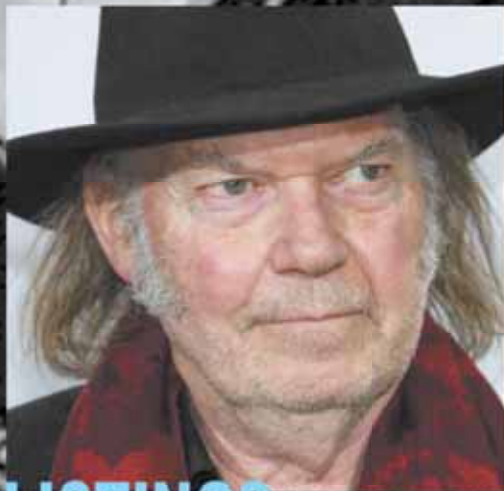


NEW LONDON COUNTY - WINDHAM - MYSTIC - RHODE ISLAND

Sound Waves

Volume 21
Issue 11
August 2011



An
Interview with

CLUB LISTINGS
RESTAURANTS
CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS
& MORE

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Waves

August 2011
VOLUME 21, NUMBER 11

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SOUND WAVES is a
monthly publication
Send all inquires,
editorial submissions and
subscription request to

SOUND WAVES
MAGAZINE
P.O. Box 710
Old Mystic, CT 06372

Yearly Mailed
Subscription
price ~ \$30/year

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MUSIC NOTES



"Don't Worry 'Bout Tomorrow"

By Mark T. Gould

It was the best concert we never attended.

It was early September, maybe six or seven years ago, and, since it had rained all day and the concert field was drowning in mud, my wife and I made the decision not to attend our annual North Haven, Connecticut Fair to see the Grass Roots perform outdoors, for free, that night.

Truth be told, it was one of the very few times we've been together that we didn't go see the Grass Roots, be it in an arena, at a high school benefit, in a casino, or as part of one of the many oldies package tours they did over the years.

When we look back on it now, with the tragic passing last month of Grass Roots founder, lead singer and distinctive spirit, Rob Grill, we realize that we probably saw them in concert more than any other group.

And, we when I tell you that music is a shared and sacred passion of ours, you know that's saying something.

But, not wanting to end up mud caked, we didn't go see them that night. Instead, we were sitting in our family room, back doors to our deck open on a relatively warm late summer night, when we heard it, on the wind, the loud roar of a crowd cutting through the North Haven night, followed by the unmistakable:

"Two, divided by love...."

My wife and I looked at each other and smiled. The wind was blowing the sound of the concert, taking place just a few miles away, toward us.

Clearly, even God and Mother Nature, it seems, are Grass Roots fans.

So, we dashed out to the deck, where, on a beautiful moonlit night, we stood arm in arm and listened to the entire show. "Sooner or Later," "Let's Live for Today," "Where Were You When I Needed You," "I'd Wait A Million Years," "Temptation Eyes," and, saving the best always for last, the anthemic "Midnight Confessions." Hit after hit after hit. We even heard Rob once again, with his rapier wit, thank everyone for coming to see and hear "rock and roll's version of the Senior Tour."

Especially that night, coming to us seemingly through the heavens, the Grass Roots never seemed to age. Those wonderful songs, and Rob's spirit, bringing smiles and good feelings to us, seemed timeless and unending. That's what made it so difficult when we heard of his passing.

For a few days, both of us struggled to make sense of this musical loss, which seemed very personal to us. Then, as he does so many times in his own shows, many times on the same concert bill as the Grass Roots, Carl Giammarese, the magnificent, elegant lead singer of the Buckingham, put our

feelings into words and made us feel just a little bit better.

And, I can't think of a better tribute to Rob Grill, so I'll let Mr. Giammarese's statement, released just after Grill's passing and reprinted here with Carl's permission, say it all for us:

"Ever since hearing of Rob's recent injury and entry into a coma state, he's been in our thoughts and prayers, uppermost in our hearts and minds. Many of us on this year's 'Happy Together Tour' have noticed his absence this time out on the road. Today, as I just learned that Rob has passed away, I find it hard to accept that fact. My heart is full. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family at this time, and we send them our love and respect. And there is a void in the family of the 'Happy Together Tour', as we stop and remember that Rob, of all people, belongs right here with us on stage, right now, the center of attention and often the life of the party.

"You can't really say the words 'Rob Grill' without smiling. When Rob was healthy, he was such fun to be around, a true wit onstage and off. He loved being on stage more than anything because he related so well to people who loved the music of The Grass Roots. And, if memory serves, it was 29 years ago this month, July 4, 1982, on the Mall in Washington, DC, that The Grass Roots set an all-time attendance record. That record still stands. He made you feel good to hear their shows, because clearly he loved what he did. Rob's wit and banter with audiences always made you laugh, no matter how long we'd been on the road with him, or no matter how tired we were.

"Already in the first three shows of the 'Happy Together Tour' this week, Nick (my note: Fortuna, also an original Buckingham) and I have missed Rob. We remember several good times last year when he was with us, and during the past 20 years of doing all the shows together that we did. That's how we plan to remember Rob—on the road with us, right in the center of the action.

"We respect and admire our friends, singer/bassist Mark Dawson and guitarist/vocals, Dusty Hanvey, Joe Dougherty, drums, and Larry Nelson, keyboards/vocals—Rob's closest music friends. These professionals have had to perform the music of the Grass Roots for everyone who loves them for several months now, without being able to take time to personally grieve Rob's illness and, now, his passing.

"Now, when we hear "Sooner or Later", "Two Divided by Love", "Midnight Confessions" and all the other hits, it will stand as an affirmation of the legacy Rob leaves all of us, entertainers and audience alike: his love for some of the greatest music we've ever enjoyed. Tonight, the show, as always, must go on. And I know Rob would have wanted it that way, more than anyone.

When we think of Rob Grill, we remember his smile, his dedication to performing, and his devotion to keeping the music alive for all of us. On behalf of The Buckinghams, our prayers are for comfort for Rob's family, and for all of us who knew and loved this man of music, one of the driving forces behind a generation of the music we still love today."

Truer words were never written. Bless you, Rob Grill, and you, too, Carl. Thanks to both of you, the spirit and energy of rock and roll lives on, and you have both shown us that we must, indeed, "live for today."



