

NEW LONDON COUNTY • WINDHAM • MYSTIC • RHODE ISLAND

Sound Waves

Volume 21
Issue 12
September 2011

CLUB LISTINGS
RESTAURANTS
CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS
& MORE

An
Interview
with

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Sound Waves

September 2011
VOLUME 21, NUMBER 12

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ENOUGH IS ENOUGH!

Democracy in America Must Not Die On Our Watch

by Annabel Park & Eric Byler

Millions of us have tried in recent months to communicate with our representatives in Congress. We expressed the urgent need for consumer/financial protection, Wall Street reform, campaign finance reform, tax code reform, and of course jobs. We also tried to weigh in on the manufactured crisis that most politicians chose to focus upon instead. But our elected representatives were not able to hear us. Or, if they did hear us, they wouldn't or couldn't respond because the lobbyists and campaign funders have too much influence. That must change.

Join us on Saturday October 29th in front of the United States Capitol Building to tell Congress and tell the world, Enough is Enough! Whether you sign up to speak from the stage, or express yourself with creative signs or costumes, we invite you to stand with fellow Americans and demand an end to the cycle of corruption. We are calling on you — we need real people with real stories to tell — to stand up and say why you've had enough. Your words will fuel this campaign, inspiring others to come forward, until the silent majority is finally heard.

We do not consent to the growing concentration of wealth and power in our country. Our country is becoming a plutocracy. We do not consent to policies that pander to those who are wealthy enough to buy influence, while requiring the unemployed, the elderly, the middle class, and the working class to sacrifice. We do not consent to politicians and judicial activists who pretend that corporations are people in order to allow unlimited, anonymous money to flood our elections and drown out the voice of the People.

<http://www.youtube.com/coffeepartyusa> - p/u/6u1xaEjGLrDY

When the People are locked out of the policy-making process, the result is terrible decisions that hurt our quality of life, our economy, and our future. As we have seen in countries around the world, this kind of corruption leads to unrest and instability.

We must commit to accepting our civic duty as Americans to be part of a sustained engagement at all levels of government. As people in other countries celebrate being able to finally speak truth to power, let's rediscover the fact that we already have that right. Come to the Capitol Building on Sat. Oct. 29 and speak out for your family, for your community, for your country, and for the People.

Why we will win

As more and more Americans migrate from cable "news" to the Internet and smart phones as primary sources of information, and, as more and more Americans learn to be producers of content rather than just consumers, the "democratization of media" will help us break the cycle of corruption that political advertisements and agenda-based media help to perpetuate. .

Very expensive communications networks tends to serve the interests of the tiny fraction of people who can afford to buy very expensive communications networks.

Last year, Stewart, Stephen Colbert, and Comedy Central demonstrated a very important point: large rallies can be initiated by media conglomerates and celebrity spokespersons with or without hateful propaganda. And indeed, fact-based Americans, too, will respond to a well-produced, entertaining narrative catered to their sensibilities — and they will do so in larger numbers.

Many of our friends on the left were disappointed that Comedy Central did not go as far as Fox News did. They did NOT produce two years worth of daily "news reports" to manipulate viewers into joining a pseudo-populist movement, nor do they instruct their audience on how to feel about policies, www.Swaves.com

or how to vote in elections. Why not? Perhaps it's because one of the underlying messages of Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert's body of work is that civic engagement should be the responsibility of the People; not entertainment empires. So how about it, People? Do we have it in us? Let's find out.

Twitter hash tag: #Oct29



Sign up to speak at the rally at: www.CoffeePartyUSA.com/enough-invite

Don't wait until Oct. 29 to speak out! Please call our speak-out line (301) 259-1135 and/or send a photo to EnoughMarch@gmail.com. Your voice recording and your photo will be edited into one of our videos promoting the Oct. 29 event. (If you leave a message and email us a photo, please include your name, city, state, zip, and the phone number you called from so we can match your voice message to your photo.)



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MUSIC NOTES



“My Guitar Hero”

By Mark T. Gould

Clapton. Hendrix. Beck.

We all call our guitar heroes by one name, and only one name, because that's all they really need.

B.B. Eddie. Skydog.

First or last, be it just one name, because we all know who they are.

It was the same way for me, with my guitar hero.

Buzz.

That's right, Buzz. If you grew up in southeastern Connecticut in the 60s and early 70s, like I did, the best, and the most influential, guitar player was, for my money, Buzz Goodwin.



I think I first noticed Buzz back in the days of the old “Como,” where the Friday night dances were held in Stonington Borough. Buzz, who played lead guitar for the equally talented Greg Piccolo's “Greg and Groupe,” was the first local guy who, to my mind, actually looked like a rock star. Long blondish hair, bell bottom jeans, tight tee shirts, and a great stage presence.

And, man could he play. Beatles. Doors. Kinks. Delaney & Bonnie. It was just incredible all the different music and sounds that he exposed us to, with his exquisite playing.

Later, Buzz made the move of moves in the local music scene, leaving Greg and the Groupe, and joining with the spectacular lead singer Carl Kelley in the Foremost, a rhythm and blues band that was easily the tightest and the funkier in the area. There, along with Carl, he exposed his fans to the sounds of early Sly & the Family Stone, among others.

