

Sound Waves



Volume 25
Issue 5
May 2015

MICHELE D'AMOUR
EAR CANDY

for the SOUL
JOSE GONZALEZ
BILLY HECTOR
CLUB LISTINGS
BAND LISTINGS
CONCERT INFO
RESTAURANTS
REVIEWS & MORE

An
Interview
with

THE WORD

1990

2015

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Sunday 31st - **BANG!** 2pm



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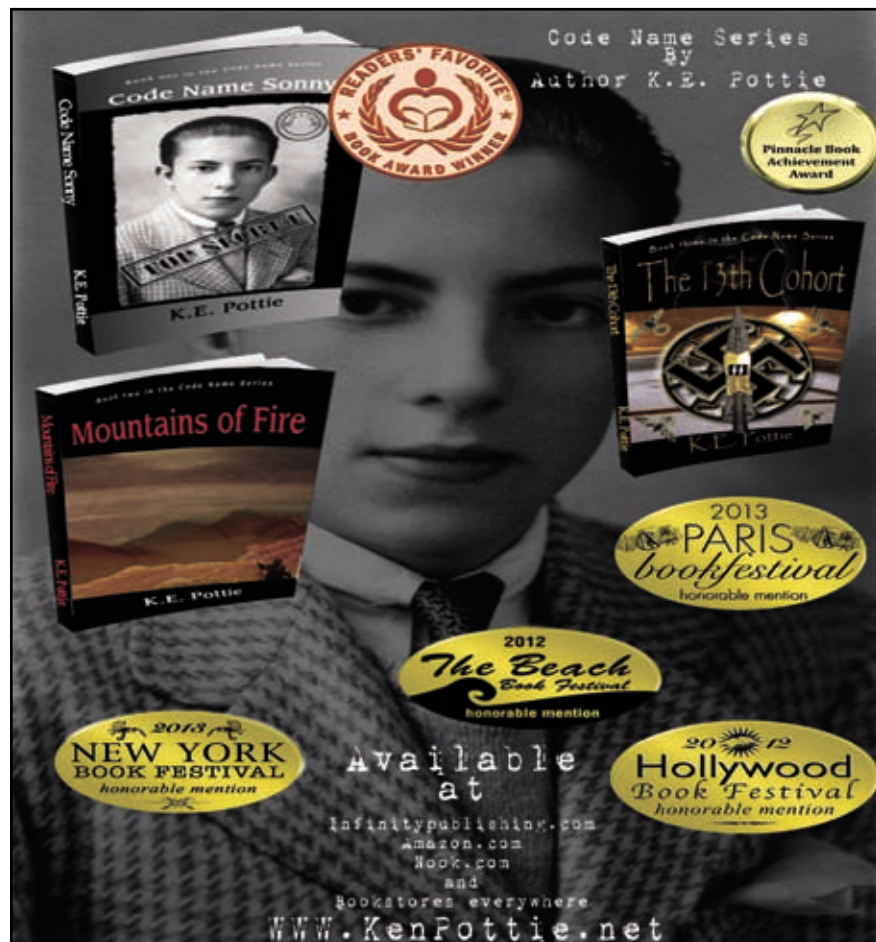
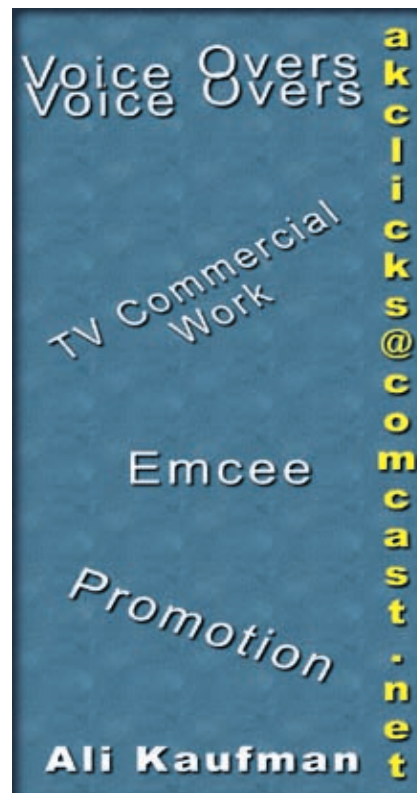
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Memorial Day Weekend Celebration LIVE MUSIC The Official start of Summer! Enjoy it at Sunset Ribs				1 James Rice 7pm	2 Guido 7pm	3 Jamie 4pm
4	5 Cinco de Mayo T Ray Party 5pm			8 Stef Denegre 6pm DJ Rob Minto 10pm	9 Matt Vizzo 6pm	10 MOTHER'S DAY Sidekick Duo 4pm
	12 James Rice 5pm	FREE Ride to and from Sunset Ribs! Call Jeff 860-266-RIBS (7427)		15 Tat Hollar 6pm DJ Rob Minto 10pm	16 Sean Rivers 6pm	17 Jamie 4pm
	19 Guido 5pm	20	21 Ethan Cash 8pm	22 Brannon and Co. 6pm DJ Rob Minto 10pm	23 Stuck Local 6pm	24 Tony Gabriel That Band 7-11pm
25 Dean Cardinale 2pm	26 James Rice 5pm		28 T Ray 8pm	29 Seth 6pm DJ Rob Minto 10pm	30 Guido & Tony 6pm	31 John Maziraz 1st Responders 5pm
1 Dean Cardinale 5pm	2 Dean Cardinale 5pm	3 James Rice 7pm	4 Ethan Cash 8pm	NEW YEARS EVE PARTY! Saturday May 30th Come Ring in the New Summer!		

INSIDE THE WAVE

Music Notes	Pg. 6
Bar Fly Journals	Pg. 8
Local Beat.....	Pg.10
Band Dates	Pg. 12
Concert Dates	Pg. 13
Cover Story.....	Pg. 16
Hearing Aid	Pg. 20
Cooking	Pg. 22
Classified.....	Pg.26

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4 SOUND WAVES

Sound Waves

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Thurs May 7: Mass-Conn-Fusion Duo
Fri May 8: The Sidewinders
Sat May 9: kGb Band
Thurs May 14: FRANKENPHIL
Fri May 15: Ramblin' Dan Stevens
Sat May 16: Christine Cooney Jazz Quartet
Thurs May 21: Roger Ceresi Trio
Fri May 22: Marcy Kelly Trio
Sat May 23: The Mystic Horns
Thurs May 28: Christine Cooney
Fri May 29: Dan Watson
Sat May 30: Rock 'n Soul Revue

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Saturday, May 23rd
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Atlantic Ave. Band 10pm

Sunday, May 24th
Tiki Beach DJ Dance Party 1pm-5pm

CHOO Acoustic 5pm-9pm **SUGAR** 10pm

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Saturday May 30th
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MUSIC NOTES

"The Centurions"

By Mark T. Gould

Some people find it a bit disconcerting to celebrate the birthday of someone who has passed away.

In my mind, there's little problem with that, particularly when it's for musicians or other performers that we're celebrating, because the art they created in their lifetimes still lives on.

That's why it's remarkable that, this year, we're celebrating the 100th birthday of five of the most influential musical artists of the 20th century.

Frank Sinatra. Billie Holiday. Muddy Waters. Les Paul. Willie Dixon.

That, my friends, is a musical quintet destined to be appreciated forever.

Sinatra, whose actual birthday is not until December 12, certainly needs no introduction. The saloon singer nonpareil, in the finest sense of the words, he literally transformed popular music in the middle of the 20th century, along with making those "bobby soxers" swoon at the Paramount Theatre in New York.

The Sinatra family has carefully guarded his image and legacy, and has widespread plans for the celebration.

"Sinatra: All or Nothing at All," a four-hour documentary premiered on HBO last month. The presentation, from Oscar winner Alex Gibney, traces the singer's career through his farewell "Retirement Concert" in 1971.

"Sinatra: An American Icon," a memorabilia exhibit from the Grammy Museum is now on display at the New York Library for the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center in New York. It will remain there through September 4 before traveling to other U.S. cities.

And, of course, this being 2015, there must be a downloadable music "app." "Frank Sinatra 100 App," featuring the singer's complete music catalog, is now available to download or stream online, at both Google Music and iTunes.

