

NEW LONDON COUNTY - WINDHAM - MYSTIC - RHODE ISLAND

# Sound Waves

Volume 21  
Issue 8  
May 2011

CLUB LISTINGS  
RESTAURANTS  
CONCERT INFO  
BAND LISTINGS  
REVIEWS & MORE

An  
Interview  
with

**RONNIE  
EARL**

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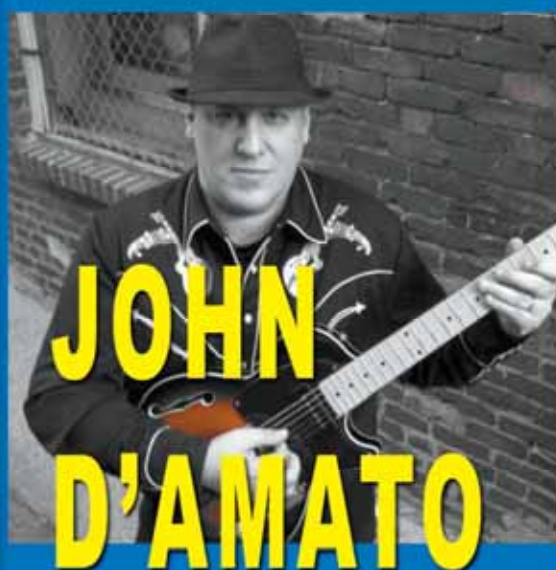
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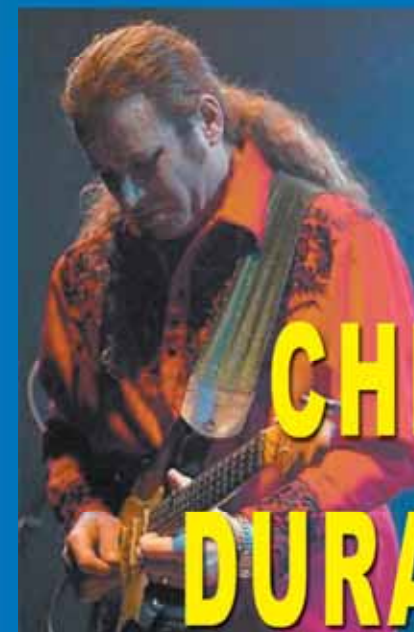


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Fri

Sat

6

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7

**DJ  
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PARTY**

13

**THE  
BUZZ**

14

**DJ  
DANCE  
PARTY**

20

**WICKED  
PEACH**

21

**Ms.  
MARCI**

27

**FLOWERS  
& KAIN**

28

**DJ  
DANCE  
PARTY**

3

**BIG  
FLOPPY  
DISC**

4

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Friday 6th

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Friday 13th

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Friday 20th

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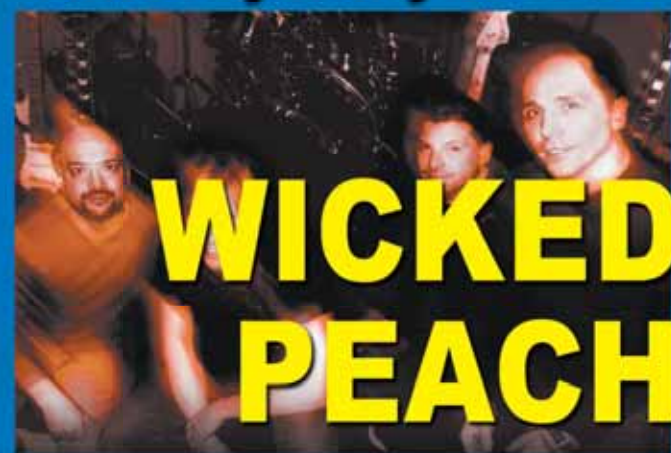
Friday 27th

**MELEANA**

Friday June 3rd

**MIND, BODY & SOUL**

**Friday May 20th**



**WICKED  
PEACH**

**Friday May 27th**

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# INSIDE THE WAVE

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photo by Karsten Koch

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# Sound

# Waves

May 2011  
 VOLUME 21, NUMBER 8

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| Fri                    | Sat                         |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6 <b>RON DRAGO</b>     | 7 <b>SUE MENHART</b>        |
| 13 <b>SHAWN TAYLOR</b> | 14 <b>DAN STEVENS</b>       |
| 20 <b>BEN FRIERT</b>   | 21 <b>SHAWN TAYLOR</b>      |
| 27 <b>MIKE LANE</b>    | 28 <b>LEADPAINT LICKERS</b> |
| 3 <b>RON DRAGO</b>     | 4 <b>BEN FRIERT</b>         |



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| Fri                                              | Sat                                                                          | Sun                                                                    | Mon                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| <b>MEMORIAL WEEKEND</b>                          |                                                                              |                                                                        |                                            |
| 27<br><b>SOUL SHOT</b><br>Reggae/Ska<br>9:30-1am | 28<br><b>James Harris</b><br>Patio ~ 1-5<br><b>THE SITUATION</b><br>9:30-1am | 29<br><b>Addison Station</b><br>Patio ~ 1-5<br><b>ZOOM</b><br>9:30-1am | 30<br><b>Matt &amp; Kim</b><br>Patio ~ 1-5 |

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SOUND WAVES 5

# MUSIC NOTES



## "The Sharpest Axe In the World"

By Mark T. Gould

Was it the look, or was it the sound?

I'm not sure I remember now, but I can tell you that back in the Sixties, when I first became aware of popular music, and the guitar, it was the Fender Telecaster that first caught my eye, and my ear.

And, today, after some five decades of listening to it and admiring it, The "Tele" is still the one for me.

What's the big deal about this guitar right now? Well, it's "Tele's" birthday. It was 60 years ago that Leo Fender changed guitar making, thereby guitar playing, and, ultimately to a large degree, the sound of popular music.

There had been efforts to design a solid-body electric guitar since the 1930s, but it wasn't until Fender introduced this stunning combination of musical form and function that the instrument took off. Thanks to Fender, a Telecaster could be mass-produced, was easy to repair and, unlike a traditional hollow-body electrified guitar, could be played loud without feedback.

Loud. Without feedback. Hey, that's the sound of good rock and roll.

The man was clearly onto something.



