

NEW LONDON COUNTY - WINDHAM - MYSTIC - RHODE ISLAND

Sound Waves

Volume 22
Issue 3
December 2011

CLUB LISTINGS
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CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS
& MORE

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Interview
with**

**KELLER
WILLIAMS**

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2

**WILD
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No Cover

9

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BRANDED

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FUSION

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**KARL
KELLY**

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Sat

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REWIND

No Cover

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**THUNDER
BOX**

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**ALTER
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31

TBA
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Saturday 10th

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Sound Waves

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2 SUE MENHART	3 SHAWN TAYLOR
9 RON DRAGO	10 LEAD PAINT LICKERS
16 SHAWN TAYLOR	17 SAM JAMES
23 MIKE LANE	24 
30 LEAD PAINT LICKERS	31 Make Your New Years Reservations

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EVE
INTO
CHRISTMAS
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Fri 8-12 Sat

2 JIM
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BAND

3 ALEX
& THE
MAD MEN

9 MAKE
SHIFT
FLYER

10 BAD
UNCLE

16 ASHLEY
CRUIZ

17 OUT
RIGGERS
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SOUND WAVES



"The Gifts That Keep On Giving"

By Mark T. Gould

E-books? Sure. Kindle? Why not? Spotify? Huh. Yeah, I guess. Ipod? Still hanging on?

Of course, for the quaint among us, there's always good old hard cover, paperback, compact discs, or, wait for it, vinyl.

Spotify?

Anyway, no matter how you get your reading and listening done, there are a host of new books and music that should satisfy your craving, and your giving, through the holiday season.

In no particular order, here are some of the best:

Robert Greenfield

"The Last Sultan: The Life and Times of Ahmet Ertegun"

For my money, Greenfield has written some of the finest biographies of popular culture features, particularly in music, including the Rolling Stones, Bill Graham, Jerry Garcia and Timothy Leary. This one, about arguably one of the most important and stylish characters in the modern pop/rock era, ranks with his best.

Ertegun was the co-founder of Atlantic Records, and gave rise to the careers of a plethora of seminal artists, including Ray Charles, Ruth Brown, Bobby Darin, Sonny & Cher, Buffalo Springfield, Led Zeppelin, CSNY and Bette Midler. Even more interesting than his ears and chops, which were phenomenal, was Ertegun's background as a child of luxury as the son of a Turkish diplomat, although he was perhaps his happiest in a back roads juke joint.

Much has been printed about Ertegun's influence over the years, but Greenfield's splendid writing, reporting and interviewing brings this important subject just a little bit closer and clearer.

**** 1/2

Kevin Avery

"Everything Is An Afterthought: The Life and Writings of Paul Nelson"

I must confess a bit of a bias here, because Paul Nelson remains, to this day, my favorite and probably most influential rock critic/writer. I still believe that his profile of Warren Zevon, profiling the latter's most destructive drinking days in Rolling Stone, may be the best article I read, anywhere, about anything, to this day.

What is central to this magnificent book is that Avery, a fabulous writer in his own regard, is also clearly a big Paul Nelson fan. As such, he presents an critical, yet caring, picture of Nelson's professional and personal life, the latter a bit sad and wistful, pulling out all the stops in a moving tribute, warts and all.

And, since he is such a good writer in his own regard, Avery's introduction to the book is almost like a second book in itself, and worth the price of admission alone.

Susie Vitale, with Joe Vitale
"Backstage Pass"

It wouldn't be much of a stretch to call the legendary Joe Vitale, the "Forest Gump" of drummers, and I mean that as a compliment to the man who has played on just about every damn good record that's come out for many years.

Joe Walsh's Barnstorm? That's Joe. CSNY and various permutations? Joe again. Dan Fogelberg's arguably most successful and commercial years? Yes, Joe. The Eagles (for whom he also co-wrote "Pretty Maids All In A Row") in their mega-"Hotel California" glory days? Right. Joe Vitale again.

Thankfully, with the help of his wife/author Susie, Vitale has remembered it all, and what a fun, exciting and creative trip it has been for him, and those he's played with along the way. Not only are his stories a riot, he gives us a glimpse of what it's really like on the road, and a peek into the semi-private personas of the many, many artists who made the great decision to have Vitale play on their sessions and in their touring bands.

And, let me tell you one other great thing about this fabulous book. The Vitales pack it, and I mean pack it, with photographs, which are a treat and tell a story in themselves. The cool thing? They actually put the pictures right on the pages where Joe talks about the subject matter in those photos, saving the reader from flipping back and forth from a photos section to text, which has always been a annoying pet peeve of mine.

This is a great, fun memoir from a great, fun musician and personality.

**** 1/2

Craig Bickhardt

"Live At The Sellersville Theatre"

Stone Barn Records

As much as your scribe tries to stay objective, it's been awfully difficult in assessing the career of Craig Bickhardt who, in my mind, is one of the very best of the newest generation of Nashville-based writers and performers.

And, nowhere is that more evident than on this gem, recorded on a single night, June 24, 2001, at the historic Sellersville Theatre in Pennsylvania. Surrounded by a trio of excellent musicians, including Tommy Geddes on drums, Michael G. Ronstadt (yes, from that Ronstadt family) on cello (!) and the incredible Tom Hampton on just about anything with a string or two on it, Bickhardt turns in a tour-de-force of great songs, playing and forceful and profound singing which, frankly, he's pretty much done throughout his career.

