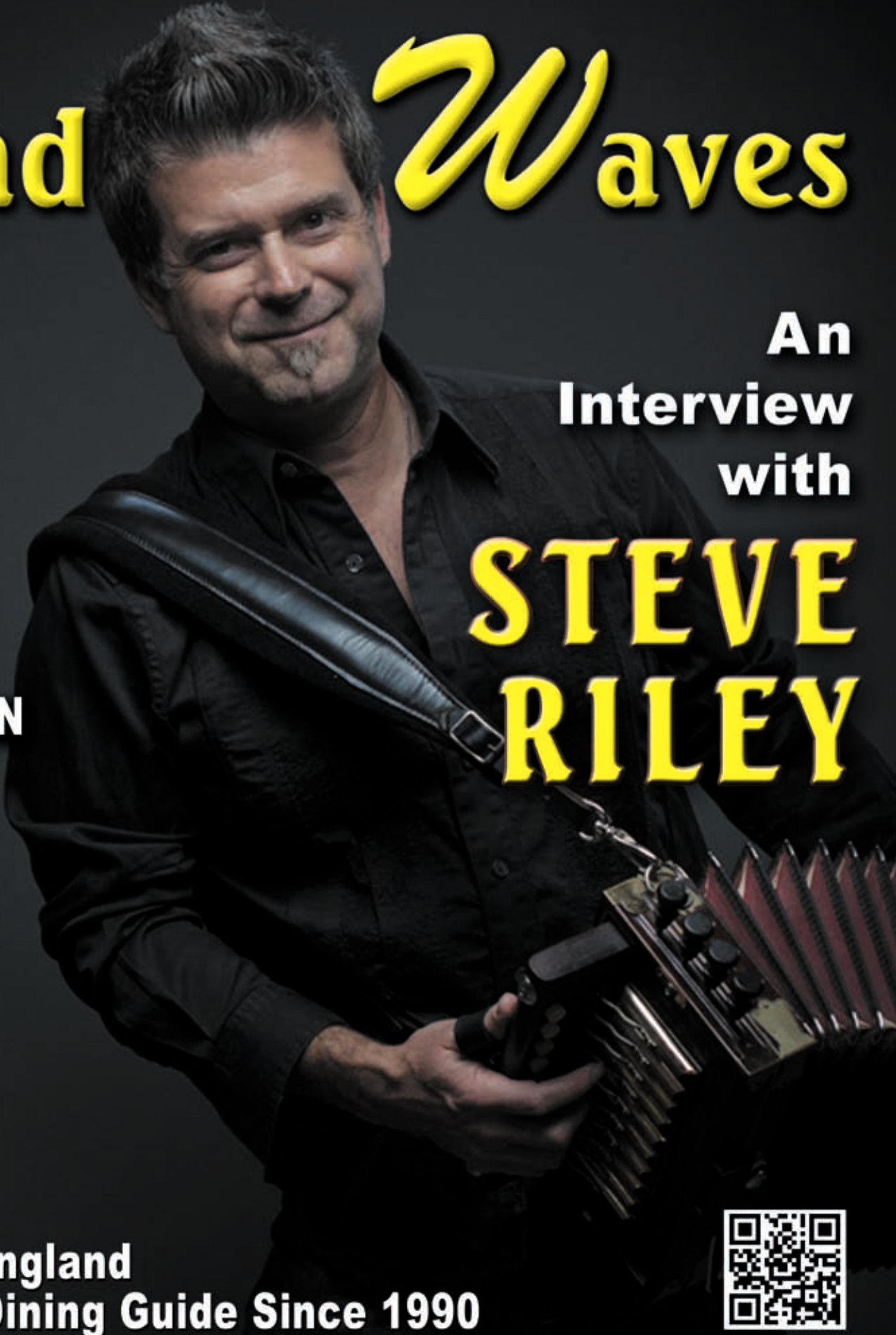


# Sound Waves



**Volume 27  
Issue 8  
August 2017**

**An  
Interview  
with**

**STEVE  
RILEY**

**DAVE FIELDS  
ANDY T BAND  
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# INSIDE THE WAVE

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Cover/Photo by  
Seth Jacobson



**Ali Kaufman**  
**Morning Mojo**  
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**Tuesday Mornings**  
**9am-noon**



