

Sound

Volume 26
Issue 6
June 2016

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LUMINEERS**

**CLUB LISTINGS
RESTAURANTS
CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
REVIEWS & MORE**

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INSIDE THE WAVE

Music Notes.....Pg. 6
World's a Stage.....Pg. 8
Band DatesPg. 10
Concert Dates.....Pg. 11
Local Beat.....Pg.14
Cover Story.....Pg. 16
Bar Fly Journals ...Pg. 22
CookingPg. 24
Hearing Aid.....Pg. 26
Classified.....Pg. 30



Ali Kaufman
Morning Mojo
WCNI 90.9fm
Tuesday Mornings
9am-noon



Event Specialist
Emcee
Freelance Writer

www.cticcb.com/mojo/Default.htm

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Sound Waves

June 2016

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Editor

David L. Pottie

Contributing Writers

Bill Harriman

Mark T. Gould

Rex Rutkosk - Nic Hall

Jack & Luci Chaplin

Andrew Kerbs

Stephanie Shawn

R. L. Oeser ~ Jeff Howard

Ali Kaufman

Tom Matthew

Sue Menhart

Don Sikorski

Ms Marci Chevian-Hooper

Artist/Graphic Design

David L. Pottie

Advertising Sales

Tony Arruda

David Pottie

860-572-5738

Email

editor@swaves.com

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Code Name Series
 By
 Author K.E. Pottie

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 K.E. Pottie

Code Name Sonny
 K.E. Pottie

Mountains of Fire
 K.E. Pottie

The 13th Cohort
 K.E. Pottie

2013 PARIS bookfestival
 honorable mention

2012 The Beach Book Festival
 honorable mention

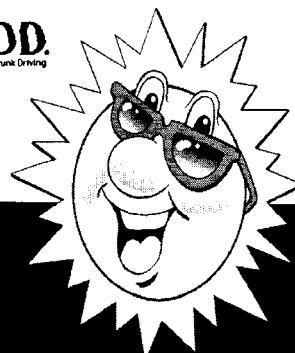
2013 NEW YORK BOOK FESTIVAL
 honorable mention

2012 Hollywood Book Festival
 honorable mention

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SIXPOINT
BREWERY
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3 STRANGE WAYS 9:30pm	4 1-5 BLACK JADE 9:30 BOAT CAKE	5 ANDY & BETHANY 1-5
10 DJ DON DADA 9pm	11 KEVIN & HEATHER 1-5 9:30 UNDERCOVER	12 MARC DOUGLAS BERNARDO 1-5
17 SUGAR 10pm	18 DAN & NICOLE 1-5 9:30 PARTY GIRL	19 TBA Call for info
24 JUICE BOX 9:30pm	25 1-5 JASON CRANDALL HE SAID, 9:30 SHE SAID	26 RON SPEARS 1-5
1 AQUANETT	2 1-5 JOSE COSTA 9:30 NEVER ENUFF	3 CABANA BOYS 1-5 SOUL SHOT

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Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
2 Ethan Cash 2pm	3 Side Kick 2pm	4 Juice Box 2pm	5 The Wild Ones 2pm
9 Ethan Cash 2pm	10 Dean & Lil Chris 2pm	11 Fusion 2pm	12 Real Deal 2pm
16 Sean Rivers 2pm	17 Side Kick 2pm	18 Pulse 2pm	19 Patrones 2pm
23 Steve Gregory 2pm	24 Jambino Duo 2pm	25 Marsh Pit 2pm	26 The Felix Brown Band 2pm
30 Ethan Cash 2pm	1 Dean & Lil Chris 2pm	2 Jimmy Hat 2pm	3 The Wild Ones 2pm

Unplugged Wednesdays

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Wed. 22nd ~ 1pm **ZOOSTIC** The Zoo Acoustic

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 FREE Ride to and from Sunset Ribs! 860-266-RIBS (7427) MARDI GRAS PARTY! Saturday June 17th Get your beads! -Coupon- FREE Appetizer with the purchase of 2 Entrees -Coupon-		1 John Maz 7pm	2 Ethan Cash 6pm DJ 10pm	3 Stuck Local 6pm DJ Rob Minto 10pm	4 Acoustic Marsh Pit 6pm	5 Chris Marolda 1pm Red Light 5pm
	7 Matt Vizzo 5pm	8 John Maz 7pm	9 Ethan Cash 6pm DJ 10pm	10 Rob Brannon 6pm DJ Rob Minto 10pm	11 Bloomer 6pm	12 John Maz 1pm The Patrones 5pm
	14 Matt Vizzo 5pm	15 John Maz 7pm	16 Ethan Cash 6pm DJ 10pm	17 Whisker Fish 6pm DJ Rob Minto 10pm	18 Ethan Cash 6pm	19 Tony Gabriel Paul Lucier Band 1pm 6pm
	21 Matt Vizzo 5pm	22 Dean Cardinale 7pm	23 Ethan Cash 6pm DJ 10pm	24 Sidekick Duo 6pm DJ Rob Minto 10pm	25 Bloomer 6pm	26 Steve Gregory Fusion 1pm 6pm
	28 Matt Vizzo 5pm	29 Chris Marolda 7pm	30 Rob Brannon 6pm DJ 10pm	1 Whisker Fish 6pm DJ Rob Minto 10pm	2 Ethan Cash 6pm	3 Steve Gregory That Band 1pm 6pm

MUSIC NOTES



“The Voice of the Court”

By Mark T. Gould

Writer’s note: I usually don’t mix my day job with this gig, but this was more than worth it.

It was a couple of years ago, and I was sitting as a judge in Middletown. I was invited to a staff member’s birthday party in the clerk’s office. It’s really special to be invited to these celebrations because it’s nice to kick back for a minute with the extremely-talented, hard-working people who make my

job much easier.

The revelation at the party happened almost faster than I can write it. Just before I came around the corner to the party, I heard someone singing “Happy Birthday” to the celebrant. It was so vibrant, so moving and sounded so perfect that I immediately thought someone went to the time, effort and expense to bring in a professional singer.

Then, I walked in, saw who was singing, and, stunningly, almost fell to the floor.

It was one of our clerks, Paul Wilson, whom I had worked with for several months. Somehow, in our mad rush to work to serve the public, I never took the time to find out that he has a magical singing voice.

So, recently, I took the time.

“I started singing in church as a child. I was a member in the children’s choir, where I would do most of the lead parts. I was also a member in my uncle’s choir,” the 37-year-old Wilson told me. “I’ve been told by many people that I have a great voice, but I always had a doubt.

“The point where I finally believed it was when I won a competition to sing for Mary J. Blige at Sirius Satellite Studios in New York City,” he recalled. “They heard my audition, and loved it. I was extremely shocked. They set up an opportunity (for) me sing for her. Me, of all people.

“She was very attentive while I was singing. After I was done, she came up to me, and gave me a huge hug, and whispered in my ear ‘Paul, you can sing, and please don’t stop.’ That was the moment I finally started to believe in my singing ability.”

Armed with that endorsement, Wilson has now performed at a number of showcases, including Hot Chocolate Soul, which is held at the Bushnell in Hartford; the Village Underground and Two Moon Art House and Café in New York City; a gala at the Connecticut Convention Center, Meredith Viera’s talk show, and various church events. He will be auditioning for “The Voice” in New York City this month.