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11 Steve Gregory 7 - 11	12 Seth 5 - 8:45 Rockness Monsters 9 - 1	13 Tony Gabriel 5 - 8:45 9-1 Steve Driver Duo	14 Shine 5 - 9
18 Jaime 7 - 11	19 Tony Marshall 5 - 8:45 9-1 Rachel & The Rockers	20 John Moore 5 - 8:45 9-1 Guido & Drew	21 Red Light 5 - 9
25 Tony Marshall 7 - 11	26 Steve Gregory 5 - 8:45 Bloomer 9 - 1	27 Nick Fradiani 5 - 8:45 TBA 9 - 1	28 Meleana 5 - 9

BAR FLY JOURNALS



By Stephanie Shawn

Hello, my Sweet BarFlies! What an absolutely fabulous summer I have been having, with lots of area entertainment to keep me constantly busy and God Knows with my ADD, I need to be entertained.

Put on my bestest redneck gear this month, (daisy dukes and a cowboy hat), along with my Official HandleBar Tank Top, to visit the NORTH STONINGTON FAIR! My brother-in-law Chris Cip was pulling in the truck division, along with cousin Jack. The whole HANDLEBAR Crew was on hand to share in BigCip's Glory....only it wasn't to be (sad face).

There were so many trucks, I think they did it differently and BigCip was out instantly, and cousin Jack didn't do any better. Freakin' Sucked! The Good 'Ol

Boys kicked our asses! Well Played, young, hot, tobacco chewing guys in Timberland boots... Well Played!

Three Girl's Nights This Month! One, a pool party. I'll let your imaginations fill you in on that one, but I will say that a bouncy house, bungee cords, coconut oil and velcro were involved along with copious amounts of alcohol and some pool tossing. Yikes! Want to also mention that Deborah Jensen was spotted at the HANDLEBAR CAFE one night with son Thor, who is in town doing a Royale Bros. tribute to Phil Agins at STASH'S CAFE this month. After losing in tow armwrestling matches against my sister, Betsy...Deb (with throbbing arm) was awarded a free shot of Doctor! Maybe Next Time!

COCKTAILS WITH WHALES at the MYSTIC AQUARIUM with my Girls.. Stacie, Lina and Joanna was a Blast! The Band WATTZ HIP with Andrew O'Dell played, and won my heart instantly, Amy Winehouse's soulful song "I'm No Good". My BarFly Anthem! Love it! It's just heartbreaking to have watched her disintegrate in such a public manner. So much Talent and so many demons. Unfortunately, a much too common theme in Life.

But back to that night... I may be a somewhat trashy fashionista, but seriously?, when you hear COCKTAILS WITH WHALES, what does that say to you? Me? a cocktail party..I at least would brush my hair, but cripes..you shoulda seen some of these people. A blue t-shirt with thumbs pointing at you stating "This Guy Needs a Beer" or the other genius wearing "Laugh my (insert a donkey ass pic) Off", in just a lovely shade of yellow. Really??

Men.... If you are going out in public, somewhere that's not your backyard or Wal-Mart, and say, the word "Cocktail" is in the invite, at least put on your best plain T. And the ladies, well you loooked Mahhvaahlus! But of course, the smarter sex!

My Secret Spy with Bar Fly Eyes, JoePizza, visited BUSHEL-SPOSATO PARK, to see EIGHT TO THE BAR. The inaugural event held on the corner of Lilac and Pierce St., in Westerly's North End, featured long time favorite swing band "8 To The Bar". Joe managed to catch the second set, an hours worth of blues, swing and rock. The band reportedly sounded terrific playing to a crowd of about 50, ages 8 to 80. Featuring original members Cynthia Lyon on keys and vocals. Collin Tilton on flute and sax. Collin is also credited with playing flute on Van Morrison's "Moondance" album. He apparently did not mention any royalties though. The set featured a few songs from their latest CD "The Romper Room" most notably "Party in Providence". And their knockout number was "Play it on your Sax" with a sax solo by Tilton, which blew the crowd away. Hopefully, the upcoming shows there will be just as good!!.

Saw handsome Alex from SKIPPER'S DOCK in Stonington, working the bar on a Monday night recently. As many of you may know, SKIPPER'S is

8 SOUND WAVES

located down on Stonington Point. A breathtaking view from every vantage point, including the outside deck with plenty of seating umbrellas and a dock! I went again, with partner-in-crime Stacie (sexual chocolate, remember?). I had the "Pusser's Painkiller" (apparently Pusser's is a brand of Rum?) but I just liked the description.. "a Lubricating Rum Elixir with pineapple, coconut and nutmeg"! Wow.. who knew?

Stacie (drinking another favorite..Mudslide Martini..yummy) and I were excited to make the acquaintance of "WayWard Traveler" Ray Uzas, who was kind enough to entertain us for a bit with some very interesting stories of his life and travels! It was a lovely evening at a truly beautiful spot in Stonington, SKIPPER'S DOCK! Thanks, Alex!

Second Secret Spy Spotting was at BURKE'S TAVERN from our intrepid reporter Steven Slosberg. He went with family and friends for drinks and to watch a fabulous performance by "the RiverGods". SecretSpy Steven reports that it was "an excellent antidote to a hot, hot summer night". A nice crowd and a delicious meal rounded out his evening...also heard some "dancing" may have been involved? Camera phone, anyone? Please Steven...I need a pic!

Another "Wow"! Sent my Son on another SecretSpy mission down in Misquamicut. This Time He Was Successful! Thanks to the lovely advice of Miss Angela Thoman, I sent him to the FOAM PARTY at PADDY'S! If you are Young? if you are Hot?, if you know how to move? then apparently this is the place for you! Beautiful women, Gorgeous Guys and foam up to your waist...Oh yeah and GoGo Girls dancing on platforms?...how decadent can you get?

Must also mention that PADDY'S also offers a beautiful spot on Misquamicut Beach, fantastic food and absolutely unbeatable beverages! Many drinking, eating and dancing areas along with a warm spot on the sand make it a memorable experience for everyone!

