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Sound Waves

Volume 22
Issue 4
January 2012

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6

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7

**HIGH
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13

BREWZER

No Cover

14

**JUST
SHY**

No Cover

20

SYNDICATE

21

2 BANDS

**ANGRY
BEARS
& BLACK
HEART HEROS**

No Cover

27

BRANDED

No Cover

28

**WICKED
PEACH**

L
I
V
E
M
U
S
I
C

Friday Feb. 3rd

**DIRTY
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7

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13

**JIM
SHEPLEY
BAND**

14

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RIGGERS**

20

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MENHART
BAND**

21

**SOUL
CITY**

27

**ALEX
& THE
MAD MEN**

28

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SOUND WAVES



“Different Ends of the Same Circle”

By Mark T. Gould

One was smooth as silk. The other was rough as sandpaper. But, as performers, their souls had a lot in common.

First, the rough one. Guitarist Hubert Sumlin, who died in December at the age of 80, was, indeed, one of a kind. While he was best known as blues singer extraordinaire Howlin' Wolf's guitarist for

over two decades beginning in the mid-50s, Sumlin's popularity, ironically, didn't peak until the late 90s and early 2000s, when, while in his 70s and into his 80s, he was nominated for four Grammy Awards.

In 1999, he was first nominated, for the album “Tribute to Howlin' Wolf.” A year later, he followed that with a nomination for “Legends,” recorded with former Muddy Waters pianist Pinetop Perkins. In 2006, he was picked again, for “About Them Shoes,” which he recorded with Keith Richards, Eric Clapton, Levon Helm, and James Cotton. His final nomination was in 2010, for his participation on Kenny Wayne Shepherd's “Live in Chicago.”

Sumlin, who continued to perform in the studio and before live audiences virtually up to the time of his death, was born in Greenwood, Mississippi, and raised in Hughes, Arkansas. He received his first guitar when he was six years old. As a boy, Sumlin first met Howlin' Wolf by sneaking into a performance. When Wolf relocated from Memphis to Chicago in 1953, his long-time guitarist chose not to join him, and, not long after, Wolf invited Sumlin to relocate to Chicago to play second guitar in his band.

He became the lead guitarist in 1955, adding his tough, taut attack to Wolf classics such as “Spoonful,” “Back Door Man,” and “Little Red Rooster.” He remained with the singer for the remainder of Wolf's career, which ended with the singer's death in 1976. His playing inspired countless guitarists, including Clapton, Jimmy Page, Jimi Hendrix and Robbie Robertson, among others. Sumlin was inducted into the Blues Foundation Hall of Fame in 2008. He is listed at number 43 in the Rolling Stone Magazine list of the “Hundred Greatest Guitarists of All Time.”

Pop singer Dobie Gray, who also passed away in December at age 71, was as smooth as Sumlin was tough. Gray was comfortable in many corners of the music world, embracing soul, country, pop and even musical theatre in a varied career.

Frankly, had Gray simply been a “one-hit wonder” with the ethereal “Drift Away,” his musical footprint would have been complete. “Drift Away,” remains, in my opinion, as well as many others, one of the very best, pluperfect pop singles of its era. Released in 1973, it soared to the top of the charts, where its righteous chorus of “give me the beat boys and free my soul, I wanna get lost in your rock 'n' roll and drift away” was, and is, an anthem for its time.

But, thankfully, Gray was much more than that one astonishing song. Seven years earlier, he had his first hit, with “The In Crowd,” followed by “See You at The Go Go,” which he recorded with the Wrecking Crew, that top-notch

group of Los Angeles session musicians that included bassist Carol Kaye, drummer Hal Blaine and pianist Larry Knechtel.

Gray was born into a family of sharecroppers near Houston, and there is some dispute over his birth name. Many sources suggest he was born Lawrence Darrow Brown, while others report it was Leonard Victor Ainsworth, a name he used on some early recordings.

He discovered gospel music through the guidance of his grandfather, who was a Baptist minister. In the early 1960s, Gray moved to Los Angeles, intending to pursue an acting career, but also sang as a way to make money while he waited for his show business break. He recorded for several local labels, before none other than Sonny Bono directed him to the small, independent Stripe Records.

At Stripe, it was suggested he record under the name “Dobie Gray”, an apparent reference to the then-popular television comedy “The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis.”

After some success on the West Coast, Gray got a recording contract with Decca Records, and, in 1972, he moved to Nashville to record the album that contained his signature song, “Drift Away,” written by Mentor Williams. Featuring a tasty guitar riff by noted Nashville session player Reggie Young, the song made it to Number Five on the charts, and remains a music radio staple to this day. Interestingly, the song was actually a hit twice, the second time in 2003, when it was covered by Uncle Kracker as a duet with Gray.