Fender had an electronics repair shop called Fender's Radio Service in Fullerton, California, where he first repaired, then designed, amplifiers and electromagnetic pickups for acoustic-based musicians. Players had been 'wiring

up' their instruments in search of greater volume and projection since the late 1920s, and electric, semi-acoustic guitars had long been widely available. Tone had never been, at least until then, the primary reason for a guitarist to go electric, but in 1943, when Fender and his partner, Doc Kauffman, built a crude wooden guitar as a pickup test rig, local country players started asking to borrow it for gigs, mainly because it sounded so shiny and sustaining. Fender got curious about that, and in 1949, when it was long understood that solid construction offered great advantages in electric instruments, he built the Telecaster prototype.

That hand-built prototype, a white guitar, had most of the features of what would become the Telecaster. It was designed in the spirit of the solid-body Hawaiian guitars manufactured by Rickenbacker -- small, simple units made of Bakelite and aluminum with the parts bolted together—but with wooden

construction. (Rickenbacker, then spelled 'Rickenbacker,' had also offered a solid Bakelite-bodied electric Spanish guitar in 1935, many details of which seem echoed in Fender's design.)

The initial single-pickup production model appeared in 1950, and was called the Esquire. Fewer than 50 guitars were originally produced under that name, and most were replaced under warranty because of early manufacturing problems. In particular, the Esquire necks had no truss rod and many were replaced due to bent necks. Later in 1950, this single-pickup model was discontinued, and a two-pickup model was renamed the Broadcaster.

From that point on, all Fender necks incorporated truss rods. The Gretsch company, itself a manufacturer of hollow body electric guitars (and now owned by Fender), claimed that "Broadcaster" violated the trademark for its Broadcaster line of drums, and as a newcomer to the industry, Fender decided to bend and changed the name to Telecaster, after the newly popular medium of television. (The guitars manufactured in the interim bore no name, and are now popularly called 'Nocasters') The Esquire was reintroduced as a one-pickup Telecaster, at a lower price.

If you wonder about its success, just consider some of the players, and the playing of the Fender's invention.

In its early days, those country session musicians were drawn to his instrument, because the "Tele" was seemingly designed for the working musician. Those players included Buck Owens, Waylon Jennings, and James Burton, who accompanied superstars like Ricky Nelson, Elvis Presley, and Merle Haggard ("Hag" actually played a Signature Telecaster model himself).

Later, Danny Gatton, arguably the most underrated electric guitarist of the modern era, blended diverse musical styles (including blues, rockabilly and bebop) and became known as the "Telemaster." Some guy named Clapton used a Telecaster during his stints with the Yardbirds, and while he was in Blind Faith. And, speaking of underrated geniuses, guitarists Roy Buchanan, Albert Collins, and Michael Bloomfield proved the Telecaster was equally suited for playing the blues.

Stax soul sessionist extraordinaire Steve Cropper has used a "Tele" with Booker T. and the MGs, Sam and Dave, Otis Redding and about a zillion other soul and blues acts in his illustrious career. None other than George Harrison used a custom-built rosewood Telecaster during the recording sessions for the Beatles' "Let It Be" album (and later played one in the famous Beatles London rooftop final concert). Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones has composed many classic riffs on his battered "Micawber" Tele, and Jimmy Page used the instrument on the first Led Zeppelin albums, and also for the lead solo in the classic 1971 song "Stairway to Heaven." Bruce Springsteen has used a custom Telecaster off and on throughout his career, both solo and with the E Street Band.

What a life, huh?

Happy Birthday, "Tele," and many more. Keep rockin' and twangin'.

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|                   | Thu                                  | Fri                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>LIVE MUSIC</b> | 5 <b>SOUL SEARCHERS</b>              | 6 <b>MYSTIC HORNS</b>        |
|                   | 12 <b>ROBB DARULA</b>                | 13 <b>SUNDAY GRAVY</b>       |
|                   | 19 <b>WILSON KANE</b>                | 20 <b>BRIAN MERRITT</b>      |
|                   | 26 <b>JOHN FREEZE &amp; THE HEAT</b> | 27 <b>LEAD PAINT LICKERS</b> |
|                   | 2 <b>GENERAL CLUSTER</b>             | 3 <b>MYSTIC HORNS</b>        |

**A Taste of New Orleans in Mystic**  
Wed. 18th ~ 8:30  
**MONEY ISLANDS**  
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~ Alligator

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| 20 <b>The Ninas</b>                    | 21 <b>Ticket To Ride</b><br>Beatles Tribute |
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# BAR FLY JOURNALS



**By Stephanie Shawn**

Hello, My Sweet BarFlies....busy, busy, busy... Yikes! Sometimes I can't even keep track of myself! Happy Cinco de Mayo!! So many cool plans have been laid out for me this month and I am so excited to let you know about a few, including our Cinco De Mayo Party (HandleBar Style) with Margarita Jell-O shots and tequila Gummi Bears along with our Classic Margaritas (sugar or salt?) at the HANDLEBAR CAFE starring yours truly, with her Maracas Show-ing.

Joanna, Stacie and possibly Miss Betsy along with the rest of "the Girls" will be joining Us! We will also be holding a Karaoke ShowDown that evening with

DJ Paul from A&M Entertainment. An Awesome First Prize Basket of Cinco de Mayo Fun for First Prize SuperStar, along with several bottles in giveaways!! Mexican Pizzas and other munchies...I am hoping my entire Face-Book World will be there!

So...Made it to GILLIGAN'S ISLAND recently...fun night out with the Girls! Deb McGugan, Sharon White, Kathleen Brennan and I got together and painted the town Red! We Started out at our usual spot, where Little Juli and Miss Lynn (get better soon, Lindy!) were celebrating Birthdays with Beautifully made cupcakes from McQuade's in Westerly (also try Holy Canoli on Industrial Drive)! The wonderfully fabulous Miss Joanna was doing her "Sunday Martini Special"! Yay!! Chai Martinis!! Our Next Move?...quick stop at DANNY'S where we thrilled the crowd with stories of our various exploits! (kay...Lying...only 2 people there... but it was a dreary, slow, Sunday afternoon!)

Onward... to HILLTOP CAFE for a Spicy Hot Soupy and Vinegar Pepper Pizza...woooohheeeee

HOT! But Deelish! Saw my Gorgeous Friend Heather and Cute Hubby, Billy fresh from a day of Hard Work...find me Heather, we need a Girl's Nite!

