

Sound Waves

Volume 23
Issue 8
May 2013

An
Interview
with

RUSH

Plus



RICHIE HAVENS

A Southern New England
Entertainment Guide Since 1990

BRC
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NEAL & THE VIPERS
BRIAN MCKENZIE
BRAZEN HUSSY
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L
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M
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S
I
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Fri

Sat

3

**SUNDAY
GRAVY**

6:30-11:30

4

**DJ
BIG**

10

**THAT'S
WHAT
SHE SANG**

6:30-11:30

11

**DJ
BIG**

17

ATOMIC

6:30-11:30

18

**DJ
DANCE
PARTY**

24

**FAT
CATS**

6:30-11:30

25

**KEEP
IT
ROLLING**

9pm

31

**MIND
BODY
& SOUL**

6:30-11:30

1

**DJ
DANCE
PARTY**

INSIDE THE WAVE

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Sound Waves

May 2013
VOLUME 23, NUMBER 8

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

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

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Subscription
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²⁴ BEN FRIERT	²⁵ DK & T
³¹ ANDY & BETHANY	¹ BEN FRIERT

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out of work...
maybe someday
we will.



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A REMEMBRANCE: RICHIE HAVENS: A SWEET SPIRIT LEAVES US

By Rex Rutkoski

(Editor's note: Rex Rutkoski covered and many times interviewed Richie Havens since returning from the Army in Vietnam in 1970, and suggests that Havens' music helped Vietnam veterans come to terms with their experiences in the war.)

The image is forever emblazoned in our consciousness.

Richie Havens, his long robe flowing in the wind, bent over his guitar, holding a sea of humanity in rapt attention as he sang like a man possessed: "Freedom! Freedom!"

Many years have passed since that historic moment in the summer of 1969, when the Woodstock Nation was born, but Havens' passion for and commitment to music and social causes did not seem to have ebbed until he breathed his last soulful breath April 22 of this year at the too, too young age of 72.

He took a philosophical approach to aging. "I intend to do all the things I wanted to do (artistically). I really do. It's still about the culture I find we are in," he once said. "I learned a secret a long time ago that you never grow older than you were at your mother's house. That's how I feel. I feel like I'm 19."

It's was not difficult to be enthusiastic about what he did, explained Havens, described as a truly timeless performer, and a man before his time.

"It's because of the energy I get when I begin to walk on the stage. The energy comes from the people," he said. "There is an energy in us being in that place together. That's the most important thing. We are all in the same place together, and if we all look around, everyone is having a good time, like I am. This is an opportunity. That's what Woodstock was. It was a happening. No one knew that was going to happen."

He felt he was amply rewarded.

"What I get back from everyone at a concert is their need to feel like a human being," he explained. Though many believed that the '60s disappeared, the artist said he still found the ethic of giving of oneself still alive in many professions.

And he continued to believe that music can make a difference. Those who proclaimed "Music can change the world" weren't wrong, he insisted. "If it weren't for Woodstock, we'd probably still be living in 1957," he said through laughter. "They called us messengers. We had messages in our songs."

Touring and recording for more than 40 years, he was best known for his distinctive intense, rhythmic guitar style and soulful covers of pop and folk songs. He retired from the road in 2010 after kidney surgery.

He enjoyed his frequently performances in New England. "I love it there," he said. "I get up there quite a bit. It's probably the area I've been to consecutively the most. They are free people, they are open, willing to share."

"Beyond his music, those who have met Havens will remember his gentle and compassionate nature, his light humor and his powerful presence," his publicist said.

Rock writer Tony Palermo recalls one 1973 performance.

"I was very impressed with his eloquence. During his finale, he strummed

his guitar all the way off the stage in a trance into the dressing room where we were waiting, and then turned around and strummed his way back for the rest of 'Motherless Child.' " he remembers. "Earlier when he spoke to the audience about peace, someone yelled up to him, 'Sing a song!' He replied, 'I am, there's just no music right now.'"