If that’s not enough, Wilson has also auditioned, and now performed, possibly the most difficult of all songs to sing, our National Anthem, at local minor league baseball games. He has performed at a New Britain Bees game, and has auditioned for the Hartford Yard Goats.

“I learned about the Anthem tryouts from my co-workers in Middletown,” he told me. “When auditioning for the National Anthem, the approach I try to take is to not do too much to the song to where it’s unrecognizable, and offend any veterans.

“Actually, my ultimate goal is to feel the lyrics, and not offend anyone. I

6 SOUND WAVES

may add a little ‘Paul’ to it, but not too much. I also make sure that I have fun while singing it. I know everyone may not like it, but as long as I touch one person, I’m fine with that.”

His gift has also helped him in a more personal way, as he deals with a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis.

“I was diagnosed with MS in August of 2009. Initially I had no idea what was wrong with me,” he recalled. “I started to lose my balance, my speech was slurred and a host of problems started to take place.

“I wasn’t the ‘Paul’ that I knew, I was an entirely new person, with limitations out of my control,” he added. “I could no longer sing, due to the slurred speech. I would faint while singing. At that point I had to tell myself ‘you have to stop for a while.’”

“My doctor knew I loved singing, and connected me with the MS Society, where I currently sing the Anthem at most of their events,” Wilson said. “At an MS Awards Ceremony, where I was asked to sing a song of my choice, a woman wrote me a note telling me that I have a wonderful voice, and to continue to sing for all of them.

“I framed that letter. That letter empowered me to keep fighting. I use my voice to fight, it helps me to cope with this disease, while inspiring others.”

Wilson’s trained as a paralegal, and, take it from me, has a promising future in the legal field, whatever direction it might take him. But, he has given some thought to taking his incredible singing voice as far as he can, too.

“I have a voice coach, twice a week for one to three hour sessions,” he said. “I have considered making a go of it full time, but I will need an agent/manager to help me.

“I won’t lie, and say that I wouldn’t be scared, but I think with the right team, it won’t seem as scary.”

Trust me, when you’ve got Paul Wilson’s pipes and strength, it shouldn’t be scary at all.



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All The World's a Stage



“How to Write Songs”

By Sue Menhart

Constructing a song that people want to actually listen to and enjoy is a science. Writing songs is akin to keeping a journal and then taking those most inner thoughts and encapsulating them into succinct lines of poetry, set to music. You study the greats and try to extract how they did it. You listen to your mus-

es, observe the world and people around you, and articulate the things that emotionally resonate with you. If a song connects with you and makes you wish you could write a song like that, google the chords and lyrics to the song and see how it's structured, but be careful not to copy note for note, because you could get into Stairway to Heaven trouble. If your subject matter is melancholy, use a minor key. If it's meant to be uplifting, go with a major key. If you want people to get funky and dance to it, use lots of seventh chords. Take a Songwriting 101 class. Take music theory classes to understand the “circle of fifths.” Learn how to play an instrument. Take English courses around creative writing, poetry, and narrative storytelling. Don't leave the house without an Ernest Hemingway-style notepad in your pocket to catch fleeting thoughts.

Or, you can do it like I do it.

Here's how it goes down.

I'm taking a nice long hot shower all lathered up washing my hair and everything when I am flooded with song ideas because of course, the only place on earth I can't write anything down, is in the damn shower. I quickly rinse, run a towel over me, throw on my white terry cloth robe from Target and slip and slide myself to the nearest pen and yellow sticky. I write my ideas down with utter abandon, sticky after sticky, using up the whole pad. I try and slap the stickies into their correct order, but they all stick to each other in the incorrect order. So I leave the pile on the counter to be dealt with later. I throw on some yoga pants and a WCNI Radio t-shirt.

Later comes when a fifty-mile an hour gust of wind blows the kitchen screen window out of its sill and onto the floor and blows the stickies all over the place. I scoop up the yellow devils and stick them onto an actual 8 x 10 pad over by my computer in the dining room to be dealt with later.

Later comes when I need a piece of 8 x 10 paper and I try to rip a piece off from behind the yellow beasts and I rip the piece of paper holding them. So I get a piece of scotch tape from the drawer in the living room that has the scotch tape and tape up the piece of paper that loosely holds the yellow monsters. Then I take the piece of paper and move it to my bedroom nightstand.

On my bedroom nightstand I notice I've got about ten other pieces of paper with yellow Satans on them so I place my generic brand body lotion on top of them to hold everything in place. I have breakfast, usually an Everything bagel with too much real Land-O-Lakes sweet cream salted butter, and think about grabbing my acoustic guitar from the basement to put these stickies to music. Then I check emails, Facebook and Twitter.

Then it's time for lunch. I throw some pre-bagged lettuce into a pretty big bowl, cut up some cucumber, shred some carrots and toss in a good amount of Craisins and ten to fifteen garlic and onion croutons. Then I pour in a half a bottle of Lite Raspberry Vinaigrette and swish it all around. I sit down in the leather chair in the living room with my huge salad and flip through the HBO and Cinemax channels. I find something like “It's a Mad, Mad, Mad, Mad World” and watch it until the end. I seriously start thinking about grabbing my acoustic guitar from the basement.

Then I check emails, Facebook and Twitter. Then I remember I haven't read today's local newspaper online yet, so I do that. Then the dogs need to go out so I let them hang out on the grass without leashes and check on them occasionally. I look out the window and they've decided to head to the swamp even though I have repeatedly told them in clear English: “Don't go near the swamp.” So I herd them back into the house, fill their water bowls and tell them to take a nap.

Then it's time for me to take a nap.

I wake up and realize I should start thinking about what to make for dinner. I really want to just get my acoustic guitar out of the basement so I throw a chicken pasta casserole together and stick it in the oven. Then somebody texts me a really long text. I read, respond, wait for a reply, check on the casserole, read the reply, reply, read, reply, read, reply and the casserole is done. I take it out of the oven and the husband comes home but he doesn't like chicken pasta casseroles so I throw a strip steak into a pan with fake butter and whip up some mash potatoes out of a box. The daughter comes home, grabs a plate of the chicken pasta casserole and informs me this is surely the best chicken pasta casserole yet.

We eat dinner and talk about what movies might be on HBO and Cinemax tonight. The husband wants to watch “The Purge: Anarchy” but I want to watch “The Five-Year Engagement.” We clean up and he heads to the bedroom TV. The dogs give me that look they always give me at this exact time every day of every week so I get the leashes.

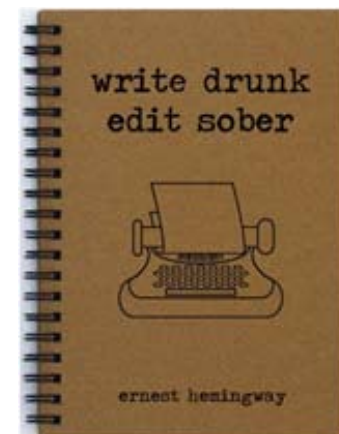
We walk. For about an hour.