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# Sound Waves

**August 2017**  
**VOLUME 27, NUMBER 8**  
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|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 2<br><b>DJ NICKY D</b><br>1pm  |  | 4<br><b>Side Kick</b><br>2pm             | 5<br><b>Boom Shots</b><br>2pm<br><b>DJ Felix</b><br>Annual 80s Party<br>9pm | 6<br><b>The Zoo</b><br>2pm                            |
| 9<br><b>Boom Shots</b><br>1pm  | 10<br><b>Ethan Cash</b><br>2pm                                                      | 11<br><b>Dean &amp; Lil Chris</b><br>2pm | 12<br><b>Juice Box</b><br>2pm<br><b>DJ Felix</b><br>9pm                     | 13<br><b>Hot Date</b><br>2pm                          |
| 16<br><b>DJ NICKY D</b><br>1pm | 17<br><b>Sean Rivers</b><br>2pm                                                     | 18<br><b>S.E.A.</b><br>2pm               | 19<br><b>Punch Drunk</b><br>2pm<br><b>DJ Felix</b><br>9pm                   | 20<br><b>Darik &amp; The Funbags</b><br>2pm           |
| 23<br><b>Azoostic</b><br>1pm   | 24<br><b>Steve Gregory</b><br>2pm                                                   | 25<br><b>Matt Vizzo Duo</b><br>2pm       | 26<br><b>patrones</b><br>2pm<br><b>DJ Felix</b><br>9pm                      | 27<br><b>Felix Brown Band</b><br>2pm                  |
| 30<br><b>DJ NICKY D</b><br>1pm | 31<br><b>TBA</b>                                                                    | 1<br><b>Dean &amp; Lil Chris</b><br>2pm  | 2<br><b>Addison Station</b><br>2pm<br><b>DJ Felix</b><br>9pm                | 3<br><b>Explicit</b><br>2pm<br><b>DJ Felix</b><br>9pm |

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| 9<br><b>Rob Brannon</b><br>6pm     | 10<br><b>Travis Winkley</b><br>5pm | 11<br><b>Rob &amp; Lori</b><br>6pm        | 12<br><b>Azalea Drive</b><br>6pm     | 13<br><b>Steve Dunn Boom Shots</b><br>1pm<br>5pm   |
| 16<br><b>Dean Cardinale</b><br>6pm | 17<br><b>Ethan Cash</b><br>5pm     | 18<br><b>Matt Vizzo Duo</b><br>6pm        | 19<br><b>Patrone Brothers</b><br>6pm | 20<br><b>Tony Frutuoso Red Light</b><br>1pm<br>5pm |
| 23<br><b>Steve Pertesis</b><br>6pm | 24<br><b>Ethan Cash</b><br>5pm     | 25<br><b>Majestic Fuzz</b><br>6pm         | 26<br><b>Ethan Cash</b><br>6pm       | 27<br><b>John Maz Fast Rickey</b><br>1pm<br>5pm    |
| 30<br><b>Dean Cardinale</b><br>6pm | 31<br><b>Ethan Cash</b><br>5pm     | 1<br><b>Matt Vizzo Duo</b><br>6pm         | 2<br><b>TBA</b><br>Call for info     | 3<br><b>Guido Punch Drunk</b><br>3pm<br>7pm        |



# All The World's a Stage



## "Moosting Salad"

By Sue Menhart

Sometimes at gigs we get requests. This is a given. We are there to entertain, and it's kind of our job to give the people what they want. However, there are some songs that churn my stomach for reasons I can't explain. It's difficult to pry my mouth open to sing them. My

responses to these types of requests include:

"Oh sorry, we don't know it." - THAT'S A LIE. WE CAN LOOK UP THE CHORDS ON OUR PHONES.

"Oh sorry, I can't sing that high." - THAT'S A LIE. WE CAN CHANGE THE KEY.

"Oh sorry, I couldn't do it justice" - THAT'S A LIE. IT CHURNS MY STOMACH.

But sometimes, due to circumstances beyond my control (ALL CIRCUMSTANCES ON THE PLANET), songs I despise do indeed vomit from my mouth.

Here's how a recent scenario went down:

We were doing a gig at a lovely outside venue by the beach, and everything was hunky-dory. A couple hours in, a tipsy jolly older gentleman with a huge wad of black curly hair approached me.