Holliday, whose birthday was April 7, did for jazz singing what Sinatra did for pop. Her tragic, somewhat bewildering, life was cut far too short, but her influence on a veritable raft of singers is undeniable.

The historic Apollo Theatre in New York inducted Holiday into its "Walk of Fame" last month, and then, four days later, hosted a tribute concert by Cassandra Wilson, a ultra- talented jazz and pop singer in the Holliday tradition.

Wilson is only one of many singers to release Holiday tribute albums this year, hers being called "Coming Forth By Day." Others include Jose' James' "Yesterday I Had the Blues: The Music of Billie Holiday;" Lara Downes' "A Billie Holiday Songbook," and "Lady Day's" own "Billie Holiday: The Centennial Collection," a career-spanning retrospective from her record company.

Finally, many of the vagaries of her life are sorted out in "Billie Holiday: The Musician and the Myth," a new book written by acclaimed musical historian and author John Szwed, which features parts of Holiday's autobiography, "Lady Sings the Blues," that were edited out when that book was published many years ago.

It's not entirely clear when Muddy Waters was actually born, because

McKinley Morganfield, Waters' actual name, at times claimed to have been born in 1913, 1914 and 1915. Nevertheless, the man who probably had more influence on blues music than anyone this side of B.B. King, is also being celebrated this year.

In "Muddy Waters at Red Rocks," Waters' music is the foundation of a fiery new live album/DVD by contemporary blues guitarist Joe Bonamassa. In addition, guitarist John Scofield and vocalist/instrumentalist Taj Mahal played tribute to him in New York's Jazz at Lincoln Center program last month.

Finally, the closing concert of the Chicago Blues Festival, held in Waters' adopted hometown, will be played in his honor on June 14, with musicians including his sons Mud and Big Bill Morganfield, and former Muddy Waters Band members Bob Margolin and Jerry Portnoy.

The father of the steel-bodied guitar, Les Paul, will be honored with "Les Paul's Big Sound Experience" an interactive exhibit will allow visitors to mix and share music as they explore Paul's musical legacy. The mobile tour starts June 9 in New York's Times Square, and will travel the country through next year.

New York's Hard Rock Cafe hosts a night of music honoring Paul, also on June 9, with announced attendees including Steve Miller and Journey's Neal Schon. Four of Paul's Capitol Records albums will see their first digital release this year, followed by three previously unreleased ones.

Willie Dixon's name may not be as well known to casual music fans as Waters, but his influence on blues music is equally titanic. The writer of such seminal blues standards as "Hoochie Coochie Man," "Little Red Rooster," and "Spoonful," to name just a few, and a session musician for everyone from Chuck Berry to Little Walter, and, of course, Muddy Waters, Dixon will also be feted by a tribute concert at the June 14 Chicago Blues Festival gig, featuring Dixon's former bandmate Billy Branch. In addition, he will be inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame on June 18 at New York's Marriott Marquis Hotel.

So, even though they are not physically around us anymore, it would be a misnomer to suggest that these five musical giants' influence and musical stature doesn't live on.

So, Happy Birthday!!





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Sun. May 24th **Rum & Steel** 1pm on the patio
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Mon. May 25th **Out Take**
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	21 Reggae Night w/ DJ Bobby	15 THE CHOOS	
	28 ANDY & BETHANY	22 THE NEW TALKS	
		29 PIRATES FOR PEACE	HAPPY HOUR 4-7 1/2 Priced Wings \$5 Apps Beer Specials in house only

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Saturday, June 27

12:00-1:00 Professor Harp
1:00-1:30 Student Spotlight
1:30-2:30 Lisa Marie and Johnny Juxo
2:30-3:00 Student Spotlight
3:00-4:00 Bad News Barnes and the Brethren of the Blues
4:00-4:30 Student Spotlight
4:30-5:30 Greg Sherrod Blues Band
5:30-6:00 Student Spotlight
6:00-7:00 Neal Vitullo and the Vipers w/ Dave Howard
7:30-8:30 Jay Stollman w/ special guest Debbie Davies
9:00-10:30 The Weight: Playing songs of The Band Featuring former members of The Band, Rick Danko, & Levon Helm Band

Sunday, June 28

12:00-1:00 Muzzy Horn (a.k.a. Geezer Young) w/ Woolly Mammoth (Gray Hallberg, Eric Lasai, Dan Jacobsen & Toby Halsey)
1:00-1:30 Student Spotlight
1:30-2:30 Paul Gabriel
2:30-3:00 Student Spotlight
3:00-4:00 Greg Piccolo and Heavy Juice
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SOUND WAVES 7

BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn

Hello My Sweet BarFlies..Well, we got the Sunshine part of the whole Spring Thing Goin' On, but as far as actual warmth, well?? Maybe that's something to ask for in May! Mother's Day this month!! Say "Thank You" to that special Mom in your life. For me? Miss DAWN MERSHON, may your Day be filled with Love, Laughter and Sunshine XOXOXO! Happy Mother's Day!

Headed out this month with Sweet Scottie, for an afternoon of adventure on a beautiful, sunny day. First we hit up ON THE WATERFRONT on PEQUOT AVE. in New London. Sitting right on the water (get it?), the views

are phenomenal and with Happy Hour prices from 3-6, Scottie and I were in Heaven. I ordered the South Beach Martini and it was phenomenal! Scottie? a Bud :(He needs to get out more. Loved our bartender NICKI and we will be back for our Dockside Dining!

Had a FireBall at PIER 27 with the Gang, including

Handsome Jackie Hilbert and his entourage JEN SHAW, LINDA FLANERY and ANDREA SANZO. Try the Roast Beef Panini while you watch the Games. Scrumptious! Then we headed to CC OBRIEN'S for a DIRTY EDDY lemonade flavored Vodka and Seven-Up which tasted like a fizzy lemonade!! Yummy!!

They are holding TRIVIA TIME USA on Tuesday's so stop by, enjoy a burger and answer some crazy questions with your friends, or visit them on the 16th to see HAPPY & THE MOONSHINE!!

Criminy! Did I forget to mention I became an Ordained Minister with AMERICAN FELLOWSHIP CHURCH (on the internet!!), just call me Sister Stephanie) and was absolutely thrilled to preside over the marriage of my niece ELIZABETH to her girl VANESSA! Yup, I was AMAZING! The Girls were pretty fabulous themselves! I had the crowd in tears, it was very emotional, but like the RockStar I profess to be, I kept it together and made it a ceremony to remember! And yes, I'm available for Your Wedding! and promise to make Your Special Day a Memorable One!! Oh, the places We'll Go!!

JOHNNY and I hit up the ROADHOUSE recently, days before their Armwrestling Competition, which judging by the pix on FaceBook, was a helluva good time! JOHNNY thrilled our bartender LAURA with tooth-
8 SOUND WAVES

pick bar tricks before we headed over to BROWN DERBY to see talented bartender STEVE, owner DOUG and then just happened to run into friends MARK and DARLA VEILLEUX enjoying the DERBY'S World Famous Wings! Happy Birthday, Mark! Was Told that Country Singer TAT HOLLER was putting on a show at the DERBY a few nights later and BRANDED is in line to play later this month. We will also be stopping on our Poker Run!!

Onward Christian Soldiers...oops sorry, wrong story..last stop but certainly not least, was a quick stop at VOODOO GRILL to say "Hello" before heading into work that night. The delicious smells emanating from VOODOO GRILL were tantalizingly spicy and calling me like the Pied Piper, but



I hadda hit and run! Saw my Number 1 Fan, ADAM (U GO, BOY!), along with old friend JOEL JOHNSON, looking fabulous and owners VAL and WES! Snapped a quick pic with Grandson GIANNI and WES, (missed the CROES TOES) then out the door we went. Have to get me some Pulled Pork or a

CatFish Wrap! Yummy!!

Busy, busy, busy..PAPPY'S RUN! Many different events that day, but we will be heading to MIKES FAMOUS HARLEY DAVIDSON on May 24 at 9:30. Be at MIKE'S for 10, kickstands up at 11, then back to MIKE'S by 12:45 for food, refreshments and entertainment by ALTER EGO! Can't beat that with a stick!! Should be an amazing day in Honor of our favorite "no helmet guy" PAPPY! Definitely see many of you at this ever changing, but always the same entertaining event!