Another writer remarked on his death, "We can't afford to keep losing these forces for good."

Havens' family issued this statement: "Heartfelt thanks for the worldwide showing of love and respect for Richie. This is a very difficult time for everyone and knowing you're all right here with us is tremendously moving. As per his very specific wishes, Richie was cremated on Tuesday and his ashes were placed in a beautiful stone pyramid urn. Later in the summer they will be scattered across the field where the Woodstock festival took place in 1969, Max Yasgur's farm, now Bethel Woods Center for the Arts.

"Knowing Richie wanted a party rather than a somber memorial, we have decided to schedule a few public events because, as you all know, Richie considered the world his family, and each and every one of you his friends. We think he'd be just fine with one last tour."

On April 29th, there was a viewing in New York City at City Winery, to which "any and

all are welcome to come say goodbye to Richie." Plans for a memorial concert are also underway. (Information will be posted on his web site: www.richiehavens.com)

Havens once told his grandmother that he wanted to meet "everybody in the whole world."

"I'm actually doing it. I've been about 31 times around the planet. I find I'm one of everyone. There are no real distinctions here," he later said. "They are proffered distinctions, not actual. People are people no matter where you go. That commonness of all things we need to serve."

He was sharing himself, he added, and he believed that is what people picked up on. Early in his career, he recalled that his booking agent sent him to places he did not know existed. "I'd play for people who didn't speak English and I wondered, 'Will they get this?' They laughed in all the right places, even though they didn't know the language," he recalled.

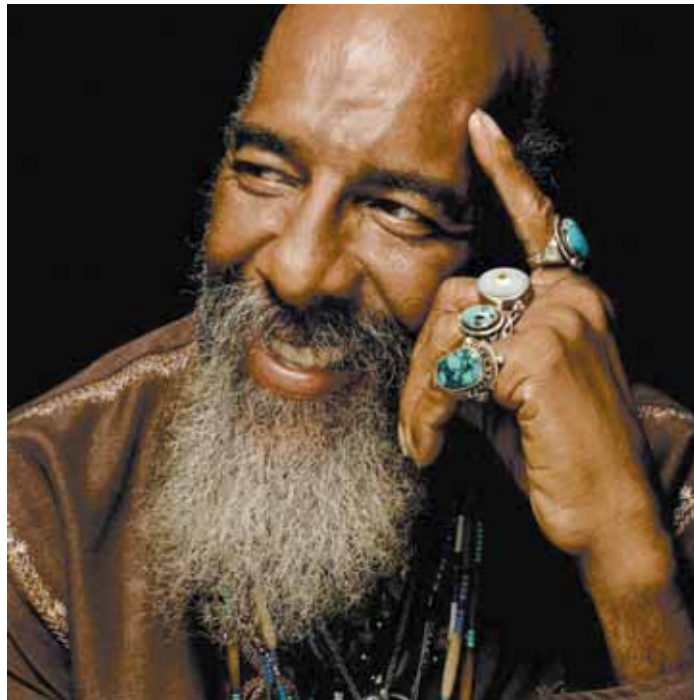
The Dali Lama responded with enthusiasm to his music at a Tibetan awareness festival at which Havens performed in Washington, D.C. "I was singing (Jackson Browne's) 'Lives in the Balance.' He sort of moved to the front. He was so excited," Havens remembered.

He requested to speak to Havens the next morning. "He was kind of amazed at the energy I was feeling," Havens said.

Havens sensed that, for some people, he represented a spirit that is being kept alive. "And really it is them being part of what is already really alive," he noted. "It's us connecting and having a moment to reflect: on our background and our world and the world we want to have still."

Havens said he had "one big cause."

"That's to be able to communicate with as many people as I can get to meet, to communicate what I know and to talk about things we could be doing. All of these things are what changes the world every day for every-



MUSIC NOTES



"Boston, You're Our Home"

By Mark T. Gould

They threw the damn tea in the harbor.