One tough. One smooth. But, Hubert Sumlin and Dobie Gray shared the gift of emotion and passion in their music, thereby leaving indelible musical legacies in this world.



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AD/HD

14 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT

BRANDT TAYLOR

2 - Hungry Tiger, Manchester, CT
4,11,18,25 - Dan's, W. Greenwich, RI
13 - Johnny's, S. Hadley, MA
14 - Crowne & Hammer, Collinsville, CT

THE CARTELLS

7, 21 - Aspen's, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm
12 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
13 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 5:30 - 8:30
14 - Donahues, Madison, CT
18 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 8pm
20 - Latitude 41, Mystic, CT 7pm

DAN STEVENS

5 - Bridge, Westerly, RI
8 - Percolator, Somers, CT
12 - Spring Street, Chester, CT
13 - First & Last Tavern, Avon, CT
14 - G.W. Tavern, Washington Depot, CT
15 - Pine Loft, Berlin, CT
18 - Publick House, Newcastle, ME
19 - Old Port Pub, Portland, ME
20 - Suds Pub, Bethel, ME
21 - Harbor Inn, York Harbor, ME
22 - Dolphin Striker, Portsmouth, NH
23 - Cantab Lounge, Cambridge, MA
27 - Crown & Hammer, Collinsville, CT

DAN WATSON

6 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7pm
8,15 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT
10,27,31 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
12 - Bridge Rest., Westerly, RI

THE DRAWBRIDGE BAND

21 - RiverWalk, Mystic, CT
28 - Brown Derby, Montville, CT

EIGHT TO THE BAR

6 - Oat Theater, Norwich, CT 8-10pm
7 - Youth Center, Cambridge, MA
13 - Cuban Revolution, Providence, RI
14 - Village Pizza, Bloomfield, CT
20 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI
21 - Parrott Pub, Winsted, CT
22 - Arts Assoc., Trumbull, CT 1-2:30 pm
8 SOUND WAVES

28 - Woodwinds, Branford, CT 6-11pm

THE GOAT ROPERS

14 - Billy Club, Taunton, MA 8pm
20 - VFW, Taunton, MA 8pm

GOPHERBROKE

7,21 - Mango's, Branford, CT 7-10
13 - Pub 32, Eagleville, CT
14 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT
28 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT

GREEN TEA

6 - The Workshop, Mystic, CT
14 - The Spot, Providence, RI

JAMES HARRIS

5 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 7pm
6 - Maugle Vineyard, Ledyard, CT 5:30pm
8 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 5pm
10,17,24,31 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
9 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 7pm
11,18,21,25 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
12 - Voodoo Grille, Mystic, CT
19 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8pm
27 - 84 High Street, Westerly, RI
28 - Dogwatch, Stonington, CT

KEVIN MANZELLA & HEATHER LEPAGE

4,11 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8-11
6 - 84 High St, Westerly, R.I. 8:30-11
7 - W.B. Cody's, Westerly, R.I. 7-10
18 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10
19 - Bridge, Westerly, R.I. 8-12
22 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 5-8
28 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 8-11

kGb

12 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
26 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

MUNSELL BROTHERS

7 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
14 - Bank St. Cafe, New London, CT
21 - Sneeker's Cafe, Groton, CT
27 - Ivory Pub, Deep River, CT

RED LIGHT

6 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT
14 - Uncle Kranky's, Jewett City, CT
21 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
28 - Music Lady, Central Village, CT

SARAH T

6,28 - City Sports Grille, Groton, CT
7 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT
14 - Copperwood Grille, New London, CT

STEVE BRODERICK & SHAMROCK EYES

9,23 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT 8pm
20 - Cafe 9, New Haven, CT

STYFF KITTY

6 - Biki's Gathering Spot, Warwick, RI
14 - CC O'Brien's, Pawcatuck, CT
20 - Sneeker's, Groton, CT
28 - Wood River Inn, Wyoming, RI

SUE MENHART BAND

6 - Sneekers, Groton, CT
13 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT, 8pm
20 - Burke's, Niantic, CT 8pm

SUNDAY GRAVY

5 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
13 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
20 - Richoni's, Groton, CT
26 - Dan's Place, W. Greenwich, RI
27 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
28 - Tio Rodrigo's, New London, CT

2 CAT ZOO

13 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
21 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
26 - Bridge Rest., Westerly, RI

WICKED PEACH

24 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 7pm
28 - Stashs Cafe, New London, CT

WILSON KANE

5,19 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8pm
6,21 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm
7 - Pattaconk, Chester, CT 8:30pm
8,15,22,29 - Malted Barley, Westerly, RI 7pm
12 - Airport Road Cafe, Hartford, CT 6:30pm
13,27 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT 5pm
13 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
14 - Holiday Bowl, Groton, CT
20 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT 4:30pm
20 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 8pm
28 - Mangos, Branford, CT 7pm