Going to try for FRANKENPHIL again! May 14 @ HARBOUR HOUSE! Also playing this month KATIE PERKINS UNPLUGGED at BILLY WILSON'S AGEING STILL in Norwich on the 15th of May. And Many Artists have taken advantage of the LIVE LUNCH interview and streaming music on Thursday's with

the NEW LONDON DAY. The TERRIBLE ROARS and REVEREND FREAKCHILD will be playing on the 14th and 21st respectively.

Well, I'm sure you may have noticed I've got Spring Fever Goin' Strong. So follow me on FaceBook, message me, and I will do my damndest to get out and see you or at least give you a well-deserved mention in my column. SOUND WAVES MAGAZINE has been going strong for 25 years, as well as my column for 9! EEEE Gads peeps, u been keeping us busy. Get out, shop local, see a band! And to Mr. CARDWELL..or Tiger as I've come to

www.Swaves.com

call him, we have some planning to do! Talk to you soon, My sweet, sweet Flies..Love You Long Time



Romper Stomper Bomper Boo...
Happy Birthday to MIKE GARDNER, ANABEL COLLADO-MONTALBANO, CARRIE SYLVIA, JEFF MCCABE, SWEET MICHAEL CHICORIA, BRIAN GAUDET, JOHN FRIES, ERNIE LOPES, MAC, DEAN SCHLAIS, JEREMY URABANIK, CATHY SIMMS, DAN CAREB, TOM SANTOS, TIM BREAU, JOHN GAVITT, BRIAN BRADLEY, LEE OLIVER, JAY MINICUCCI, NAT PETERSON,

MICHELLE JAMES, CARLO MCCOOL, DEB JENSEN, BOB GLADUE, SABBY CONTINO, TRICIA KIMBALL, KRIS STARK, GREG PICCOLO, ROBIN BENTZ, JOANNE HOLLY, ROXANNE FERRARO, BILLY PEARSTON, JEAN MURRAY, KEVIN MANZELLA, TINAMARIE PLENNINGER, DANNY BROUGH, NICK BURLINGHAM, NEIL ROMA, JESSICA REYNOLDS, JEFF HALL, BRENDA PECKHAM, LISA CLOUGH, SARAH MORRISEY, JOE PRESTI, MIKE HURD, KEN SORENSON, CATHY LARKIN, KAREN MATHEWSON, SHAWN ARSENAULT, RONNY WOYCIK, JOHN COLVERT, I would also like to give a special thank you to all the Mother's in the World, including Miss DAWN MERSHON for being my mom!, and doing so much to make the world a Better Place! Happy Mother's Day!

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Sat

1 Easy Baby Band

**2 We Love the 90's
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**8 Tom Burgess 6-8
DJ Frank Lo 9pm**

9 No Shame

**15 Metal Night
Mile Marker Zero
& Shape**

**16 James Rice
8-12**

**22 Mike Rogoff 6-8
Country Bound 9pm**

**23 New London
Football
Fundraiser**

**29 Federal Q 6-8
DJ Frank Lo 9pm**

**30 Rock-A-Billy!
Automatics
Dress the Part - Specials**

5 Mike Rogoff

6 No Shame

LOCAL BEAT



LONG STANDING, WELL KNOWN NEW LONDON ROCK GROUP "THE REDUCERS" RELEASE THEIR CODA

By Andrew Kerbs

This winter has seen the Reducer's put out their last album, complete with tasty songs about hard work, travel, and fun. What made the Reducers so successful was not just their grit but the fact that they were in the right time and place. For one, their working class New London roots gave the band street-credibility. Secondly, it was the close of the 70s as punk peaked and they had a market of youth weary of pretentious acid rock and hungry for more genuine, straight-ahead rock n roll typical of the 50s and early 60s. By the end of the 80s the Reducers achieved commercial success thanks to their hit "Let's Go" and tours with the Replacements and Ramones. While the band ended a couple years ago with the passing of their bassist Steve Kaika, their spirit and music live on in both the music of their surviving members as well as in their final release "Last Tracks and Lost Songs."

Brevity is the soul of wit and the Reducers' last album sticks to their formula of short, sweet 2-minute-long rockers with great vocals and instrumentalism! Hugh Birdsall's enthusiastic, vibrato-tinged vocals are most evident on the album's opener "Party Train" and Pete Detmold sings with both melody and attitude. "On the Road Again" is as frenetic and high-energy as "Yeah Yeah" or "Rocks" were on earlier albums and "Work to Do" features great "hammer-on" guitar techniques. "Muscle Car Man," a quintessential 60sish American car anthem, features one of the Reducer's juiciest basslines thanks to talent and dexterity of the late Steve Kaika. The album's last 2 songs ("Can't Stop" and "I Believe Anything") go way back to the 80s when the band were still recording on a 4-track tape recorder. This gives those songs a rustic, lo-fidelity vibe typical of good garage rock.

Some of the songs featured on "Last Tracks..." bespeak the wish to escape the daily grind and the excitement once the weekend arrives. "Outta Here" is like a harder, punkier version of Billy Joel's "Movin' Out." "What am I doing here?" Hugh complains as he tries to prevent the pressure and weight of the world from above coming down on him. "Back to Normal," like the nostalgic "Can't Get There," alludes to striving for better times at work and in relationships. Similarly, "On the Weekend" and the anti-authoritarian-tinged "Getaway" are songs of freedom and of the thrill of hitting neon-lit clubs or the beach at dusk after a long workweek. On the Weekend also speaks of the unfortunate regret of having a hangover the following week and features the best twin lead guitar solos since Thin Lizzy.

Any fan of stripped down rock and roll will enjoy the Reducers album "Last Tracks and Lost Songs." The release is a more than fitting tribute to a great bassist and a great band that for over 3 decades provided New London with heros and New England (and the world) with great rock n roll. Be sure to ask for the album from your local music dealer.

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Tuesday 12th - **JAMIE'S JUNK SHOW** 5-8

Friday 15th - **KEVIN MANZELLA
& HEATHER** 9-12

Tuesday 19th - **HART STRINGS** 5-8

Thursday 21st - **MIXED NUTS** 5-8

Thursday 28th - **IZZY** 5-8

Friday 29th - **SECOND TIME AROUND** 9-12

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1 Summer Season is Here!	2 KARAOKE Reunion with Nancy Thomas
8 TBA	9 Jack Wagon
15 False Positive	16 No Shame
22 EQUINOX	23 Steven Daggett Band
29 TBA	30 Perry Hill Band
5 Mindset	6 Black Jade

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BAND DATES

ANDY & BETHANY

2,15,23,29 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7pm
 7 - Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI 6:30pm
 10 - Saltwater Farm, Stonington, CT 3-5
 16 - Dogwatch Café, Stonington, CT
 21 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
 22 - Harp N Hound, Mystic, CT
 23 - Wilcox Park, Westerly, RI 3-5
 24 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 6-9
 28 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

AZALEA DRIVE

9 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
 25 - Bridge, Westerly, RI 1pm

BILL STAINES

8 - 6 On The Square Center, Oxford, NY
 9 - First Encounter, Eastham, MA
 15 - All Souls, New London, CT

THE CARTELLS

1 - Community, W. Hartford, CT 8pm
 3 - Bill Library, Groton, CT 3pm
 6 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
 9 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7:30pm
 10,23,24 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3pm
 15 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT 8pm
 20 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 7:30pm
 22 - Maple Tree, Simsbury, CT 8:30pm
 25 - Point Inn, Old Saybrook, CT 12:30pm
 29 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm
 31 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 3:30pm

DAN STEVENS

1 - Rock Harbor, Rockland, ME
 2 - Tucker's Pub, S. Norway, ME
 5,12,19,26 - Nightingale's Café, Old Lyme, CT
 6,20 - The Fez, Stamford, CT
 7 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
 8 - Black Hall Grille, Old Lyme, CT
 9 - Sheffield Auditorium, Old Lyme, CT
 10 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT
 13 - Darien Social, Darien, CT
 14 - Smokin' With Chris, Southington, CT
 15 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT
 16 - New York Pizza, Plainfield, CT
 22 - Crown & Hammer, Collinsville, CT
 24 - Arts Center, Rowayton, CT
 27 - Old Lyme Inn, Old Lyme, CT
 29 - Daniel Packer Inn, Mystic, CT
 12 SOUND WAVES