"Young lady, if you please, play moosting salad for moi."

"What the heck are you saying?" I asked as politely as I could.

"Please play moosting salad!"

A woman who was desperately trying to keep him from falling by holding onto his arms said, "He wants to hear Mustang Sally!"

O.....M.....G

"Oh, not possible, sorry. We don't know it."

"I will give you one hundred dollars to play moosting salad!" the inebriated man said.

"Sir," I laughed, "There's not enough money in the world for us to play that."

"Then I will give you shots! Lots of shots! I will be right back."

Filled with dread and with a sinkhole in my stomach I turned around and yelled to the guys, "There's no way I'm singing Mustang Sally! I will die first!"

The guitar player, amused by the proposition, started playing the opening lick. Such a show-off! The bass player yelled, "What key?!" and started hammering away. The drummer got a beat going. The sax player added some lovely tasteful fills.

I had been had.

I let the intro go on and on for what seemed an eternity because I was determined not to sing the most wretched over-played song of all time. I looked out at the ocean. I dreamed of brighter days. I wished with all my might that I could get the heck out of there.

Then the tray of shots arrived. Tequila I think. I drank four. I think I WAS actually determined to kill myself. Since I had been paid, I assumed it was

6 SOUND WAVES

now time to deliver.

Now that I think about it – couldn't I have just encouraged the crowd to sing the song karaoke style? You know, everybody sing it but me? But no. Hindsight is 20/20. Could have, would have, should have, blah blah blah.

I sang the first line. The crowd went ballistic. The song went on excruciatingly for ten minutes. I am not proud of these ten minutes. I was singing (well...barking) the same thing over and over and over. Was I dead yet?

But alas, this is why we do it right? For the roar of the crowd? The happy faces? The drunken stupors?

We all survived the night somehow and the next morning when I opened my phone, there were the lyrics: "Ride Sally Ride..." UGH! KILL ME!

Peruse more cautionary tales, rants and raves over on my blog "Menhart Musings" at [www.suemenhart.wordpress.com](http://www.suemenhart.wordpress.com).





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|            | <b>10 KRIS RYAN</b> 6-9                          | <b>11 GREEN TEA</b>     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|            | <b>17 JOHNNY HOLLYWOOD</b>                       | <b>18 WEED HAWKS</b>    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|            | <b>24 ANDY &amp; JOSI</b> 6-9                    | <b>25 BAD HOMBRES</b>   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|            | <b>31 BRUCE GREGORI</b> 6-9                      | <b>1 TBA</b>            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|            | <b>SATURDAY NIGHT 19th, 26th, 2nd - DJ BOBBY</b> |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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# BAR FLY JOURNALS



**By Stephanie Shawn**

Hello my sweet sweet flies... I am so freaking' sorry but it was definitely an Island kinda month so get ready! I spent about 9 straight days on Block Island celebrating the 4th of July. Honestly? I can't even begin to tell you where I was or what I did because note that we are moped mobile we hit about 10 hotspots a day. If Editor Dave loved me he would allow us all to enjoy my life through pictures, but alas.. I'm not feeling the love.

What a blast watching the BLOCK ISLAND PARADE at SAMMY CILINO'S Place, with wife and DEBBIE and son, BENITO, along with too many friends to list, in-

cluding STACEY and SULLY and AMY and TODD. And imagine my surprise when we walked by the DARIUS and found KEV and KRIS SLOCUM as well as JULIE LYNN CARDINAL and VAL GINGERELLA. Rockstars!

SO... just driving along on the 4th on the back of the damn moped while my husband celebrated the birth of a nation by beeping his way incessantly thru out the entire Island for about 2 hours straight until the car in front of us whipped over to the side of the road and lo and behold the Police Chief himself leaped from the unmarked vehicle, practically snarling with rage he screamed "NO MORE BEEPING...DO YOU HEAR ME? DO

NOT BEEP THAT HORN AGAIN!' Making friends wherever we go!!



had prepped well, and I had slathered my aging lizard skin with copious amounts of coconut oil thanks to Miss PAULA SOLAR.