Mail Listings to the magazine
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Thurs 5th - James Harris
Sat 7th - Marcy Kelly Trio
Wed 11th - Ron Murray
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Thurs 19th - Bob Lavalley
Sat 21st - Ben Freiert
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Thurs 26th - T.Ray
Sat 28th - Kevin & Heather
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CONCERT DATES

Bill Frisell

25 - Firehouse 12, New Haven, CT

David Foster

& the Mohegan Sun All-Stars

29 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

The Duke Robillard Band

21 - Narrows Center, Fall River, MA

28 - Center for Arts, Natick, MA

Glen Campbell

11 - Hanover Theatre, Worcester, MA

Johnny Winter

20 - Toad's Place, New Haven, CT

Jonah Smith

28 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

Kelly Clarkson

13 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Patty Larkin

6 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Popa Chubby

7 - Theodores, Springfield, MA

Rascal Flatts

27 - Dunkin' Donuts Center, Providence, RI

Reba

14 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT



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BAR FLY JOURNALS



By Stephanie Shawn

Hello My Sweet Bar Flies...Crikey....A Whole New Year for Us to Play With.... What to do? What to do? Resolutions anyone? I Am Going to the Gym...seriously..stop your laughing! I am gonna go! Swear to God!! I think I'm gonna try Precision Fitness with Todd Cambio and hopefully my friend John will be my workout partner! Let you know how that works out!

Anyways, enough about me..Fantastic coupla shows at MALTED BARLEY and PERKS AND CORKS in Westerly with Michael Chicoria, David DeAngelis, (from the MIKE AND DAVE SHOW)

also Joey Michel,...all playing with my friend, Deborah Jensen's son Thor! Thor was in the area recently and took our town by storm playing several shows with different musical artists and bands! Fantastic playing...YouTube Videos available by Meghan Killimade and WAILING CITY PHOTOGRAPHY..check 'em out!

So many New Year's Eve Parties this month! Everyone was Rockin'! BRANDED at LEGENDS in Groton, MURRY THE WHEEL at BANK STREET CAFE, NEVER ENUFF at CLEAT'S ...wish I coulda gone, but I had the HANDLEBAR PARTY to attend to! Joanna and I set up an amp with two very expensive mics and had our way with the JukeBox! Thank God our people love us! They definitely put up with alot, including screeching to TRACY CHAPMAN and AMY WINEHOUSE! Errrrrrpp...

stop the presses again, the only "friends" of mine who showed up were Janie, JamieQ, Lina, Ronnie, Ashley and Pamster! Rod and Michelle stopped by at the end of the evening. Dave, the editor and Miss Ann, along with Mark and Darla stayed for a bit before heading out to DYLAN'S for dinner with friends. Hate everyone else!

But on a happier note, had the HANDLEBAR CAFE Xmas Party last month...and if it tweren't for the fact that I spent at least 3 weeks this month with some monstrous head and chest cold slash sore throat thingie, I woulda had a blast...but alas, my ailments put a big damper on the "Rock Star" Thing that I got going on.

I stayed for a bit at the HANDLEBAR...hanging with Jamie Q. The gang was out in full force...Karaoke Queens Stacie, Rosie, Pamster, Michelle, Ronnie and Johnny. DJ DAVE CHRISTINA was "da bomb" as usual!, but when I saw a clear path to the front door, I ran for it! I can be pretty sneaky when I'm not really feeling it and I just "poof" disappear.

This month though, I have recuperated! I am also resolving to see more shows. So let's start off the month at SNEEKERS, with all the lovely ladies who work there and the SUE MENHART BAND on the 6th of January, under the Moose. Then BREWZER at STASH'S on the 13th, followed by FREEDY JOHNSTON W/ THE RIVERGODS playing at the KATHERINE HEPBURN CULTURAL ARTS CENTER AND THEATRE in Old Saybrook. This promises to be a big show for these two musical groups and is sure to be a Fabulous Night! This show is on the 14th and starts at 8! Take a Ride to the KATE!

Took my son on a 3-day adventure to Florida to visit Dad and Michele in St. Pete. Dragged my almost 12 year old to UNIVERSAL STUDIOS and decided ahead of time that I was gonna make him go on a roller coaster, as he is almost 12 and needs to step up and be brave!

I marched ahead of everyone searching out the perfect coaster...SEUSSICAL? No Way! INCREDIBLE HULK? Looked damp? HARRY POTTER? Way too crowded! So we settled on DRAGON'S CHALLENGE. I pulled him kicking and screaming through the line (not really, but I knew he was nervous) then they hooked us into the freakin' seats that have no feet supports and look way too scary!