30 - Raven Hollow, Westfield, MA

DAN WATSON

3 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 5pm
 5,31 - Angie's Pier 27, Mystic, CT 5pm
 6 - Mystic Pizza II, N. Stonington, CT 7:30pm
 8 - Bridge, Westerly, RI 8pm
 10,24 - Tara's Pub, Matunuck, RI 3:30pm
 13,27 - Tipping Chair, Southington, CT 7pm
 14 - Red 36, Mystic, CT 7pm
 15 - Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI 7pm
 16 - Lansdowne Pub, Uncasville, CT 6pm
 17 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 1pm
 19,22,26 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
 21,28 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT 8pm
 23 - Dog Watch Cafe, Stonington, CT
 29 - Harbor House, Mystic, CT 8:30pm

EIGHT TO THE BAR

1 - Yantic River Inn, Yantic, CT 8pm

THE FAKE EXPERIENCE

1 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
 8 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
 30 - Paddy's, Misquamicut, RI

FRANKENPHIL

1,22 - McBride's, Providence, RI 7pm
 2,16,30 - Seehund, New London, CT 6pm
 3 - Taras, Matunuck, RI 3:30pm
 8 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30pm
 9 - Vines On Church, Middletown, CT 7pm
 14 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 7pm
 15,29 - Vines On Church, Middletown, CT 8pm
 17 - Busker's, Newport, RI 12pm
 24 - Fifth Element, Newport, RI 12pm
 31 - Midtown Oyster, Newport, RI 4pm

THE GOAT ROPERS

8,29 - VFW, Taunton, MA 8-12
 16 - Holy Ghost Club, Westport, MA 7:30
 30 - Phoenix, Shirley, MA
 31 - VFW, Westport, MA 1-5

GOPHERBROKE

16 - Blackthorn House, Easton, MA 8pm
 22 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT

GREEN TEA

14 - Parlour, Providence, RI

HOPE ROAD

1 - Strange Brew, Norwich, CT
 22 - Ocean Mist, Matunuck Beach, RI

JAMES HARRIS

1,8 - Latitude 41, Mystic, CT 7pm
 5,12,19,26 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
 6,9,13,20,23,27,30 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
 14 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 7pm
 2,15,22,29 - Venice, Westerly, RI 8pm
 16 - Dogwatch, Stonington, CT
 17 - Maugle Vineyard, Ledyard, CT 2pm
 23 - Windjammer, Westerly, RI 1pm

28 - Perks&Corks, Westerly, RI

KEVIN MANZELLA

9 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7-10

KEVIN MANZELLA & HEATHER LEPAGE

15 - Angies, Mystic, CT
 22,30 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7-10

MINDSET

2 - Wood River Inn, Hope Valley, RI

NO SHAME

9 - Old Roadhouse, New London, CT
 16 - Sandy's Lighthouse, Westerly, RI
 29 - Bulkeley House, New London, CT

THE PIRANHA BROTHERS

15 - Baci Grill, Cromwell, CT 7-11
 25 - Angelicos, E. Hampton, CT 4-8

PIRATES FOR PEACE

1 - Narragansett Cafe, Jamestown, RI
 22 - Atrium, Foxwoods, CT
 23 - Andrea, Misquamicut Beach, RI
 29 - VooDoo Grille, Mystic, CT
 30 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT

RED LIGHT

2 - Uncle Kranky's, Preston, CT
 9 - Longshots, Norwich, CT
 15 - Mardi Gras, Cranston, RI
 16 - Music Lady, Plainfield, CT 6pm
 23 - Strawberry Park, Preston, CT 7:30pm

ROB BRANNON

1 - Mr. Z's, Plainfield, CT 7pm
 7,28 - Hard Rock Café, Uncasville, CT 8pm
 8 - Longshots, Norwich, CT 7pm
 21,29 - Glass House, Norwich, CT 5:30pm
 22 - Sunset Ribs, Niantic, CT
 30 - Lake Tavern, E. Hampton, CT 10pm

SUNDAY GRAVY

2 - Malted Barley, Westerly, RI
 8 - Dan's Place, W. Greenwich, RI
 9 - Hot Rods, New London, CT
 15 - Wood River Inn, Richmond, RI
 16 - Sneeker's, Groton, CT
 17 - Back Porch, Old Saybrook, CT 3-7
 31 - Ocean Mist, Matunuck, RI 3:30-6:30

THE SYSTEM

8 - Freespirit, Vernon, CT
 16 - Burkes, Niantic, CT
 23 - City Sports, Vernon, CT

2 CAT ZOO

2 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT

VILLAGE JAMMERS

14 - Sneekers, Groton, CT

22 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm

VINCE THOMPSON & THE NEXT FUN THING

2 - Old Orchard Farm, E. Lyme, CT 7-11
 8 - Cilantro's, New London, CT 7-10

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13 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

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15 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Delbert McClinton

9 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Earth, Wind & Fire

21 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Ed Sheeran

23 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Godsmack

10 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Jason Aldean

29 - Xfinity Theatre, Hartford, CT

Joan Jett

And The Blackhearts

24 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Kris Allen

15 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

Leo Kottke

17 - Infinity Hall, Norfolk, CT

Lyle Lovett/John Hiatt

2 - College St Hall, New Haven, CT

Lynyrd Skynyrd

29 - Foxwoods, Mashantucket, CT

NRBQ

2 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Robert Cray Band

9 - Garde Arts, New London, CT

Samantha Fish

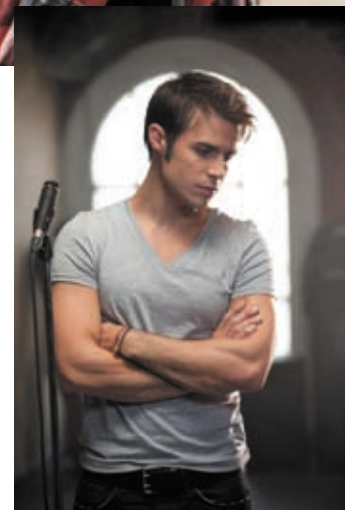
31 - Infinity Hall, Norfolk, CT

Todd Rundgren

10 - Infinity Hall, Norfolk, CT

The Who

24 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT



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SATURDAY NIGHT- BAND
MAY 16th

AQUANETT

SATURDAY NIGHT- BAND
MAY 23rd

BRANDED

SATURDAY NIGHT- BAND
MAY 30th

PIRATES FOR PEACE

SATURDAY NIGHT- BAND
JUNE 6th

JACK WAGON

SATURDAY NIGHT
MAY 16th
-BAND-



AQUANETT

ALL 80'S MUSIC

THE WORD



By Tom Matthew

The Gathering of the Vibes is celebrating its 20th year as New England's premier music festival. From July 30 to Aug 2, Bridgeport welcomes many of the top acts in the jam band, funk, blues and rock scenes. One of the most exciting acts they'll be hosting this year is a gospel-blues supergroup you all know as The Word.

The Word is comprised of some amazing talent. Everyone knows that Robert Randolph is one of the top pedal steel guitar players in the world. Add to his fiery, energy-laden style the funky sounds of keyboard virtuoso John Medeski. Then to drive home the beat, you have the southern blues-rock veterans of the North Mississippi All Stars, including Luther Dickinson, Cody Dickinson and Chris Chew.

The Word is releasing their second album on May 4th entitled "Soul Food". It's been almost 14 years since their original self-titled album came out to critical acclaim. I had the opportunity to speak with both Robert Randolph and John Medeski about The Word, the new album, and playing at great music festivals like the Gathering of the Vibes.

Tom Matthew: John Medeski and the North Mississippi All Stars brought you into The Word almost 15 years ago. How did it feel to come together in the studio after all that time and record another Word album?

Robert Randolph: It's been great. I think it's perfect timing, given the state of all the depression that's going on around the country and the world. To have us come along and create music that's positive, really has these great messages, has a mixture of gospel, blues, and rock, and it really just makes you feel good. I think the music is actually coming back around to artists and roots bands embracing roots music again. I think it's really the perfect timing for it all.

TM: I agree with you, the world needs positive music now more than ever.