That's pretty much all you need to know about the spirit of Boston and her people.

On December 16, 1773, after city officials refused to return three shiploads of taxed tea to Britain, a group of colonists boarded the ships and threw the tea it into Boston Harbor. The incident,

perhaps the first overt political protest in our fledging country, remains an iconic event of American history, planting the seeds of the American Revolution.

Boston, her spirit, and her heroes.

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I'm wanna tell you about my town
I'm gonna tell you a big fat story, baby
Aww, it's all about my town

Yeah, down by the river
Down by the banks of the river Charles
Aw, that's what's happenin' baby
That's where you'll find me
Along with lovers, buggers and thieves
Aw, but they're cool people

Well I love that dirty water
Oh, Boston you're my home
Oh, you're the number one place

Frustrated women (I mean they're frustrated)
Have to be in by twelve o'clock (oh, that's a shame)
But I'm wishin' and a hopin', oh
That just once those doors weren't locked
I like to save time for my baby to walk around

Well I love that dirty water
Oh, Boston you're my home (oh yeah)

'Cause I love that dirty water
Oh, Boston you're my home (oh, yeah)

Well I love that dirty water (I love it, baby)
I love that dirty water (I love Boston)
I love that dirty water
I love that dirty water (I'm the man, I'm the man)
I love that dirty water (Owww!)

6 SOUND WAVES

I love that dirty water (a come on, a come on)
I love that dirty water (come on)
I love that dirty water (I'm in love with Boston)
I love that dirty water (Aww yeah)
I love that dirty water
I love that dirty water
I love that dirty water
--Ed Cobb.

May they rest peacefully with Boston's other heroes.



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Richie Havens Continued

one," he said.

"I get to see people who are just seeing me for the first time. Kids are now joining that group. It's very interesting," he said. There is always a generation, and he estimated they arrive every two to three years, that moves into its teenage years and discover Woodstock for the first time. "A lot of them have been showing up for the last several years. I'm getting chased by all these young packs of guys under four feet tall," he said, laughing. And their grandparents often are in the audience, too, he added. "It's an amazing thing. There is a newness to every day I play."

"Woodstock" remained a defining moment for him and many as a cultural and musical landmark. "We started back in the late '50s. Even I expected to have a Woodstock in a much earlier time than it happened. In the late '50s we were looking for something that showed how we felt; we had feelings and wanted to express them. People my age have an artistic sense about them in whatever job they do," he said.

Havens said he goes into any show with the idea of sharing what others shared with him. "That's my basic connection to the audience. I'm one of them and I have something to share." That they allow him to do that is an honor he does not take for granted he said.

Havens also held to his belief that a song can change the world. "Music in and of itself is something very magical. It needs harmony; harmony in and of itself is a tool. That's where we find our vibrational selves."

"The way we played music created new gears," he added about his generation of artists. "If it wasn't for FM radio none of us would have been here, including Bob Dylan. We didn't want to put our songs into three-minute capsules (of AM pop radio). We couldn't do that."

Music is an organic expression, Havens said. "When people played their songs that mattered, they also appeared to be as much in that song as the song itself," he said. "It was emotional for us too. All the songs back then really hit all the right chords and bells."

Havens referred to himself as "a song singer."

"The song changed my life, what I started out with and heard in Greenwich Village from people who wrote things that mattered," he explained. "These people created me. I call rock'n'roll the first generational primal scream. It was a screaming to be heard as a generation and to be respected as individuals. We had to do something to get that respect, and we did as far as I'm concerned."

Music, he added, is the language he knew for certain that can transform things.

"It's the language and it has to be thought of as exactly that," he explained. "And we choose the innuendoes and scenery and everything else, and we put it together so people can see it in their minds and go there. Most of us want a peaceful place to be. There are a lot of beautiful places out there."

And Richie Havens' music was very much one of those places.