I probably saw Buzz play over 100 gigs with those two bands. By that point, I didn't think there was any kind of music that Buzz hadn't played, or anybody that he hadn't turned us onto. But, I was wrong. After his stint with the Foremost, Buzz clearly heard the oncoming country-rock explosion, and he explored, and thereby exposed us to, that genre as a founding member of Spur (along with another great local player, Rob Goodman) and later his biggest commercial success, Silverado.

Today, thanks to the miracle of social media, I was able to track down my old guitar hero, and he was kind enough to speak with me about those great days, and what's he's doing now.

“I started my career even before I had my driver's license,” said Goodman, who has launched a very successful second career in sales, marketing and management for a number of well-known audio manufacturing companies, including Harman and JBL, among others. “Greg (Piccolo's) father and mine used to drive us around to the gigs. We worked as the house band at the George, at Misquamicut, opening for bands like Steppenwolf, J. Geils, and the Strawberry Alarm Clock. That was my favorite place to play, although the original ‘Como’ will always hold a special place in my heart.”

And, Buzz said, the whole time, there was a definite emphasis on exposing fans and listeners to different artists.

“Even early on as a band doing cover material, we always stretched beyond doing just ‘the hit,’ and picked out three or four songs from a particular record that were incredibly great songs, but not being played on the radio a hundred times a day,” he recalled. “We also picked artists that had little exposure to top 40 Radio, such as Fairport Convention and Traffic. There were many times that people thought we had written these songs, and were surprised to find out that they were from artists that they had already heard of.”

While Greg and the Groupe was easily the most popular local band at that time, Buzz said it was a fairly easy transition into the more R&B influenced Foremost, who also had a big fan following.

“I joined the band (the Foremost) out of necessity, getting the most work that I knew of at the time,” he said. “Unlike ‘the Groupe’, who played the

beach circuit, the Foremost played within the New London scene. We played everything from hotels to rock clubs, Thursday thru Saturday. That lasted only a year for me. However, it was during that time that I first started writing original material on my own to be recorded in upcoming bands.”

That, as well as his own exposure to other artists, led him to the country-rock sound, Buzz said.

“My earliest musical influences were, like everyone else, the Beatles, but seemed to stretch more and more into country influenced artists, such as Roger McGuinn, Pure Prairie League, the Flying Burrito Brothers, Poco, and later on the Eagles,” he remembered. “To this day I am a huge fan of Jimmy Messina, and I have had the pleasure of writing with Jimmy.”

Following Spur, Buzz hit commercial success with Silverado.

“After two years with Spur, I teamed up with our road manager, Carl Shillo, who became my song writing partner through two RCA records and one CBS record (with) Silverado,” he said. “Our second RCA album, called ‘Taking It All in Stride,’ spawned a top 40 hit called ‘Hide Your Love,’ a song I co-wrote with Carl.”

Silverado toured as opening act and as headliner for many years in the college circuit across the country, opening for similar bands like Pure Prairie League, Pousette-Dart Band, The Byrds and America. Yet, while he continued to write and perform, he noticed that he was attracted to, and was good at, another aspect of the music business.

“I'm still writing songs with some hit makers in the industry (today),” he said, “However, early on, I discovered that I had a flare for sales, and that,



along with needing steady income for my family, started my sales management career."

Clearly, an appraisal of Buzz' current career, via either his Facebook page or Google, shows that he as good in business as he is on the stage or the studio. And, having done both, he is in a unique position to comment on the state of the audio industry.

"A number of people in our industry are former musicians who migrated into the business side, although I am one of the very few who did it without a college degree," he said. "I don't think things have changed all that dramatically, other than the technology, which has made recording and live sound equipment much more affordable than in my earlier years in the industry."

And, as far as this longtime fan is concerned, the industry will remain strong and vital as long as Buzz Goodwin is in it.





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2 Dean Cardinale 5 - 8:45 Lee & Eddie 9 - 1	3 Victor Cowles 5 - 8:45 Guido & Drew 9 - 1	4 Steve Gregory 3-7 Frank & Beans 7 - 11
9 D2 8 - 12	10 JA2M 8 - 12	11 Van Taylor 4 - 8
16 Guido & Drew 8 - 12	17 Those Guys 8 - 12	18 Brandon & Waters 4 - 8
23 Call for Info	24 Dean Cardinale 8 - 12	25 Imprint 3 - 7
30 Tony Marshall 8 - 12	1 Call for Info	2 Call for Info



Join us for Labor Day Weekend

Thur. 1st - **Jaime**

Fri. 2nd - **Dean Cardinale 5pm**
Lee & Eddie 9pm

Sat. 4th - **Victor Cowles 5pm**
Guido & Drew 9pm

Sun. 4th - **Steve Gregory 3-7**
Frank & Beans 7pm

Mon. 5th - **Seth**

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BAR FLY JOURNALS



By Stephanie Shawn

Hello, my Sweet BarFlies...as I sit here glued to HLN, CNN and my local news station awaiting Hurricane? Irene's possible arrival, I can't help but feel a little overwhelmed. TMI...Too Much Information...I'm on freakin' overload! Seriously? We've all gotta be at least first year meteorological students. I know about highs and lows and troughs and windspeed and flood zones and storm surges...really? But I can't look away...oh no, I am GLUED! Holding on by the seat of my shortie shorts, on edge, for the storms wrath to whack us in a**. Or will it??