RR: Yeah, and you know what's so funny is, it's kind of ironic that when you say the words positive music, it hits people in this record industry like - it really sounds corny to them. I've explained to so many pop record label people over the years, and they just don't understand what is really wanted by the masses. A guy like Beck, beating out all of the popular artists for the Grammy, it goes to show you what's really wanted by most of the music listeners out there. There are other record labels and other artists out there making positive music, but there's just not enough of it. I think there should be more. I'm just glad we're one of the contributing bands to that movement.

TM: The Word is releasing their second album on May 4 entitled "Soul Food". Tell us what "Soul Food" is about.

RR: You get soul food when you go down south,

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and there's a bit of everything. You got your greens, your yams, mashed potatoes, you got your cornbread, you got your mother's chicken, your macaroni – you got all these different things, which is telling of the music that we make. You take these artists, you take these guys like John Medeski and the North Mississippi All Stars, who are really blues based from Mississippi and that whole area. You got me coming up from the church, but growing up in the inner city. You mix this all together and you get this sort of soul food experience musically. And when you listen to the record, you get these traditional gospel songs, you get original songs, and there's actually so many different styles wrapped up into the "Soul Food" record and recorded by The Word.

TM: Will "Soul Food" be similar to the first album, or have you taken it

That's kind of how a band like this works. Everybody in the band is a great musician, a composer, a producer, an arranger. So we all came together, and the truth is we just sit down and start playing, and music happens. We went into our second recording session in Memphis and we had to stop because too much material was happening.

in a new direction?

RR: It's similar in some ways, but it's really more. I'm not really sure what it's more or less of, but it's just a new thing. It has all of the original gospel tunes, it has some songs that we all collaborated on, and written some originals which gives it that gospel fusion rock jam. I'd say it's a mixture of Hendrix meets the Allman Brothers and George Clinton, and you put them all in church.

TM: (laughs) That's a great analogy. With so many talented people in the band, I've wondered how the songs are written. Is there a leader that's bringing a lot of the songs to the table, or is it a more spontaneous collaboration between you all?

RR: We actually recorded over 20 songs. Well, that's what we have mastered. We recorded more than that. For most of the time we just sit down and we play, and someone says "I like this, I don't like that", and then we come up with a thing. In some other instances, like in the song "New Word Order" which was Cody's idea he had written for The Word. The song "Come By Here" was actually my idea.

TM: You recorded the new album at a couple of different studios, both in New York and in Memphis. Did the local flavors influence how the album came together?

RR: We just wanted to pick the two studios that had the best vibes of them. I think it just so happens that the North Mississippi All Stars, I think they were doing something at the time in Brooklyn, and then me and Medeski both live close, so we just drove there. That was the first session. So we all agreed to go in for three days and see what we could come up with. We had this idea of recording again, and then once we got down to Memphis, we kind of already had a feel, but we wanted to go into the old world studios where they had the old original gear, and old microphones, and the same old drum set that Al Green played on. We just wanted to get that old vibe. By the time we got to Memphis, we kind of had a better vibe, and it was a better old thing down there, so to answer the question, it did have something to do with what you're listening to.

TM: Yeah.

RR: But sometimes you can go into a studio and everything's a bit too clean, you can't really get a vibe. I've been in some of those studios where everything's all digital, you plug in and you're like, "This doesn't feel good".

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Fri. May 8 • 8:30p • \$5 Atlantic Ave. Band - Rock/Funk/Dance Party Sat. May 9 • 8:30p • \$10 Johnny & the East Coast Rockers - Rockin' Blues 	Fri. May 22 • 9p • \$10 The Silks & Wild Sun A Grey Sail Brewing Co. Tap Takeover Rock/Blues Rock & Psychedelic 90s Sat. May 23 • 8p • \$10 Neal & the Vipers Blues/Rockabilly/R & B/Surf/American Roots Fri. May 29 • 8p • \$10 Eight to the Bar Swing/Boogie Woogie/R & B/Soul and Motown

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TM: The feeling has got to be right.

RR: Yeah, that's something I learned, when I was on Warner Brothers, and it's not really a bad thing. It's just you wind up in some of these studios and you're on a high tech budget, so you take advantage of these big budgets. You hear stories about this great studio and everything, and you kind of don't get the vibe, you know?

TM: The Word is coming back to the Gathering of the Vibes this year, which is our big festival here in Southern Connecticut. I saw that The Word is playing a few other festivals as well, like Hangout and All Good.

RR: Yeah, it'll be cool, it'll be fun. That's what we wanted to do, we just wanted to not play too many festivals, but play a lot of the cool ones in the different regions and get everybody talking, including Jazzfest. We'll probably do a headlining tour in the fall. Who knows, we're already talking about doing an acoustic Word album after this, and going back into the studio sometime soon, and building on that acoustic thing we did which was actually cool.

TM: What's one piece of advice you can give to a young person who aspires to get on stage and share their music with the world?

RR: I would just tell them to do what's in their heart. You've got so many different music artists from all over the globe that, they may be interested in a style of music that doesn't quite suit where they're from, so others may try to make them feel uncomfortable. But that's the history of music. You got blues music started out here in the states, in Chicago and down south. Records start being shipped overseas, and here comes the British invasion. Next thing you know soul music and hip-hop music started here, and white guys started doing rap, and Charlie Pride doing country music, so you just never know. I just tell people to do what makes you feel good, what feels good in your heart, and just practice that and do the best you can.

TM: That's great advice. Thanks for giving me your time, I really appreciate it.

RR: Thanks for all your support, and we'll see you at the Gathering of the Vibes!

Next I interviewed John Medeski.

TM: The Word is set to release a new album entitled "Soul Food" on May 4th. Tell us what we can expect from "Soul Food".

John Medeski: Well, it's the next step for us. I think it's a great record. The songs are great. It's a combination of some really strong songs and some really rocking improvisations combined with this great gospel music. There are some originals of Robert's that are in the sacred steel vein, an original of mine, and an original of Cody's.

TM: It sounds like everyone had a hand in bringing something to the table on this one.

JM: Oh yeah, absolutely. That's kind of how a band like this works. Everybody in the band is a great musician, a composer, a producer, an arranger. So we all came together, and the truth is we just sit down and start playing, and music happens. We went into our second recording session in Memphis and we had to stop because too much material was happening.

TM: (Laughs)

JM: Really, every time we get together we come up with new things, which is great for live shows. We can spontaneously create music every show to tap into something special for that night, that audience, that place.

TM: Your playing is a little more traditional with The Word, as compared with the generally avant-garde jazz and funk keys that you are known for. Do you have to think more inside the box for The Word, or is just part of your natural flow?

JM: I don't believe that anybody is one-dimensional. For me, I've always loved all kinds of music, always played all kinds of music. Medeski Martin & Wood is probably the best known thing that I've done, but I've played on hundreds of other records of all kinds in the past 30 years.

I just love music. The Word for me is an outlet for this other side of my-

18 SOUND WAVES

self. To me it's pretty natural. Any time you're playing a style of music, you should be listening to the music and what's happening, and then adding what it needs, or what you feel, or what's necessary. It's not about doing your thing on top of what's happening, it's about getting inside what's happening and becoming a part of it. That's what it is for me. It's more rockin'. (laughs).

TM: And that's something the North Mississippi All Stars bring to the table with the rhythm section in this project.

JM: Absolutely. I've known those guys for a long time, since they first went out as a duo. I love them. They keep growing. They're all incredible musicians at the highest level, the deepest level.

TM: Robert Randolph plays with a tremendous amount of energy on stage. It's contagious in the crowd, so I imagine you must feel it too.

JM: Oh yeah, I love playing with Robert. Robert is charismatic. He's also an unbelievable player, a great musician, and has a sensibility. He's like a natural star, that guy. So it's a treat to play with him. It's always inspiring.

TM: The Gathering of the Vibes is in our backyard here in Southern Connecticut, and The Word will be playing here this summer. What do you like about playing at the Gathering and other music festivals like that?

JM: Most of the people at these festivals are there to have a real deep musical experience, dance, and get lost in the music. They're not going there to hear something exactly the way they've heard it before. They're going there to feel something, and when an audience is open to that, it enables the bands to go deeper and further than you can when you're playing the same old stuff.

TM: Do you get to roam the festivals and enjoy yourself, or are you working most of the time?