A great, grand, fun and intimate record made by an absolutely professional still at the top of his game.

**** 1/2

Anthony Geraci

"Serendipity"

HugaDog Records

As much as I love Anthony Geraci, considering him only second to the great Al Copley, as a boogie-woogie, piano-playing master from New England, I approached this album very cautiously, ironically just for that very reason.

Since I admire his blues work so much (check him out with the equally great Sugar Ray Norcia, if you want to get up and shake it), I had a concern that a jazz album just might not work for him.

Stupid me. I gave it a spin at work one day, and here's what I immediately posted on Geraci's Facebook page:

"So, I'm having one of those days. Everything crashing in, both for today and the tomorrows, and I'm too tired to figure it out. Music helps, but nothing."

www.Swaves.com

ing I've put on does the trick. So, I give a listen to Anthony Geraci's new one, "Serendipity," and, suddenly, everything comes down and goes in the proper direction. One of the greatest boogie-woogie blues players slows down his 88s to make a perfect jazz album. Geraci's never really made a bad record, and this is clearly one of his best. He took a chance, as he usually does, and, as always, it worked."

Having listened to it several times now, I wouldn't change a word.

**** 1/2

Toby Walker
"Shake Shake Mama"
LittleTobyWalker.com

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And, let me tell you, you better be damn good if you are going to cover, on the same record, Mance Lipscomb, Blind Willie McTell, Robert Johnson, Blind Boy Fuller, Huddie "Leadbelly" Ledbetter, Big Bill Broonzy and Mississippi Fred McDowell.

Yet, it seems that, somewhere, all of those great artists are smiling down on Toby Walker, who is still carrying on the great blues tradition.

**** 1/2

Which leaves me, after all this great reading and listening, with just one question for the holidays.

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BAND DATES

BANZAI ALL-STARS

2 - High Noon Saloon, Norwich, CT
16 - Bank St. Cafe, New London, CT

BOTTOM DRAWER

9 - Richoni's, Groton, CT
31 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT

BRANDT TAYLOR

1 - Baci Grille, Cromwell, CT
2 - Lindy's, N. Smithfield, RI
3 - Lake Tavern, Dayville, CT
5 - Hungry Tiger, Manchester, CT
7,14,21,28 - Dan's, W. Greenwich, RI
9 - The Village Lounge, Putnam, CT
23 - Johnny's, S. Hadley, MA
24 - Carousel Club, New London, CT
31 - June's, Killingworth, CT

BRUCE FOULKE

3,9,16 - Flanders Fish, E. Lyme, CT 7-10pm
10 - Aspen Rest., Old Saybrook, CT 7-10pm

THE CARTELLS

2 - Donahues, Madison, CT
7 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10pm
10 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 5:30-8:30
16 - Latitude 41, Mystic, CT 7-10pm
17 - Aspen's, Old Saybrook, CT 7-10pm
28 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 8-10pm
31 - Pt. Inn, Old Saybrook, CT

CUCUMBER JONES

18 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT 5pm

DAN STEVENS

1 - Giuseppe's, Meredith, NH
2 - Bebe's Burritos, Biddeford, ME
3 - York Harbor Inn, York Harbor, ME
8 - Redding Roadhouse, W. Redding, CT
9 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT
10,23 - First & Last Tavern, Plainville, CT
11 - Delta Grill, New York, NY
12 - Grand Central Station, NYC, NY 8-10am
12 - Times Square, NYC, NY 12-3pm
15 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
16 - Chamard Vineyards, Clinton, CT
19 - Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA
30 - First & Last Tavern, Avon, CT
31 - First Night, Burlington, VT

8 SOUND WAVES

TOM WATSON

4,25 - Harp N Hound, Mystic, CT
6,20 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
15 - Bridge Rest., Westerly, RI

THE DRAWBRIDGE BAND

9 - RiverWalk, Mystic, CT 4pm

EIGHT TO THE BAR

16 - Unitarian Church, Princeton, NJ
17 - Glen Echo Park, Washington, DC
23 - Outback, Killingworth, CT
30 - Billy Tee's, Cromwell, CT
31 - Grand Casino, Newport, RI 8:30-12:30

FUSION

10 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
23 - Stashes, New London, CT

THE GOAT ROPERS

18,15,22,29 - Sandbar Grill, Taunton, MA 8pm
16,31 - VFW, Taunton, MA 8-12
18 - Amer. Legion, Webster, MA 4-8

GOPHERBROKE

2 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
3 - Loco Perro, E. Hampton, CT 7-10
10 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT
17 - Mango's, Branford, CT 7-10
23 - Tuscany Grill, Middletown, CT 7-11
24 - Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA
31 - Mango's, Branford, CT

GREEN TEA

23 - Skipper's Dock, Stonington, CT

JAMES HARRIS

3 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 8pm
4 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 5pm
6,13,20,27 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
7,10,14,21,28 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
8 - Bridge, Westerly, RI 8pm
15 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8pm
16 - 84 High Street, Westerly, RI
22 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
23 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
29 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm

KEVIN MANZELLA & HEATHER LEPAGE

2 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
9 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
15 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
17 - 84 High St., Westerly, R.I. 8:30-11
18 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 5-8

kGb

2 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 8pm
16 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
29 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 7pm

NOAH FELDMAN

2,10,23,30 - Flanders Fish, E. Lyme, CT 7-10

NO SHAME

3 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT

RED LIGHT

3 - Uncle Kranky's, Jewett City, CT
10 - Two Brothers, Voluntown, CT
17 - Charlie Bravo's, Putnam, CT
26 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT
31 - Hard Rock, Mashantucket, CT

RIVERGODS

17 - Bean & Leaf, New London, CT 7:30pm

SAM E. JAMES

8 - Savin Rock, Mystic, CT
17 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT

SAVAGE BROTHERS BAND

23 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

STEVE BRODERICK & SHAMROCK EYES

8 - Whiskey Republic, Providence, RI
10 - Copperfields, Boston, MA 8pm
19 - Rockwood Music Hall, NYC, NY

STYFF KITTY

3 - City Sports Grille, Groton, CT
16 - Sneekers, Groton, CT
30 - Wood River Inn, Wyoming, RI

SUE MENHART BAND

2 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8-11pm
3 - Art Association, Old Lyme, CT 2-4pm
9 - Dev's, New London, CT 6:30pm
23 - Holiday Bowl, Groton, CT, 5-8pm

SUNDAY GRAVY

1 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

2 CAT ZOO

1,29 - Bridge Rest., Westerly, RI 8pm
3 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
9 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
23 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

TOM SANDERS BAND

3 - Blue Moon Cafe, Plantsville, CT
17 - Red Rock Tavern, W. Hartford, CT

VINCE THOMPSON & FRIENDS

17 - A. J's, Meriden, CT
29 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT 7-10:30

WICKED PEACH

7 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 7pm
16,17 - Margaritaville, Uncasville, CT

WILSON KANE

1 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
2,16 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT 5pm
2,16,30 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT

3 - Pattaconk, Chester, CT 8:30pm
4,11,18 - Malted Barley, Westerly, RI 7pm
8,22 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8pm
9 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT 5pm
11 - Saltwater Farm, Stonington, CT 3pm
15,29 - Airport Rd Cafe, Hartford, CT 8pm
17 - La Vita Gustosa, E. Haddam, CT 8pm
23 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm

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Friday, December 2 • 8PM

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The Robert Cray Band

Saturday, December 3 • 8pm

The Robert Cray Band, featuring five-time Grammy-winning guitarist/vocalist Robert Cray, returns to the Garde by popular demand. Opener, *John Fries and the Heat*.

Sponsored by the Day

La Boheme

Thursday, February 2 • 7:30pm

Teatro Lirico D'Europa presents Puccini's 19-century heartwarming love story that went on to delight millions and inspire the creation of the Broadway classic *RENT*. Presented in Italian with English supertitles and orchestra.

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CONCERT DATES

Aretha Franklin

30 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Cheryl Wheeler

9 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Dark Star Orchestra

7 - Lupo's, Providence, RI

David Foster

& the Mohegan Sun All-Stars

31 - Hanover Theatre, Worcester, MA

Debbie Davies

10 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

The Duke Robillard Band

18 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

31 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

James Blunt

2 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Johnny Winter

30 - Narrows Center, Fall River, MA

Kenny G

11 - Veterans Memorial, Providence, RI

Mike Gordon

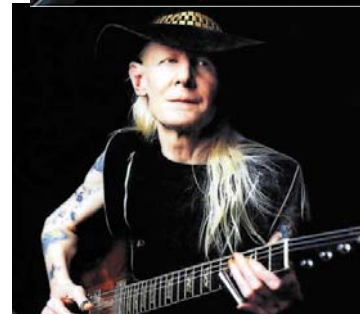
9 - The Met, Pawtucket, RI

Nick Moss

2 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

Rob Thomas

30 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT



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BAR FLY JOURNALS



By Stephanie Shawn

Hello, My Sweet BarFlies....another crazy month for this girl! Started off with another dancing debacle with SuperStar Eddie Haberek (think wrestling names...) We did our bestest with my lovely co-star showing up a prompt 35 minutes late. We won't even count the hour he was supposed to be there before the show began for pix etc.

He bounded in at 2:35 hissing "Sttef-fffff.....fix my bowtie...." Wanted to punch him. But, I pulled myself together like the professional that I am (hehe) and DANCED!!! For the Dancing With the (Stonington) Stars Event! Seriously, Fab-

ulous Event for a Fabulous Cause! Stonington High Shool's Graduating Alcohol and Drug-Free Party! Love it! Congratulations to the tap dancing brother and sister in the first show and to Kevin Logan and Christina Pimental from Christina's LTD in the second show for their First Place Finishes! (Habby and I pulled a second place in the second show!) (which is practically like a First). Uh...all done with that, thank you!