Well, we made it through! It was sheer hell. Felt like I was the guy with no legs that was gonna pop outta the seat like a cork! (wtf were they thinking?) The coaster came to a stop and my son looked at me, still gripping the handholds with little white knuckles, and said, "is it over?" "I think so", I said as the seat tops popped open and he fell out of the seat flopping like a flounder. I had to slowly drag him across the cement walkways to a corner, where he laid quietly on the ground, not speaking or looking at me. When I finally was able to coax him to his feet he still refused to speak to me for another hour and only after buying him lotsa crap! Needless to say, there will be no more coaster rides in our future. Aahhh...traveling with mom...priceless!

Congratulations to Pitch League Winners, Artie and Ronnie on their Big Win at CLYDESDALES. New season has already started. Also, everyone who's anyone contact Rosie or myself if you are interested in our MYRTLE BEACH TRIP in May for BIKE WEEK!! Now that!! promises! to be! a Great Time!! We are booking rooms now! (or soon)! From here on in it shall be referred to as the MYRTLE BEACH BIKE WEEK ADVENTURE or MBBWA to those in the know!

Errrrrr....stop the presses, AGAIN! Went out last night to see STYFF KITTY at BOUCHER'S WOODRIVER INN in Hope Valley, right on Rte 3! And what a Freakin' Fabulous Time I Had!! Honest to God, The band was Awesome! Blown off by Besties, so I went it all by my lonesome, and boy, am I so happy! Met the owner of the restaurant/lounge Tim, along with friend Stephanie, patrons Dick and Diane and cute bartenders Doug and Chris. Great place, food looked delicious and they had a perfectly stocked bar (meaning lotsa vodkas, including 3Olives in assorted flavors!!!) and some great beers

(pumpkin ale, with the sugar cinnamon combo on the rim!) Three Snaps!!

I knew STYFF KITTY were gonna be Fab when their first song was JEFFERSON AIRPLANE'S "WHITE RABBIT". Love it! Then "SWEET JANE", "SWEET CHILD OF MINE", "DREAM ON", HEARTS "WHAT ABOUT LOVE", etc. etc. My friend Jay (who has promised to visit me at HBC) Tina, Amy, Tom and Mike are the fabulous and talented band members and put on such a wonderful show that I think I may beg them to play at my Birthday Party in March...hope they'll do it! Someone put in a good word for me, please!!

I want to wish Mike Vargas a Big 'Ol Happy Birthday, also Tami on the 28th and Miss Michele! Got lotsa plans for the month and I hope to see all of you out and about this month. I am etremely excited and optimistic about the New Year. I see bright things in our futures. Friend me on FaceBook or pick up a copy of your SOUNDWAVES magazine to see where I will be, whose gonna be playing or just to chat! Ciao for now, my Sweet Flies, and I love you! Let's make 2012 a Year to Remember!



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By Ali Kaufman

Morning Mojo broadcasts live every Tuesday from 9am-12noon on WCNI 90.9 FM. We are a non-profit, commercial free station located on the campus of Conn College in New London. I'm Ali and for the last year and a half that is where I have been, spinning great music both old favorites, hidden treasures or brand new bands to me. Barefoot Truth falls into the last category. I had been hearing a buzz for months, then I finally caught the boys in Old Saybrook at The Kate, fantastic show, full of energy and talent. Will Evans of Barefoot Truth stopped by the WCNI Studio just before Thanksgiving. Will and the band were getting ready to play The Garde Theater the following weekend and we spoke about that and much more, here is part of our conversation that day.

AK ~ Good Morning Will, thanks for coming in. Let's start with the beginning. You are one of the founders of BFT, correct?

WE ~ Myself and Jay Driscoll from South Hadley Mass and I started 7 years ago on the CT shoreline and here we are returning. We've all disbursed now but it's nice to come back and have a beautiful theater to play our music and share with people.

AK ~ Especially being hometown boys.

WE ~ That's right.

AK ~ Now I know you've been selling out lots of shows, but this is a big theater.

WE ~ Ya, it's huge, we have been selling out small clubs and venues across the North East. It's kind of ambitious to jump into a room this big but it's just such a beautiful space. I'm just happy to be on stage there and it's a great place to come over the holiday weekend. Very special. We are also encouraging people to bring down a non-perishable donation, which we will be giving to the United Way. We did this last year and it was a success.

AK ~ Nice way to give back, do you have an opener at The Garde?

WE ~ We have a band opening up for us called "The Sweet Remains", friends and musicians that we played with in Europe. If you like Crosby Stills and Nash type harmony, they will be right up your alley.

AK ~ Really looking forward to the show! Now what about Videos? I have seen a few and they are very cool, are you guys working on more?

WE ~ We've been putting out music videos for several years now but trying to come up with a fun, creative video is always been our mission.

It's really amazing what you can do with the Social Media nowadays. Bands can blow up with one Youtube Video that goes viral. So that's what we are trying to tap into now.