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	9 BOHEMIAN PICNIC	10 BRIAN MERRITT DUO	
	16 DAN WATSON	17 BAD PILOT	
	23 BEN KANE	24 GROUND CONTROL & MAJOR TOM	
	30 CHAMPAGNE SKYE	31 KEVIN & HEATHER	

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SOUND WAVES 7

BAR FLY JOURNALS



By Stephanie Shawn

Hello, My Sweet Flies...Well, it's happened!! They arrived! My sister, BETSY whisks her freakin' entourage off to CABO for JOANNA and RONNIE'S Wedding and ARTIE, JP, MIKE, DEAN and I are left looking Shell Shocked and Terrified, as Sweet Sean (auditor and inventorier) Shows Up and Scares the Sh*t out of Us!!

BAR RESCUE...they Came, they Saw (and Spied and Screwdrivered Cameras into the Ceilings) and they Conquered!! No matter how this whole deal ends up (as of this printing, the shoot was not over) it was an eye opener!

Lots of young, hip 20 somethings came surging into our Bar like fleas on a dog, crawling in, out and over everything in their sights. Under the bar, on top of the fridge, down in the cellar...yikes! Who knew they would be so damn thorough? Oh, but they were!!

The HANDLEBAR CAFE has been in negotiations with BAR RESCUE since September and after many calls and interviews, they wheeled into our parking lot and took over! Let it be known, that my sister Betsy had nothing to do with this. Apparently BAR RESCUE does a Google Search (of what? dive bars? biker bars? Old bars?) I don't know. But it all started last year and has led to this. The big reveal! But you won't find out about that 'til next month. Or just take a drive by and check out our new look!

Day One: Jill and Allie arrive, requesting we all be in attendance. BETSY, JP, ARTIE, DEAN, XTACIE and yours truly, the BAR FLY. They show up, cameras in hand. We are asked to act normal, or as normal as any of us can act. We can't do it. Too much pressure. (I gave up drinking after the previous weekends fiasco, but that's a whole 'nother story). So we all sat there like boring lumps on a log. Could we maintain this sobriety? Could we not rip each other apart in our usual back stabbing way? Would that all be too boring for a TV Show?

No, No and Yes! Sobriety lasted all of 12 minutes. Three inquisitive, soul-bearing questions in, by producers JILL and ALLIE, and the liquor started flowing freely. XTACIE and I worked the Bar, while BETS showed the Girls around. Introducing them to all our regulars. Oh, what a sight we are when on a roll. We can definitely entertain a crowd. But let's face it. The place is dated and so are the Bartenders. A fresh look and some fresh

meat? Keep you posted!!

Onward.. I made it to my new favoritest Hot Spot... Evaaa. TRATTORIA LONGO in Westerly, by the Railroad Station was wonderful. Went with Miss Sam and it was very busy. I arrived first and after asking the hostess about sitting at the Bar and she said to go ahead. But after I seated my ass in my chair, I was informed that the bar seats at my end, were all reserved. Six of them!! Huh? I had paraded across a packed room, seductively removed my jacket, placed it possessively around my bar stool and sat to face the entire room, only to be told I had to move?



Joanna & Ronnie

Never one to take "NO" lightly, I secretly begged and cajoled the Bartender, a beautiful brunette. "When are the next people coming? Can't I just sit here til they get here? I eat fast." Well, it worked, as my begging frequently does. It was 6:30 and she informed me the next guests would not be arriving for an hour. An hour? Plenty of time!. My beautiful niece SAM arrived and we had the Famous MEATBALL AND SALAD, along with a Peartini for myself and the EGGPLANT TOWER and

PASTA. Fabulous!!