Next!! Did the TOY RUN sponsored by the H.O.G Chapter 1729 in New London. It was their 32nd Annual Event and was extremely well run...Lotsa bikes and me..in my StreetRod, all by lonesome sad face...thanks, friends! Oh well, Saw some of my buddies Ronnie and Brian, Rod, Barbette and Dave, Eddie, Kyle and Kelli. Stopped at STASH'S first for the delectable breakfast then to the SPEEDBOWL in Waterford and finally after delivering the goods to HARKNESS STATE PARK, we slipped over to BANK STREET CAFE for a well-deserved beverage feeling like Good Little Xmas Elves that we are. Makes me all warm and tingly inside to do good! Try it!

Spent the past weekend at another Benefit, this one for Marion Oberg Tanyi, at the PAWCATUCK VFW. Unfortunately, I could not stay long, but I was happy to walk in just as my favorite KOZMIK RIFF guy Gene Parise was playing with BOOMCHUCK'S Douglas Woodard and Craig Edwards and a couple others...I just love their sound... Honestly, I am a child of the 70's and the music just relaxes me and I could



listen all night! Doug's "Mr. Bojangles" was just lovely!

Apparently I then missed, WHAT YOU WILL and ZACH AND THE TOWN-NEES, along with some Mean Karaoke. Oh well, I am just glad they raised some money for Marion and her family after a horrible accident left her in a wheelchair and in a halo. So terrible. I was happy to see many smiling faces at the event and also happy to see Miss Annie Bananie and Jeff working the bar that night, so for me it was a very special evening!

I spent the evening with Miss Stacie and Miss Joanna recently at 84 HIGH STREET for dinner and Chai Martinis served by Briand Gaudet. Wonderful! I had the Chili (which is funny, because we just had a Chili cook-off at the HANDLEBAR CAFE and it was Huge! Rosie won! Fantastic Chili!) so anyways, you'd think I would be finished with Chili for a bit, but oh no, not me! Just love the Hot Stuff!

From there we headed to CLYDESDALES in Westerly where NEVER ENUFF was playing! OMG! What a blast! They were Fabulous! We danced,

we sang, (o yeah...u can't keep a mic away from us) we danced some more! Great night..just what the doctor ordered...night out with the girls and dancing!! Loved it!!

Sent out Beautiful Secret Spy Julie for the Big Pre-ThanksGiving Local Bar Crawl through Pawcatuck and Westerly! She did a Fabulous Job reporting that the night was Unbelievable with Everyone who's an Anyone in Our Town Out and About (shows what a Loooooser I am..home snug as a bug, baking and watching my favorite movie "Ace Ventura..Pet Detective)! Anyways, Miss Julie began her night with friends, meeting at the always popular CC O'BRIEN'S, a must stop for many local spottings, with DJ DAVE CHRIS-TINA who was busy firing up the crowd for the evening!

Her next stop was the KNICKERBOCKER CAFE, which was jam-packed with a huge crowd celebrating and excited about the 100th anniversary of the Westerly-Stonington Football Rivalry and shaking and bopping to the rockin' sounds of SUGAR! The Crowd Was On Fire! Including Miss Jen, who provided some fabulous pix! Missed ya, Jeal! Secret Spy Julie reports that it was equal sport that evening, in finding a spot on the dance floor or getting a drink at one of the Three Bars!! Place was Hoppin'!!

Onward to 84 HIGH STREET, where singer-songwriter Kori Eryn was playing with BRUSH FIRE...they sounded incredible! On the return walk through town, my Secret Spy reports that all the streets were crowded with well-wishers home or out for the Holiday! Miss Julie and I hope everyone had a Happy Thanksgiving!

The Stonington-Westerly Football long-enduring rivalry was held on Thanksgiving Day at Stonington and the winner was...WESTERLY HIGH SCHOOL! Every year is a toughie for me, as I feel an affinity and loyalty toward each side for different reasons...so each year I'm just so happy and so sad..oh well, did I hear someone say bi-polar?

This month I need to mention Miss Shirley, Big BarFly Fan and Cheerleader, recovering quite nicely from her semi-recent hip surgery. She always has a smile on her face and warm words of encouragement for me. Also, recently friended James Trudelle..went to school with him and was so happy that he accepted my friend request on FaceBook because I wasn't always the nicest girl in Junior High and I apologize to anyone I was unkind to. And on that note, happy healing to Mr. Bruce Mearns, one of my best friends...feel better!

Also Happy Birthday to so many people this month...My dad, Bill is turning 70 this month and unbeknownst to him, my son and I are sneaking down to wish him a Happy Birthday!, Linda Gingerella-Barber, Gina Petrone Slafkovsky, Barbette Pettini the Baaaafaatha Danny Bell and SecretSpy Julie are all celebrating birthdays! Also,my handsome nephew Dan Rocha gets a WhootWhoot Happy Birthday! and Happy Anniversary to my mother Dawn and John Mershon! I love you both and wish you many more happy years together.



Honest to God! I can not believe another year is over! What a year it's been, with many highs and unfortunately some lows. We lost some wonderful people this year, but gained some new friends! I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year! Visit me on FaceBook for upcoming events (Bar Fly) or read SOUNDWAVES MAGAZINE at your local bar or on-line! Ciao for now, my Sweet Flies...I love you!