And our last stop was GILLIGAN'S ISLAND, where I met a new Best Friend, one of the Morrone boys...Wow...Lying again!! Doesn't really seem to like me that much?!! Was actually kinda ugly to me! Oh, well...can't win 'em all! Anyways... Great Time! Steve Christian was playing at GILLIGAN'S



**Birthday Girls**

and what a fantastic job! I listened to some Bon Jovi, John Mellencamp's "Jack and Diane" "3am" by Matchbox 20 and some awesome Elton John! Loved it! What a wonderful performer and wonderful time on a Sunday Afternoon!

Had another Girl's Lunch at BOATHOUSE in Mystic...sorry to keep mentioning them but.. really like it there! Handsome



**Lucky Birthday Boy**

Samuel Johnson, Lina's son, was cheffing for us on lovely Sweet Stacie's Birthday! Chocolate Martini's and Calamari along with Clams Casino and a hummus plate...and oh yeah, the best burger in the World (that day)! Yay!!

My next adventure was Dwayne's Birthday Celebration Night starting at STASH'S in New London, with friends Janie and Stacie to see REWIND again! Wow...Huge Crowd! Hard Time with such a big crowd, but the REWIND Guys, always do a Fantastic Job! Can't wait to see them at Rayna and Carlos' Wedding!!

Then we hot-footed it to see handsome Robby Angell III and oh-so cute Gabby at BANK STREET CAFE where we dined on sliders and cheese fries made especially by "that guy"! Sorry I missed your 21st, Robby! Stopping by again for our First Poker Run! Stay Tuned.



We then ended our evening back at HBC, where Dwayne was sufficiently inspired by the night's events to extract his Birthday Cake (there's always the same one in the freezer...been there for years..reusable!) out of the deepfreeze, and light the teeny tiny candle nub that's also been in the top of the teeny, tiny cake, for years! A quick birthday tune from the crowd and his birthday was Ovah!!! Happy Birthday!

I sent some Secret Spies over to the BROWN DERBY that night to see FAT BETTY and heard they had a big crowd and a great night, with people dancing up 'til closing! Haven't seen them since my First BarFly Article almost 3 years ago! I heard they will be playing in an outside concert series in Pawcatuck this summer which should be ..... Faaabuuuulooous!! 2 snaps

Gotta let you know... After my shift this week I headed to APPLEBEES in Westerly to celebrate the Biaatch's Birthday with Rebecca herself, and many of her good friends, who spent the night serenading her, 80's style with Karaoke Demon Bev Gray and her husband. Spike and Katrina were with us, and I was so Happy to see Miss Dawn Tosti on Shift and will be working within several establishments this summer...Good Luck in All, Dawn! Tip as Well as you can, people! It is certainly appreciated!

Spent this past Saturday Night at a Benefit for friend Kevin Rounds, suffering from the big C...just terrible. It was held at the ELKS in Westerly and Lou Gatch and Eddie St. did a wonderful job raising money to help a friend in need! What a fantastic turnout! Everyone was there! A few names? Arnold and Terry, Bob Carr, Christine and Tim, Rose and Johnny, Ginger Coon, Wendy Ainsworth, Patty and Rox, Heather and Alex, Art, Andrew and Doug St.

Clair, Lori Lee, Meghan, Kelly, Lee Whewell just to name a few and of course Kevin and wife, Sam! Even though times are tough, Health is everything and helping a friend in need makes everyone feel better! Nice Job, Guys!

Fun Times!! How in the heck did WICKED PEACH score a Gig at the GOLD CLUB! Really?? That musta been awesome...I wanna go... lemme know the next time you are there! I'll bring all the guys on our Poker Run (the

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**2011 Best Soupy Winners  
Mike & Stacie**

first of which we are hoping to have on May 12...check out Bar Fly on Facebook for an update and info..

Well, I did it! I Danced Like A Star at a Fundraiser held at the VENICE BALLROOM in Misquamicut. It's put on every year by Bradford School's Deb Pendola and I might add, done very well! My partner Ed Haberek (Stonington's First Selectman) and I cut the rug for two shows that day and did quite well...more details will follow..



Well another month comes to end...Happy Mother's Day to my Mom and Happy Mother's Day to the other Mothers in My Life...Michele and Joyce, I love you all and appreciate all that you do! Also Memorial Day is upon us! Along with another Pappy's Run and La-

conia! The Real HouseWives of Westerly (Mystic, Pawcatuck and Charlestown) will be doing a Relay for Life on June 24 and we are looking for your support!! (more details at Bar Fly! Summer is almost upon us..Have a Fun and Safe Time! Stop by May 12, Thursday Night, for our first Poker Run at 6! Ciao for now, my Sweet Flies!



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**Ends Saturday, June 9, 2011**

8 qualifiers - 1 chosen every Saturday

Semi finals on June 2nd. Finals June 9

Weekly qualifiers will receive t-shirt

& \$10 Gift card from Stonehouse

1st place winner receives \$200

& 4-hour Free DJ Party

2nd place winner receives \$100

3rd place winner receives \$50

#### Contest criteria:

Each contestant will choose one practice song, one ballad and One up beat song.

Contestants will turn the 2 contest songs in by 9:30

From 9-10 warm ups ~ Contest starts at 10pm

Three judges ~ Scale of 1-5 points

Appearance/Showmanship/audience response/Song content

Encourage contestants to come on Wednesdays

to choose songs and practice



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Golden Tee ~ Darts

# BAND DATES

## ALTER EGO

6 - Christopher's, Groton, CT  
21 - Paddy's, Misquamicut, RI

## BOTTOM DRAWER

14 - JD Coopers, Putnam, CT  
20 - Sneakers, Groton, CT

## BROTHERS McCANN

22 - The Kate, Old Saybrook, CT

## BRANDT TAYLOR

5 - Halligans, Auburn, MA  
6 - Cady's Tavern, Chepachet, RI  
7 - Lake Tavern, Dayville, CT  
11,25 - Hessian Lion, Avon, CT  
13 - Papachelli's, Simsbury, CT  
20 - The Village, Woodstock, CT  
21 - Shakers, Chepachet, RI  
27 - Boston's, Manchester, CT  
28 - Spruce St Tavern, Clinton, MA  
29 - Cypress, Middletown, CT

## THE BUZZ

7 - Gilligan's, Westerly, RI  
13 - Stash's, New London, CT  
15 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