We get back into the house and I check emails, Facebook and Twitter. “The Five-Year Engagement” is coming on so I grab some kettle corn from the kitchen cabinet and sit in the leather chair. I finish the bag of kettle corn and the movie.

I decide I've had enough of this day and head to the bedroom. The TV is off and the room is dark. So I grab a flashlight, get undressed, let the dogs into the room and get them settled onto the bed. Then I grab my generic body lotion, and there they are: The yellow evil spirits on 8 x 10 pieces of paper in random order, which will haunt me all night.

Six hours later, it's time for my shower.

Songwriters are a messy bunch. Every song ever heard in the history of all the land has been written by someone, but in a world where anybody can just simply go to YouTube for free when they want to hear a song, we wonder if it's even worth it. This seemingly fruitless endeavor of musical construct rages on for us hopelessly creative souls. It's all-consuming. It's like a nagging bathroom-shower leak that drips and drips, and gets louder and louder in the night. Then it stains the porcelain, and you're just stuck with it. Happy Songwriting!



Peruse more cautionary tales, rants and raves over on my blog “Menhart Musings” at www.suemenhart.wordpress.com.



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11

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18

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25

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BAND DATES

AC/JD

7 - Angie's Pizza, Mystic, CT 5pm
16 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT
20 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
30 - Public House, Old Lyme, CT 6pm

ANDY & BETHANY

1 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10
2,21 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 7-10
3,4,18 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7-10
3 - Daniel Packer Inne, Mystic, Ct
5 - Windjammer, Misquamicut, RI 1-5
23 - Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI 6:30-10
26 - George's, Naragansett, RI 3-7

AZALEA DRIVE

3,18 - On The Waterfront, New London, CT 8pm
10 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
24 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT

BEBOBALOUBOB

3 - Winchester Cafe, Portland, CT
4 - Tavern on the Hill, W. Greenwich, RI
10 - Charter Oak Landing, Hartford, CT 7-11
11 - Keagan's, Middletown, CT
18 - Burke's, Niantic, CT 8:30-12:30
25 - Toyo, Colchester, CT 8:30-11:30

THE BEN CHARLES BAND

3 - Burke's, Niantic, CT 8:30pm
10 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT 7pm
17 - Richoni's, Groton, CT

THE CARTELLS

2,4,9,23 - Norwich Inn, Norwich, CT 6:30pm
2,9,23,30 - Filomena's, Waterford, CT 5:30pm
3,24 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm
6,13,20 - Point Inn, Old Saybrook, CT 6pm
8 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 7:30pm
10 - Maple Tree, Simsbury, CT 8:30pm
11,29 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7:30pm
16 - Fountain Park, Wilbraham, MA 6:30pm
17 - Washington Park, Groton, CT 6:30pm
18 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT
19 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3pm
20 - Point Inn, Old Saybrook, CT 6pm
21 - Washington Park, Groton, CT 4pm
30 - Hilton, Mystic, CT 4pm

10 SOUND WAVES

DAN STEVENS

1,8,15,29 - Old Lyme Inn, Old Lyme, CT
3 - Whale's Tail, Boothbay Harbor, ME
4 - Tucker's Pub, South Norway, ME
5 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT
7,14,21,28 - www.icrvradio.com
7,14,21,28 - Nightingale's, Old Lyme, CT
9 - Angry Chair, Newington, CT
10 - Twilight Music Series, Meriden, CT
12 - Killam Farmstead, S. Glastonbury, CT
18 - Soundview Beach, Old Lyme, CT
19 - Ashlawn Farm, Old Lyme, CT
24 - Daniel Packer Inn, Mystic, CT
25 - Daddy Jack's, New London, CT
26 - The Fez, Stamford, CT
27 - River Park, Mystic, CT
30 - Smokin' With Chris, Southington, CT

DARIK & THE FUNBAGS

11 - Hennesseys, Boston, MA
17 - Louie Bs, Southwick, MA
18 - Club Blu, E. Greenwich, RI 8:30p
24 - Sheas, Manchester, CT

THE DRAWBRIDGE BAND

18 - Two Trees, Foxwoods, CT 5-8pm

EIGHT TO THE BAR

3 - Memorial Park, Manchester, CT 6:30-8:30
10 - Peckham Park, Middlefield, CT 6:30-10

THE FAKE EXPERIENCE

17 - VooDoo Grill, Mystic, CT
25 - CC O'Briens, Pawcatuck, CT

F & BLUES BAND

30 - Atrium Lounge, Mashentucket, CT 8:30

FRANKENPHIL

2 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 5pm
3,17 - Stash Cafe, New London, CT 6pm
4,16,26 - Brick & Basil, Norwich, CT 5pm
5 - Midtown, Newport, RI 4pm
10 - McBrides, Providence, RI 7pm
11 - Socks For Siberia, Sturbridge, MA 1:45pm
18 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 8pm
23 - Dodd Stadium, Norwich, CT 5pm
24 - Ridge Vineyard, Preston, CT 5:30pm
25 - On The Waterfront, New London, CT 7pm
30 - Pavillion, Ashaway, RI 6pm

GOPHERBROKE

9 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7-10
10 - McKinnon's, Hartford, CT

HART STRINGS DUO

10,24 - On The Waterfront, New London, CT 7:30-10:30
17 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 8:30-11:30

HIT PLAY

3 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT
18 - Stash's Cafe, New London, CT

JACK NAZZARO

4 - Buon Appetito, N. Stonington, CT
10 - Amigos, Westerly, RI 7:30pm
25 - Haversham, Westerly, RI

JAMES HARRIS

1,4,6,8 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
3,11 - Pizzetta, Mystic CT
5,12 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3pm
7,14 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
9 - Perk & Corks, Westerly, RI
10 - Venice, Westerly, RI 7pm

JOSI DAVIS

2 - The Barn, Granby, CT 6pm
3 - Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI 7pm
4 - Divine Wine, Niantic, CT 7pm
10 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm

KEEP IT ROLLING BAND

4 - Swinging Chicken, Webster, MA
11 - MR. Z's, Plainfield, CT 7pm

KEN SERIO JAZZ TRIO

5 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

KEVIN MANZELLA & HEATHER LEPAGE

2 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10
11 - Windjammer, Misquamicut, RI 1-5
17 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7-10

LOOSE CHANGE

24 - Richoni's, Groton, CT

MATT n DEAN

9 - Hardrock Cafe, Foxwoods, CT

MUNSELL BROTHERS BAND

11 - Burkes, Niantic, CT

PIRATES FOR PEACE

11 - Taste Of Mystic, Mystic, CT
30 - Outdoor Concert, Auburn, MA

RECLINERS

30 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

RIVERGODS

12 - Pattaconk, Chester, CT 1-4pm
14 - Capt Nick's, Block Island, RI 11pm
17 - Arboretum, New London, CT
22 - Filomena's - Waterford, CT 5:30
30 - Hygienic Park, New London, CT Noon

ROCK N' SOUL REVUE

18 - Mystic Shipyard, Mystic, CT 8pm

SUE MENHART BAND

11 - Olde Mistick Village, Mystic, CT 5-7pm
19 - Turnpike Cafe, Montville, CT 4-7pm