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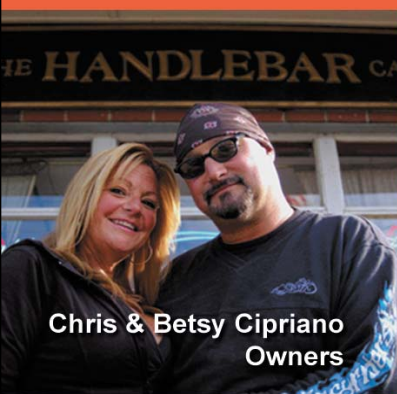
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Keller Williams is a singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist musician who is as beloved in the bluegrass and folk music communities as he is in the jam band world. He's a free spirited, fiercely independent, highly prolific, and ridiculously talented one man band. When he is up on stage you'll see him using looping effects, and an array of instruments, to layer sound atop sound until the result is a full blown composition. He is literally a one man jam band.

Although Keller is most comfortable doing his solo act, he has also collaborated with such musicians as Michael Franti, Bela Fleck, The Keels, Del McCoury and family, and all of the living members of the Grateful Dead. Keller grew up a deadhead and he has never lost his passion for Grateful

Dead music. You might have even seen him at a show during the late eighties or early nineties. He was that hippie dude in the parking lot wearing a tie-dye tee shirt and playing the guitar. Remember?

Just recently Keller released a children's CD simply called "Kids." It's a wonderful disc that prominently features Keller's young daughter Ella. Before that there was Keller and the Keels with a CD called "Thief." This is a disc of thirteen cover songs done bluegrass style highlighted by a guest appearance from Kris Kristofferson. "We're in this gig together so let's settle down and steal each others songs" sings Keller in the opening track called "Don't Cuss the Fiddle." And before that was Keller Williams "Live." This hard jamming electric record featured Keller with Keith Moseley from the String Cheese Incident on bass, Jeff Sipe from Leftover Salmon on drums, and Gibb Droll on guitar. They called themselves WMD'S. Before that there are at least a dozen more recordings.

Keller's current tour will bring him to Connecticut on Thursday December 8th when he comes to Norfolk to play at Infinity Hall. This phone interview took place on an early November afternoon from Keller's Virginia home.

BH – My ten year old son and I have really enjoyed your new CD "Kids." Are your own children the inspiration for making that record?

KW – "No, I think the original inspiration came from the 'Not for Kids Only' record by Jerry Garcia and David Grisman. That came out in 1993 and my kids were years away from being born. But that's when I knew you could make family friendly music that people without kids could enjoy. That's what I was going for, trying to not sacrifice anything and do what I do but try to connect with the kids on their level but at the same time making the parents head pop."

BH – But you've taken it a step further than Jerry and David did by having kids only shows.

KW – "Right, it's a whole other world you know and one cool thing about doing these matinees is actually meeting folks that possibly would have met at my show ten years ago and now they have a kid. Those types of stories are really what I love the most about the kid matinees."

BH – Before that you released the "Thief" CD with Larry and Jenny Keel. You must have been happy with that one. Why don't you talk about how the whole thing came about?

KW – "I'm very happy with it. It was a lot of fun to make and really easy to make. Larry and Jenny to me speak volumes in the authentic department when it comes to bluegrass music. My love for the music is very strong but I like to put my own spin on things and obviously do different songs in that

14 SOUND WAVES

genre whereas Larry and Jenny are grounded in the roots of bluegrass music. We've been friends a long time and that record was a follow up of a record we did back in 2006 called 'Grass.' We have a good time playing together."

BH – I love the way the opening song "Don't Cuss the Fiddle" defines that entire CD.

KW – "It kind of does and I sandwiched the record with those Kris Kristofferson songs. I've never really heard Kris's version of those songs. I actually got those songs from the Waylon and Willie record when I was a kid. That's like one of those records that my parents had on eight-track in the car. And I've listened to that record and it's a great record all the way through. It

has 'Mama, don't let your babies grow up to be Cowboys.' I think that was the one hit from the record. So that's where I got the Kris Kristofferson songs from, the Waylon and Willie record."

BH – It sounds like Kris means a lot to you.

KW – "Kris Kristofferson definitely means a lot to me in the sense that he's just the epitome of cool. I got a chance to meet him at a Pete Seeger birthday celebration at Madison Square Garden and I'll never forget this, he said to me 'excuse me if I don't remember your name. My mind is that of a wounded soldier.' So I thought that was really cool. That Waylon and Willie record is definitely a strong memory from my childhood. Willie's got another record called 'Willie sings Kristofferson.' It's got 'Sunday Morning Coming Down' on it. Kris is just an amazing songwriter."

BH – I love the song selection, my favorite being "Uncle Disney." How did you come up with that list?

KW – "We went in with fifteen ideas and came out with thirteen simply because we wanted to cut the record in real time. Pretty much everything was recorded live except for the harmony vocals and we knocked it out really quickly. You mention the Patterson Hood song (Uncle Disney), that's probably my favorite song on the record too. He just does it solo but we really put the focus on the harmony on that tune and I love the way it came out."