But onward to my last Girlie Night this month at BANK STREET CAFE (thanks Lee and James and Steve!) ..with Sweet Stacie, heretowith? to be called, "Sexual Chocolate" (thanks, Chris or was it Garth? I don't know) and



songstress Michelle James. We sang, we danced, we flirted a bit...Chris Turk was our Karaoke King-slash-Turkeyoke guy and he "plays" at BANK STREET every Monday Night! Loved him....props? hats? dance music in between singers? what more could you ask for..and who knew that there's an x-rated version of Grease's "Summer Nights"?! Wonderful Time and a Crazy Night!

Well, my imaginary boyfriend Bill Harriman failed me miserably in the acquisition of two tix for ALICE COOPER at MGM GRAND, but I'm gonna keep working on him! Also, anyone who's anyone will be heading out on a Road Trip with us from the HANDLEBAR CAFE on the 14th of August! Meet us at 10:30 in the morn and be prepared to ride! Maybe we'll turn it into one last Poker Run? Might wanna bring a swimsuit...just saying. Details available at Bar Fly on FaceBook or email me barfly2u2@yahoo.com, although I've been a little slow with my emails since I've discovered the ease of FaceBooking!

I hope everyone enjoys these last dog days of summer..can you believe it's coming to and end already? Check out your SOUNDWAVES magazine on-line or in an area restaurant or bar for local entertainment line-ups and honestly, I will do my best to come see you all this month!! Ciao for now, my sweet, sweet Flies!!



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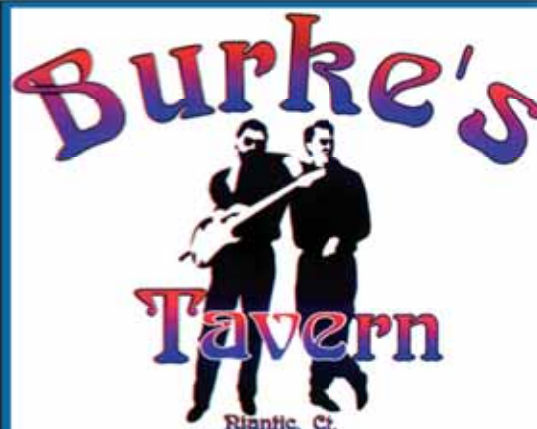
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13 - Tammany Hall, Worcester, MA
26 - High Noon Saloon, Norwich, CT

BOTTOM DRAWER

12 - Sneekers, Groton, CT
26 - JD Coopers, Putnam, CT

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5 - Hard Rock Cafe, Foxwoods, CT
24 - Beach, Waterford, CT
26 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT

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3 - Blackeyed Sally's, Hartford, CT
4,11,18,25 - Carousel Club, New London, CT
5 - Corleone's, Willimantic, CT
6 - Gina Maries, Hebron, CT 6-8
10,12,17,24,31 - Cady's, Cheshire, CT
12,26 - Sneakers, Ashford, CT 5-8
19 - Crowne & Hammer, Collinsville, CT

THE BUZZ

5 - Harbourside, E. Greenwich, RI
7 - Sunset Rib's, Waterford, CT
20 - Pavillion, Old Lyme, CT
27 - Sandy's, Misquamicut, RI

DAN STEVENS

4 - Giuseppe's, Meredith, NH
5 - Coveside, S. Bristol, ME
6 - Blues Fest, Damariscotta, ME (day)
6 - Salt Bay Cafe, Damariscotta, ME 6-9
7 - Dolphin Striker, Portsmouth, NH
8 - Bubby's, Brooklyn, NY
10,22 - Bridge, Westerly, RI
11 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
12 - RiverWalk, Mystic, CT
13 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT
14 - Concert Series, Stafford Springs, CT
17 - Banjo Jim's, New York, NY
18 - Mermaid Inn, Chestnut Hill, PA
21 - Festival, Norwalk, CT
27 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT

DAN WATSON

2,16,30 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
4 - Cleats, Westerly, RI
7,9,21 - Harp-n-Hound, Mystic, CT

10 SOUND WAVES

11,14 - Bridge Rest., Westerly, RI
18 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7
23 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 6-9
27 - Windjammer, Westerly, RI 1pm

FULL CIRCLE

5,6 - Cathay Pearl, Swansea, MA
12 - Mulhearn's, E. Providence, RI
13 - Triple P, Pawtucket, RI
19 - Rocky Point Pub, Warwick, RI
20 - Elks, Wakefield, RI 7:30 pm
21 - Effin's, Smithfield, RI 2pm
26 - Escada, Johnston, RI
27 - Dan's Place, W. Greenwich, RI

THE GOAT ROPERS

5 - VFW, Taunton, MA 8-12
6 - Scenic Park, Bourne, MA 7-11
11 - Bandshell, Hampton Beach, NH 7-9:30
13 - Town Pier, Onset, MA 8-11
20 - Elks, Middleboro, MA 7-11
21 - VFW, Westport, MA 1-5

GOPHERBROKE

5 - Red's Tavern, So. Windsor, CT 7-11
6,19,25,27 - Blue Cottage, Branford, CT 6-9
7 - Mooring, Guilford, CT 3-7
10 - Town Green, Bolton, CT 6-7:30
12 - Inn at Newtown, Newtown, CT
14 - Town Green, Wrentham, MA 6:30-8
16 - Paradise Green, Stratford, CT 7-9
21 - Town Green, Westbrook, CT 5-7
24 - Town Gazebo, N. Scituate, RI 6:30-8:30
26 - Hub Bar & Grill, Canton, CT 8:30

GREEN TEA

16 - Art After Dark, Mystic, CT 6-8:30

THE GROUND SHAKERS

26 - Clydesdales, Westerly, RI

HOPE ROAD

27 - Blue Shamrock, Lowell, MA 6-9

JAMES HARRIS

2,16,23,30 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
3,17,20,24,31 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
14 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 5pm
18 - Bridge, Westerly, RI 8pm
19 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
25 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8pm
26 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT, 5pm
27 - Skipper's Dock, Stonington, CT 3pm
27 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 8pm

JAY DEMPSEY & HIGHWAY CALL

3 - Rock the Docks, Norwich, CT 6-8
21 - Washington Park, Groton, CT 5:30
27 - Fair, Brooklyn, CT 8pm