THREE2TANGO

11 - MR. Z's, Plainfield, CT 7 pm

VINCE THOMPSON & THE NEXT FUN THING

3 - Matabassett, Middletown, CT 7-10
4 - The Parlour, Providence, RI 5-8
18 - Village Gazebo, Old Mystic, CT 2-4
25 - River Inn, Yantic, CT 7:30-10:30
30 - Sneekers, Groton, CT 7:30-11

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Celtic Woman

29 - Perf. Arts Ctr., Providence, RI

Dave Matthews Band

11 - Xfinity Theatre, Hartford, CT

David Cassidy

11 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Dead & Company

28 - Xfinity Theatre, Hartford, CT

Dixie Chicks

17 - Xfinity Theatre, Hartford, CT

Indigo Girls

26 - Lupo's, Providence, RI

Jackson Browne

11 - Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, CT

Jaimoe's Jasssz Band

16 - Cafe Nine, New Haven, CT

Judy Collins

17,18 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, RI

Lady Antebellum

28 - Dunkin' Center, Providence, RI

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5 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

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SOUND WAVES 11

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Chicken & Broccoli	7.05	10.15
Veggie (tomato, onions, broccoli, mushrooms, peppers)	8.50	12.05
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“Hard Rockers Fleshhammer Reunite Their Original Lineup For Local New London Bar Crowd”

By Andrew Kerbs

Another exciting lineup at 33 Golden Street in New London made for a great kickoff to another summer, featuring Flesh Hammer, Modern Primates and the Fabulous Ms. Wendy. The audience comprised the range from a beige-suited elder to a motley group of punks, although Flesh Hammer were not fashion conscious (preferring jeans and black Ts to crewcuts and makeup).

Flesh Hammer revived their original late 80s lineup, consisting of Rob Datum on guitar, Kevin Littlefield on bass, Steve Rozin on drums and Laurin Killian on vocals. They all hailed from East Lyme High School and in previous bands played at a wine and cheese cellar where 33 Golden is today. Their genre of music vascillated between jangly garage rock and a buzzsaw guitar frenzy which set them ahead of the hardcore pack that would spring up a decade later (in the late 90s). They built up their audience steadily over time. . playing to whoever would show up to their shows and “killing a lot of brain cells “ in the process. Their early guitarist was a revolving door position: 1st Rob Datum, Kevin O’Connor, then Pete Nowakowski and Bob Bourne (of Modern Primates fame) after Rob left town. Killian’s Mom even had a short stint practicing drums with the band in their early days down in the basement. They were fast and hardcore . . with a glasses-less Killian wailing his signature vocal inflection.

The Hammer tune “Under the Sea” started with the line “I Come From America,” highlighting of the woes of joblessness, hunger and sleeping in the street. That descending guitar riff segued into a lament about depression and a competition for jobs with Asia while sounding a lot like the Sex Pistols’ anthem EMI. “Train” was another cool tune with strident bassline and 2 rumbly, low chords which accelerated into staccato bashes: “I’m a train and looking for a track” Laurin exclaimed. The song spoke to a lot of audience members, many of whom have once felt lost in life . . just like a trackless train.

There were other tuneful jangley songs and 4-chord greats like a cover of the Tamrons’ “Wild Man” which the band played for the 1st time live. Fleshhammer also played a great Chamber Brothers’ cover “Time Has Come Today” with swingy “Hey!” and “Time!” shouts inbetween Steve’s cymbal splashes and cowbell plops. The closer “Parchment Farm” was a chain gang blues originally by Muse Allison and Blue Cheer that decelerated into a 2-note dirge with fast rolling drum crescendo. The songs also showed off high-necked guitar playing and Killian’s loud exclamation “All I did was shoot my arm . . Aaaaaa!!!” which slammed their set shut.

And then there was Wendy . . . Few guitarists are so talented or uninhibited as the Fabulous Ms. Wendy. A shirtless Wendy, sweat already in place, 14 SOUND WAVES

shred a lightning fast guitar solo behind her back that dropped the jaws and weakened the knees of many an onlooker (both men and women). Her slow fingers sped up slowly as she blasted notes from her fretboard. Her deft hammerons and phat riffs were as groovy as Aerosmith and as sultry as Blondie. Amazing that her career has already spanned a decade (since she was a teen virtuoso guitarist).

Similarly, the Modern Primates’ Sara Kraut turned some heads, featuring her guitarists Pete Nowakowski/ Bob Bourne and drummer Pete Egner backing her up. Bob’s lead guitar was mixed low enough so that Sara’s vocals and Pete’s riffs were front and center. They also featured new young bassist Sophie Walsh: “Its good to have a bit more estrogen in a band” singer Sara Kraut humorously pointed out. The newcomer never missed a bassnote, playing slow ska on “He’s In Love,” and new song “Music Sweet Music.” Sara’s vocals even echoed the Who on the morbid I’m Not Dead Yet: “See me . . feel me . . hear me . . be me . . lived fast and died young so I’m a good-looking corpse.” Her lyrics also flaunted a bit of sexy narcissism worthy of psychoanalysis: “I’ve only been in love with a bottle and a mirror.”

Remember this is just the beginning of the summer. So much more great rock’n’roll awaits you listeners (and readers), so keep an eye out.



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BRONZE RADIO RETURN



By Sue Menhart

You've never heard of a band you've never heard right? Well, millions have heard Bronze Radio Return but they haven't necessarily heard of them. It's all in the numbers. This Indie Roots Rock group from Hartford, Connecticut has been blowing up music streaming services, YouTube, and television soundtracks in the last few years. They're coming to town so you can hear them and get to know them. They will headline the Taste of Mystic at the Olde Mistick Village in Mystic, Connecticut on June 11 fresh off a European and national tour.

Bronze Radio Return have sold over one hundred thousand singles, have ten million streams on Spotify for their single "Shake, Shake, Shake," and have one hundred thousand views on YouTube for their video "Light Me Up." They have performed at music festivals Bonnaroo, Lollapalooza, Firefly, and the Hangout Music Festival. They have opened for Grace Potter, John Mayer, Buddy Guy and recently opened for Sharon Jones and the Dap Kings at Collect Street Music Hall in New Haven. They also performed for President Obama at a rally in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Showtime Networks used their song "Light Me Up" for the series "Roadies" and their song "Where I'm Coming From" for the series "Shameless." Their music has been licensed to the PGA Tour and Nissan. They just returned from a tour of Europe that included stops in London, Paris, Amsterdam, Munich, Berlin, Hamburg, and Glasgow among others.

A few of the members graduated from the Hartt School of Music in West Hartford and since then have embarked on a smart, focused musical ride. Members are Chris Henderson on Guitar/Vocals, Patrick Fetkowitz on Guitar, Matt Warner on Keys/Vocals, Rob Griffith on Drums/Vocals, Bob Tanen on Bass/Vocals and Craig Struble on Harmonica/Guitar/Banjo. Their band name was inspired by Chris Henderson's habit of listening to an old bronze tube radio of his Dad's.

Back in April while they were touring in Europe, their tour bus was robbed in Amsterdam and they lost items such as laptops, hard drives, synthesizers, tablets, and even an electric toothbrush. They also lost hours of unreleased material that wasn't backed up. To offset the loss, they launched a "Handwritten Lyrics" campaign where fans could purchase the handwritten lyrics, signed by the whole band, presented in a frame. This is just one example of the ingenuity and smart marketing behind this group of guys that keeps moving the band toward success.