14 SOUND WAVES

AK ~ Who came up with the video of the band singing in a wind tunnel?

WE ~ It was something we talked about doing. We looked into indoor skydiving and too big a risk doing it, because we had no idea if we would be able to hold ourselves steady in the wind tunnel, sing and put the whole video together but it worked out great. The company, Sky Venture in New Hampshire was amazing, letting us in there for 2 days and play around in the sky dive simulator. The song for this video is Roll if you fall, so go on the website, Barefoottruth.com and check it out. You will see what we are talking about. Lots of fun, I highly recommend it!

AK ~ Now your last CD "Carry us On" just dropped September 6th of 2011, what's next for the band?

WE ~ I'm back to the writing part of my life. We will probably take January and February to just be people, normal lifestyle, not traveling in the band, late nights and stuff. Hoping to be doing a lot of writing and possibly a solo record late in the spring.

AK ~ Are you the prolific one in the band or does everybody bring songs to the table?

WE ~ Garrett Duffy, harmonica player, just recently hatched from his shell and is now doing lead vocals and singing on one of the songs on the new album, (Carry us On), that he wrote. It was fun to be producer, and just offer my advice for a change, instead of bringing the song and having everybody kinda add their 2 cents. So there's certainly lots of collaboration going on in the studio with the guys bringing ideas and stuff. For the most part I'll have all the vocals and lyrics written out and then everybody really contributes to the music.

AK ~ Do you guys ever do covers?

WE ~ We actually covered a tune called "Rivers of Babylon" on a short EP we did that we did with another singer/songwriter friend of mine that you can find on YouTube. It's an old spiritual, reggae hymn. Actually we will be doing a cover at the Garde, an old classic by the Band, it's a good one! We also try to incorporate a lot of sometimes funny pop music. We will sneak some lines in, we did "Single Ladies" a couple of years ago, we snuck that into our song, "Broken Road". It's fun to mesh the two styles.

AK ~ Last time we spoke Barefoot Truth had gone over 9 million spins on Pandora, any idea what it's up to now?

After a genuinely humble laugh, Will's reply : Well, I haven't checked recently but Pandora has been amazing for us, the social media and networks that are available to us now are making it possible for independent bands like

www.Swaves.com

ourselves to make it to the top 10 in iTunes, and to continue to put out records and continue to tour. For us it's about being smart about not burning ourselves out. So many bands think you just have to play and play everywhere, a lot of bands can do that but for us, we are close to home and family is very important to us all. Balance, a kind of normal lifestyle with the craziness that is the music industry is a challenge, but we are making it work.

Since this interview took place on air, I had the pleasure of Will playing a song for our listeners. He went into "Easy Come High" first then after the second break he played an unrecorded song called, "Playing with Fire". You can catch both of the songs on Youtube, on my channel, Trixie65ful, we taped the in studio performance.

Also the other videos that we mention can be found at Barefoottruth.com.

AK ~ Do you ever get stage fright?

WE ~ Well, I've certainly felt the pressure on stage.

AK ~ I've said that when that nervous buzz goes away, if you're not excited or passionate about it, then it's time to do something else.

WE ~ I agree, you stress about it but you look forward to it, a chance to show what you're made of. I guess there is an adrenaline that kicks in, it's funny, about a month ago, we were headed down to the south, South Carolina and then heading west. We were in Philadelphia then DC, and I had just horrible, horrible stomach cramps, something wasn't right. I thought maybe I had a flu bug coming on and just didn't know if I could play the show. As soon as I got on stage, now I'm not going to say the pain went away, but, all of a sudden this adrenaline just came and kicked in. Got through the show, immediately got horribly ill and went to the hospital where I had my appendix taken out. So it was definitely a serious situation but when the lights go on, or the game is on, you take the stage or field and just go do what you've got to do.

AK ~ Glad you're ok, that was serious. Changing gears completely, another video I saw of yours had you surfing, is surfing part of your life?

WE ~ Ya, definitely, that's how Garrett, our harmonica player, and myself actually met in college. We did a surf weekend with another buddy from school and from there it's like I started playing the acoustic guitar and Garrett on harmonica..and off we went.. Maybe it's cliché or very Jack Johnson but they really go together, surfing and music. They are so seamless, acoustic music especially. It just makes so much sense, you go and have these great experiences in the water and you're out there, kinda giving and receiving life, and it's so easy to go and play music and write music because it's such a seamless situation.

I think that video was shot in Matunick, 26 degrees that day...Brrrrr.....