JEFF PITCHELL & TEXAS FLOOD

3 - Town Beach, Westerly, RI 6-8
4 - Stearns Square, Springfield, MA 6-8

KEVIN MANZELLA & HEATHER LEPAGE

5 - 84 High St., Westerly, RI 8:30-11
6,20 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT, 8-11
7 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 5-8
10 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 7-10
12 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 6-9
17 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8-11
19 - Bridge, Westerly, R.I. 8-12
24 - Hard Rock Cafe, Foxwoods, CT
26 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
27 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT

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& THE LOVESICK HOUNDS

7 - Tamarack, Voluntown, CT 3-7
13 - Little Man's Diner, Westerly, RI 3-6

RED LIGHT

12 - Hard Rock Cafe, Foxwoods, CT
20 - Moose Lodge, Bozrah, CT
21 - Sunset Ribs, Waterford, CT
27 - Music Lady, Plainfield, CT

RIVERGODS

15 - Town Beach, Misquamicut, RI 6-8
19 - Michael's Dairy, New London, CT 6:30

SHINE

5 - Pro Tech Stage, Niantic, CT 6-7
14 - Sunset Ribs, Waterford, CT 5-9

STYFF KITTY

5 - Sneekers, Groton, CT
6 - Windjammer, Misquamicut, RI

SUE MENHART BAND

19 - Parade Plaza, New London, CT 12-1pm
20 - Sneekers, Groton, CT
27 - Jitters, Southington, CT 7-9

SUNDAY GRAVY

2,9,23,30 - Andrea, Misquamicut, RI 7-10
4 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
6,21 - Paddys, Misquamicut, RI 5-8
6 - The Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
7,28 - Back Porch, Old Saybrook, CT 3-7
18 - The Rhino Bar, Newport, RI
19 - Skippers Dock, Stonington, CT
26 - Dan's Place, W. Greenwich, RI

2 CAT ZOO

5 - Lennys, Old Lyme, CT
13 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT

14 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 12-3
25 - Bridge Rest., Westerly, RI
26 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
27 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT

TOM SANDERS BAND

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

TONY MARSHALL BAND

12 - Up Or On the Rocks, Hartford, CT
20 - Germano's, Colchester, CT
21 - Strawberry Park, Preston, CT
27 - Odetah Campground, Bozrah, CT
28 - Polish Club, Uncasville, CT

VINCE THOMPSON & FRIENDS

4 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
5 - Priam Vineyards, Colchester, CT 6-8:30
14 - Olde Mystic Village, Mystic, CT 2-4
14 - Workshop, Mystic, CT 5-6
14 - Workshop, Mystic, CT 8-1am

WICKED PEACH

12 - One Pelham E., Newport, RI
19,20 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT

WILSON KANE

29,16,23 - Cap's Pizza, New London, CT 1pm
2 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 6pm
4,18 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
5,12,19,26,30 - Cap's Pizza, New London, CT 12pm
5,12 - Blue Cottage, Branford, CT 6pm
6,20 - Strawberry Park, Preston, CT 11:30am
6 - Malted Barley, Westerly, RI
7 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 3pm
7,14,21,28 - Carousel Club, New London, CT
9 - Burke's, Niantic, CT 8pm
13,26 - Flander's Fish, E. Lyme, CT 7pm
19 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm
20 - Mews Tavern, Wakefield, RI
21 - Blue Cottage, Branford, CT 3pm
25 - Saltwater Farm, Stonington, CT 5pm
27 - Aspen, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm
28 - Beach Club, Galilee, RI 1pm

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13 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Alison Krauss/Jerry Douglas

6 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

"American Idols Live"

27 - Dunkin' Center, Providence, RI

Barefoot Truth

11 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

The Beach Boys

12 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Britney Spears

9 - XL Center, Hartford, CT

Esperanza Spalding

6 - Fort Adams, Newport, RI

Grace Potter

And The Nocturnals

11 - Yachting Center, Newport, RI

Journey

25 - Comcast Theatre, Hartford, CT

Ke\$ha

12 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Kings Of Leon

13 - Comcast Theatre, Hartford, CT

Maroon 5

7 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, RI

O.A.R.

12 - Comcast Theatre, Hartford, CT

Rascal Flatts

11 - Comcast Theatre, Hartford, CT

ZZ Top

26 - Foxwoods, Mashantucket, CT



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"There's Somethin' Happenin' Here"

**The
Triumphant Return of**

BUFFALO SPRINGFIELD

By Mark T. Gould

Buffalo Springfield again?

No chance, right? Not after 43 years, even after a highly successful, one-off Bridge School benefit reunion show last year.

No chance, right?

Wrong. Faster than you can say "Stop, hey, what's that sound," and more than four decades after their last aborted tour in 1968, Stephen Stills, Richie Furay and Neil Young, the heart and soul of Buffalo Springfield, arguably one of the most influential of American bands in the 60s, reformed for an energetic, raucous Western mini-tour of six shows this summer, culminating in a scorching climax before a crowd estimated at over 100,000 people at the Bonnaroo Music Festival in Tennessee.

In its hey day, Buffalo Springfield made an indelible impression on American popular music. In its short, 25-month existence, the band released only three albums, but influenced countless bands to follow, including country rock pioneers Poco, whose genesis came at the very end of the Springfield, when steel guitarist Rusty Young played on Springfield's "Kind Woman" sessions. Long lamented in the band's demise, the three singer songwriters nonetheless went their separate, successful, ways, until last year's Bridge Benefit, an annual event created, sponsored and nurtured by Young, brought them back together. Little did they know what the camaraderie, audience reaction and just plain fun of those two shows would mean for them.

"When we got together (for the Bridge shows), there was no mention of making it any more than just the two days at the benefit," Furay recalled in an interview with Sound Waves about a month after the reunion shows this year. "It wasn't until after those (Bridge) shows, and seeing and hearing the audience appreciation and realizing what we had just done, that we said to each other 'let's take a deep breath, drink it in and see how we feel after

the holidays – whether we want to do a few more shows.'"

Clearly, it was, indeed a good feeling all around, but, as Furay stressed, a Buffalo Springfield reunion was far from his mind. He had been continuing his Calvary Chapel ministry in Colorado and doing occasional shows with the Richie Furay Band. And, although Buffalo Springfield was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997, there was still little push for a reunion, he said.