I spoke with Chris via phone from his home in West Hartford. I asked him how the European tour was (besides the theft.) "It was totally un-

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chartered waters for us playing in any of these countries or cities,” he said. “It was a musical adventure and also just an adventure traveling around and meeting people and eating good food. We tried to soak it in as much as we could. There were places we would love to go back to and experience more,” he said. To plan the tour, the band’s supporting team looked at streaming analytics from Spotify and Pandora and were able to see where people were actually listening to their music. This helped them pinpoint where they should play worldwide. They set up the tour with an established Indie-pop quartet from England called “The Dunwells” who already had a following in many of the cities. This allowed them to play to a whole

“From Day One we’ve tried to put on the best show that we can and I think that has helped us along the way,”

new fan base and gain some of those followers.

Chris said the “green rooms” over in Europe are really stepped up with plates of tiered meats and nice refreshments. “We generally keep our rider pretty tame,” he said. “A bottle of whiskey, a couple beers, and maybe some fresh socks. Socks are a hot commodity. For some reason they’re always the first thing to go out there. A fresh set of socks is like a warm blanket,” he said.

The journey since graduating from The Hartt School up until now has been a lot of “grinding and getting out there and playing shows,” he said. There wasn’t a pivotal point of “being discovered.” Chris majored in music production and technology and always pictured himself working in a recording studio. He hadn’t even ever sung in front of people before his junior year. He recorded a little song he wrote, sang on it and nervously shared it with some people. He received positive feedback so he decided to keep quietly working down this path. “I never once pictured myself singing for my supper,” he said. “Now I’m out on the road singing for my supper every night.”

He put a band together and they started playing Hartford venues such as Sully’s, Black Eyed Sally’s and Up or On The Rocks. They worked on getting tighter and cultivating their fan base. Then they picked a handful of other cities to play in to expand their reach. They played The Bitter End in New York City six or seven times as one of twelve bands each night. Then they played more rooms in New York and their fan base grew and it remains one of their strongest markets. Then they started playing Boston and Portland, Maine rooms and then made the loop a little bigger to cities like Chicago, Philadelphia and D.C. “We kept grinding down the markets and getting our name out there as much as we could. Where we are now is sort of the product of going in there and putting the legwork in,” he said.

I asked him how their gigs have changed since the days of Sully’s and Black Eyed Sally’s. “From Day One we’ve tried to put on the best show that we can and I think that has helped us along the way,” he said. “Certainly early on we had many nights of playing to a handful of people in the room but sometimes we could catch the attention of someone in the room, maybe even the bartender, who would ask us to come back and open up maybe for a bigger show. I think we approach the shows the same, whether there are five or five thousand. I say this a lot, the show part of our day, that hour, is the shortest part of the day when you factor in the traveling, the loading in and the loading out. If that hour isn’t the most fun, the most passionate part of your day, then you’re in the wrong business.”

No longer just a “local band,” I asked if their tour and business managers, producers, marketers, label people and booking agents have a master plan for them or if they are still in control. “We are still very much calling the www.Swaves.com



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shots, which has been awesome,” he said. “We work with a label out of Nashville called DigSin but it’s not really a traditional label setup. They offer us guidance but it’s not what you would consider a label deal. Because of that we still retain a lot of control. We use our ideas and go with our vision. We like that. There is freedom with that. And now after doing that for several years we do work with a really good team of people. They pitch our music for opportunities. It really does take a village,” he said.

I asked him if they all get to live a normal life at all, or is it always go-go-go. “Sometimes it doesn’t feel very normal, but then sometimes it does,” he said. I love the lifestyle in the sense of we’ll go out for two months and we’ll be really busy and then we’ll have a couple months low-key and that’s when we get to feel like a normal person. Make your coffee in the morning, eat vegetables, all that good stuff. And then you start itching to get back on the road again. I feel like I’m constantly always looking forward to something,” he said.

The band’s music is hooky and catchy, the kind of music you find yourself singing in your head in the quiet. I asked him how he learned to write songs that way and is it deliberate. “No I wouldn’t say it’s deliberate,” he said. “I would say it’s just how I listen to music as a songwriter. I feel like there are millions if not billions of songs out there and there are so many options and so many places to hear them and so many ways to hear them. I think it’s increasingly harder to make something that’s memorable. So I think maybe with a hook, subconsciously I’m thinking: What’s a way that will make people remember this? If that comes in the form of a hook then so be it. If it comes in the form of a lyric that people latch on to then so be it. I think it comes down to cutting through the noise,” he said.

I asked him what would be his musical dream come true. “I feel like it always changes,” he said. “There was one summer where we played a lot of really cool festivals, from Bonnaroo to Lollapalooza. I’d never been to a music festival before and to see it firsthand it was pretty wild with the energy that’s there. I think maybe a dream would be to play a night spot on one of the main stages there. There’s something really incredible about the energy of people watching the headliners. I think that would be really cool to be a part of,” he said.

This well-trained talented group of guys, paired with a team of music business experts, show no signs of stopping. In a world of content, content, content the band is going to lighten up on live shows and work some new material, finish up some recordings, and prepare for a potential new release.

I asked him if he had any advice for younger bands or anyone who’s going to the Hartt School right now. “My advice would be to listen more than you talk,” he said. “When you’re hearing something from somebody it’s from their perspective. Very few things in perspective are absolute so when you’re talking to people, even this advice, understand that it’s my perspective. More directly speaking music-wise, get out there and work. No one is going to work harder for your music than yourself. The people that sit back and hope that things will come might be sitting back for a long time, as opposed to the people who go out there and make it happen. The people doing their damndest to make it happen have a better chance of seeing results.”

My own personal advice: Come on out to the Taste of Mystic on June 11 to catch this band before they’re off and rolling again. It’s a free show and they start at 8pm.

Discography:

Bronze Radio Return EP 2008
Old Time Speaker 2009
Shake! Shake! Shake! 2011
Up, On & Over 2013
Light Me Up 2015

Links:

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June 12, Port City Music Hall, Portland, ME



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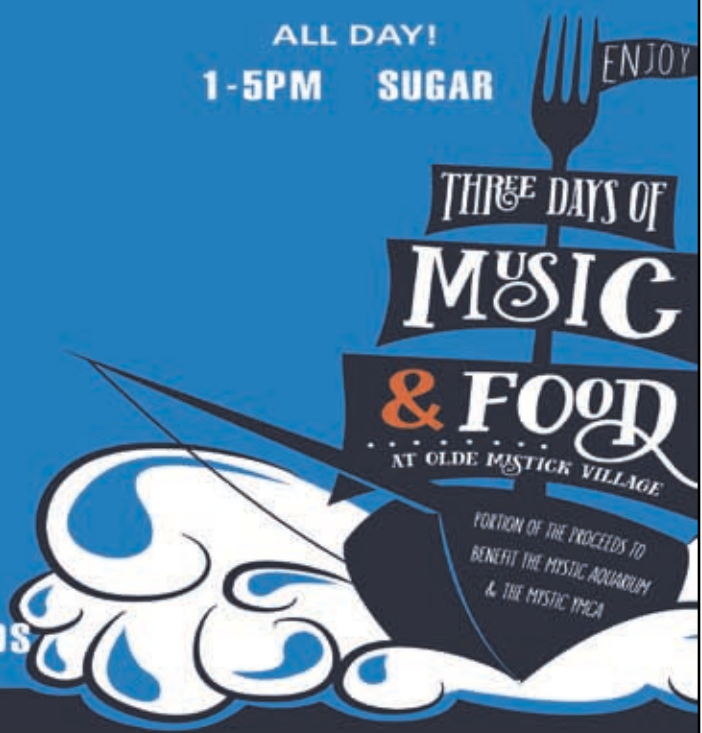
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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn

Hello My Sweet BarFlies...Summer is here! Can you believe it? And so many things to do in these three short months! So let us get started with some of our future events. RHYTHM AND ROOTS is coming! Ninigrets' own three day Music Festival with camping, (everything from 2man tents to beautifully decorated Airstreams with pink flamingos on their AstroTurf front lawn!) Vendors like HANDS THAT ROCK (massages on the spot!), the Ice Guy, the KID'S CAJUN MUSIC CAMP, dance lessons, story tellers, and the most unbelievably talented musicians like the HONEYCUTTERS, REVELERS, LUCINDA WILLIAMS,



WAYLON THIBODEAUX and STEVE RILEY and the ORCHESTRA ROYALE! Labor Day Weekend!

And speaking of Music Festivals, the MYSTIC SHIPYARD RIVER JAM FESTIVAL featuring GREEN TEA, BARLEY HOPPERS, WOOLY MAMMOTH, TYLER SETON, TODD OVERRBAUGH, MIDNIGHT MADNESS and SUNDAY GRAVY!! Beautiful location! Fantastic Artists! Food and drink on premises! Call for slip availability at the SHIPYARD and come by boat!! June 24 and 25! MYSTICRIVERJAM on FaceBook!

PISTOL PETE'S BIKE NIGHT in Norwich is happening Now, people!! Every Wednesday from now til the End of Time! or summer. Food and Drink specials for all! Sponsored by the SILENT SERVICE MOTOR-



CYCLE CLUB of CT. They also hold an OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET every Saturday. Come one, come all! \$20 for a spot! And don't forget the World Famous Car Show every Tuesday! 5-8!

DOUG'S BROWN DERBY has been hoppin' lately! Pulled my back out pretty badly, so I missed BROWN DERBY'S DRUNKEN PALETTE Class, but it must have been fun. Many motorcycle runs will be held in the near future with: It's that time again! Be careful, Motorcycles are everywhere!

Visit THE PAVILION in Old Lyme to see FAST RICKY or ETHAN CASH this month while enjoying the Sun and Surf with all the beautiful people!



PADDY'S in Misquamicut is hosting NON-PROFIT THURSDAY NIGHTS with different beneficiaries each time! Hopefully they'll be willing to donate one of their Thursday Night 15% Proceed Benefits to my new cause CHARIHO HIGH SCHOOL BAND UNIFORM UPGRADES! HELP! Get ready for the

call, MISS ANGELA! And of course, you can't beat the sun, surf, food or entertainment in Misquamicut!

My sister BETSY and I are headed to Laconia this month for our 2nd Annual Bike Week Road Trip By Air!! We enjoy strutting around in our HANDLEBAR CAFE tank tops and riding on wild alligators, while promoting the HANDLEBAR, BAR RESCUE and the BAR FLY JOURNALS, baby!! CHRIS CIP will be joining us on the flight up, and even though he's looking damn good and living the clean life, I'm sure we will be up to our usual shenanigans. Clean living can only get you so far!



Was heading out to see fellow Twisted Sisters, NANCY and SUE MENDART at HARBOUR HOUSE on June 17, but then remembered we Twisted Sisters were heading to LACONIA...So, Make me proud, gals! Went to FUSION at the VELVET MILL in STONINGTON to see SUGAR and the Artists with their Body Painted Subjects, with ALBAN, TRACEE, DAWN and TAMI...Wow!!

MORGAN DEAN whupped some ass again at MOHEGAN SUN'S FIGHTS...he's pretty freakin' kick ass, and some people go just hoping to see him gets his ass beat! but keep showin' them what hard work, a badass punch and an even bigger attitude can get you. Morgan! Winner!!

I will be meeting up with MI AMIGA dating hopeful, STEVE P. at DADDY JACK'S SOON! Thank you for the lovely letters! You will be hearing from me soon!

Happy Birthday to BOBBY CRASH, CHRISTINE MISTO, ROCCO SORRENTO, AMANDA CHOKALIS, BRIAN MERRITT, CATHY PALMER WHEELER, ANDY BICKFORD, MIKE SULLIVAN, CHRISTOPHER OSBORNE, DJ LOVE, SWEET SARAH STAMM, CHRIS LEIGH, DONNY BANKS, LEE HARVEY OSMOND, PAUL DUBENETSKY, MICHELLE GOULART, SANDY BLIVEN, DAWN TOSTI, MELISSA WEST, RON APICELLI, LARI MASTRO, LINDA SCAVELLO-YOUNG, MARK MCCARTHY, PAMELA "PAMTASTIC" ROSETTA, STEVE DAGGETT, TOMMY PHELPS, DAVE EVANS, JOHN BELLONE, BILLY HOLLDAY, JAMES MAPLE, PHIL JONES, PETE PLENNINGER, BRIAN SPRINGER, ANGELA GROCCIA, LARRY GAVITT, ELAINE SHALLENBERGER, CHARITY HENDERSON, DOUG PITTMAN, KATHLEEN WOOD, ANDY CRIDER, BEN KANE, CHARLENE PETRONE, HENRY REED, PETER MORGAN, DELLA QUATTROMANI, TERESA CARR, TIM ARNOLD, SCOTT COOK, DEB MCGUGAN, LINA WOYCIK, RICKY JOSEPH, VAL PUKAY GINGERELLA, SARAH STAMM, DEAN ROCHA and my loves HEATHER and MICHAEL!

And in more local news, Sweet SEANIE BANKS will be hosting 'ROCKIN' IN THE SUMMER' at the PAWCATUCK VFW to benefit the RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE of Providence. SEAN'S Event will include live music with SOUTHBOUND, SYDNEY'S AR-



MOUR (got it on the down low that these four guys are gonna kick some musical ass), ROYAL OAKS and more. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at HOOTIE'S, HANDLEBAR CAFE, STONINGTON PORTUGUESE CLUB or the PAWCATUCK VFW.

TUESDAY NIGHT TRIVIA is going good for the gang at CC O'BRIEN'S. Great bands at CC's and never a cover charge! And don't forget MUSIC LADY CAFE'S "CASUAL CATERING" for any type of function you are interested in hosting. Free Hall Rental! Delicious food!

A sweet "thank you" to my favorite writer STEVEN SLOSBERG for penning a powerful homage to my Grampa, RUDY VELLE, who was up top when his sub went down in the War. Swimming 14 miles to shore, he managed to survive 18 months allying himself with the Guerillas in the jungles of the Philippine's before being rescued. Beautiful piece in the WESTERLY SUN.