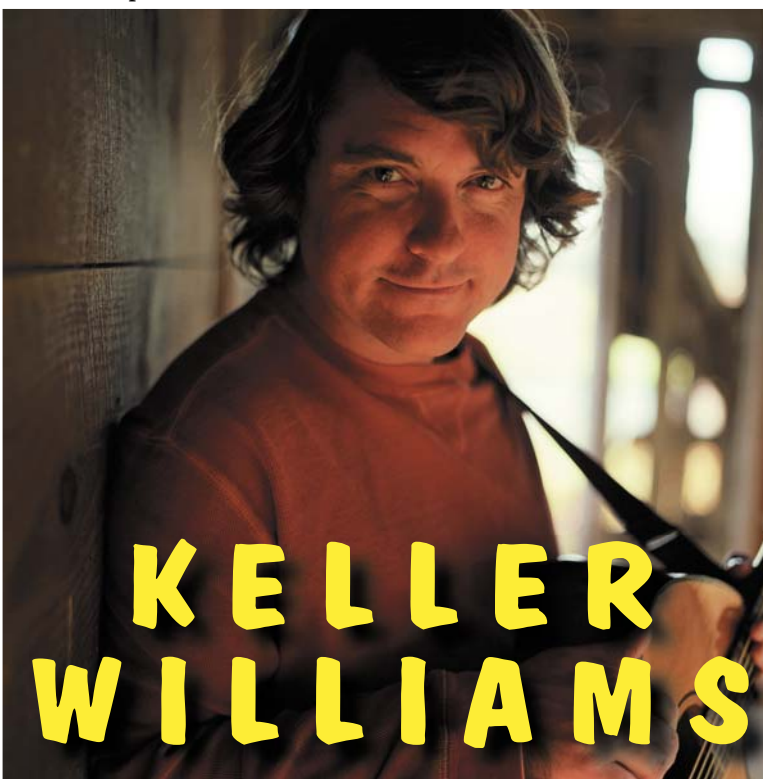
BH – You also cover the Amy Winehouse song "Rehab." Has this song taken on a new poignancy since her untimely death?

KW – "Yeah but I didn't play it any more or less when she was living but it is definitely one of those rock and roll stories you know? It's a shame too because I really was pulling for her and wanted to see her bounce back and make another record that was as amazing as the other one. You know there were some folks from some different live video companies that asked if I wanted to remove these videos of me covering her song as if me doing it was a bad thing. I didn't really understand that. It's one of those things where at the time it was one of those songs that everyone knew because it got so much airplay simply because it's such a fantastic song. It translated pretty easily into bluegrass for me like almost every song does. I didn't put too much thought behind it nor do I still. It's just a shame that she couldn't pull herself out of it."

BH – You had something on your website called "Once a week freek." Now I guess you're calling it "Whenever I feel like it freek." Can you talk about that?

KW – That was me coming to grips with the whole download revolution. I guess Bob Weir said it best that downloading is simply just another form of medium for music to go out. I think it's a way to get the music almost im-

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By Bill Harriman

mortal. Because if it's only on a record or only on a CD or tape, that CD or tape could break, but once it's downloaded and digitized and up in the cyber world it kind of has a chance of being immortal. So that's kind of where I was going with it. And also the short attention span of today's listeners or buyers, at least in my world, it's been proven to us that people go for the easy to their computers instead of going to the store. And plus, it's fun for me to release songs that are live. There are a lot of covers in the series and I like to keep my brand new songs under lock and key and wait for an actual record for them to come out. So there are lots of new songs that have not seen the light of day on 'once a week freek' simply because I'm saving that for the next record."

BH – The somewhat recent "Live" CD with Keith Moseley, Jeff Sipe, and Gibb Droll reminded me of why you're so popular in the jam band world.

KW – "That is a very jam band record and I'm very proud of that record. It was a hand picked band of guys and I truly respect each of them. And when we came together and formed a group there was a bond that formed and we were able to communicate on stage without any kind of language. I'm really proud of that three disc record."

BH – Right, the two discs and then the trippy DVD that accompanied it. It looks like a lot of work went into the making of that DVD. Am I right about that?

KW – "You are wrong about that! That was done by Scott Johnson and he was on tour with us. We did about eighty shows with the four-piece and Scott probably did fifty of those shows. His main job was to do the video and live projection. He had two cameras on stand in which he would control with a joystick. And he would mix that in real time. All that you see was mixed live at the show as you're seeing it and it was being projected on the screen behind us. At the end of the night that's what we had and that's what we kept. There was a few minor after market things that we put in but they were just little miniscule things and I don't even remember them."

BH – That was an amazing "Little Wing" on the video!

KW – "Indeed and we went through hell and back with the Hendrix world to get that approved. There was actually at the end of the first track called 'Same Old Thing' where we ripped into a verse and chorus of 'Manic Depression' and that did not get approved! I had to edit that out. But they did approve 'Little Wing' thank god."

BH – I know that you're big into looping. There are some great videos of you on you tube doing this. Is looping as hard as it looks and could you explain to me how it works?

KW – "It's tough if your timing is off. You have to have your timing down and you have to know where the one is. There's not necessarily a trick to it but if your timing is slightly off then the loop will be slightly off. So over the years I've kind of figured out where I want the one to be and in that sense it's easy for me. Once I actually started looping and incorporating the bass and creating a dance vibe, that's when I noticed changes in ticket sales and people actually paying attention. Later on I got to see Victor Wooten and he, in his solo shows, really opened my eyes and ears on how it could be done with the correct equipment and the way he sets it up, his technique of laying a bass line and a rhythm line and then soloing over the top of it. I got a lot from Victor Wooten. It's a concept that has been around for a long time. Jaco Pastorius did it back in his day when he was at the height of his world. So it's definitely not like a new concept, it's just the technology has gotten so amazing. I'm kind of behind in the technology with the stuff I'm using. Everything is turning towards laptops these days and I'm still using the old board gear. But I'm still doing the same thing, the techniques and the formulas, as what the guys with the laptops are using and doing so I'm pretty proud of that."