And also.. it's over! Another summer gone! Can't believe it and yet, even though I have many a happy memory of my (and some of your) exploits.. there is still so much I've left undone! Thankfully, I made it home from Aruba though without meeting my demise, as Robyn Gardner went missing from the Marriott right across from us while I was there. Yikes...kinda scary! Happy Birthday to lovely Lisa Konicki, one of my traveling companions... (see you on the Bike) and a serious "Thank You" to Barbara Stillman for opening her home to us all and leaving me with my new motto "some people are like slinkies...not really good for anything, but they still put a smile on your face when you push them down the stairs". Love ya, girl!

Had a SecretSpy at GILLIGAN'S ISLAND in westerly last Friday night this month! Was told that GREG HODDE'S BLUE REIGN played and did and unbelievable job! Lotsa people dancing and great music along with Fantastic Friday Night Fish and Chips! Wow!! Nice job, Greg!

Had an afternoon out wid me besties, (Sexual Chocolate included) recently! We hit up 84 HIGH STREET for Mudslide Martinis and Bloody Mary's (it WAS a Sunday!). I had the Chicken Caesar Wrap and the Girl's had some Crabcakes! Brian was our happy Bartender and they had quite the afternoon crowd.

From there, we headed to Our Bar to visit the lovely Miss Joanna, but she threw us a curve ball and was not at her Post! So, we entertained JP for a bit, then headed off to visit Eric at CLYDESDALES and played a coupla mean Dart Games! Beat Ronnie and Mike's asses, we did! Dart League starts in the Fall at the HANDLEBAR CAFE...keep u posted!

After a slight dressing down by the generally amicable Mr. Steven Slosberg, I was informed that I had Again! missed the show of a Lifetime! My SuperDuper Secret Spy went (new name...Agent Double O Slosberg?) to the HYGIENIC ART PARK next to the BULKLEY HOUSE to see the HOOLIO'S along with the MACLEANS and PAUL BROCKETT ROAD-SHOW BAND.

Double O reported that he was spellbound to see a band of Latin Drummers parading down Bank Street, as well as the Fabulous Music of the Show! Apparently I Do Need to Get Out More! The HYGIENIC has always been a haven for the off-beat and non-commercial sounds and looks of the area. And Super Duper Secret Spy (I'm sticking with that one!) reported that the Funky, Folksy, Bluesy, Rockin' Sounds from these Awesome Bands was something I should not have missed and could be heard throughout the Downtown New London Area! Next time, I swear!

Cardboard Girl at the HANDLEBAR CAFE is causing A LOT of Discontent among the patrons. She's Hot! She's Perky! She's extremely athletic (looking)! She's Quiet! She's Cardboard! Well, apparently some of our female patrons have become annoyed with the non-stop attention she's been attracting from the male patrons! She's suffered beatings, slashings, near 8 SOUND WAVES

drownings in the toilet. Well, now she's fighting back!..While being forced to pose with various patrons and assorted riffraff from the Bar, she apparently had had enough and flung pam off the deck! Let that be a lesson to you, people! Do Not Mess With Cardboard Girl!

Seen and Heard: Jamie (Happy Birthday!) and Ryan Quattromani at 99 HOUSE in Westerly, with Nancy Luzzi and husband and Bartender to the Stars Nick Lamparelli. Also heard from Shirley Rae that she's back in the driver's seat after being a bit under the weather.

The Editor, Dave Pottie, was seen at ESKER POINT celebrating his Birthday at the last show of the summer season with EIGHT TO THE BAR! And Bob, from O'KEEFE'S PACKAGE STORE in Pawcatuck was nice enough to loan me a book by my friend, Ray Uzan "ODYSSEY OF A WAYWARD TRAVELER". Loved it!



GET BUZZED playing to a full house at the PAVILION in Old Lyme. Hopefully I will be seeing them at the BROWN DERBY in November. Kimberly Scott was spotted at the BROWN DERBY along with owner Doug and she was nice enough to have invited me to the WOLF DEN to see SKID ROW, but, of course, I didn't get the message until the next day! Thanks Kim! Tara Peckham and Frank

Machado were spotted in the HANDLEBAR CAFE this month! Hello, new friends!

Also, Chris Cipriano was Seen watc filling out the winning ADT Alarm Raffle Receipt at the WASHINGTON COUNTY FAIR, along with Betsy, Stacie, Mike, Rose and John...can anyone say "Winning"? NO SHAME was Seen and Heard at STASH'S CAFE recently, and a band called the JIM-JAMS is looking for some Bookings! Also JUST SHY playing at the BANK STREET CAFE! Also ROOMFUL OF BLUES at the KNICKERBOCKER CAFE!

Upcoming events: End of the Summer-slash-Buster and Barb Getting Married Party at the HANDLEBAR CAFE on September 10 at 7pm...I'll be working (come see me) and my friend Bev will be entertaining the crowd... (can anyone say "free leis and lotsa swag!!"). Karen and Buster Knight will be in town and attending the Party, so stop by for a RumChatta Suprema!