Well, I hope this month finds Will in warmer waters as his plan at the time was to spend exploring Kauai and the islands. The show at The Garde drew an enthusiastic crowd that included fans from a broad spectrum. They played songs from the new CD, older tunes and the cover from The Band turned out to be, "The Weight", and it was a fantastic version. We were also treated to "Crazy Love". The new CD "Carry us On" is a great addition to my collection and I look forward to watching their star rise and hope they keep their bare feet planted as firmly on the ground. I look forward to hearing what sounds come next from their journey. Be it solo projects or more Barefoot Truth I'll be looking for it come spring. Thank you Will Evans, Jay Driscoll, Garrett Duffy, Wayno, Andy Wrba.



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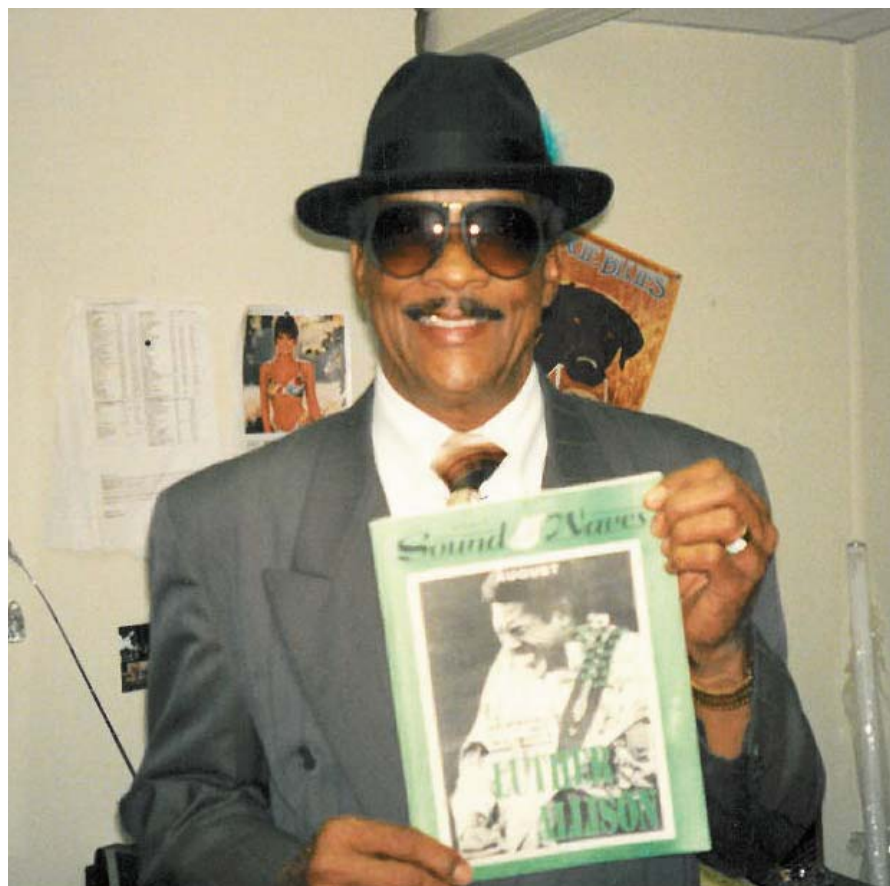
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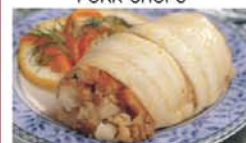
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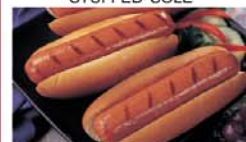
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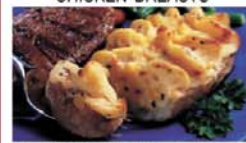
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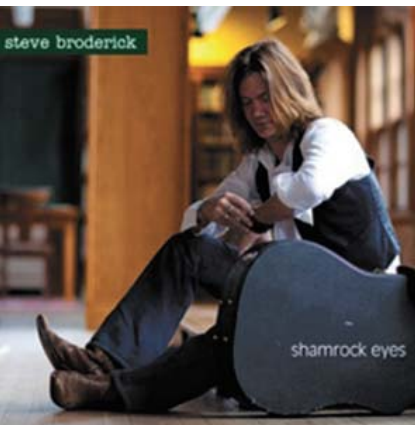
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STEVE BRODERICK "Shamrock Eyes"

Steve Broderick, best known for his role as vocalist with the Trans-Siberian Orchestra over the past 10 years, made the most of a recent opportunity to settle into the region, get in the studio, and partner with some of the area's best musicians. The result is "Shamrock Eyes", Broderick's second recording effort following his independent self-titled debut in 2005, and an enjoyable 11 track collection of songs laced with Broderick's distinctive voice and catchy guitar melodies.