BH – Keller, I know how much you love the Grateful Dead. Did you ever have a chance to meet Jerry Garcia?

KW – "No I never got to meet him. By the time I was 25 Jerry had died and

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I didn't get to meet Bobby until I think it was 2001. I met Phil in 1999. I did a tour called 'The Summer Sessions.' It was with the String Cheese Incident, Gov't Mule, moe., and Galactic and each band brought a solo act to do what was called 'tweeners' which we would play in between sets since there were four acts and three different set breaks. And then Phil & Friends was added to that tour. They did eight shows in the middle and I got to meet Phil then. Back when Jerry was alive I never really saw him from up close because I was always on the lawn or in the back or in the hallways or behind the stage or something. Back when I started going to shows in 1987 they had speakers in the hallways at shows and as a teenager experimenting with all kinds of different energies, that's where it was for me! Of course I imagine it was an insurance risk and a violation of fire codes to have all these hippies spinning in the hallways so they took them out. But that was an era right there that I'm very familiar with and I try to mentally go back to that energy of those hallway speaker dance sessions."

BH – I know you've worked with Mickey Hart and Billy Kreutzmann too.

KW – "Sure I met Mickey first at the BrickFest in Oregon. I don't think he was with the Rhythm Devils, I think it was a different band. Then over the years I got to see the Rhythm Devils with Billy Kreutzmann and Mike Gordon on bass and Steve Kimock on guitar. That was actually at the Gathering of the Vibes and Ratdog was there so Bobby sat in and Donna Jean sat in so it was just an amazing festival set. Like you said, it's no secret that I've seen a lot of Grateful Dead shows and do a lot of Dead songs so to be able to play with anyone from that group at any time is surely an honor to say the very least."

BH – I read recently that you'll be involved with the New York Guitar Festival in January and that you'll be scoring an old Buster Keaton silent movie. What's that all about?

KW – "It's like nothing I've ever done before. It's brand new to me. It's something that the New York Guitar Festival has been doing, having different guitarists score a silent film by Buster Keaton. And it's really interesting. The one I'm doing is about twenty minutes long. There are other ones that are an hour long and other folks are slated to do their thing over the top of different movies. But it's a bizarre thing and I really don't know what to expect. I've been watching it and improvising but I have a lot of work to do."

BH – I understand that you have a new CD coming out early next year?

KW – "I do and even earlier than that! December 13th is the release date of my next record called 'Bass.' No guitar was used for that record. It has Jay Starling on keyboards and Mark D on drums and me on bass. It's a very reggae/funk type of record. There are nine originals and two covers. We cover a Beck song and a Morrissey song. We'll be playing five shows at the end of the year to help promote it. We jokingly call the project Kdubalicious! But the record is going to be called Keller Williams 'Bass.' There's also going to be a follow up to my Rex Foundation release that I released a while back called 'Grateful Grass' with Jeff Austin on mandolin and Keith Moseley on bass and myself on guitar. It's all Grateful Dead covers done bluegrass to benefit the Rex Foundation."

BH – I'll see you at Infinity Hall on December 8th.

KW – "Yeah, it's one of my favorite venues for sure. I mean just look at it! You can see the good vibes in that place."

Keller Williams is right about Infinity Hall. Nestled in what is perhaps the most scenic area of Connecticut it really is the perfect venue for a righteous dude like Keller to work his magic. For more information about Keller, or if you want to download some of his music, you can simply log on to his website at www.kellerwilliams.net.



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IN CONCERT

Demi Lovato

MGM Grand at Foxwoods

11-18-2011

19 year old Demi Lovato created quite a buzz on November 10th when she appeared at the Latin Grammy Awards in Las Vegas wearing a very revealing Roland Mouret Compeyson stretch crepe gown. Some critics thought that her outfit was inappropriate and that she was not setting the right example for her fans while others were reminded of Jennifer Lopez in her now classic green Versaci. I thought she looked gorgeous.

Now just eight days later Demi was at the beautiful MGM Grand at Foxwoods singing before a sold out audience of screaming and sparkly teenage girls with a handful of boys sprinkled here and there. Demi came out wearing a stunning black dress with a stylish black blazer. Later on in the show she changed into a classic pale gown and sang her hit single "Skyscraper" off her new CD called "Unbroken."

Before singing this song Demi gave a small speech talking about her stay at a medical center last year. As most people know Demi has an eating disorder. In her speech Demi spoke of not giving up and how important it is to be strong through tough times. After these words Demi sat at the piano to sing "Skyscraper." Being a similar age as Demi, I could really connect to what she was singing. I could also tell that she was singing straight from her heart. She really seemed to capture her audience and make the moment special. I think we all acknowledged the soul and realness in her voice and that is why her fans love her.