The WESTERLY-PAWCATUCK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, along with the WINDJAMMER CAFE will be hosting the 7th Annual BREWS AND BLUES ON September 30 at 6! Twenty local restaurants will be showcasing their food along with some fabulous Brews from area Breweries and Distributors. A wine table will be manned by the lovely Kirsten Petrizzo for the winos in the bunch. The KARL KELLY BAND will supply our Blues portion of the program and it promises to be another fantastic year! Get your tickets early through the Chamber or at many local restaurants.

Pencil in September 18 at the GROTON ELKS LODGE for a benefit for Jamie Dutton, hurt in a roofing accident a few months ago. He has a wonderful family and they could use all the help they can get! Lotsa food and raffles for all! Wish him well on his recovery!

And we will all be attending The Third Annual MITCH CHRISTINA Event held at the KNICKERBOCKER CAFE on October 2. Hope to see you all there rubbing shoulders with the wonderful Christina Family, including my friends Jim, Bobby and of course, Dave! Many fabulous area bands will play and I plan on staying on the dance floor with my friend Jake Levanti, who is in our prayers and has promised to teach me to swing. We love you, Jake!

This month we will be featuring a Dining Out section, so if you are a Restaurant or Cafe or Deli etc. and would be interested in being included, contact Dave at swaves.com. Follow me on FaceBook at Bar Fly or just drop by for a visit on the 10th! See you soon, keep me posted and I Love You, My Sweet Flies! Ciao for Now!





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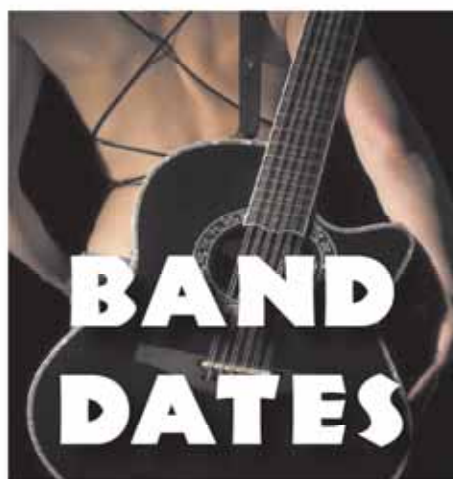
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THE BUZZ

10 - The Club, Danielson, CT
17 - Surf Bar, Misquamicut, RI
24 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT

DAN STEVENS

2 - Carousel Club, New London, CT
4 - Memorial Picnic, Rosedale, MD
7 - Bridge, Westerly, RI
9 - Chamard Vineyards, Clinton, CT
10 - First & Last Tavern, Plainville, CT
11,29 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
14 - Publick House, Newcastle, ME
15,16 - Festival, Fredericton, Canada
28 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT
30 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT

DAN WATSON

1 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7pm
11 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT
13,27 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
15 - Bridge Rest., Westerly, RI

THE GOAT ROPERS

2,10,30 - VFW, Taunton, MA 8-12
4 - Amer. Legion, E. Greenwich, RI 1-5
25 - Amer. Legion, Webster, MA 4-8

GOPHERBROKE

2 - Blue Cottage, Branford, CT 6-9
3 - Loco Perro, Marlborough, CT 7-10
16 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
17 - Red's Tavern, S. Windsor, CT 7-11
23 - Inn at Newtown, Newtown, CT
24 - Mango's, Branford, CT 7-10
27 - Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA
30 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT

GREEN TEA

15 - Voodoo Grille, Mystic, CT
24 - CC O'Briens, Pawcatuck, CT

HOPE ROAD

5 - Skipper's Dock, Stonington, CT (3-7)
23 - Tammany Hall, Worcester, MA

JAMES HARRIS

3 - Windjammer, Westerly, RI 1pm
3,7,14,17,21,28 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
10 SOUND WAVES

6,13,20,27 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
8 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 7pm
9 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
15 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
17,18 - GarlicFest, Mystic, CT 12pm
22 - Bridge, Westerly, RI 8pm
23 - Sierra Vineyard, Ledyard, CT 5:30pm
24 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 5pm

JAY DEMPSEY & HIGHWAY CALL

9 - Hard Rock, Foxwoods, CT
10 - Fair, Ledyard, CT
16 - Sneekers, Groton, CT
23 - Stashs Cafe, New London, CT 5:30

KEVIN MANZELLA & HEATHER LEPAGE

1 - Savin Rock, Mystic, CT 5-8
1 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
2 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10
3 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 8-11
4,25 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 5-8
7,21 - Hard Rock, Foxwoods, CT
9,30 - Bridge, Westerly, R.I. 8-12
10 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 5-8
14,22 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8-11
15 - Savin Rock, Mystic, CT 8:30-11:30
16 - Gilligan's Island, Westerly, R.I.
17 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
23 - 84 High St., Westerly, R.I. 8:30-11

Ms. MARCI & THE LOVESICK HOUNDS

24 - Angelico's, E. Hampton, CT 7-11

MUNSELL BROTHERS BAND

2 - Sneeker's Cafe, Groton, CT
10 - Bank St. Cafe, New London, CT
17 - C.C. O'Brien's, Pawcatuck, CT
23 - Ivory Pub, Deep River, CT
24 - Plaza Hotel, New London, CT

RIVERGODS

9 - Burkes, Niantic, CT
16,17 - Hygenic Park, New London, CT
23 - All Souls, New London, CT

SEX & CANDY

10 - Riverhouse, N. Haven, CT 2pm
10 - Red Door, Watertown, CT
22 - Gold Club, Groton, CT