JM: It varies. A lot of times these festivals are a way for me to hear some other bands that I don't get to hear. I'm very busy doing my thing, and I don't have a lot of time to go and see shows, so one of the things about going to festivals is you get to hear people you've heard about, or bands that you haven't heard of. The music at the festivals is inspiring, to hear what's going on.

For me the most important thing is that I am ready to give a hundred-plus percent for the show I have to play. So sometimes that means I need to be in the quiet, getting prepared for the show, and sometimes I go out and experience what's happening and take that energy in. It's really different on so many facets. I used to have to try and figure it out, but I really have to do what I feel, when I know my experience is going to put me in the right space.

TM: When you play, how much of it is thought out in terms of theory, and how much is just straight from the gut intuition?

JM: I don't know if it's that cut and dried. When I play, it's listening, reacting, playing from the gut and intuition. But, when you do that, what you have to work with is what you know, what you study, and what you've learned. So the theory and all the technique is stuff you study, and then it comes into play. And the truth is, only a certain percentage of that will be available. You play with other people, and the energy is going up. So the more you have in your bag, the more you'll have to draw from. But when you play, you get into the music, you become the music, and you let it tell you what to do.

TM: If you had one piece of advice you could give to a young person who wants to succeed in music, what would you say?

JM: Well, I think the most important thing is to find your voice. So even if you're playing other styles of music you need to find your connection and what it means to you. All these notes, chords and rhythms that we love are out there. You need to really make them your own, and use them in a way that is really coming from you. That's the most important thing.

And to listen. Always be listening. Whether you're playing with people, whether you're walking in the woods, whether you're walking in the city,

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on the subway - wherever you are, you can be listening, and hear everything as music. You have the symphony that is the universe.

TM: Wow, that's great advice.

JM: And other than that, practicing. (laughs)

TM: Yeah, practicing helps.

JM: Yeah, you've got to do your time. You've got to really give yourself over. You give yourself at least a year of doing nothing else 24-7 but music, music, music, music - if you really want to give it a shot. You've really got to put the time in.

TM: I really appreciate you taking the time to talk to us. Have a great festival season.

JM: Thanks a lot.



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SOUND WAVES 19

HEARING AID



José González "Vestiges & Claws" Mute

José González is an Argentinian singer / songwriter born and raised in Sweden. Since his first solo release in 2005, he's been touring the world exhibiting his unique style. After recording the last two albums with his band Junip, José has returned to his solo career with a beautiful new album. His style is simple but beautiful. Singing quietly with his classical guitar, he composes songs that have a natural ebb and flow that feels like part of nature itself.

His recently released album "Vestiges & Claws" continues in that tradition. It is full of peaceful, thoughtful songs penned with philosophical verses and played with care. His subtleties all add up synergistically to create a sound that is beautiful, catchy, and seamless. It's hard to decide what is more soothing, his guitar playing or his voice.

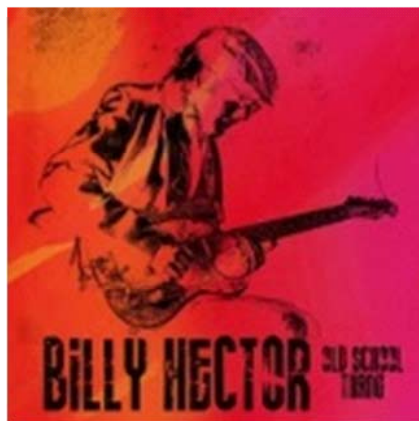
Many of these songs carry a strong rhythm despite the sparse percussion. He keeps a steady pace with his playing, thumping out droning bass notes with his thumb while playing lead lines and chords with his other fingers. It takes a lot of talent to create such a full sound with only a guitar and the occasional castanet joining in the rhythm. His lyrics are poetic in nature. He covers a wide range of topical material with his writing, from songs about love and life to commentary about politics and the state of the world. I get the impression that he is a very thoughtful, intelligent person. His words dance across the music like dragonflies skimming the surface of the pond, touching the water gently and leaving few ripples.

José made a conscious decision to record "Vestiges & Claws" without a producer. He wanted to retain all the artistic control, and was intent on record-

ing the album exactly as he thought it should be, rather than taking input from the traditional production school of thought. The result is rich. In my opinion, it is the best of his solo work and stands strongly next to his last self-titled album with Junip, which received excellent reviews when it debuted a couple of years ago.

If you like thoughtful, inspired, artful music then you will probably love José González's work. He's doing something that I just don't see much of these days with the classical guitar, and his love for the art of making music shines through in every song.

- Tom Matthew
Two Ton Music



Billy Hector "Old School Thang" Ghetto Surf Music

I believe serious musicians get better with age - it's almost impossible not to. Experiences from the road, and life, and interactions with musical heavy hitters, practically guarantee it.

New Jersey songwriter/blues-rock guitarist Billy Hector is a two-time winner of East Coast Rocker's "Best Guitarist" award and has more than 35 years of live performances, including two appearances at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame American Masters Series. He's toured with Joe Louis Walker and Hubert Sumlin and has appeared with Buddy Guy, BB King, The Neville Brothers, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Bo Diddley, Johnny Winter, Billy Preston, Koko Taylor, and many others. His 11th album features 10 new originals and a cover tribute to Freddie King of Don Nix's "Goin' Down."

Billy's better than ever.

Traditionally a guitar, bass and drums outfit, Billy Hector's latest offering, "Old School Thang," now includes R&B horns, piano, organ, and harmonica. Support is provided by long-time pals Sim Cain on drums, Tim Tindall on bass, and a slew of other musical talents. It was recorded primarily at Lake House Studio in Asbury Park and Jankland in Belmar, N.J.

Funk is alive and well in these songs, and you can't help but tap your feet - the whole time. The opener "She's Gone," with tasteful horn licks and organ complementing Billy's Fender strat moves, makes you immediately want to see this band live. Funk is truly this band's strength as exemplified also in "Hammer" and "People of the World."

I like the humorous, yet insightful lyrics on "Fake ID": "Life is a gamble, this is what I believe. You take your chances, and pray you get away clean," as he sings about various narcotics. The slide work on this one is also nice-n-gritty. The best story-telling lyrics are in "Rita," about the demise of an aging barroom lush. Backing vocals by Suzan Lastovica and Joshua Mark add to its inevitable sing-along intention. The Freddie King cover is heavier than the original, with its modern flare of horns and a matching vocal growl. The lone instrumental "Vitamin Big Daddy" features horn-driven blues with some serious wah-wah that's just full of fun. Harmonica by Ken Sorensen drives the melody on "Come on Home" with more excellent slide work from Billy. When you've had enough of your lover, and just need a whiskey, take a listen to the slow and seductive "Evil, Slick 'N Sly." The horn accents on the slow, simple jam "Short and Sweet Blues" are a throwback to a simpler time and make you want to have a few beers with your buds.

My personal favorite, title track "Old School Thang," is simply a funky, rock-in' classic groove that never gets old. There's a video of the band performing it live at www.billyhector.com - check it out.

The CD's final track, "People of the World," features a tremendous soulful sax solo by Mel Taylor with lyrics calling out for peace in the world - preferably on a hot sunny summer afternoon at a jam-packed outdoor festival. I want to be there!

There will be a CD Release Party on June 27 at Wonder Bar in Asbury Park, N.J.

- Sue Menhart



Michele D'Amour & The Love Dealers "Ante Up"

Warrior Poet Entertainment

Hailing from the Seattle, Washington area, this band consists of four members, though this disc features a couple special guests, Sue Oehrich on piano and backing vocals and CD Woodbury soloing on guitar on "Too Fine A Night" and "Waiting For You." Lead by singer/songwriter Michele D'Amour, The Love Dealers are Patrick McDanel on bass guitar; trombone & backing vocals; Rick Bowen on drums, percussion & backing vocals and Greg Dolan on guitar.

This disc begins with an up-tempo number, "She's Got Sway," with a cautionary tale about a woman who will catch you off guard with her "sweetness hiding a devious mind." This song features Oehrich on a fine piano solo! Track two, "Waiting For You," opens on a lazy groove with Woodbury on guitar, light percussion from Bowen and bassist McDanel executing an almost hypnotic bass line. D'Amour's voice enters with an attitude of resign, "...wasting my time waiting for you!" Track three is something different again. "Say What You Mean" begins with laughter from the band, followed by hand clapping, percussion and the band harmonizing on the chorus. Dolan's guitar work stands out in this cut. D'Amour's lyrics are clever as she claims, "I've been down this road a time or two honey, it's wearing out my shoes!"