Demi sang with a band that included a couple of backup singers, a few guitarists, a drummer, and a keyboard player. In addition there was also a four dancers, two girls and two boys, who I thought were absolutely phenomenal. They really made the show interesting and I was impressed with their skill and choreography. I also loved how Demi made each song a story. With her creative props and storyline behind the lyrics, Demi really make her show unique and special. Over all Demi put on a fabulous performance and if you haven't had the opportunity to see one of her live shows I encourage you to do so!

- Lauren Shea



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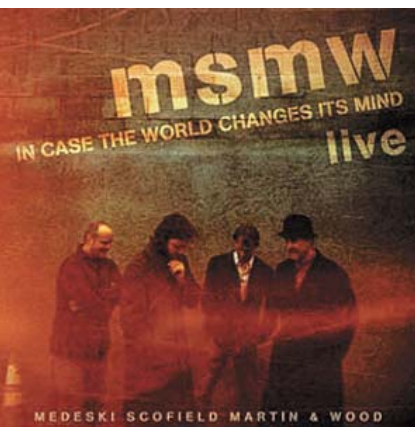
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It's hard to tag what you hear on *Until the World Changes its Mind*, into one particular category. On the two-disc live CD, Medeski, Martin, Scofield, and Wood (MMSW), cover the funk, jazz, and blues territory that they are known for. While this array of styles is eclectic as is, the quartet pushes the boundaries a step further and shows no fear in getting experimental. The use of new textures, instrumental solos, and extended jams on the album offer a listening experience that is not overly familiar, and undoubtedly exciting.

I was at first inclined to referring to Medeski, Martin, and Wood as John Scofield's "rhythm section". After all, on this quartet's 1998 debut, *A Go Go*, Scofield was the guy in charge. However, as the title of the group suggests, this is not a John Scofield album. Medeski, Martin, Scofield, and Wood all share the stage equally here, with every band member taking an ambitious solo at one point or another. Bassist Chris Wood takes two solos on the album, one on the upright, and one on the electric bass, while the band cuts out completely. Billy Martin takes a very chaotic and frantic drum break on the track "Miles Behind". As for Medeski, the spotlight is shining on him just as much as it is on Scofield. But make no mistake, *Until the World Changes its Mind* doesn't follow the typical, "Let's play the head, then take turns soloing, and then wrap the song up" formula. The musicians are playing together on this album.

It's important to mention that the fla-

vor of *Until the World Changes its Mind* wouldn't be the same without the work of John Medeski. Many of the dark and experimental moments on the album are made possible by his unique keyboard tones. Take the track "Deadzy", where Medeski doubles the upright bass line with a hollow, pulsating synth sound. Medeski's freshening up of the tune from its a Go Go days, gives the track an eerie feel, and also a more contemporary feel. From this track, the band transitions into the driving blues jam, "What Now". Here Medeski switches to a very brash, dry and grinding lead tone. Obviously, the stellar musicianship of the band is enough to keep any blues jam they perform from sounding stale or generic. However Medeski's tones give the track a pretty hip feel that further differentiates it from any standard blues affair. It's exciting to hear these fresh textures enter the songs, for they add a great deal of originality and excitement to the overall sound of the album.

Of course, it's impossible to overlook Scofield's virtuosic and soulful playing on the album. While it was filled with fast jazz runs and his signature squirmy sound, there was an emphasis on blues and rock guitar playing as well. In "Miles Behind", certain guitar riffs echoed something I'd expect to hear from Jimi Hendrix. Sometimes, theory takes a back seat, and Scofield instead goes for the emotional intensity of heavy blues licks. Other times throughout the album, Scofield goes for dissonant and dirty sounds that contrast from the overall tranquility he devoted to his latest studio album, *A Moment's Peace*.

With their musical skill, Medeski, Martin, Scofield, and Wood could have made a very solid live instrumental album that would have impressed fans. But they chose to take the album to a level beyond that. The quartet's eagerness to play, dedication, and overall vitality is made extremely apparent through the live performance, and it results in a listening experience that's never boring, and is unique compared to previous studio efforts.

- Jeff Howard



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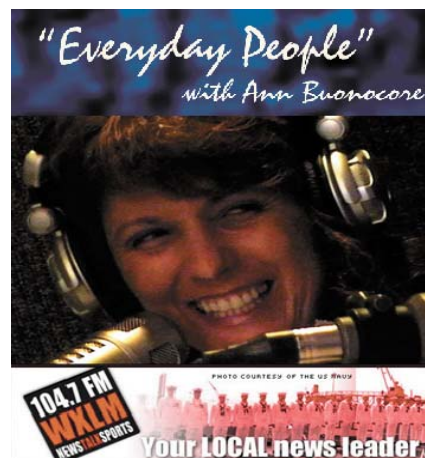
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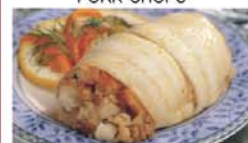
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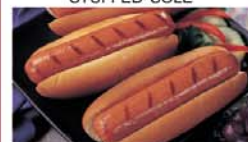
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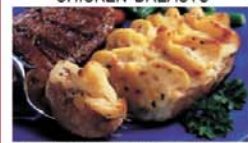
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