STYFF KITTY

2 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
3 - Wood River Inn, Wyoming, RI
10 - CC O'Brien's, Pawcatuck, CT
24 - City Sports Grill, Groton, CT
25 - Swamp Yankee Festival, Ashaway, RI

SUE MENHART BAND

3 - Village Gazebo, Mystic, CT 2-4pm

4 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT 4-7pm
16 - Holiday Bowl, Groton, CT 5-8pm
24 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8-11pm
30 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT 7-11pm

SUNDAY GRAVY

1 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
9 - Voodoo Grille, Mystic, CT
10 - Bridge, Westerly, RI
16 - Wood River Inn, Hope Valley, RI
22 - Rhino Bar, Newport, RI
30 - Hanafin's, New London, CT

2 CAT ZOO

2 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 5-8pm
3 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
4,29 - Bridge Rest., Westerly, RI
16 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
22 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

TOM SANDERS BAND

3 - Fair, Haddam Neck, CT 7-10

WICKED PEACH

9 - One Pelham East, Newport, RI
10,23,24 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT
17 - Twin River Casino, Lincoln, RI
30 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT

WILSON KANE

1,15,29 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8pm
2 - La Vita Gustosa, E. Haddam, CT

3 - Strawberry Park, Preston, CT 11am
3 - Lisa's Landing, Waterford, CT 6pm
4 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 3pm
4,11 - Malted Barley, Westerly, RI 7pm
5 - Blue Cottage, Branford, CT 3pm
8,22 - Savin Rock, Mystic, CT 8pm
9,30 - Flander's Fish, E. Lyme, CT 7pm
10,17 - Cedar Park Inn, Stonington, CT 5pm
16 - Baci Grill, Cromwell, CT 7pm
17 - Garlic Festival, Mystic, CT 11am
18 - Garlic Festival, Mystic, CT 1pm
23 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm
24 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 8pm

YOUNG GUNS

23 - Habourside, Greenwich, RI

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CONCERT DATES

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3 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Donna The Buffalo

11 - Toad's Place, New Haven, CT

Marc Anthony

10 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

New Riders Of The Purple Sage

11 - Narrows Center, Fall River, MA

Roger Daltrey

24 - XL Center, Hartford, CT

Ronnie Spector

Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Shemekia Copeland

24 - The Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

Snoop Dogg

2 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Tinsley Ellis

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

Toby Keith

16 - Comcast Theatre, Hartford, CT

Trace Adkins/Kellie Pickler

4 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Vince Gill

23 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT



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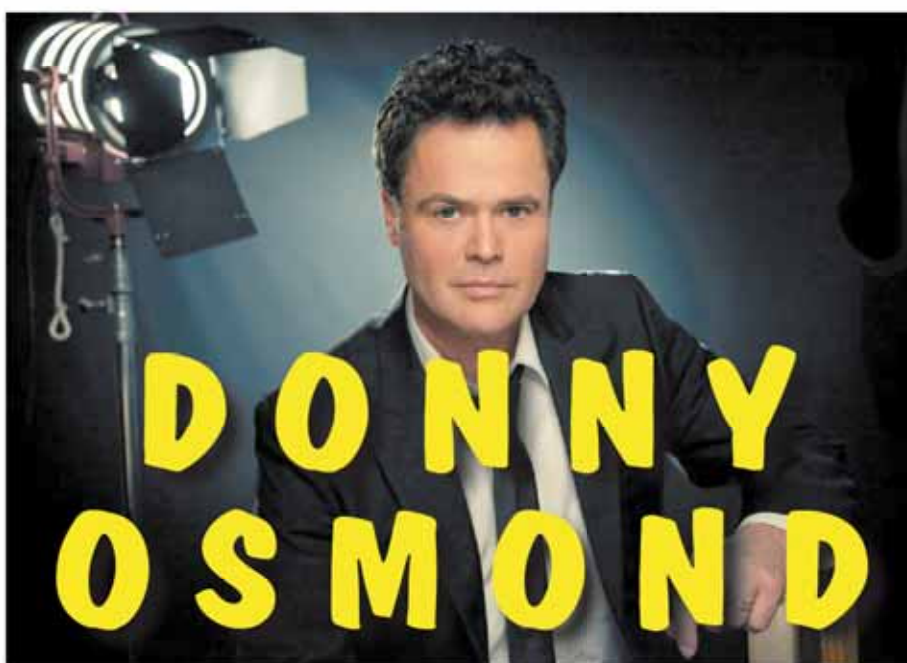
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By Bill Harriman

In the history of rock and roll has there ever been a more macho guy than Donny Osmond? Take a minute and consider this. He's been married to his wife Debbie for over thirty years and they have five sons. That's right - five sons! He's a former teen idol who all the ladies still love to this day. He's the oldest contestant ever to win "Dancing with the Stars." He's been successful on Broadway. He's conquered Las Vegas. He's had a successful television career. He's been in movies. Obviously he's an excellent singer and musician and he's been making records since he was a kid. He's had his own radio show. He's written books. He's a philanthropist who has given millions of dollars to assorted charities. He's great looking. He's awesomely fit. He's also a deeply religious man. He makes it perfectly clear that the second most important woman in his life is his only sister. Oh, and if you ever met Donny, he's one of those guys who has to break all your fingers when he shakes your hand. If you look up "macho" in the dictionary, there should be a picture of Donny!