"This reunion was not on my radar, there was never a blip on the screen," he said. "Over the years, people have always asked the question 'do you ever think ...' and my answer has always been 'no.'"

"When the phone call came (from Neil), I was as surprised as anyone," he recalled. "It was in late August or early September (last year). My mind was on taking a group of people to Israel to visit the Holy Land in October, visiting the places we read and study about in the Bible."

The reunion idea had been around for a bit, though, according to legendary drummer Joe Vitale, who played with the trio at the Bridge benefit and the reunion shows, and has worked with Stills and Young on various projects for many years.

"Both Neil and Stephen had spoken to us about it about five years ago," Vitale told Sound Waves. "Neil said we would do Buffalo Springfield one day, and he wanted me in the group. When Stephen told me about the Bridge show, it was the most exciting news for me in many years."

And, the results were a great deal different than when the band was in its limited, yet influential, run in the mid 60s, and it was clearly different from an aborted reunion in the mid 80s, according to Furay.

"Getting together this time was different. There were no agendas, no distractions – we were getting together because we wanted to; we didn't 'need to,'" he stressed. "This was not a career building attempt – we wanted to get together as friends and musicians who could enjoy each other and appreciate each other from a far more mature perspective."

"The attempted reunion in '86 – got '86'ed before we ever got off and running. It was not the right timing," he added. "We got together three times at Stephen's house in LA – we literally were not focused to do it, and consequently it didn't happen."

"I was still trying to establish Calvary Chapel Boulder (his church), and learning what it meant to be a pastor; I didn't go to a seminary so it was all 'on the job' training for me, and I was focused on that, but, still, I was willing to give it a try," he remembered. "Stephen and Neil were very much involved in their careers and focused on continuing the momentum, and it just wasn't the right time. I can't even remember how that one was initiated."

Regardless, the three stayed in touch over the years, and collectively and individually mourned the deaths of former Springfield members Bruce Palmer, the bassist, and Dewey Martin, the drummer. This time around, the three were augmented by Vitale, and bassist Rick Rosas, who has also worked with Young.

"Of course, we missed not having Bruce and Dewey with us to 'experience' the moment," Furay said. "But, the addition of Joe and Rick could not

have been any better. Those two guys are professionals and they delivered; they are always prepared and know their instruments. They were the perfect choice. The fact that they play regularly with Stephen and Neil certainly helps, because they are used to them, and know the music they are associated with. I love those guys and it's an honor to have them along for the ride."

With their new rhythm section intact, Stills, Furay, and Young started rehearsing for the reunion tour, and selected the songs for their set list, some of which were, essentially, "no brainers" from the short, but deep Springfield catalog, but which also included some comparatively obscure nuggets, all with a definite purpose in mind, according to Furay.

"For the Bridge School, we looked at the time we had to play and worked on songs we thought would easily come together for us without too much stress. After the first initial greetings and getting to 'know' each other it became serious fun – we were all looking forward to walking out on stage together and making our music again," he said.

"There were certain songs we all knew needed to be in the set, and out of those we selected the ones came back to us the easiest," Furay added. "The songs that most interested me were the ones from the first two records, where most of the songs came from, with the exception of 'Kind Woman' and 'I Am A Child,' which came from 'Last Time Around'. For me, the 'Whisky A Go Go' songs were the ones I wanted to focus on because they were the songs that had the strongest memory of us as a band.

"Overall, we had a very nice selection from all of the albums, and we still have quite a few to learn," he recalled. "There were some physical considerations that kept some off the playlist – 'Sit Down I think I Love You' has a repetitive figure that made it difficult to play at this time. I hope we'll add it, as well as 'Hung Upside Down.' We started to work out 'Down to the Wire' at show rehearsals, and that one will probably be added as well.

"It was a nice challenge to do 'Broken Arrow' (which was slotted as the first encore at the shows). 'My Kind Of Love' was done to fill an up tempo need. 'Hot Dusty Roads' was one of those 'Whisky' songs that we all loved, as well as 'Everybody's Wrong.' But, it's amazing there are still a lot of songs we have to get to," he said.

"We had fun (at the rehearsals), but no doubt we were all about business, since we knew we had set the bar pretty high, and we wanted to deliver," he said. "So, for about five or six hours a day we worked on our songs." Vitale agreed with Furay's assessment, adding "the rehearsals were all so easy, just a piece of cake. It was pretty much the most fun I've ever had. We just got on royally.

"They've done and seen it all, all the different emotions, all the things that can drag you down out there," Vitale observed about Stills, Furay and Young. "They're way passed all that junk. We went back to why we do it; that is, to have fun. I've never had this much fun, ever."

Interestingly, for all the work he's done with Stills and Young, in various combinations, over the years, Vitale had never worked with Furay, but ultimately found it extremely rewarding.

"Riche's just a wonderful person," Vitale said. "He's inspirational, genuine, just one of the nicest people I've ever met in the music business."

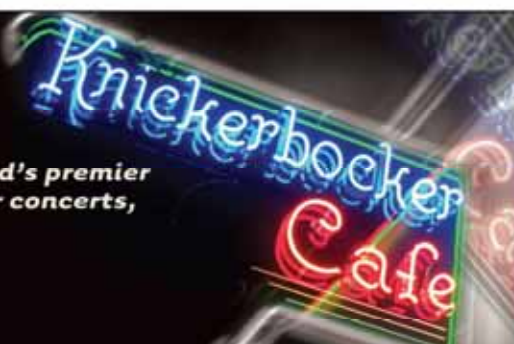
Perhaps the most interesting addition to the set list was Young's anthemic rocker, "Rockin' In The Free World," which ended the almost 100-minute performances.

"'Rockin' In The Free World' was introduced (by Young) as a song that 'had we stayed together, this is what we would have sounded like,'" Furay said, "and it worked for our encore because the audience certainly recognized the chorus and really got into it."

With the set list finalized and a genuine camaraderie back within the band, they opened the mini-tour at the Fox Theatre in Oakland, moved to the Wiltern Theatre in Los Angeles, and then to the County Bowl in Santa Barbara. The reaction, to put it mildly, was stunning, Furay recalled.