I was introduced to JERRY LONGO, owner of LONGO'S. and learned that after I graciously gave up my seats to their rightful owners, and headed over to PERKS AND CORKS, that LONGO'S turned down the lights, turned up the music and turned the restaurant into a Dance Party after I had left...Why??? Why couldn't I have stayed? Why did the next people have to show up for their reservation (KELLI and KYLE, friends of mine, so my guilt forced me to quickly give up my seat...uggg) Next time, Mr Longo, next time....

Local News:MICHAEL CHICORIA is apparently looking to a short-bit of time off in the near future and then off to a very busy summer. Michael is an amazing local artist who I enjoy seeing whenever possible and hopefully it will be a few times at MISQUAMICUT BEACH when they reopen for the 2013 season!! MARC BERARDO'S name has been thrown around by many lately, including my good friend BARBETTE, so I'm off to see him when he gets back from his Florida Trip, playing with WOODY PER-NELL.

Congratulations to CHRIS MACKAY AND THE TONESHIFTERS for their nomination for the NEW ENGLAND MUSIC AWARDS held in LOWELL, MA. The Band is also nominated for the WHALIES, along with many other wonderful groups. Please take the time to vote on-line at ..WAILINGCITY.COM. Many fantastic bands and categories, including multi-talented Songwrither MARCO FRUCHT. Voting is fun!! I would also like to all my BarFly Fans to say a little prayer for Sweet DORIAN MUR-RAY...keep on fighting the fight!

Wow...finally after about a year, I read my BARFLY Emails (changed my address and had not looked back)...and got a lovely piece of Fanmail? From a reader. Apparently the stories of my life are Not Thrilling Him...not



www.Swaves.com

One Single Bit...my advice? Stop Reading, please! I no longer wish to cause irreparable harm to his soul. Apparently, he has not picked up on the fact that my sister owns the HANDLEBAR CAFE and that I work there, occasionally. He would like the Bar never mentioned again. Sorry, Sweetie. This is My Journal...get it? And no, I don't get out much!!

Well, My Loves...my sweet, sweet Flies...it's been Six Years! Six Years of attempting to entertain you (at least some) and I hope I've offered you a chance to smile throughout some part of your day. With all the terrible things that seem to be occurring almost daily in our lives, sometimes a little self-deprecating humor goes a long way. Learn to laugh at yourself, along with being proud of what you can manage to accomplish each day. It helps make life a little easier to live. Next month...BAR RESCUE PART DEUX..MYRTLE BEACH BIKE WEEK, RHODE ISLAND TATTOO EXPO and RONNIE'S 50TH! Gonna Be a Wild One!!

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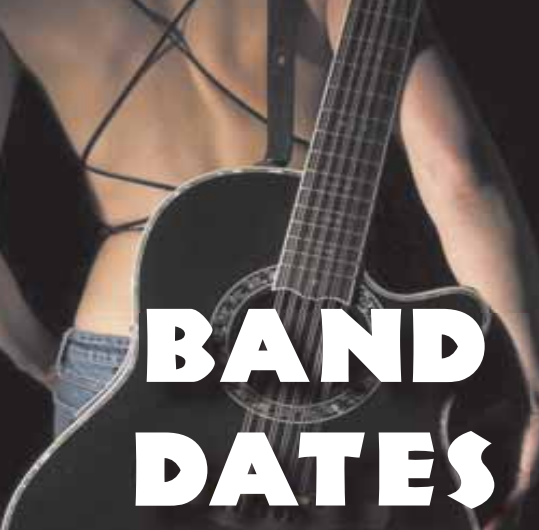
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BAND DATES

ANDY & BETHANY

3 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
4,11,17,25 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7pm
5 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 5-8
16 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8pm
23 - Octagon, Mystic, CT 6:30pm
26 - Paddy's, Misquamicut, RI 3-7
29 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 7pm
31 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT

A2Z ACOUSTIC DUO

4,10,25 - Haversham, Westerly, RI
5 - Legion, Moosup, CT 3pm
9,23 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8pm
11 - Dogwatch, Stonington, CT
17 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT 5pm
24 - Longshots, Montville, CT
26 - Lyme Tavern, Niantic, CT 5pm
31 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30pm