Donny Osmond is a busy guy these days. For the past couple of years he's been out in Vegas playing the Flamingo Hotel with his sister Marie. The two just release a new self titled CD this past May. As usual they sound excellent together (some things never change) on this 15 song disc that leans towards an adult contemporary sound. The pair also did a stint on Broadway last year in a show called "Donny and Marie - A Broadway Christmas." At this writing Donny was taking a break from his Vegas gig to take his own band on a short tour. His first show was in Wallingford, CT. on August 24th. When his tour is over he'll be back with his kid sister for an extended stay at the Flamingo. This phone interview took place on Wednesday August 3rd. Donny was calling from his home in Utah.

Congratulations on the new CD. I'm sure you're very happy with it.

DO - "I am because we took our time to do that. We all stretched on this one. I was doing country and our producer Buddy Cannon went into the rock and roll area of music because he's mainly a country producer and we got with the likes of Gavin DeGraw and Richie Sambora and Buddy really stretched and went into the rock area."

Were any of these new songs written specifically for you and Marie?

DO - "No we searched out. We probably had two hundred tunes submitted to us. They were just great songs but not specifically written for us. Actually 'Vegas Love' was written specifically for us. And that was kind of like an eleventh hour addition to the album. We had it all done and our music director Jerry Williams played it for us. We said we got to put it on the album because of what's happening in Vegas with our show."

"Touch" sounded like a song written for you because it seemed so personal.

DO - "When I first heard it I wanted to do this one myself and Marie said 'no I got to be on it with you.' It's a really cool song and we had lost our parents not that long ago and no pun intended but that song really touched us."

Have you and Marie enjoyed your time in Vegas?

DO - "It's unbelievable what has happened. Let's go back to 2007. That was the last time I did a solo tour. And then in the beginning of 2008 I produced the Osmond's 50th anniversary tour and final tour that we ever did and immediately after that Marie and I went to Vegas and did ten test shows. They sold out like eight or nine months before the gig and we thought maybe we got something here. We went over to the Flamingo and saw the room and thought this is perfect. So they gave us a six week contract and we were worried about the fact can we fill the room for six weeks and here we are going on our fourth year."

Is there any end in sight?

DO - "Well there comes a time when you've got to move on. I think the end of next year will probably be the end of it but I think Marie and I will always have a presence in Vegas. I mean you look at what Celine does and what Shania now is doing and Rod Stewart. They come in for a couple months at a time here and there and rather than a year long stint it becomes a special event. Because there are a lot of markets around the country and around the world actually that want this Donny and Marie production. There are places in China that wants us, Singapore, Australia, over in the U.K. so by tying us down to a year long contract in Vegas we can't really do these things. Although about three weeks ago Marie and I took our show to Toronto and it's a huge ordeal to move that big of a show but we did it. And that's what we want to do in the future but always maintain a presence there at the Flamingo because it's great room."

Did playing all these shows with Marie help when the two of you went to the studio to record together?

DO - "No not really because our schedules were so busy we couldn't really record together. Maybe I shouldn't be saying this but it was all done individually. I've got my little vocal booth in my dressing room and Marie's got a little recording studio in her home. And it's not like we spent 24/7 together so whenever we had a little bit of time I would do my vocals and Marie would do hers. There's the genius of Buddy Cannon to be able to pull it off in that kind of way because it was the only way we could record because I live in Utah so I commute back and forth. I'd fly in and do the shows and do some recording. It took eight months to do this album but we took our time. One of the things that we did because of the success of the Vegas show, was everybody was saying to get album out there real fast to capitalize on it. But we said no, we didn't want to just throw an album together like we did in the past in the seventies. You know, just slap a bunch of songs together in an album and it would sell. We took our time. We took the eight months or so and we were very careful with the song selection and the vocal production. So it was a labor of love if you will because everyone said to get it out there quickly because you're missing all kinds of sales, you have all these people every night in a captivated audience. And we both said 'I don't care! We're going to make the right album.' So we took our time."

I noticed you were on Broadway again last Christmas. Before that you had a long run in "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" as well as "Beauty and the Beast." Is it safe to say that you'll be back on Broadway again when the time is right?

DO - "Absolutely if it's the right property and the right time but I can't do it right now because of the amount of time you have to commit to amortizing the expenses of advertising. You got to do at least four or five months and I just don't have that availability in my schedule but it's definitely in the cards. As a matter of fact in the show that I'm bringing to Wallingford I'll be doing a Broadway segment and I'll be singing stuff from 'Joseph' and I'll be singing stuff from 'Beauty and the Beast.' But I'm also going to sing stuff from

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"Little Johnny Jones." I don't know if you know that one."

I remember that it was a long time ago.

DO - "1982, I opened and closed the same night on Broadway. It was a disaster! So I am going to revisit that show and sing songs from it. And another thing I'm going to do, I've got a box in my basement, I've never opened it up since 1982. I got the reviews in there and they were scathing. I'm going to open it up for the first time on the 24th."

I'm sure Frank Rich had something to say?

DO - "Frank went in there and just ripped me apart so much so I just couldn't read the reviews. So I'm going to read them for the first time and do songs from 'Johnny Jones.'"

