar riffs and a hardcore following due in part to their energetic live shows. The alternative rock band has topped the British and German billboards, sold out

New York's fabled Radio City Music Hall, performed with the Boston Pops at Symphony Hall, toured with Ben Folds, John Mayer and Barenaked Ladies, and founded the eco-friendly Campus Consciousness Tour with buses powered by bio-diesel and performances powered by wind power.

The band broke into the musical mainstream in 1999 with its third studio album, Lost and Gone Forever, with the single song "Fa Fa," which made it onto the Adult Top 40. The band then enjoyed success on the charts with Keep It Together, its fourth album, with two singles in the Adult Top 40 ("Careful" and "Amsterdam"). Guster's fifth studio release, Ganging Up on the Sun, won "Album of the Year" at the Boston Music Awards in 2006 and peaked at 25 on the Billboard 200. Guster's sixth studio album, Easy Wonderful, was released in 2010 to critical acclaim. Guster's music has also been featured on numerous movies and television shows, including Disturbia and the Wedding Crashers.

Fri., August 12

The Machine performs Pink Floyd w/ the Interstellar Laser Show

The Machine, America's top Pink Floyd show, has forged a 20 year reputation of excellence, extending the legacy of Pink Floyd, while creating another legacy all their own. "They duplicate the sound and hits of Pink Floyd with chilling accuracy," says Matt Diehl of Rolling Stone magazine. The New York-based band focuses on making every show an authentic Floydian experience for their fans. Known for performing a diverse mix of The Floyd's extensive 16-album repertoire (complete with faithful renditions of well known hits as well as obscure gems), The Machine's live shows feature stellar musicianship, dramatic lighting-laser show and video, and their passionate delivery.

Over the years, The Machine has sold out theaters, large clubs and casinos across North and Central America, Europe and Asia. They have also appeared at renowned music festivals such as Bonnaroo, Riverbend, Gathering of the Vibes, Buffalo's Artpark, and Germany's Rock of Ages and the Atlanta, Detroit, Pittsburgh and San Diego Symphonies. The Machine's third album will be a "psychedelic" collection of Pink Floyd songs expected to be released in 2011.

"The 2011 Sunset Music Series brings back some of our favorite acts that fans have asked to hear again and the artists are happy to return because they love playing at our waterfront venue," said Michele Maker Palmieri, General Manager of the Newport Yachting Center. "This series is always proud to offer a diverse and eclectic mix of music and these returning artists fit the bill." Palmieri encouraged music lovers to stay tuned as the Newport Yachting Center is very close to announcing some more exciting acts to the lineup who have never played at the Sunset Music Series before.

The Newport Yachting Center is located on the waterfront in the heart of historic downtown Newport right off America's Cup Avenue. For each night of the Nantucket Nectars Sunset Music Series (except for The Machine concert), the gates will open at 5:30 p.m., music starts on the Festival Stage at 6:00 p.m., the opening act/special guest begins at 7:00 p.m. on the Main Stage, and the headliner starts at approximately 8:00 p.m. For The Machine concert, the gates will open at 5:30 p.m., music starts on the Courtyard Stage at 6:00 p.m. and the headliner starts at approximately 7:00 p.m. (no opening act).

For more information on the Nantucket Nectars Sunset Music Series, please visit www.newportwaterfrontevents.com



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*Chat and Dine with the Artists at 7 pm.
Catered by Singapore's Grill & Sushi Bar.*



An Evening With Janis Ian

Tuesday, April 12 • 7:30 pm

Oasis
Room

The multi-Grammy Award-winning singer/songwriter "Society's Child", "Jesse," "At Seventeen" - shares her brilliant stage persona and rich musical treasures in the Oasis Room.

*Chat and Dine with the Artists at 6:30 pm.
Catered by Singapore's Grill & Sushi Bar.*



Broadway at the Garde

Spring Awakening

Thursday, April 14 • 7:30 pm

Friday, April 15 • 7:30 pm

The landmark musical Spring Awakening is an electrifying fusion of morality, sexuality and rock & roll that is exhilarating audiences across the nation like no other musical in years.

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Tribute to Miles:

Wallace Roney Quartet

Thursday, April 21 • 7:30 pm

Oasis
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The musical legacy of the legendary jazz trumpeter, Miles Davis, is lovingly shared by his protégé, a jazz master in his own right. *Event includes Chat and Dine with the Artists at 6:30 pm.*

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