AZALEA DRIVE

11 - Hot Rods, New London, CT
17 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT

BEN KANE

3 - Donovan's Reef, Branford, CT
11 - Penny Lane Pub, Old Saybrook, CT 8pm
17,30 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8pm
19 - Saltwater Farms, Stonington, CT 3pm
23 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT 8pm
24 - La Vita Gustosa, E. Haddam, CT
25 - Strawberry Park, Preston, CT 12pm
25 - Lyme Tavern, Niantic, CT
26 - Preston Ridge, Preston, CT 12pm
31 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 7pm

BOHEMIAN PICNIC

9 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
17 - Richoni's, Groton, CT 6-9pm

BRANDT TAYLOR

3 - Sweet Tomato, Pascoag, RI
4,17 - Lime Bar, Simsbury, CT
5 - Dreamers, Barre, MA 4pm
6 - Hungry Tiger, Manchester, CT

10 SOUND WAVES

8 - Blackeyed Sally's, Hartford, CT 8pm
10 - American Eagle, Willington, CT 5pm
10 - Bella's Bistro, Putnam, CT
11 - Hazard Grill, Enfield, CT 7pm
24 - Skybox, Southwick, MA
26 - Greendale's, Worcester, MA 8pm
31 - Lakeview, Coventry, CT

DAN STEVENS

2 - Black Eyed Sally's, Hartford, CT
4 - Blues Guitar 101, Stafford Springs, CT
5 - Delta Grill, New York, NY
8 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT
9 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
10 - Sportsmen's Club, E. Lyme, CT
11 - Crown & Hammer, Collinsville, CT
12 - Burke's Tavern, Niantic, CT
14 - Dolphin Striker, Portsmouth, NH
17 - Suds Pub, Bethel, ME
18 - Harbor Inn, York Harbor, ME
19 - Neighbor Day, New London, CT
23 - Smokin' With Chris, Southington, CT
25 - Daniel Packer Inn, Mystic, CT
26 - Holmberg Orchards, Gales Ferry, CT
28 - Red Lion, Stockbridge, MA
29 - Vincent's, Worcester, MA
30 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT

DAN WATSON

3 - Latitudes 41, Mystic, CT 7pm
5 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT
9 - Bridge, Westerly, RI 8pm
10,14,28 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
16 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
24 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
27 - Windjammer, Westerly, RI 1pm

THE DRAWBRIDGE BAND

4 - Long Shots, Uncasville, CT

EIGHT TO THE BAR

3 - Blu Parrot, Westport, CT
4 - Red Rock Cafe, Hartford, CT
5 - Elks Club, Leominster, MA 7:30
10 - Maple Tree, Simsbury, CT
11 - Charity Ball, W. Htfd, CT
17 - Spaceland Ballroom, Hamden, CT
18 - Oak Bar & Grill, Cranston, RI
27 - Captain's Cove, Bridgeport, CT
31 - Owenego Tennis Club, Branford, CT

THE GOAT ROPERS

10 - VFW, Taunton, MA 8pm
31 - St. John's, Fall River, MA 7:30

GOPHERBROKE

4 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT
11 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT
17 - Tuscany Grill, Middletown, CT 7-11

18 - Fennagains, Hebron, CT 7-10
24 - Lulu's, Enfield, CT 7-11
26 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT

GREEN TEA

16 - Malted Barley, Westerly, RI
31 - Wood River Inn, Richmond, RI

HOPE ROAD

27 - Skipper's Dock, Stonington, CT 3-7

JAY DEMPSEY & HIGHWAY CALL

28 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 7-10

JEFF ADAMSON

11 - Rotten Apple, Groton, CT
26 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
31 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT

KEEP IT ROLLING BAND

10 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI
25 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT

KEN ATKINS & THE HONKY TONK KIND

3 - Huntington St. Cafe, Shelton CT

KEVIN MANZELLA & HEATHER LEPAGE

10 - Angie's, Pier 27, Mystic, CT
11,18 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
16 - Bridge, Westerly, RI 8-11
22 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8-11
31 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT 10-1

MUNSELL BROTHERS BAND

4 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT
10 - Sneekers, Groton, CT

PHIL NEWLAND

8 - Stone Fleet Tavern, New London, CT
18 - Salt Water Farm, Stonington, CT 3-5
23 - Boathouse, Mystic, CT 7pm

THE PIRANHA BROTHERS

3 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT
17 - Elks, Westbrook, CT 6:30pm
24 - Free Spirit Cafe, Vernon, CT
31 - Salvatore's, Springfield, MA

P.J. TAUTKUS

24 - Brown Derby, Montville, CT 5-8
30 - Indian Head, Branford, CT 5-8

ROADWORK BAND

24 - Richoni's, Groton, CT

RONNY COX

17 - All Souls, New London, CT
18 - Linden Tree, Wakefield, MA

SAM E. JAMES

7 - Billy Wilsons, Norwich, CT

STORMY C'S

30 - Bridge, Westerly, RI 8-11

STYFF KITTY

4 - CC O'Brien's, Pawcatuck, CT
17 - Marley's, Warwick, RI
19 - Windjammer, Misquamicut, RI
27 - The Andrea, Misquamicut, RI

SUE MENHART BAND

3 - Riverwalk, Mystic, CT 8pm
10 - Fairgrounds, Brooklyn, CT 8pm
24 - Common Loon, E. Lyme, CT
26 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 2pm
31 - Burke's, Niantic, CT 8pm

SUNDAY GRAVY

3 - Stash's, New London, CT 6:30-10:30
4 - Malted Barley, Westerly, RI
9 - Harp & Dragon, Norwich, CT
24 - Acoustic Brew, Voluntown, CT
25 - John's Café, Mystic, CT 8-12

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CONCERT DATES

Aretha Franklin

26 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Asleep At The Wheel

9 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Bela Fleck

& Marcus Roberts

9 - Garde Arts, New London, CT

Bob Seger

& The Silver Bullet Band

4 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Brad Paisley

18 - Comcast Theatre, Hartford, CT

Carl Palmer Band

10 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Dave Mason

17 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Debbie Davies Band

4 - Cafe Nine, New Haven, CT

Foreigner

5 - MGM Grand, Mashantucket, CT

Jackie Evancho

9 - Perf. Arts Ctr., Providence, RI

Mötley Crüe

18 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

The Royal Southern Brotherhood

23,24 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Rush

9 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Shinedown

3 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Spin Doctors

10 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

Toots & The Maytals

25 - Yachting Center, Newport, RI



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PAPPY'S DAY ~ SUNDAY MAY 26th

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~ Starting at 1pm

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FRIDAY LIVE MUSIC 5-8

ERIC JOHNSON	May 10th
A-2-Z DUO	May 17th
P.J. TUTKUS	May 24th
FRANK & CHRIS	May 31st
T-RAY	June 7th

Friday Nights In May

DJ A1C

9-Close ~ **NO COVER**

\$2 Drinks for the Ladies

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PAPPY'S DAY

SUNDAY MAY 26th

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Back Patio/Beer Garden

Live Band - **NO SHAME**

Band ~ May 11th

BRANDED

Band ~ May 18th

HIGH OCTANE

Band ~ May 25th

**HOLLYWOOD
HARRY**

Band ~ June 1st

AZALEA DRIVE

Band ~ June 8th

RED LIGHT



By Rex Rutkoski

With many bands, muses Neil Peart, you wonder if they are trying to be good or popular.

"It's implicit in our music that we are trying to be good," says Peart, lyricist and drummer extraordinaire for one of rock's enduring bands, Rush, who headline a May 9 concert at Mohegan Sun Arena.