Recently relocated from New York City to Southeastern Connecticut, Broderick wasted no time in collaborating with some of the most talented musicians in the neighboring area and making a name for himself on the local music circuit. "Shamrock Eyes" incorporates much of the influences of The Black Crowes, Todd Rundgren, Ryan Adams, and the Rolling Stones, passionately executed by Broderick and company. The opener, "Couldn't Hold a Candle", is driven by an up-tempo, sing-a-long melody that sets the stage appropriately. "Goin Out Drinkin Again" features the driving rhythms of Danny Watson's guitar chops, a soulful Hammond B-3 organ provided by Rob Clores, and a special guest appearance from local saxophone legend Greg Piccolo. "Almost A Crime" and the title track, each reminiscent of the Crowes' best work along the "She Talks To Angels" lines, are delivered with the perfect blend of soul and emotion. Brendan Keefe (bass), John Seastrand and Dan Czikowsky (drums), Jerry Prejean (guitars), Jon Peckman (percussion), Joe Delaney and Joel Hoekstra (guitars), and Bill Light (slide guitar) are also amongst the cast of local musi-

cians who lend on hand on "Shamrock Eyes". The playing and production are flawless throughout.

Steve Broderick's exposure to the versatility of the musicians in TSO, along with his strong resume of musical appearances with some of the biggest names in rock music, have helped developed a sound and style unique in delivery and diverse in artistic terms. "Shamrock Eyes" is a well-written and well performed musical effort that becomes more enjoyable with each listen. Look for Steve Broderick, Danny Watson, and friends to be performing in the Mystic, CT area and hear what "Shamrock Eyes" has to offer.

- Don Sikorski



Animals as Leaders "Weightless"

Prosthetic Records

Anyone who has ever heard of Animals as Leaders will probably jump right into raving about the band's guitar wizardry. Rest assured, the raving is well justified. For those not familiar, Animals as Leaders is an instrumental progressive metal trio led at the helm by 8-string guitar monster Tosin Abasi. As a player, Abasi utilizes the heavy metal chugging and Steve Vai-style runs that metalheads cherish, while also having a knack for brilliant compositions and mature harmonies that echo the sounds of Pat Metheny. When Abasi plays with his group the resulting sound is much more cerebral than typical anger-driven metal, yet at the same time his band packs the punch that you would want to hear from a balls-to-the-wall metal group.

On Animals as Leaders' second LP, Weightless, Abasi continues to jump

full force into what he's known best for. The record's filled with arpeggios galore, and the precision and fervor of Abasi's fretboard runs are enough to satisfy any shredder's appetite. Yet make no mistake, the band's sound is in no way remaining stagnant. In comparison to the group's self-titled debut there's a very noticeable addition of electronics on Weightless, especially on the front half of the record. On the opening track "An Infinite Regression", grimy bitcrushed synths complement Tosin's nimble (to say nimble is really an understatement) tapping, while glitched-out drums find their place in the background of the tune. You'll hear occasional electro breaks with synths that sound squeezed and manipulated, and lo-fi basslines that bring to mind the soundtrack of a 90's SEGA videogame. These sorts of sounds give the front half a very cinematic, and for lack of a better word, an epic feel.

The commercial success of Weightless (so far it's the record label's best selling disc), could lead to speculation that the band made room for the electronics in an effort to reach out to a more mainstream audience. If this was the band's intention, then it was done maturely and tastefully in a way that didn't sacrifice the band's core sound. As prominent as the electronics are during the front of the album, they take a backseat on the second half of Weightless. Here there is more open space and room to appreciate Abasi's compositional prowess, which shines on jazz-tinged songs like "Cylindrical Sea". It's nice to hear the band utilize open space, because that's where it achieves its most emotionally stirring moments. One of the sweet spots of the album occurs during "New Eden", where bellowing low notes are stretched out like elastic. The result is, to say the least, incredibly satisfying. When hearing Tosin take his time and savor the notes, the songs on the front half feel rushed- in comparison- the beautiful moment's are certainly there

on the album's first tunes, but they're fly by you so fast they feel fleeting. With a record that's divided between being quick and concise versus loose and emotional, it would also be nicer if the grid-like rigidity that's on the first half and the loose openness on the second half were more evenly spread out. Still, this is a minor gripe. Tosin's songwriting abilities, and the tightness of the entire band hold their own on this record.

Those who wane on the "feel" side of the never-ending "feeling vs. technicality" argument may recoil after a run-through of this album. Actually, they may recoil after a few seconds of the album. However, an open-minded ear, so to speak, will find plenty of humanity and emotion in the songs on Weightless. Abasi's brilliant compositional skills and his entire band's musical maturity, make Weightless an album that is leagues beyond metal bands that are following the status quo.

*** 1/2

- Jeff Howard

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THE BEST IN BLUES - 2011

2011 was a year when the blues had the blues because of all the legendary bluesmen who passed away. But time rolls on and there were a lot of great records made by those who have brought the blues into the 21st century. Once again I've asked Dana Fagnoli to give us his favorites from 2011. Dana, as many of you know, is the host of the "Out of the Blues" radio show heard every Saturday from 9:00 AM to noon on WCNI 90.9 FM. So without further ado, here are our picks.