Even though you enjoy your work with Marie, I imagine that it must be nice to get out on the road with your own band and do your own thing.

DO - "You better believe it. You have to stretch as an artist because you can get a little stagnated. Although our show in Vegas is constantly evolving, it's in flux all the time but it's been since 2007 as I said since I've gone out and done some solo stuff. But this is kind of a show that I've never done before. There's a structure to it. You have to have an opening and a closing but everything in between I have no idea what's going to happen. Because there's going to be Q and A's in the show and wherever the audience wants to go that's where the show will go. So every show is going to be different and I've got all kinds of material in my computer system. I'm such a geek when it comes to computers but I've got all this stuff ready to go. All the band members are going to have ipads and whatever is called up they get the music. And I only have three guys with me because it's a very intimate, up close, and personal kind of show. Say for instance somebody says 'hey remember that video you did with Al Yankovic 'White and Nerdy?' Boom, it's going to be on the screen immediately. And I'm sure the audience will think 'that was a plant.' And then is somebody says 'what about that one skit you did with Lucille Ball back during the Donny and Marie show.' Boom - there it is! I mean I have all this stuff ready to go. So who knows what's going to happen on the 24th."

I'm sure someone will request a dance number!

DO - "I'll give it to 'em!"

Let's segue into Dancing with the Stars. Why don't you talk a little bit about that experience?

DO - "Well it's one of the hardest things I've ever done in my life. A lot of people don't understand that I was doing Vegas and Dancing with the Stars at the same time. I'd be rehearsing all day and then do the show in Vegas. Mondays and Tuesdays fly down to Los Angeles and compete. I won that thing with a broken rib and a broken toe. I didn't talk about it because I didn't want the sympathy vote. I knew I had the broken toe, I didn't know I had the broken rib until afterwards. My doctor was giving me a checkup around my heart and he said 'you know what you recently had a broken rib right there.' And I remember falling on the floor and it was painful but you just forget about it and keep going."

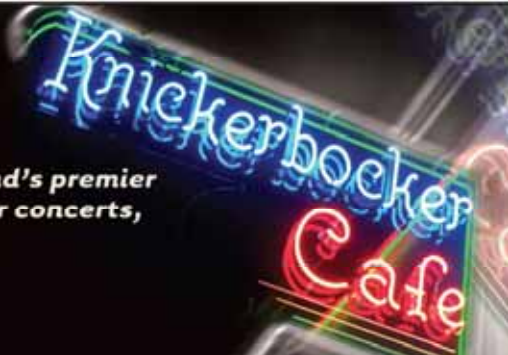
Do you watch American Idol?

DO - "I didn't watch it much this last year because I was so involved with Vegas and I was a correspondent for Dancing with the Stars so I didn't really get into it all that much and didn't see J-Lo and all the guy judging. J-Lo is going to be back isn't that cool? I think that's a good move for her."

I'm surprised that you've never been asked to be a guest mentor. It seems like a natural fit.

DO - "Well, you know, this gets into the whole Donny Osmond image and believe me I've had a lot of time to analyze this. And I think a lot of people still, depending upon a certain generation, are still a little afraid of that Donny Osmond image because it was so goody, goody in the early days. But now I've kind of earned my stripes so I think you're going to be seeing

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more and more of those kind of things where I'm invited to be a mentor. But it was a difficult time to go through during that transition of teenybopper into a serious entertainer."

There was the "Soldier of Love" breakthrough right?

DO - "The Soldier of love breakthrough that's exactly right. I just got an email from Jeff Beck a couple days ago. He and I were talking about the fact that it was his video 'Ambitious' that really was the precursor to 'Soldier of Love.' It started breaking down the ice because I was on MTV. Somebody made a comment 'pigs will fly when Donny Osmond is on MTV.' Well pigs were flying that year baby! It was 1985 and it was there that Peter Gabriel heard me singing and we ran into each other in New York and from there, long story short I'm leaving out so many details, we went to England and cut 'Soldier of Love' and the rest is history."

Changing the subject, there's a large group of republicans who are running for president. Two of them, Jon Huntsman and Mitt Romney, are Mormons. They seem to have to talk about their religious beliefs more than the other candidates. What misconceptions are out there about the Mormon religion?

DO - "I think the biggest misconception is that we're only allowed to have fifteen wives not sixteen." (laughs)

I thought Newt Gingrich had fifteen wives?

DO - (bigger laugh) "You know what I think is really cool is that 'The Book of Mormons' is a hit on Broadway. There's a lot of misconception about how that's presented because it's not true to life. But I think slowly but surely all of those misconceptions are being knocked down. Yes, there was that history of polygamy. I mean it certainly was in biblical times, Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all these guys. It was a biblical thing. But it's something that we got to live with because it was something in the early, early days of the church and people blow it way out of proportion. There were only several people that were asked to practice that but hey, it is what it is right? I just think there will always be a problem in some people's minds that they're Mormons just as somebody has a problem with somebody else being a very religious person. It was very interesting that Kennedy wasn't knocked down because he was a Catholic. And I just think it's a matter of time that people stop throwing darts and being accusatorial. We'll see what happens. I think they're both great guys. I think they both could be great presidents if people could get over that issue that they're LDS (Latter Day Saints) because what it really does for me is it just gives me a wonderful foundation and basis of family life. That what it gets right down to. Theology, you can argue that until you're blue in the face and no one will win. You got to look at their stands on how to run the government and how to run this country. And I know it in my heart of hearts that they're not going to say we all have to be Mormons. That's ridiculous because that's not what America is built upon. It's freedom of religion. But when you get right down to the tenets of the church and not look at all this anti-Mormon stuff that blows so many things out of unbelievable proportions. It's a faith that is very family based and we believe in God and country but a complete separation of church and state. But I think you got to go to the source to understand exactly what it's all about rather than going on the internet and looking at all this anti-Mormon stuff because you're going to get such a skewed viewpoint of what it really is. Well that was kind of a long winded answer!"