"The crowds were amazing and appreciative. It was just us, and the audience appreciated that. It was definitely a mix (in the audience), not just "old tim-

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ers," but some young whippersnappers as well," he recalled.

"One of the great things about Buffalo Springfield reunion was 'what you saw and heard was what you got' and I think everyone appreciated that," Furay said. "All the music and all the singing was just us – we didn't have 10 back-up musicians or singers on stage to enhance what we were doing – it was just us."

Vitale agreed, noting that "the audiences were just spectacular. We walked on stage at the first Bridge show with butterflies, like we were kids again, and it was frightening how loud the crowd was. I would have liked the shows even if I weren't in the band."

The reunion also impressed Rusty Young, who attended one of the Los Angeles shows.

"The concert was something I never thought I'd see, but I'm so glad it happened. I enjoyed seeing Richie standing shoulder to shoulder with Stephen and Neil – just as it should be," Young said. "I wish Dewey and Bruce could have been there too. I appreciated that they didn't try to 'recreate' the original recordings in their live performance. It's not 1966 anymore."

And, it gave Rusty Young a chance to see the complete, original Springfield, unlike when he worked in the studio on 'Last Time Around.'

"When I played on 'Kind Woman' it was pretty much just Jimmy Messina, Richie and me," Young recalled. "Neil only stopped by the studio very briefly, and Stephen was busy working on his own songs, and running between his studio and David Crosby's, who was producing Joni Mitchell's first recording."

The Bonnaroo festival was, of course, the crowning achievement of the reunion, with Stills, Furay and Young playing in front of more than 100,000 people, by far the largest crowd to ever attend a Springfield show.

"I had never heard of Bonnaroo before I was told we were going to play it, and, yes, it was the largest crowd I've ever played in front of, but you know, a crowd is a crowd," Furay said. "Truthfully, I find it exciting to play in front of any crowd, but the smaller venues might make me a little more nervous because you are really close to the audience."

"That being said, I found it interesting that we were able to 'connect' with the crowd at Bonnaroo – we made the people in the first few rows the ones we connected with," he added. "It was fun to see what we knew would be a younger crowd, singing along to our songs – they made us feel right at home. It was a fun event and I'm certainly glad for the experience."

"These were people who never thought they would ever see this event happen. When you made eye contact you knew they were in awe and they were with us," Furay remembered. "When we walked out on stage, and felt the reaction and appreciation of the audience, it just made us want to assure them we were glad they had come out to hear us."

"Believe me, it was a mutual experience of appreciation from both sides of the stage and we did our very best each night to make sure they went home saying 'wow, awesome, can't wait 'til the next time.'"

And, according to Furay, there will still be a next time. The band has postponed, not cancelled, Furay stressed, a national tour that was scheduled to begin this fall.

"I know we did have shows being sorted out for a fall tour, but there were some scheduling conflicts and when it got right down to it, we had to move the tour," he said.

"The tour has not been cancelled – it has been moved. We were planning on covering most all the country, so that's what I believe we will be doing when we decide to do it," he added.

Through it all, Furay has focused on this reunion being about the present, and maybe the future, of Buffalo Springfield, rather than, as Neil Young put it at the shows, being "from the past."

"Was there a sense of 'unfinished business' (when the band broke up)? I can only speak for myself and the answer was 'no,'" he said. "Was I hoping we could have continued on (back then) – sure, but when it was over – it

16 SOUND WAVES

was over, and there was no looking back at what could have, should have, or would have been. For me, it was on to the next adventure."

"I had made my mind up during that time as long as Stephen wanted to go on, I would be there as well," Furay said of the break up in 1968. "When he made the decision he'd had enough and it was time to move on – it was time to move on. I'm not sure any of us thought much more about it."

"The only indication there was 'unfinished business' came with the release of Neil's 'Silver and Gold' album which included the song – 'Buffalo Springfield Again' – about 10 years ago," Furay said. "If you listen to the lyrics of that song, it would appear that there was 'unfinished business' in his mind. I'm certainly glad we got the chance to 'deliver,' if you will, because the reunion tour proved we could still deliver after all those years."

"Everybody loved (them) back then," Vitale remembered. "Buffalo Springfield set the pace and the standard for combining great vocals with the rock and roll sound."

"Buffalo Springfield was and is unique; there is no other band of that era that could be doing what we are doing and generate as much interest as we are," Furay added. "When you think about all the little nuances of this band that laid dormant for 42 or 43 years and then to have it bounce back on the world stage of music with such interest, you have to stop and say – 'there's something happening here.'"

"We were together for only two years; that's a pretty short life span; we could have easily been a 'one hit wonder,' he added, "but that hit became the 'national anthem' of all the protests songs, and it was enough of a hit that made it, and Buffalo Springfield, known all over the world, bringing attention to a band that could easily have slipped into obscurity along with the thousands of other bands from that era."

"The principal songwriters are still very much alive – two of whom – Neil Young and Stephen Stills – have had very high profile careers in the entertainment world," Furay concluded. "All of this gives the band enough notoriety in the music world to make this reunion not only valid, but a significant event in music history."