## THE CARTELLS

4 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm  
6,27 - Aspen, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm  
13 - Donahue's, Madison, CT

## DAN STEVENS

12 - Bridge, Westerly, RI  
13 - High Street, Westerly, RI 5pm  
14 - RiverWalk, Mystic, CT  
15 - Delta Grill, NYC, NY brunch  
15 - Banjo Jim's, New York, NY  
18 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm  
23 - Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA  
24 - WBLQ 5:30-7pm  
26 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI  
28 - Burke's, Niantic, CT  
30 - Chamard Vineyards, Clinton, CT 1-4

## 10 SOUND WAVES

## DAN WATSON

5 - Cleats, Westerly, RI  
7 - W.B. Codys, Westerly, RI  
10,24 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT  
12,26 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7pm  
15,22 - Harp-n-Hound, Mystic, CT

## FULL CIRCLE

6 - Back St. Bar & Grill, Warwick, RI  
13 - Chickie Flynn's, Foxboro, MA  
27 - Trinity Bar, Norton MA  
28 - Worden Pond, Wakefield, RI 7pm

## FUSION

7 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT 9:30-1  
20 - Stashes, New London, CT 5-8:30

## THE GOAT ROPERS

6 - House of Bud's, Hyannis, MA  
13,14 - V.F.W., Taunton, MA  
22 - Dance Ranch, Worcester, MA 7-11  
27 - Amer. Legion, E. Greenwich, RI 7-11

## THE GROUND SHAKERS

13 - Shortie's Pub, Oakdale, CT  
21 - Clydesdale Tavern, Westery, RI  
22 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 6-9pm  
28 - Two Brothers, Voluntown, CT

## JAMES HARRIS

10,17,24,31 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT  
11,14,18,25 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT  
6 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT  
15 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 4pm  
20- 84 High Street, Westerly RI  
22 - The Exchange, New London 1pm  
27 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI  
28 - Wind Jammer, Westerly, RI 1pm  
28 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 8pm

## JAY DEMPSEY & HIGHWAY CALL

6 - Hardrock Cafe, Foxwoods, CT  
14 - Harp & Dragon, Norwich, CT  
21 - Illusion's, Wolcott, CT  
27 - Snecker's, Groton, CT

## JEFF PITCHELL

6 - Cracker Barrel Pub, Tariffville, CT  
7 - Yard House, Enfield, CT  
13 - Lake View, Coventry, CT  
14 - Spring Fest, Westerly, RI  
21 - Wall Street, Cromwell, CT  
25 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT  
27 - C-Note, Hull, MA  
28 - Ocean Mist, Matunuck, RI  
29 - Oceanside, Old Orchard Beach, ME

## KEVIN MANZELLA

7 - W B Cody's, Westerly, RI

8 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic CT 4-7  
14,29 - Bridge, Westerly, RI  
19,27 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT  
28 - Dog Watch Cafe, Stonington, CT

## kGb

13 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT

## KICK

19 - Gold Club, Groton, CT

## Ms. MARCI

## & THE LOVESICK HOUNDS

11 - Spot Underground, Providence, RI  
21 - Stash's, New London, CT

## MUNSELL BROTHERS BAND

14 - Clydesdale's, Westerly, RI  
21 - C.C. O'Brien's, Pawcatuck, CT  
28 - Bank St. Cafe, New London, CT

## RED LIGHT

7 - Music Lady, Plainfield, CT  
20 - Chacer's, Norwich, CT  
21 - Music Lady, Plainfield, CT  
27 - Hard Rock Cafe, Foxwoods Casino, CT  
28 - Surrell's Pub, Griswold, CT

## SEX & CANDY

5 - The Firehouse, Plainville, CT  
21 - City Limits, Waterbury, CT

## SHINE

28 - Halftime Lounge, Waterford, CT

## SUE MENHART BAND

7 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8pm  
13 - Holiday Bowl, Groton, CT 5-8pm  
14 - Vanilla Bean, Pomfret, CT 7pm  
28 - Olde Mystic Village, Mystic, CT 2-4pm

## 2 CAT ZOO

6 - Dog Watch Cafe, Stonington, CT  
13 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT  
19 - Bridge, Westerly, RI  
21 - Hanafins, New London, CT

## VINCE THOMPSON & FRIENDS

6 - Stash's, New London, CT 5-8:30  
12 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm  
14 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT 8pm  
21 - Chamard Vineyards, Clinton, CT 5:30

## WICKED PEACH

14 - One Pelham East, Newport, RI  
20 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT  
27,28 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT

## WILSON KANE

6,13,20,27 - Capt. Pizza, New London, CT 12pm  
6,27 - Flander's Fish Market, E. Lyme, CT 7pm  
7,21 - Lyric Cafe, New London, CT 11am  
7,21 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 8pm  
12,26 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8pm  
13 - Aspen, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm  
14 - Mews Tavern, Wakefield, RI 9pm  
19 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT 9pm  
20 - Cafe On Main, Colchester, CT  
22 - Saltwater Farm, Stonington, CT 3pm  
25 - Whitfield's, Guilford, CT 7pm  
28 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm  
29 - Blue Cottage, Branford, CT 4pm  
30 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 2pm

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# CONCERT DATES

### Bon Jovi

7 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

### Chris Isaak

22 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

### Deftones

6 - Lupos, Providence, RI

7 - Webster, Hartford, CT

### Earth, Wind & Fire

12 - Arts Center, Providence, RI

### George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic

28 - Comcast Center, Hartford, CT

### Grace Potter

### And The Nocturnals

14 - Comcast Center, Hartford, CT

### John Mayall

19 - Narrow's Center, Fall River, MA

### Papa Roach

20 - Lupos, Providence, RI

### Paul Simon

29 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

### Ronnie Earl

### & The Broadcasters

13 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

### Slaughter

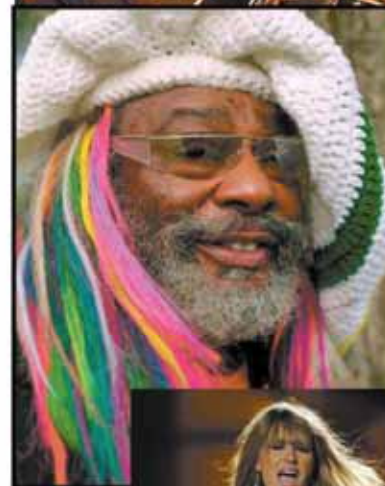
13 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

### Steve Martin

25 - Arts Center, Providence, RI

### Sugarland

20 - Comcast Center, Mansfield, MA



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Ronnie Earl does not just play the guitar. Instead, he breathes his life into the instrument to create a deep feeling of mind, body, and spirit delivered straight from the heart. From his fingertips, he is able to communicate a message and a belief. In terms of guitar playing, it is that very inner ability which separates the good from the greats. Ronnie Earl has clearly qualified to stand alongside the latter company.