Rabid supporters, who long felt that this cerebral, progressive Canadian rock trio, which amassed huge music sales (estimated at more than 40 million units worldwide), set records and filled arenas, never earned the critical respect that it deserved, are receiving vindication with the news that their heroes are being inducted April 18 into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame – 13 years after it became eligible and 44 years after it formed.

Dave Grohl and Taylor Hawkins of the Foo Fighters are presenting Rush in the ceremony that will be broadcast on HBO May 18 at 9 p.m. ET/PT.

Rush, as fans see it, are winning one for the good guys.

"We are especially thrilled for the many, many dedicated Rush fans to whom this nomination is so very important," the band said collectively in a news release last fall.

"I don't think Rush could be anything without having the support of fans," guitarist Alex Lifeson says. "They are among the best in the world. It's really incredible to us to see their dedication."

All ages identify themselves as those fans, he says. Parents who grew up with the music turned their kids on to it.

"We hear from people who say they were turned on by parents or a friend or an older brother or sister and it's been a real discovery for them," he adds. "It's very gratifying. It's a really diverse group of people, including doctors, architects and pilots."

Shawn Hammond, writing in Premier Guitar Magazine, suggests reason for such loyalty, noting, "Rush is arguably the longest running, most original and most influential progressive rock band ever," with their influence heard in the work of such bands as Pantera, Smashing Pumpkins, Primus,

14 SOUND WAVES

Death Cab for Cutie, the Mars Volta and Coheed and Cambria, among many others.

The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame cites the trio as "equal parts Led Zepelin, Cream and King Crimson...bursting out of Canada in the early 1970s with one of the most powerful and bombastic sounds of the decade."

The Hall of Fame points to its 1980 "The Spirit of Radio," as one of the most "genre-defining" songs in rock.

By the numbers, Rush has 24 gold and 14 platinum records (three of which were multi-platinum), and it is said they are behind only the Beatles and Rolling Stones for the most consecutive gold or platinum studio albums by a rock band.

And they are not done yet!

Their new, ambitious "Clockwork Angels" concept album is drawing some interesting attention, including Guitar World calling it "more complexly beautiful than anything they've ever done, yet it's filled with a warm, human spirit, which makes its grand themes richer."

In a spin-off, lyricist Peart also collaborates with Kevin J. Anderson, best-selling science fiction author, on "Clockwork Angels: The Novel."

The novel expands on Peart's storyline for the album, in which a young man's quest to follow his dreams is caught between the grandiose forces of order and chaos.

Amazon.com offers this description: "He travels across a lavish and colorful world of steampunk and alchemy with lost cities, pirates, anarchists, exotic carnivals, and a rigid Watchmaker who imposes precision on every aspect of daily life. The mind-bending story is complemented with rich paintings by the five-time Juno Award winner for Best Album Design, Hugh Syme."

Rush's music is a reflection of its collective interests, says Peart. "It is made by thinking people for thinking people. We never talk down to our audience. I presume they are as smart as we are," he says.

He says he appreciates being able to address some of the heavy questions of life. "I have the luxury of time between albums to sit and look out the window all day and feel I'm doing my job (compiling material for lyrics). There's a curiosity about life and interest in life and desire to have more," he says. "It's a luxury that I'm allowed to be contemplative. There are common interests and excitements I can take time to articulate for people. That should be our role."

He says one of the sources of his creativity is excitement. "I get excited about things. The joy of creation is a small little spark," he explains. "Suddenly you realize it's going to work. That's the joy you get – that it's going to work. Then you have to make it work. The little spark gets me interested."

He is intrigued by the process of creativity. It's about "enjoying the mountain while we're climbing it," he has said. "I like both the process and the results. My favorite kind of job is one that is finished, but I do love the process of it," he says.

Keeping something fresh after all these years is not something done without considerable thought and work, suggests Geddy Lee, vocalist, bassist, keyboardist.

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