Track four, "One Wave At A Time" (For Dad) brings the tempo down again with a lament of loss of her father. The title tells all, as D'Amour explains that she's "taking the pain one wave at a time!" An optimistic attitude carries track five, "Angels All Around." She

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notes that even when you think things are hopeless, if you take another look, you'll find that there are always friends who act as a kind of "angel" around to offer up a hand.

Throughout this recording, D'Amour seems to have a certain comfort zone vocally, but in the sixth cut, "Jealous" she begins this ballad literally on a high note! Track seven, "Dress Code" is a playful exclamation about blues rags. Although male blues artists may not be above wearing newsboy caps, leather, pinstripe suits; the ladies sporting a little cleavage, a few sequins and some bling, etc., it's clear that, "We don't wear spandex in the blues!" The tempo changes again for cut eight. "Too Fine A Night" is a sweet, lazy love song. As you may have noticed, the styles vary greatly on this recording. Track nine, "Not Your Man," is no exception. This song could easily be at home in a disco, with its drum and staccato guitar intro. It is a complete departure from the rest of the offerings on "Ante Up!" Even though I'm not a fan of bass solos, there is an interesting little ride added into this tune by McDanel. I have to admit, the entire song is catchy! Track ten, "Memory" (For Mom) returns to a shuffle; a rhythm more familiar in the blues. D'Amour discusses the difficulties a person with cognitive issues face. Where she parked her car, or remembering names are, "Things that used to matter don't matter when all is said and done!" The harmonies soften the issue at hand. Track eleven has a care-free attitude. It takes us to the bayou, complete with squeezebox, trombone and rub board and of course, the title of the song, a "Hurricane" cocktail! We again are treated to some fanciful little bass accents! The final cut, "Don't Make Me Wait," is another lively blues rooted number. D'Amour pleads with her man not to procrastinate, "A girl like me "doesn't have to wait around for a boy like you!" Coming in at just under two minutes, this song gets right to the point, "Mister, please don't make me wait!"

If you're looking for a blues screamer, this disc is not for you. On the other hand, if you'd like some easy to listen to vocals, well thought out lyrics and well played music, "Ante Up" might be what you want!

- Ms Marci



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Ear Candy for the Soul

"Live At Silk City Music Factory Vol. 1"

Indie

In this complicated world of electronic, looped, sampled and enhanced music it's a breath of fresh air to listen to something as sweetly organic as "Live At Silk City Music Factory Vol. 1!" Ear Candy for The Soul is a duo consisting of singer/songwriter, guitarist, ArleneWow! and violinist Dana Takaki. The first 10 tracks are recorded live with no overdubs or corrections. Tracks #11 and #12 are bonus tracks that were recorded prior to the "Live" part. Train Song was recorded /engineered by ArleneWow! at her home studio.

This recording begins with "You're Like The Sun." ArleneWow proclaims this track's title with vocal fervor... "You're like the Sun, shinin' on me!" I believe most all of us would love to be the object of this kind of admiration! The mood softens a little on the next cut, "Til It Feels Like Spring." Takaki's violin floats gently in the background like a butterfly, significant to the musical images of spring and all it represents. Track three, "Something To Live 4" offers the sincere sentiment. The chorus claims, "If you've got something to live for, you won't need something to die for" then literally floats loftily into the final phrase, "You can have anything at all!" ArleneWow's voice in this segment is what goose bumps are made of! In track four, ArleneWow queries, "When You Look In My Heart." When we care for someone special, we all find ourselves asking our lover if they can see our love for them in our eyes, "...do they mirror my soul?" Track five takes our ears to Spain with wonderful flamenco guitar styling. Though "Cielo" is in Spanish, the beauty of the song transcends any language barrier. Taka-

Continued Page 25

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COOKING WITH THE BLUES

By Luci & Jack Chaplin

This past weekend at Daddy Jack's, we hosted a New Orleans jazz brunch featuring a local band, Epitome, comprised of Coast Guard band members. I went with a traditional Cajun menu featuring Cajun Coleslaw and a Creole Roasted Chicken over Andouille Sausage Jambalaya

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sz18ATND_wY

The fundamental flavors of Louisiana cooking are so prominent that they have been coined "The Trinity": onions, celery, and bell peppers. Although the Trinity is traditionally those three flavors, I always add garlic as well. My first introduction into Creole cooking was with my friend David Leeks in Dallas, Texas.



He was a chef at the Fairmont Hotel and was born and raised in Louisiana; he was one of my first Soul Food/NOLA mentors.

At the Fairmont, we had many different banquet rooms. One banquet room sat 2,200 people, another 1,500. We also had two rooms of 200 and four small rooms of 50. Whenever there were big conventions in town, we would always do themed parties. One year, we brought an entire crew up from New Orleans for a Cajun-themed convention. They showed me the authentic way to make gumbo by browning the roux in a deep, classic New Orleans style. They also showed me how to make Crawfish Étouffée, Oysters Rockefeller, and Cochon de Lait. To make Cochon de Lait, we would soak whole pigs in milk and then roast them. The skin always came out super crispy and delicious. We also made Turtle Soup, alligator, and frogs legs. It was my first time working with turtle meat but as they always say: it tastes like chicken! That whole experience working with the Cajun chefs was incredible—those memories have stayed with me my entire life!

Another year, we had a Gumbo Festival at the Sons of Hermann Hall in Dallas. We brought in some Zydeco bands and delivered what I thought to be, a truly authentic Cajun experience. I did a Roasted Duck, Wild Rice Gumbo with Andouille Sausage. I took the skin off of the duck and rendered it down to make cracklings. I also did Pecan-Crusted Catfish with Rémoulade Sauce. As a native New Englander, I see many similarities between the cultures of New England and New Orleans. Not only are our traditions and accents similar, so are our mentalities. Our cultures have their own "Trinity": good food, good music, and good times! With the similarities between the two, it is no surprise that this area has embraced Cajun cooking. This month, my daughter Rachel and I took a trip over the bridge to the Voodoo Grill (12 Water St., Mystic CT). We had the opportunity to sit down with the owner, Wes Clark, to talk about their history in Mystic.

Jack: I have always been a fan of Cajun cooking. How does the Mystic
22 SOUND WAVES

community respond to you bringing New Orleans to New England?

Wes: We actually get a lot of people from New Orleans that come in and say that our food is some of the best Cajun food that they have ever had. I think that this is due in large part to how flavorful our food is. We get rave reviews of our pork and brisket; we smoke both of those ourselves and even make our own Andouille Sausage. We also make our own mozzarella sticks and jalapeño poppers. We focus on traditional Cajun flavors and try to make our food as authentic as possible. We have developed a nice relationship with the town and we have some amazing regulars!

Jack: What brought you and your family to this area? Have you always been in Mystic?

Wes: I was born in New London and raised in Groton, where I have been ever since. My family loves this area. My wife Val and I bartend and wait tables during the day and my daughter Lauren manages at night. Lauren is a tremendous bartender and waitress and is able to handle the late nights better than Val and I can! We're all family here; we take care of each other. We get a lot of locals who come here primarily for us. They like to see the familiar faces and know that the food will be consistent. If you come in at 5:00 at night, any day of the week, you will see the same regulars at the bar; I love that!

Jack: We have the same thing at Daddy Jack's—our regulars are our restaurant family. Beyond having good food, I've heard that you also have live music here. Is that a regular occurrence?

Wes: We have live music on Thursdays (9:00 PM- 12:00 AM) and Fridays (10:00 PM- 1:00 AM). We also have Karaoke every Saturday night until 1:00 AM. I used to have live music one Sunday a month from 5:00-8:00 PM, so once we finish remodeling our patio, we will start that back up.

It was such a pleasure meeting with Wes. As a fellow multi-generational, small business owner, I understand the stress that comes with owning your

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own business but there is no greater feeling than knowing that you are bringing good food and culture to a community. I respect that the Voodoo Grill is a family business and that their employees have all been with them for many years. Their head chef, Tom Watts, a Florida-native, has been with them for 15 years; their daytime manager, Katie Blothe has similarly been with the Clark family for many years. Growing up on Fisher's Island, Katie adds a lot of local flavor to the restaurant.