Ronald Horvath was born in Queens, New York, on March 10th, 1953. While many six-string prodigies share stories of jamming alongside living legends while still in their teen years, his story is different; a musical career that began as a college student in Boston. Deriving inspiration from B.B. King and Muddy Waters amongst others, Ronnie became motivated with a deep-felt intensity that has yet to simmer. Eight plus years with local legends Roomful of Blues would subsequently provide the framework and experience for Horvath, who would soon become known to the music world as Ronnie Earl when the great Muddy Waters himself would call young Ronnie up on stage but could never remember his last name (instead naming him after blues slide guitarist Earl Hooker). It was those very musicians that ignited Ronnie's passion for the blues, and his exposure to these legendary artists is an experience that Earl cherishes to this very day. "I'm from New York City, and we used to go to the Fillmore East a lot," recalls Ronnie of those early days. "The first person I saw there was Richie Havens. I liked seeing him a lot. Then one night I saw B.B. and Albert King. All of a sudden I saw people with tuxedos, a horn section, and this incredible guitar. After seeing B.B. King, I never thought that I could ever do anything like that." As a student at Boston University, Ronnie was also exposed to some of the best musicians in the business. His expanded horizons would later shape the musician he is today. "In Boston, they had a place called the Jazz Workshop," recalls Earl. "I was able to see George Benson there. And then they had Muddy Waters, with Louis Meyers, who was an incredible guitar player, and his band that included the late, great Pinetop Perkins, Buzz Jones, and Willie Smith." It is Waters' influence that Ronnie holds dear and provides the standard of his craft. "Muddy, to me, is like Mother Earth," said Earl of Waters' musical influence. "He is the core of the blues".

Ronnie would graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Education and spend a brief time as a Teacher, working with special needs children. But it was music that became his true passion. Ronnie was quickly developing into one of the New England area's finest young guitarists. The Speakeasy in Cambridge, Massachusetts became Ronnie's workplace, providing him with the opportunity to be on stage with the likes of veteran blues greats Otis Rush and Big Walter Horton. The circle of area musicians soon expanded to the likes of Johnny Nicholas, Sugar Ray Norcia, Kim Wilson, Jimmie Vaughan, and his little brother Stevie Ray, who would soon carve out his own niche in the blues world. In 1979, Ronnie was asked to join Roomful of Blues, a ten-piece band

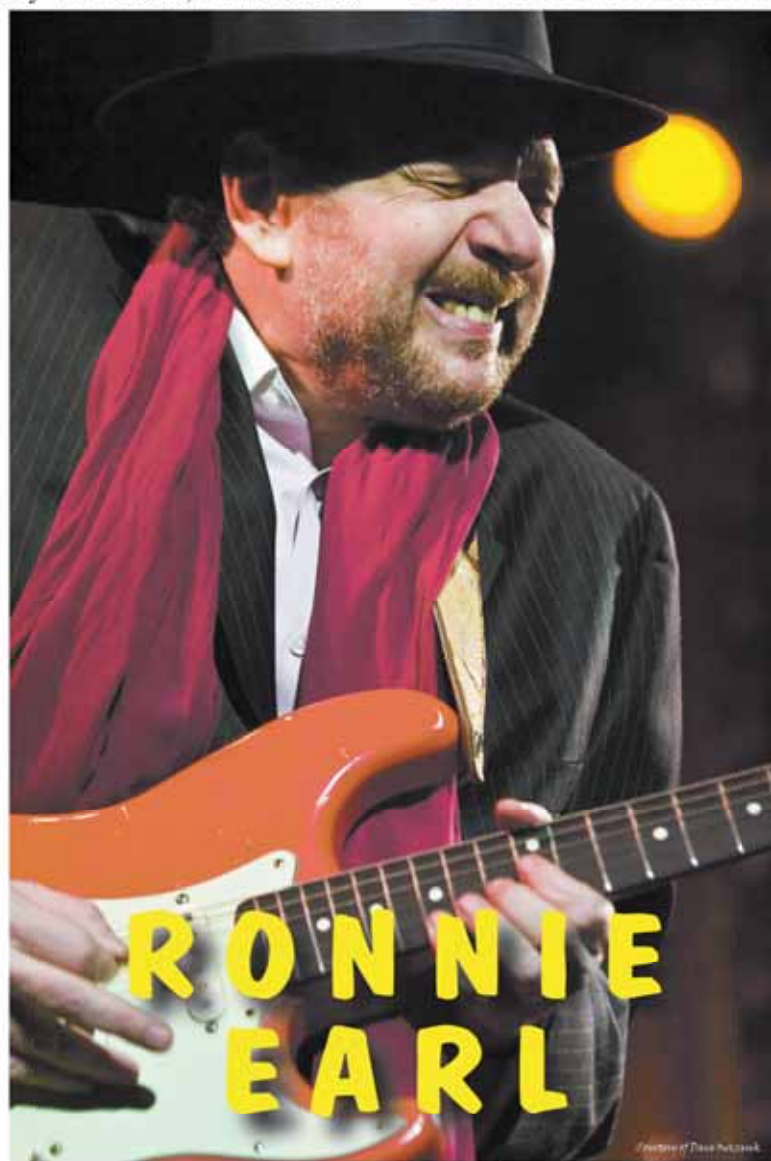
based in Providence, Rhode Island area that featured some of the best talent in the New England area. Following in the footsteps of a local hero named Duke Robillard, Ronnie recognized the difficulties in following a musician of Robillard's caliber in an established band. Over the course of the next eight years, young Ronnie would prove that he was certainly more than up to the challenge. "Frankly, I don't think that anyone can replace Duke Robillard," said Earl of his Roomful assignment. "He (Robillard) is a guitar genius; he is someone that can play all of those musical styles yet still has his own way of doing it. My hat is always off to him." (Check out Robillard and Earl's 2005 collaborative effort "The Duke Meets the Earl" for a true blues guitar experience).