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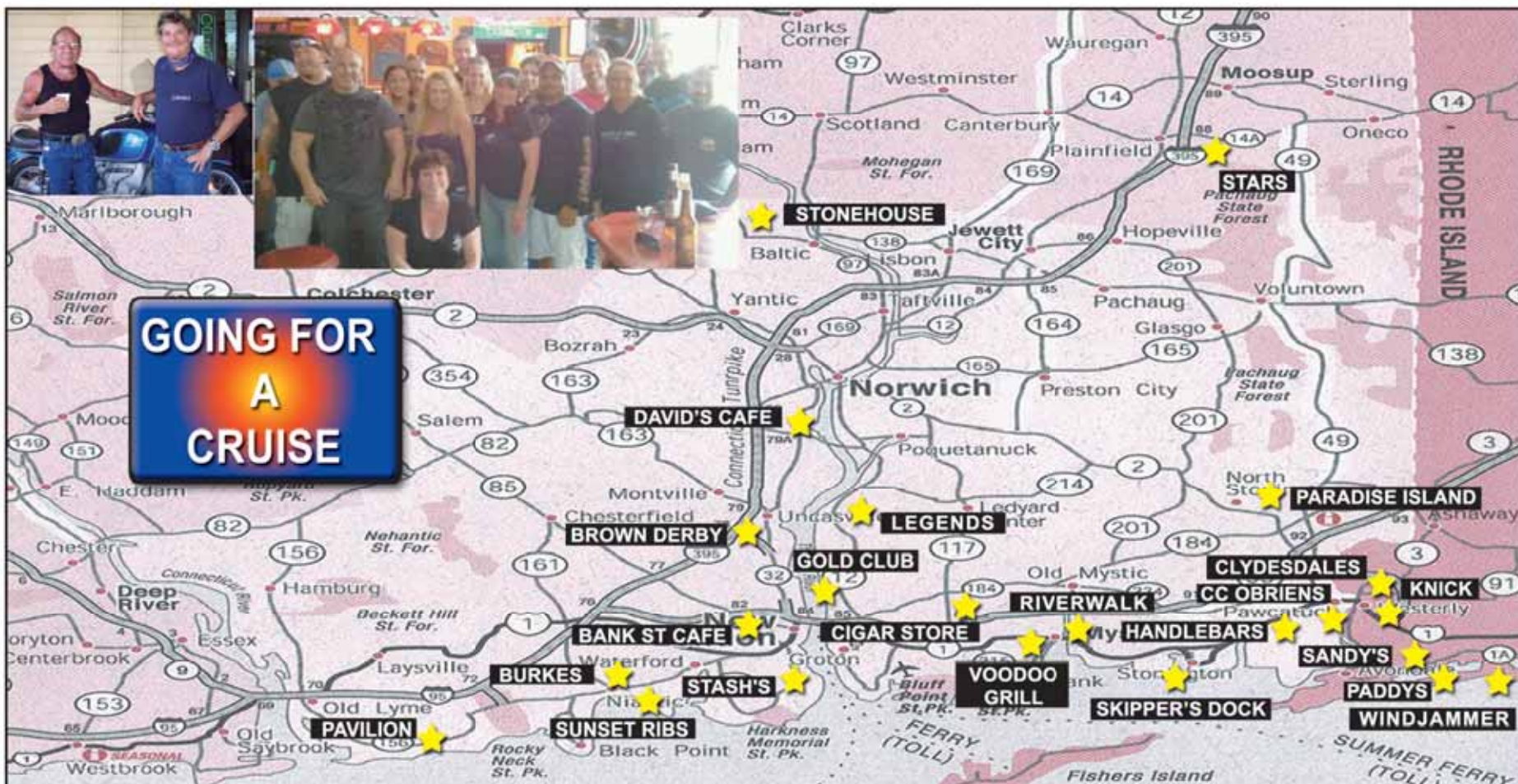
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JACK SUNDRUD

"Cage"

www.jacksundrud.com

Whoever first said that great things come in, relatively, small packages must have heard this remarkable six-song EP collection from Nashville singer-songwriter Jack Sundrud.

Sundrud's had a pretty incredible career, writing or co-writing a number of Nashville-based hits for other artists; leading his own band, the late and lamented "Great Plains;" writing, recording and playing the occasional gig with songwriter contemporary Craig Bickhardt as "Idlewheel;" and, of course, his best-known "day job" as bassist, singer and songwriter in the legendary country-rock band Poco. In that context, "Cage" is another in a long line of successes for the Minnesota native. Remarkably, it's only his second solo work, and it follows the equally impressive "By My Own Hand," a full-length recording Sundrud released a few years ago.

Recorded at the Spare Room outside of Nashville, "Cage" elegantly and eloquently showcases Sundrud's emotional, passionate singing voice, which, even with, well, "spare" studio accompaniment, often just an acoustic guitar, never fails to capture the emotion, care and detail of his songs.

"Cage" continues Sundrud's musical legacy of consistently excellent songwriting, singing and playing and makes a listener yearn for many more than its six outstanding, unique songs. Here's hoping that he gives us more, soon.

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

MOUNTAIN HEART

"That Just Happened"

MH Music Group, LLC

Mountain Heart is a band that has stretched the boundaries of bluegrass and acoustic folk music and built a loyalty by delivering top notch musicianship and outstanding live performances. "That Just Happened" is the band's 7 song EP and the first with its current talent-laden lineup. Barry Abernathy (banjo, vocals), Jason Moore (acoustic bass), Aaron Ramsey (mandolin), Josh

Shilling (lead vocals, piano, keyboards), Jake Stargel (guitar), and Jim VanCleve (violin), are each Grammy-nominated musicians as individuals and have performed with some of the biggest names in country music. Yet as a musical team unit, Mountain Heart clicks on all cylinders, showcasing a dynamic blend of musical elements that cross a number of musical boundaries.

With a tasteful recipe of country, southern rock, blues, folk, and bluegrass blended into a high energy package, "That Just Happened" showcases Mountain Heart's diverse musical talents and the band's unique ability to carve out a path less traveled. Despite the hesitation of the bluegrass purist to accept keyboards, Shilling's dynamic range as a vocalist pushes the band into elite status. The opening title track kicks into top gear after the :43 second acoustic introduction and never lets up, as the song's lyrics ("we make our own rules", "were gonna show you how country boys rock and roll", "at the end of this song better pick up your jaw") proclaim the band's arrival and musical mission. "Even If It Breaks My Heart" is as strong a ballad as you will hear on country radio today and lends more credibility to the band's musical diversity. The disc also closes with two strong cover songs. The lesser known is "The Ride", originally penned by David Allan Coe, which showcases Schilling's powerful vocals and the band's impressive chops. "Whipping Post" closes the set. Any doubters that the Allman Brothers rock tune might not work on mandolins and banjos are quickly quieted as the band tears through Gregg Allman's 1969 classic with a ferocity yet "living room jam session" feel. The band would be hard pressed to find any better songs to cover.

As with any strong EP, the only downside to "That Just Happened" is at only 7 songs, it leaves the listener wanting more. Still, there's plenty of musical chops to digest here, with the band offering a fresh approach for contemporary bluegrass with enough rock and country influences to please fans of any genre. Look for Mountain Heart, with their youth, talent, and musical desire, to stamp its name on the future of bluegrass encyclopedia.