How many grandchildren do you and Debbie have?

DO - "Forty seven that I know of. (laughs) I've got three little teeny ones. It's fun to be able to say I'm a grandpa but it sounds weird coming out of my mouth because I act so much like a kid. My wife said yesterday 'will you please grow up and act your age' because I'm out there playing around in the sandbox with the kids."

What else might we see from Donny Osmond in the near future?

DO - "I just got a pilot and I'm hoping I get this thing because CBS asked me to do this. It's a cross between 'Who wants to be a Millionaire' and 'Deal

or no deal.' It will be a prime time network television series and it would be just ideal. We cut the pilot and was nail biting. Everybody was on the edge of their seats. These two people go for a million bucks. It can be anywhere from a hundred bucks to a million bucks depending upon on how they answer the questions. It's all multiple choice answers. It's a series of eleven answers and if they get it all right they got a million bucks. It's a big hit over in England right now."

The television show that Donny talked about is called "Secret Fortune." We'll see what happens there. On August 24th Donny indeed took the stage at the old Oakdale in Wallingford in front of a raucous room of adoring women. There were a few guys there but we were outnumbered about a hundred to one. The setting was relaxed and intimate and Donny was clearly having a great time. Towards the end of the concert he showed footage of himself on the Andy Williams show when he was five years old. He said that Andy would always close his show with his signature song "Moon River." Donny paid homage to Andy and at the same time brought his forty-eight year career full circle by also closing with "Moon River." A fifty-three year old man who has been in show business for forty-eight years is hard to believe. What is not hard to believe is that when it comes to Donny Osmond the best is undoubtedly yet to come.



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The New Universe Music Festival 2010

Abstract Logix

The last record I reviewed only a month ago was a Chick Corea, Stanley Clarke, and Lenny White CD that had a straight-ahead and classic jazz feel. With that classic jazz sound on my mind, taking a glance at the New Universe CD package I didn't know exactly what to expect: more classic jazz, or something a step beyond that realm. Among the list of musicians on the cover were artists I knew and loved, such as Wayne Krantz, John McLaughlin, and Jimmy Herring, who all stay grounded in jazz, yet extend into the worlds of rock and blues. Other names—Alex Machacek, Ranjit Barot, and Zakir Hussain, were new to me. Simply put, I was very curious as to what was in store for me with this festival disc. I found that while my suspicion of fusion jazz was not entirely incorrect, there were surprises that came my way with this CD that I never could have imagined.

Right from the start I see that the first disc alone is quite the behemoth, clocking in at around 75 minutes. Buckling down, I hit "play", and let the sounds of the New Universe Music Festival begin. From the first second of Alex Machacek's tune "Strafe", I was struck with the sound of a pitch-shifted guitar and drums playing complex rhythms in sync. Simultaneously a bass line wove in and out of time with the hits. It was definitely a lot to take in from the get go. Still, it only took a little bit of time before I became familiar with the unique voice of Machacek's guitar, with its saturated, smooth, and somewhat synthetic tone. It's something a purist might frown upon, but I dug it. His frequent use of distortion on top of dyads and chords made for a curdled dissonance that was offset by quick legato runs and gorgeous harmonies over ambient synthesizers.

While the spacey synths of the first tune certainly came as a surprise to me, they only provided a glimpse of what was to come. Drummer Ranjit Barot brought more electronics into the mix, by combining the styles of Indian music with new age. In songs like "Vignesh", bass synths and vocal pads can be heard, all alongside a violin playing a middle-eastern lead. It's a combination that may sound very strange, but it's all put together very tactfully, never 18 SOUND WAVES

sounding corny or tacky. Things only get more eclectic in "Origin", an energetic Barot jam filled with ethereal horns, vocoders briefly singing Indian melodies, and Wayne Krantz's percussive playing style. In a nutshell, disc one's Has a ton of treats for the listener. It's a lot to get through, but it's well worth the listen.

The second disc starts with a tune featuring Wayne Krantz. There may be less synths, but things stay experimental as Krantz uses a ring-modulator that sounds like an alien, on "Why." The disc continues to impress with driving blues jams and of course, the sweet sound of Jimmy Herring's guitar (which I mistook for a saxophone at one point). Through all the special moments, the entire New Universe compilation reaches its pinnacle at the 20-minute "Mother Tongues." In this final jam John McLaughlin is blazing through the neck of his guitar, and at one point he's doing this over a tabla drum and nothing else. In no time at all, the jam has finished, the audience's cheer fades, and the listener is no longer in the alternate universe of magical guitars, Indian vocoder robots, and alien sounds.

- Jeff Howard

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