Earl is also quick to humbly establish the fact that the band was at a different level. "Roomful was a group of superior musicians who knew a lot more than I did when I came in," said Earl of those years. "The horn players..Greg Piccolo; they were ahead of their time. They were retro before people knew what retro was."

The Roomful of Blues experience would shape Ronnie's life both personally and professionally. The combination of an unfamiliar environment, the nature of the industry, and the constant pressure of touring, traveling, and performing, would prove a toxic mix that would take its toll on Ronnie's spirit. "My problem was that I got into drugs and alcohol," said Earl of those early days with the band. "I started getting comfortable, but I was out of my element. I started hanging out with the wrong crowd, and it was the '80s. I got very addicted to cocaine and alcohol and medications." It would take the life experience of another guitar great for Ronnie to realize that he would one day be able to overcome his own addictions. "When I was in Roomful, Stevie Ray (Vaughan) used to come down and play with us a lot," recalls Earl. "A lot of people don't realize that those bands (Roomful of Blues, Fabulous Thunderbirds) were very close. One time, we were at the old Lupo's, and Stevie had these backstage passes that said "Say No to Drugs". He (Stevie Ray) had cleaned up. It was like a sign came to me; people are finding a different way to live." Ronnie soon made the effort to move to a higher ground. And he has been there

since. "In 1989, I got sober and I have been for 22 years," said Earl of his experience. "And that's my greatest accomplishment, far beyond anything musical." Earl also credits that discipline for providing a positive influence on his music. "The 12 step program and a life of sobriety is always the same," said Earl. "It's a day at a time. And because of that, my music changed. And I found my music somehow."

A now clean and sober Ronnie Earl would move forward to form his very own band, Ronnie Earl and The Broadcasters (named after the first Fender Telecaster guitar), and hit the road as an all instrumental blues group. The results spoke volumes of just how far Ronnie had progressed in overcoming his addictions. 1993's "Still River" would forge the new sound and earn Ronnie



By Don Sikorski

and his band a strong following throughout the states and Europe. A string of strong recording efforts would follow. "Language of the Soul", "Blues Guitar Virtuoso – Live in Europe", and "Grateful Heart Blues and Ballads" would continue to earn the praises of audiences and the industry.

Most impressive about Ronnie Earl's musical catalog is his ability to consistently create something fresh, delving deep into his encyclopedia of blues and jazz to produce an honest effort that can truly be appreciated by his audiences. His approach to writing in the studio provides that foundation. "I think for me it happens at home, with just me sitting around with the guitar", explained Earl of the creative process. "Believe it or not, I still use cassette tape; I'm an old school person. I'll record and send it to my piano player (Dave Limina) or my drummer (Lorne Entress) and I ask them to learn it. Then we have a rehearsal or two where we find some loosely-based structures. Then we go in the studio. The solos are all spontaneous. We may take another stab at it, but we keep everything very fresh in the studio, and we make most of the records in two days. Everything has to be from the heart."

The current Broadcasters lineup consists of Dave Limina (Piano and Hammond B3), Jim Mouradian (Bass), and Lorne Entress (Drums). The band has worked together since 2003's "I Feel Like Going On" (Stony Plain Records) and has continued to churn out creative efforts including the 2007 release "Hope Radio" (and subsequent DVD "The Hope Radio Sessions"). Ronnie Earl's most recent recording effort, "Spread The Love", will be featured during his upcoming tour dates. "I wouldn't say we're promoting (the album), but more like it's our gift of music that we are trying to spread," Earl explained. "For about 20 years, I was on the road with my band. But for the last 5 or 6 years, I've been settled home with my wife and just playing the New York/New England area. We've had many offers to go to Europe, but we're enjoying playing around home. My wife is a School Teacher and I like seeing her every day if I can."

Ronnie has now been clean and sober for 22 years now. When asked to describe his music, Earl does not hesitate with his response. "Spiritual," Earl simply states. "I just try to bring a lot of spiritual healing to the public. I try to have divine intentions with what I do musically with our band".

Ronnie Earl is a two-time W.C. Handy Blues Award winner as Guitar Player of the Year. Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters will visit the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center in Old Saybrook, CT on Friday evening, May 13th. Check out [www.katharinehepburntheater.org](http://www.katharinehepburntheater.org) for ticket information or [www.ronnieearl.com](http://www.ronnieearl.com) for more on the music of Ronnie Earl and the Broadcasters.

#### RONNIE EARL DISCOGRAPHY

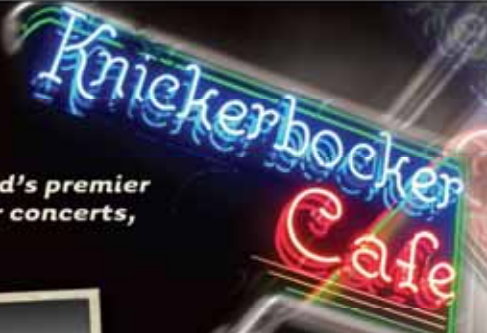
##### ROOMFUL OF BLUES:

- Hot Little Mama (1981)
- Eddie Cleanhead Vinson & Roomful of Blues (1982)
- Blues Train with Joe Turner (1984)
- Dressed Up To Get Messed Up (1986)
- Live At Lupo's Heartbreak Hotel (1986)

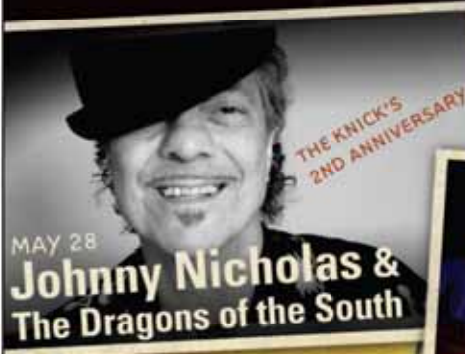
##### SOLO:

- Smokin' (1983)
- They Call Me Mr. Earl (1984)
- Deep Blues (Compilation) (1985)
- Soul Searchin' (1988)
- Peace of Mind (1990)
- I Like It When It Rains (1990)
- Surrounded By Love (1992)
- Test of Time (1992)