**** - Don Sikorski

CHUCK COREA, STANLEY CLARK & LENNY WHITE

"Forever"

Concord Records

These days, it's not uncommon for musicians in the world of jazz to join forces and form a sort of super group. At first glance that's what Forever might seem like - another newfound collaboration album between three jazz titans. In truth, the trio of pianist Chick Corea, bassist Stanley Clarke, and drummer Lenny White on Forever dates back to the 70s. In 1974, progressive jazz group "Return to Forever" formed their "electric lineup" of Corea, Clarke, White, and guitarist Bill Connors. Forever, is the electric lineup at its musical core: bass, piano and drums. With singer Chaka Kahn, Mahavishnu Orchestra violinist Jean-Luc Ponty, and Bill Connors making guest appearances, Forever is an exiting album to listen to, that always stays rooted in Corea, Clarke, and White's strong connection and energy.

Disc one of Forever showcases the stripped down acoustic trio of Corea, Clarke, and White, on their unplugged tour of 2009. As expected, the level of musicianship these three guys demonstrate is no less than top-notch. But what really sets this disc apart is the phenomenal musical bond that's always present when hearing Corea, Clarke, and White play together. It's clear that through 40 years of being in a group, the energy between Corea, Clarke, and White has evolved to a level of cohesiveness that's astounding. It's impressive to hear tracks like "Hackensack", where White knocks out skittery drum stabs, and Corea and Clarke flawlessly match up what they're playing with White's odd rhythms. It's also notable that on the disc as a whole, Clarke and Corea's solos seamlessly transition back into the main heads of songs, rather than having a very definite beginning and end. As consistent as every track on the first disc is in quality, the real gem of the disc one is saved for the closer, "Senor Mouse". In the trio's rendition of the Return to Forever classic, the sound is tight as ever and the energy level reaches a new height. White bombards through explosive drumming while Clarke and Corea jam over a Phrygian chord progression, not without dissonant chords by Core. The tension is all relieved when the song reaches its pinnacle during a gorgeous chordal climb, leaving the listener with chills. It's all a fantastic way to end the disc,

and proves that even unplugged these three see no boundaries in terms of energy, and blowing your mind.

Disc two is when the guest artists step in, making for an even more diverse listening experience. While still rooted in the trio's constant tightness, the added musicians take the music on some unexpected twists and turns. The sound of other jazz groups starts to creep in, when Ponty's nimble arpeggios and riffs on "Renaissance" instantly bring the listener back to the unmistakable Mahavishnu sound. "I Love You, Porgy" starts off as a pleasant jazz vocal tune, when suddenly Kahn scats a sharp and jarring melody, and Corea hammers out chords that mesh perfectly underneath. In "After the Cosmic Rain", the sound takes one of the sharpest turns on the album. Textural synths lay the backdrop, and Bill Connors comes in with a searing and dark lead, eventually leading to a jam that sounds like outer-space funk. All the surprises make the second disc and the raw tightness on the first disc make the overall album a delight to listen to, a musical trip that'll have the listener coming back to re-listen to the moments that blew their mind.

- Jeff Howard

Editor Note: Jeff Howard is The McLovins lead guitarist.

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SWIM THE MIND

Moosup VFW, Moosup, CT

June 3, 2011

The night in general was a showcase for the optimistic listener. For most of the audience, it was a hike out into an area of the state that they wouldn't normal trek out to, but the music being offered was such an opportunity that it was no question on whether or not to attend. Although many of the people who showed up to the VFW on June 3rd were semi-loyal companions of members of one of the four bands who performed, everybody had the same underlying reason for really coming out that night; Swim the Mind.

Of the four bands who played the Moosup VFW, all of whom held sacred the progressive rock style and attitude, Swim the Mind was by far the most professional and experienced. The bands leading up to Swim the Mind put everybody into a mood of excitement, of energy, but also of anticipation. What drives S.T.M. away from the standard rock and roll that much of the rest of the night revolved around is the fact that these guys know exactly what they're doing on the stage, and they know exactly how to make what they're playing appeal to somebody who understands music. Their knowledge of music and theory are such an essential aspect of their performance that it takes a certain audience to get really enthused about them.

I wouldn't really call Swim the Mind a band that makes happy music, nor is it necessarily music to dance to or to sing along with. If anything, Swim the Mind produces complex music that has an almost dark undertone, yet is so talented that they have managed to create a foundation for people who can understand and appreciate the type of music. Perhaps the best way to describe the scene that Swim the Mind would fall under would be the manic progressive, the type of music you'd listen to on a car ride up to a Tool concert. This being said, there was an incredible amount of energy coming from the audience due to the fact that every single person that was packed into the tiny venue was a raging fan of the progressive type.

With so many people brought together under one roof that all hold a similar interest and fascination in music, it isn't hard to have a really awesome time. After some technical difficulties with some of the opening bands and time for set breaks, S.T.M. went on about 45 minutes later than expected. However, this didn't stop them from rocking the place harder than it's possibly ever been rocked before. All it meant was that they played 45 minutes later.

I, being a drummer myself, took a lot of interest in the drums throughout the show. The style that drummer Alex Giosa plays with is such an intricate way of playing, keeping both rhythm and knowledge of theory in mind as he plays. Perhaps what these guys do that makes them such a tight group is that they all play such complex rhythms, such complex music, yet they make it so that it blends perfectly well into each other, giving the listener a slight feeling of confusion as they stand and watch. Swim the Mind is an incredible up and coming band, a group that definitely keeps in mind the thought of excellence and perfection. It's a nice feeling knowing that such young people are so devoted to the music that they are passionate for, and Swim the Mind absolutely preaches that idea.

- David Fidrych



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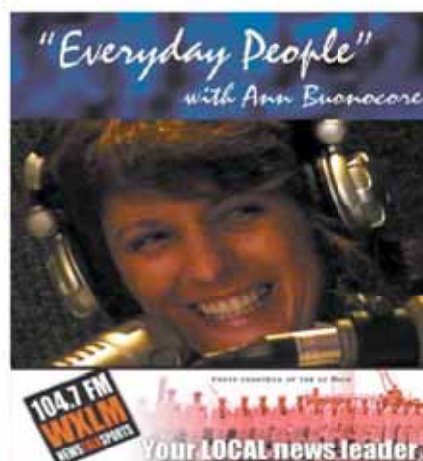
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