Thank you to JAN MILLER, TOM, TIM BROWN, and Hattie JOSH the bartender for entertaining GLADYS KRAVITZ, DAWN DINWOODIE and the BARFLY last month! What a blast and digging those Happy Hour Prices. And to All the Men in my life who have been blessed with children.. HAPPY FATHER'S DAY! Especially my dad, BILL MITCHELL! Love ya, Dad!

Keep me posted, peeps! I'm in desperate need of Secret Spies with Bar Fly Eyes!!! FaceBook me! Enjoy the Summer, my Flies. Love you long time!!



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COOKING WITH THE BLUES

By Luci & Jack Chaplin

Well Mother's Day was a success! Got Mom out to church to the Madry Temple, check it out sometime, great choir, great band, and Pastor Jack Madry is The Best!! No guilt, no shame and damnation, just a strong positive message!! You leave feeling uplifted, blessed and highly favored!! You should check out Jack at Foxwoods, he plays some of the finest jazz piano you'll ever hear Thur. thru Sat. night during the dinner hours on the 24th floor in the fine restaurant and bar Veu 24, formally the Paragon. Go for just a drink, for dessert, (make sure to have the Bananas Foster) or splurge for a special occasion and have the full Monty!! Back to Mom, we had



the whole family together, all four of my sisters, two up from North Carolina, Nieces Mia and Maddy, a few friends, LaKisha's Mom, Juanita, and my brother in law Kevin. Fourteen of us all decided to descend on Tony D's, of course we had reservations! We got there at 1:00 p.m., early before the real crowds hit which was perfect, Tony himself was at the door all dressed up looking sharp, a bright red Polo Sweater and Suede Shoes to match!! He's got to be the best dressed restaurateur in New England, he puts me to shame with my black Chef Wear Slacks, White Carhartt Pocket Tee, and My Red Eddie Bauer Sweater! Maybe one day I'll upgrade my wardrobe and give Tony a run for his money!!

Dinner is always great at Tony D's, we ordered a few plates of calamari, I ordered The New York Strip, pepper crusted with an au poivre sauce, sautéed broccoli rabe, and grilled asparagus. Other entrees ordered were the linguini with clams, grilled salmon, ravioli, chicken parm, shrimp scampi and others I didn't see, I had my head down getting busy! What's great about Tony's is they aren't a la carte. You get a salad with your dinner as well as the sides. Kevin wanted some garlic bread and they were happy to accommodate, their house made focaccia is super tasty as well! I want to thank Tony and his whole staff, especially our waiter Louie, Pete at the bar, Chef Anthony, and the Kitchen Crew!! True Professionals!!!

On the other side of fine dining and the other side of the same building is Kamp Dog. On the back window of the owners truck parked outside it says "Eat My Weenie" and weenie's they do serve as well as burgers, breakfast fare which I hear his breakfast burrito is as big as your head, daily specials such as pulled pork and Philly Steaks. I hadn't been in a long while and it had been on my mind to stop in to see Ken, the owner and a true local character. He had placed 2nd in the downtown Food Stroll a few years back with his Frito Pie which is Chili served in a bag of Fritos, neat and tidy!! A cool side note, Fritos were invented at the State Fair Of Texas by the owner of Luna's Tortilla Factory, he had some Corn Masa left over from a batch of Tamale's and put his thumb into the mix and dropped it into hot oil and

voila, a favorite snack was created, later bought out by Frito Lay!! Anyway back to Kamp Dog, A friend had told me a few weeks ago that The Dog had been named 14th best hot dog in the country by Road Food magazine. Pretty amazing for a joint right here in our midst!! They serve Hummel Hot dogs which are some of the best and I believe made here in New Haven, many doggeries here in Ct. use them. K.D. had remodeled since I had been in last, he put the counter right up next to the cooking area and expanded the dining room seating, a nice improvement, better feng shui. I ordered a chili dog and some fresh cut fries.

Ken has his regulars and the banter back and forth is amusing, you have lawyers and city officials sitting next to blue collar workers all bellied up. They take your order at the counter and write it on a paper plate if it's a eat in or on the bottom of a togo container and place it on the counter in front of Ken, an efficient system! Ken gave me a Frito Pie but my dog was plain, no sweat, I'll be back for the loaded dog. The fries are the best around, fresh cut, he told me years ago that he blanches them in boiling water to get the starch out then cools them down and then flash fries them to order. I had been saying for a long time that downtown needed a great burger and hot dog joint with fresh cut fries, what a dummy, I had passed a great one everyday right under my nose! I was really glad to see that Ken's business is thriving and doing well. Ken told me he is on the road at 4:30 am, gets his bread at Julianni's and opens at 6:00am, 6 days a week! I love to see nice people and hard work pay off!! Ken has some neat memorabilia on the wall but also proudly has a picture of himself in his Marine uniform looking right out of bootcamp. Thank You Ken for serving our country and thank you to all the Veteran's on this upcoming Memorial Day, after all it's not just about parades and cookouts, lets remember those we lost or that were wounded and the freedom that we enjoy because of others blood, sweat and tears, God Bless America!!

I think I be back to Kamp Dog real soon, This time I'm going to get me some Chili Cheese Fries , and the fried baloney sandwich on Texas Toast!!

p.s. Big things happening on Bank St., opening in June, Dock Side Resort Bar in the old RoadHouse location, Social opening in the Solomon building and Fat Boys coming to The Old Mambo space. Check out The Lazy Leopard across from Muddy Waters, they also just added a beautiful Sushi Bar across the hall, some of the best food around, voted tops in Yelp reviews! If You want a Bangin sandwich check out the Montauk House on guess what street? I had the Ham and pulled pork with homemade sweet pickles and fried plantains, I also espied a Mouffuletta that looked like the real deal!! Chow down!!

Happy Father's Day to all the great Dad's in the world! We do get the short end of the stick! Mother's Day is the biggest restaurant day of the year, a huge day for the flower stores and chocolate company's, what do we get? I guess we asked for it, to get to play a round of golf, maybe a breakfast, a nice card, an afternoon roll in the hay, a cookout maybe? For Me it's a hug and a kiss from My two Babies, Rachel and Luci, to know that I've been the best Dad that I could and for them to know how much I love them! I miss my Daddy Jack and he will be with Me and in My thoughts always!! Good Health and Blessings, Jack and Luci

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fo38uRGFdd0&sns=em>



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HEARING AID



The Lumineers "Cleopatra"

Dualtone Records

The Lumineers' are faced with a herculean task: following up the indie-folk brilliance of their debut, self-titled album with the new *Cleopatra* album. With hits like "Ho Hey" and "Flowers in Your Hair" alongside beautiful tracks like "Flapper Girl" and the Talking Heads cover of "This Must Be the Place (Naïve Melody)," The Lumineers' have made this task nearly impossible and it is no surprise that they came up short.

The album kicks off with "Sleep On the Floor," a strong song about two lovers getting out of their town despite it being their hometown. The song carries the whole you-and-me-against-the-world attitude with poise. With The Lumineers' powerful percussion alongside the driving vocals of Wesley Shultz, this intro track doesn't miss a beat when starting the album.