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- Grateful Heart: Blues and Ballads (1996)
- Eye To Eye (1996)
- Play Big Blues (1997)
- The Colour of Love (1997)
- Healing Time (2000)
- Ronnie Earl and Friends (2001)
- I Feel Like Going On (2003)
- Now My Soul (2004)
- The Duke Meets The Earl (with Duke Robillard) (2005)
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- Hope Radio (2007)
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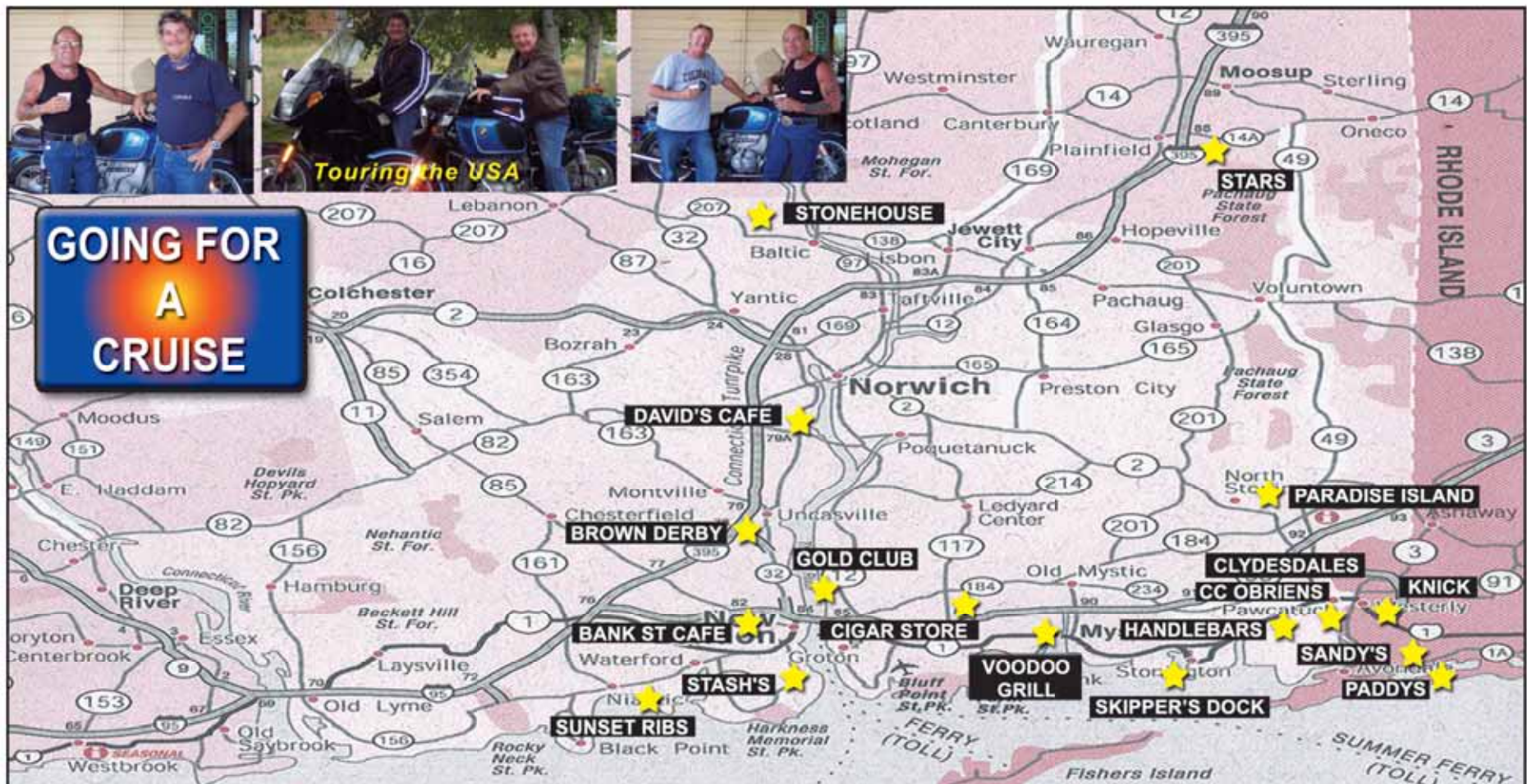
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# HEARING AID

## MICHAEL KETOVER

### "Glad To Be Alive"

In today's age of technology, music must be placed into a category. From iTunes accounts to internet radio stations, artists are classified by genre and placed alongside other similar artists. But for those looking to expand their listening boundaries outside these traditions, the best bet is to search out independent artists that explore their own unique sounds. One such artist is Michael Ketover, a singer/songwriter with New England beginnings now based on Santa Ana, Costa Rica. "Glad To Be Alive" is Michael Ketover's second disc, following in the footsteps of his 2009 debut "Simple Town". A six track EP, "Glad To Be Alive" offers a glimpse into Ketover's musical range as an artist, incorporating a world blend of island rhythms and acoustic pop music. Years of exotic travel lend credibility to Ketover's tunes, from the Caribbean reggae sounds of "Old Folks" and the tropical, steel drum driven "Are We Ghosts?" to the reflective piano accompaniment heard on "Off The Grid". "Letters In Longhand", a tribute to the Peace Corps' 50th anniversary, is driven by a more dramatic sound and accompanied by clips of John F. Kennedy famous speech. Each track contributes in its own way to Ketover's musical diversity.

With influences ranging from Led Zeppelin to Roy Orbison to Jimmy Buffett and a ton of open-minded musical experiences contributing to the sound, Michael Ketover's creativity as an artist is refreshing. While difficult to pinpoint a specific musical category to file "Glad To Be Alive" under, listeners will be able to appreciate Ketover's musical diversity and enjoy his creative work. At only six tracks, it would be good to hear more, but "Glad To Be Alive" offers a brief snapshot of Michael Ketover's world experiences through song.

\*\*\*

- Don Sikorski



20 SOUND WAVES

## Al DiMeola "World Sinfonia - Pursuit of Radical Rhapsody"

Since the mid-seventies, Al DiMeola has been captivating listeners with his exceptional guitar technique and considerable versatility. In 1974, he joined the jazz/rock fusion supergroup Return To Forever, and he made an immediate impact with his blindingly fast guitar lines and his ability to play very complex rhythms. He further cemented his reputation as a blazing guitarist when he launched his solo career in 1976. On all of his records during this period, Al showcased a bold electric guitar style that was equal parts heavy rock and jazz, along with a wide variety of other elements including Latin and Middle Eastern influences.