While at the Voodoo Grill, we had the pleasure of sampling their hush puppies, catfish nuggets, BBQ brisket, crawfish corn chowder and a variety of wings—all of which were excellent. Their menu also features authentic Cajun staples including alligator bites, catfish, and Po-Boy sandwiches. They have a beautiful garden area out back; in the summer there is always an eclectic mix of tourists and locals. The Voodoo Grill has a nice blend of good food and ambiance—what more could you ask for in a restaurant?

For anyone that shares a love of Cajun culture, the 18th Annual Rhythm and Roots Festival is coming up on September 4-6, 2015 in Charlestown, Rhode Island. If you are unfamiliar with Creole music, here is a link to Geno Delafosse & French Rockin' Boogie, one of my favorite Cajun artists:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3kFo5aYJI2U&sns=fb>.

Most of the music at the Rhythm and Roots Festival leans towards Cajun and Zydeco but there is also plenty of other music—everything from blues to county. I look forward to seeing you all there!

Until next month,

~ Jack



Hearing Aid Continued

ki's violin echoes ArleneWow's voice sympathetically.

Track six, "Understand It," has a wonderful, tender quality; "And we could melt together, like the Sun heating the snow." As we go into track seven, "Breathe" begins softly then the vocals take on an edge as the song reaches a crescendo! Track eight, "Wrong Side," is a tale woe; missing a love whose side of the bed ArleneWow is drawn to. I was particularly impressed with the manner with which she scatted at the end of the song with a subtle weeping and moaning quality.

Track nine, "528HZ," explores the hope within that perhaps if we were inspired, that our muse could bless us with a thought that could change the world! Track ten, "Lullaby," is quite simply a sweet lullaby of love! The eleventh cut, "Si No Me Quieres," is another song in Spanish. Once again, language presents little barrier to the enjoyment of this song. For the final cut, "Train Song," I would seriously recommend wearing earphones to fully appreciate the effects introduced into this tune. It begins with the sound of an arriving train and fades out with the same. In-between, the in-

strumentation oscillates from simple acoustic guitar and violin to an almost orchestral quality. The ending fades gently as the train rolls out. There is a symbolism that is portrayed in the train ...how the train rolls on with or without each of us. This philosophy is carried a little further in ArleneWow's lyrics, "And even though I'm gone you can still hear me sing!"

This recording is well mixed and executed with expert instrumentation, songwriting and vocals. I would actually go further and call ArleneWow! a "wordsmith!" If I were forced to describe this recording in one word... beautiful comes to mind. Then there's inspirational and also creative. Oh, heck, it's all of these and more!

- Ms Marci





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5/24 › SUN DJ on the patio

\$10 BULKELEY BACARDI LEMONADE
BUCKETS IN 6 FLAVORS! ALL WEEKEND!

ALL NEW SUMMER DRINKS MENU

MONDAY, \$3 DRAFTS & \$4 CRAFTS

LIMITS APPLY

MEET THE BUD LIGHT GIRLS!

FRI. 5/22, SIGN UP & TELL THEM WHAT
BUD LIGHT IS THE PERFECT BEER FOR!



Movies & Music

AT THE GARDE ARTS CENTER

Live Performances



LA BOHEME

Friday, May 15 | 7:30 pm

La Bohème relates the loves and trials of a group of impoverished artists in mid-19th-century Paris. Straddling the divide between comedy and tragedy, Puccini's masterpiece became the inspiration for the Broadway smash hit *RENT*.



BROADWAY AT THE GARDE

GUYS AND DOLLS

Friday, May 22 | 7:30 pm

This Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winner is an oddball romantic comedy considered by many to be the perfect musical! "The show that defines Broadway dazzle!" - *The New York Times*

ROBERT CRAY BAND

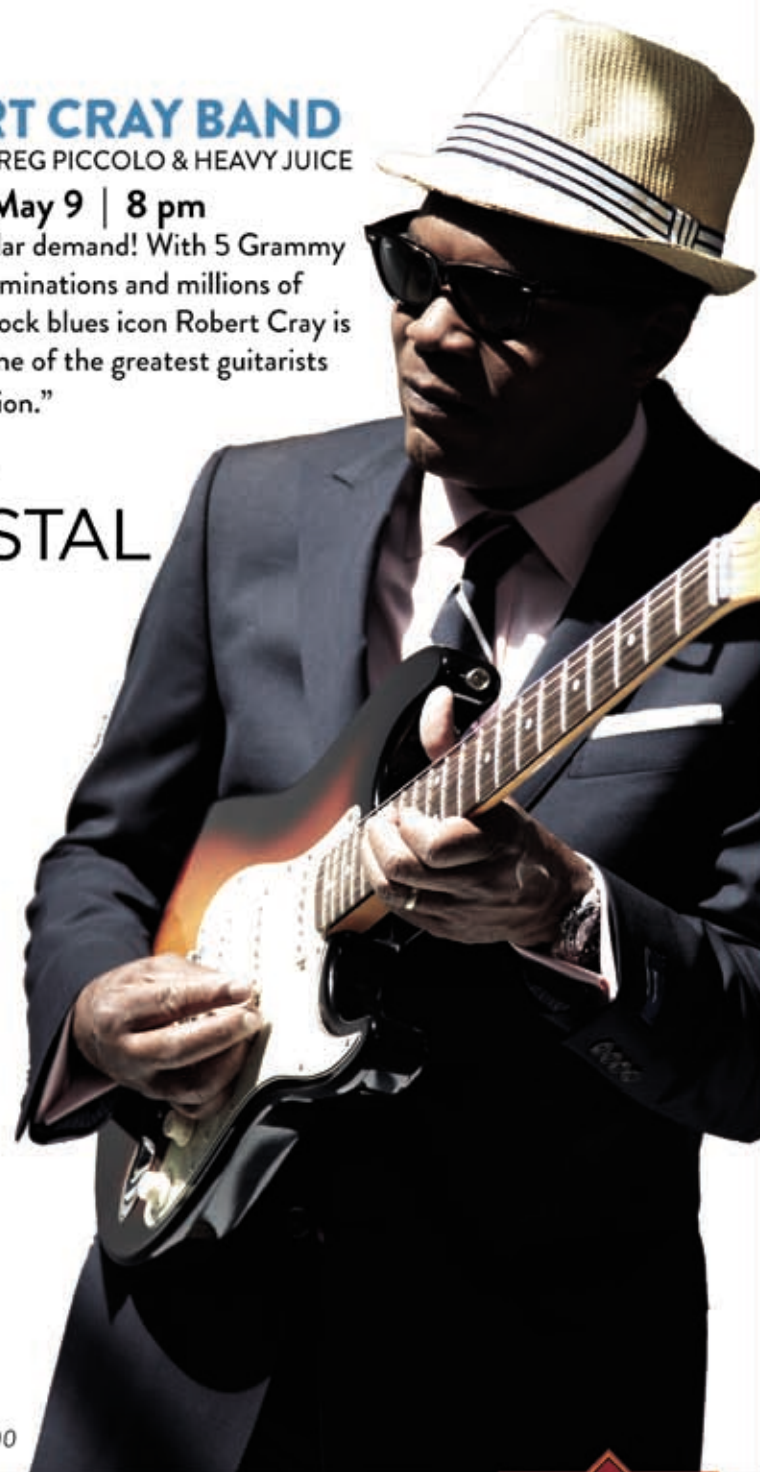
W/ OPENER GREG PICCOLO & HEAVY JUICE

Saturday, May 9 | 8 pm

Back by popular demand! With 5 Grammy Awards, 15 nominations and millions of record sales, rock blues icon Robert Cray is considered "one of the greatest guitarists of his generation."

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COASTAL



Garde Cinema Series*



AMERICAN SNIPER

132 min R

Saturday, May 2 | 7:30 pm

Powered by Clint Eastwood's direction and a gripping central performance from Bradley Cooper, this six-time Oscar nominee tells the story of Navy SEAL Chris Kyle, the most lethal sniper in U.S. History.



THE LEGO MOVIE

100 min PG

Sunday, May 17 | 3 pm

This original and AWESOME computer animated story follows Emmet who is mistakenly identified as the most extraordinary person and the key to saving the world.

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