Next is "Ophelia," the lead single from the album and one of the highest points on it. A booming kick drum trudges through the air alone as the song gets off the ground; the drum is then met with an equally bass-filled piano and Wes' intimate voice that conveys both the melancholy reality and the youthful zest of the song. There is something to be said of musicians who can con-

vey scenes with their voice. "Ophelia," brings to mind a Denver bar with wooden floors lying upon a rainy street in mid October. Even more than that, the song compliments itself with a precision rarely seen: fluttering piano sequences aligned with deep bass, demanding yet sacred pleading, simple rhythms with simple yet eloquent lyrics.

The title-track is not something to miss out on. The band has stated that "the title track, 'Cleopatra,' sprang from an encounter with a taxi driver Wes met in the Republic of Georgia, who related a tale of personal tragedy without a trace of self-pity." This tale is heard on the song as heartfelt lyrics are played over up beats that show, with great skill, the heartbreak and the growth of the character. The song tells the story of a marriage gone wrong and the woman who refused to give up on life and love, and was able to put it all behind her. Simply put, this song is beautiful.

On the back half of the album, the band slows it down. "Angela" is the gem of the back side. It manages to groove along with a fervor that crescendos through the song, holding itself besides short verses and a simple refrain. The song brings the listener through a story of a girl finally getting away from a town that didn't love her. "Long Way From Home" is poignant to say the least. The song tells about a father dying of an illness, probably cancer, and the son who prays for it all to be over. Truly, the song speaks for itself, a clearly personal tale of loss and grief.

So, in the end, did The Lumineers beat their debut album? No, but they came close. This is through no fault of their own; they just made their first album too good. This moment is akin to if Neutral Milk Hotel tried to one-up In the Aeroplane Over the Sea, impossible. However, The Lumineers have managed to maintain their unique sound and give us

an album well worth the four-year wait.

- Nic Hall



Bella's Bartok "Change Yer Life"

Amity House

Bella's Bartok is one of those rare bands that defies description. With so many bands and artists riffing from well-worn blues lines or rock motifs, these guys stand out on their own as highly original. Their self-described "modern pop-klezmer" combines a high-energy Eastern European sound with a vaudeville feel. Everything is up-tempo, surging from song to song with intensity and flash.

Mardi Gras is another thing that comes to mind listening to this album. There are an abundance of horns dramatically punctuating the rhythm, with ferocity. In any case, there is a party happening with every track. This is the kind of album that is hard to just relax and chill out to – it has way too much energy. It's a much better choice when going out for a run or pre-gaming for a fun night out.

Musically, it's a very solid work. The lead vocals from Asher Putnam dominate the tracks. He's got a lot of style and great control, which he exhibits frequently. They feature lots of harmonies too, which add some great contrast at times.

The rest of the band is just as tight. Many are multi-instrumentalists, and the list includes clarinet, mandolin, trombone, accordion, trumpet, and banjo to supplement the guitars and drums.

"Change Yer Life" kicks off with "The Strigoli Waltz", an up-tempo klezmer song that really represents well the feel of the whole album. It is punctuated by trumpets and features the vocals front and center. They exhibit tempo and rhythm changes and really show off

what they do well.

One of my favorite tracks on this is "Mother". It features lots of great vocal harmonies, supporting a ballad feel at times. It picks up into a more medium tempo for a while before dropping off again and switching gears to another down-tempo section before picking it up again to take it out strong the rest of the way. It's close to 8 minutes long and has a lot of great movement, as well as some nice sentimentality in the lyrics.

There are a lot of great tracks on here. "The Fiddler & The Devil" is a fun upbeat stomper. "The Strange Ones" starts off kind of quiet before bursting out into almost a tango feel. The last track "Ramona" is their first single off of "Change Yer Life" and has a more pop feel and some nice changes.

What really strikes me about Bella's Bartok is both their originality and their swagger. It's one thing to commit to a really unique sound – it's another thing to pull it off so convincingly and confidently. I highly encourage you to check out "Change Yer Life", and see Bella's Bartok live for the full experience. They tour the Northeast regularly and will be in CT and RI several times this summer. That is, if you have the energy to keep up with the band. Bring your dancing shoes.

- Tom Matthew
Two Ton Music



Juke Rockets "Hungry Soul" Indie

Winners of the Maine Blues Society's "Road to Memphis" competition in 2012, 2013 and 2015, the Juke Rockets represented Maine in the Blues Foundation's International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tennessee in 2013, 2014 and 2016. It's easy to believe that the Juke Rockets have racked up some kudos when you hear this disc! This four piece band consists of Ron Cassillo on elec-

www.Swaves.com

tric and acoustic guitars, Steve Mellor on bass and Tim Waitowitz on drums, acoustic guitar and piano. Both Cassillo and Waitowitz provide backing vocals, as well as able instrumental ability. Mellor is in the pocket on bass! And last, but certainly not least, Carlene Thornton on lead vocals. Thornton's voice is clean yet powerful and is very easy to listen to! This disc begins with, "American Train"...an energetic song, driven (pun intended) by a strong, steady train beat provided by Waitowitz. Cassillo's slide guitar adds to this song's appeal. Humor comes into play on track two, "Can't Complain Blues." Bassist, Steve Casillo's brother Andrew penned this tune. There are some clever solos by all the band members sandwiched in this comedic style number, along with Thornton's sassy comments!

As I went on listening to this recording, I noticed a trend of slower tunes... seven out of the ten tunes to be exact. Track three, "Cougar," is a steamy song, and partly penned by Thornton along with drummer Waitowitz. This song begins with a riff reminiscent of Hubert Sumlin's "Little Red Rooster" but flows into a style of its own. Thornton's lyrics oscillate from playful to repent full. Up to this point, they sounded more or less like a "blues band," but, the title track, "Hungry Soul," which is the fourth cut, is a departure from that notion. Just for the record, (puny again) even their "blues" does not follow the stereo-typical format! This cut is sweetly sorrowful, with simplistic instrumentation, embellished with vocal harmonies. This recording goes from light to heavy on the fifth cut, "Keep On Walkin." Thornton and her crew call this two time lover out and put him in his place! Casillo's guitar shredding supports the raw message in this song!

The sixth cut, "Mister 7" was penned solely by Thornton. She begins with seductive lyrics, with little to no hint as to who she is referring to...until the chorus where she declares who love for Seagram Seven, addressing him as "mister reliable!" The seventh cut, "Sunday Morning," is a bump 'n' grind rhythm written by bassist, Mellor. Thornton sings this tune with conviction, and I do mean "conviction!" She informs the offender in this song that he has been caught in the act.

The eighth track is the only non-original tune on this disc and is Gerschwin classic, "Summertime." Thornton does a great job on this often covered classic. Thornton, Mellor, Waitowitz, along with some help from a friend, W. Kelly,

penned the next song, which echoes the sentiments of Mae West, "When I'm Good" (when I'm bad, I'm better) so closely that I think Ms. West would have had something to say to the lyricists of this song, lol!

The final track, "We Threw Love Away" is a ballad, and features Waitowitz on piano along with drums on this tune he penned with a friend/writing partner, Keith Stover. Thornton's powerful voice sells this mournful tune!

I would recommend checking this CD out for yourself. Worth the listen!

- Ms Marci



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