During the nineties, Al DiMeola further expanded his stylistic boundaries when he formed the World Sinfonia group. In addition to the styles that Al was already well known for, the music of World Sinfonia featured the rich influences of flamenco, tango, Brazilian, and African music. With the group's latest release, Al continues to broaden his musical horizons while attempting to shed his image as simply a jazz-rock "shredder." While the record features plenty of dazzling fretwork, the main focus is clearly on the compositions.

The latest version of World Sinfonia features a truly international roster. In addition to Al DiMeola (USA), the group includes accordionist Fausto Beccalossi (Italy), second guitarist Kevin Seddiki (France), bassist Victor Miranda (Cuba), drummer Peter Kazsas (Hungary), and percussionist Gumbi Ortiz (Puerto Rico). "Pursuit of Radical Rhapsody" is a mainly acoustic affair, and the songs cover a very wide spectrum of compelling sounds. The stylistic range of the record is even more impressive than the geographic range of the band members.

The record opens with "Siberiana," which was composed during the band's recent tour of Siberia. This opening tune clocks in at over eight minutes and contains multiple sections, and it is highlighted by the intense interplay between Al DiMeola's nylon string guitar and Fausto Beccalossi's accordion. The tune slowly builds to an explosive

crescendo with Al's searing guitar lines at the forefront. The humorously titled "Full Frontal Contrapuntal" is another tune (of many) that features impressive guitar/accordion interplay.

The new record includes two short pieces (Mawazine Parts 1 and 2) that were inspired by the band's recent experience in Morocco, where they played at the Mawazine Festival. Both of these songs showcase Al's tasty guitar work played alongside some very intricate percussion work by longtime collaborator Gumbi Ortiz. "Gubeiro" is a Latin-influenced piece that also features some very impressive percussion. During the flamenco-inspired "Fireflies," Al continually alternates between fiery guitar licks played on an acoustic guitar followed by even more fiery licks played on a distorted electric guitar. This contrast of sounds creates a very interesting listening experience. In addition to the many original compositions, the record includes two soothing interpretations of classic pop tunes, the Beatles' "Strawberry Fields" and the closing track "Over the Rainbow."

World Sinfonia is certainly an appropriate title for Al DiMeola's current band, as their music includes music literally from all over the world. Although the "world music" of this band is not as ag-

gressive as the jazz/rock fusion that Al is best known for, the virtuoso guitar playing remains in abundance. The playing is just performed in a mellower context and over a much wider stylistic range. However, it must be noted that Al DiMeola has definitely not toned down his love of playing explosive guitar solos, and he continues to "tear it up" during his live performances. During his recent concert at Infinity Hall in Norfolk, CT, the band performed four songs from the new record, and without exception these songs were performed at a much higher energy level than the versions on the record. "Pursuit of Radical Rhapsody" provides a pleasant listening experience, and it is a great addition to Al DiMeola's impressive body of work.

- Walter Modliszewski

\*\*\*\*\*



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**Charlie Sheen**  
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I have to admit that I have never seen the television show "Two and a Half Men" but from what I've been told the lead character is a clueless, egotistical, womanizing alcoholic with a fear of commitment. Why Charlie Sheen would play him is anyone's guess. As you might have heard, Charlie recently got fired from this gig because the producers of the show finally got fed up with their star actor being a crack head who beats up women and trashes hotel rooms. What happened next was perhaps the most spectacular celebrity meltdown in Hollywood history as America got to witness Charlie's cheese completely slipping off his cracker. When asked by an interviewer if he was high, Charlie responded with the now famous quote "yeah, I'm high on Charlie Sheen!" The only thing needed was a cuckoo clock sound effect.

So now Charlie is traveling the country on a hissy fit tour he calls "My Violent Torpedo of Truth, Defeat is not an Option Tour 2011." You can buy a program for \$20 dollars or spend twice that on a tee shirt with sayings like "I'll have what Charlie's having" or "Bangin' 7G's" or "Sheenius" or his ridiculous trademark "Duh, Winning." And get this - for \$575 bucks you could have gotten a meet and greet with Charlie. I was talking to some friends of mine and the general consensus was that a fair price would be \$150 bucks tops but that would have to include some quality time with one of his porn goddesses.

As far as the show goes, it opened with a montage of violent footage from well known movies with a guitarist named Rob Patterson playing some electric riffs for sound effects. I'll admit that the (slightly drunk) crowd was into it when Charlie finally took the stage. He touched on all of his now familiar talking points like surging tiger blood, Adonis DNA, warlocks, trolls and other assorted batshit all the while dropping the F bomb in every sentence. But then something really fun and unexpected happened. Jeffrey Ross from Comedy Central was introduced and he absolutely saved the night. Charlie sat and smoked a couple of Marlboro's while Jeffrey roasted him with lines like "if Bernie Madoff was here tonight even he would be asking for his money back" or "Charlie's nostrils are so snotty and full of coke he calls them the Hilton sisters." Anyway, it was funny at the time.

The next part of the show was when a bunch of nitwits went up on stage to ask Charlie some questions. An example was one moron who asked Charlie if he ever banged an Albino. Then there was another guy who had a Charlie Sheen tattoo covering his lower leg. The whole thing was really lame with the exception being some skank who flashed the audience and then asked Charlie to autograph her tits. Obviously Charlie obliged.

Finally there was something resembling an interview between Jeffrey Ross and Charlie. Jeffrey told the audience that he would ask Charlie about all the great movies he made during his stellar career. You know, movies like "Platoon" and "Wall Street" and ..... "Platoon" and "Wall Street!" Charlie thinks he'll be hired back on "Two and a Half Men" but as Jeffrey Ross pointed out Hosni Mubarak has a better chance of getting his job back because Charlie would be about as welcomed in L.A. right now as Japanese spinach. Personally I see Charlie's future in the reality television world. He'd be a great contestant if they ever had a celebrity Survivor or some other such crap. But as of now Charlie continues to tour the country with talks that he might actually be taking this silliness to Australia. How is this all going to end? As Neil Young once sang "it's better to burn out than to fade away." What do you have to say about that Charlie?

- Bill Harriman



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