Bill's list:

1. **Gregg Allman** "Low Country Blues" Rounder Records
2. **Chris Thomas King** "Antebellum Postcards" 21st Century Blues
3. **Lucky Peterson** "Every Second a Fool is Born" JSP Records
4. **Rory Block** "Shake 'Em on Down: Tribute to Mississippi Fred McDowell" Stony Plain Records
5. **The Cash Box Kings** "Holler and Stomp" Blind Pig Records
6. **Roy Rogers** "Strange Love" Ocean Beach Records
7. **Candye Kane** "Sister Vagabond" Delta Groove Records
8. **Johnny Winter** "Roots" Mega Force Records
9. **Tab Benoit** "Medicine" Telarc Records
10. **Boyd Lee Dunlop** "Boyd's Blues" self released

Dana's list:

1. **Sugar Ray & The Bluetones** "Evening" Severn Records
2. **Compilation** "Walkin' Blues" Mountain Top Records
3. **Tab Benoit** "Medicine" Telarc Records
4. **Billy Boy Arnold, John Primer, Billy Branch, Lurrie Bell, Carlos Johnson** - "Chicago Blues A Living History the (R)evolution Continues" Raisin' Records
5. **Johnny Sansone** "The Lord is Waiting and the Devil is Too" Shortstack Records
6. **Eugene "Hideaway" Bridges** "Rock & A Hard Place" Armadillo Records
7. **Big Head Blues Club** "100 Years of Robert Johnson" Vizztone Records
8. **Diunna Greenleaf** "Trying to Hold On" Blue Mercy Records
9. **Johnny Winter** "Roots" Mega Force Records
10. **Eric Bibb** "Troubadour Live" Telarc Records

Dana will be playing these records throughout the month of January on his radio show. Dana and I would like to dedicate this year's top ten to the memories of Gary Moore, Eddie Kirkland, Big Jack Johnson, Pinetop Perkins, Marvin Sease, Gil Scott Heron, Honeyboy Edwards, Willie "Big Eyes" Smith, Doyle Bramhall, and Hubert Sumlin. I personally want to wish all Sound Waves readers and happy and healthy 2012!

Peace,
Bill Harriman



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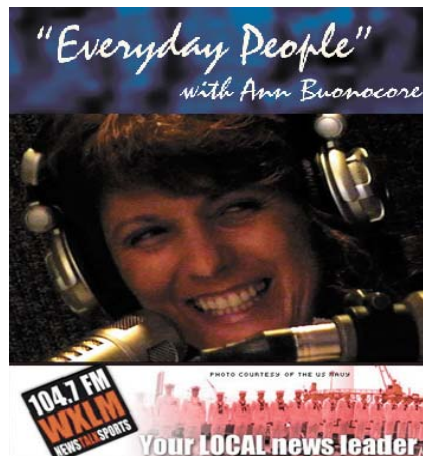
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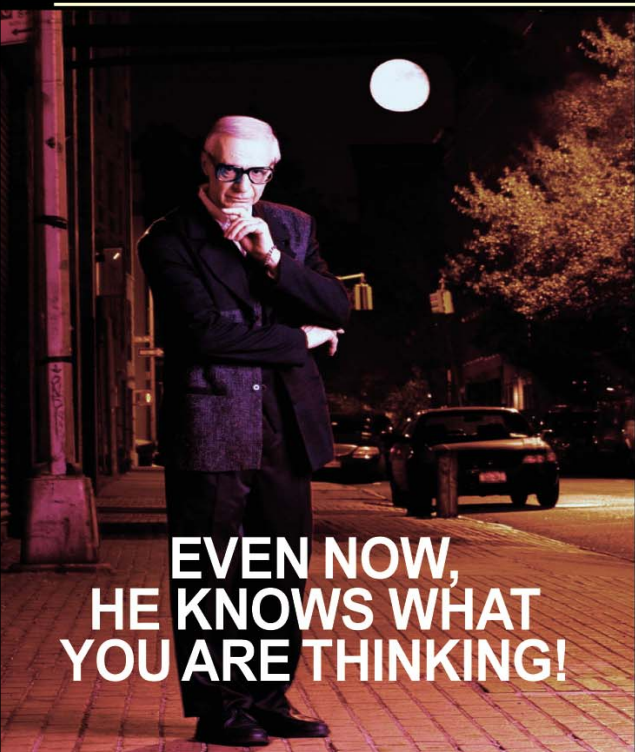
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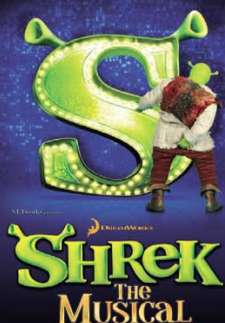
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