FYI. When you apply copious amounts of coconut oil, it pretends to be absorbed into your upper parched epidermis, then when you heat up it starts oozing out of your pores, leaving behind an oil slick wherever you



I went to the 125th GALA for the WEST-ERLY LIBRARY AND WILCOX PARK as the date for beautiful BONNIE PIZZA. It was a glorious evening in the Park, I was wearing a little red number smirk smirk and was feeling pretty good. BONNIE had on her gawjus garden party number. We



go. Dripping down your arms and legs.. ugggg! Oh and then... the next day, I got a good look at the photos, after putting the ol' glasses on and yikes!!! Lovely! It appears I was absolutely oozing with sweat. What the frock?! Beautiful night! Beautiful people in attendance..JULIE and ROB HOLLAND, Super Songstress LISA MARIE sang with the ORCHESTRA and

I boogied on the dance floor with Old Friends from Waaaaay Back PHIL and SANDY MANISCALCO. Hi HOACHIE!! Found Ma after 40 years or so!

Anyhow... I also stopped at my son MICHAEL'S work party at BEN and ANDREA BOIS-CLAIR'S Family Spot in Ashaway. My God, what a beautiful place! Gorgeous! Rolling hills, beautiful ponds, whinnying horses, preening peacocks. And the food was delicious! Saw ANN BUONOCORE, AL and QUENTIN DROUIN and Editor DAVE POTTIE. Thanks to BEN and ANDREA



and the MINER Family for having us!

Spent a day of debauchery with KIMMY and TOMMY on the OLE BLISTA in NEW HARBOR on the ISLAND..BLOCK ISLAND. Flew in with my sister and her husband BETS and CHRIS, who tried his best to reign us in and keep me in control. Sorry Charlie, Mexican Mudslides (you know, the kind that come with Rum, but you have to add Vodka too. Uh, whaaaa? Why does everything sound so brilliant while you're under the influence?), well, even though we jumped into the semi chilly waters of NEW HARBOR multiple times, off the Back o' the BLISTA many times, This Fly was tipppppsy. Next time CHRIS, I promise I'll be good!

I also watched the stunning SAILFEST FIREWORKS SHOW from way up high in the air with BAR FLY Fans MICHELE CALBI and ROB DE-VOE on a wonderful summer night.

A big "Thank You" to my bestie BRUCE MEARNs for bringing myself and parents DAWN and JOHN MERSHON to the BREAKWATER in Stonington. Our beautiful waitress KRIS SLOCUM brought over Blood Orange Margarita's, Lobster Rolls and Shrimp Kabobs. Beautiful Day on the Water. Thank you, BRUCE! It was my second visit this month and I haven't been disappointed watching the sun set with friend JIM and FERN BABCHAK. Fabulous!

Romper Stomper Time, my flies..Happy Birthday KARIN OGLE, TERRI LECLAIR, MICHELE CALBI, DEBBIE BENN, BILL BAZZELL, PHAVIXAI VIXAISAK, SHAWN FAKE, TONY BELL, KIMMY HANDLEY, BILL BARTHOLOMEW, NATALIE CUBBAGE, JASON WALLACE, PAUL MENARD, TDOG PEABODY, ERIC BROWN, JOHN GRADY, ANN BUONOCORE, SHANNON BRENNAN, MARGE FUSARO, RUSSELL ARRUDA, RACHEL AMARAL, OSCAR CHAPMAN, KEVIN CULOTTA, BOB WARNER II, DUG WOODARD, TAYLOR TRAHAN, LIZZIE ELIZABETH DAWN, TOM MURCH, DOT SANDERS, KIRSTEN PETRIZZO, SUZANNE FERRARA SHAW, ANDREW COOK, COUSIN COURTNEY GARCIA, RICHARD CARUSO, ANGELA SILVA, ALLIN BOOKIN', KIMBERLY BERGMAN, MATT HOWARD, JAY GATCH, COURTNEY STEADMAN, CRYSTAL BENNETT,



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THINGS TO DO IN AUGUST: ESKER POINT SOUND WAVES SUMMER CONCERT SERIES on Thursdays, ROCK THE DOCKS 60'S EXPLOSION on August 9th in NORWICH HARBOR, RJ THE DJ on the Patio Saturdays and Sundays at SANDY'S LIGHTHOUSE in Misquamicut, SUGAR at BALLARDS on Labor Day Weekend, BLUE MONDAYS at the MYSTIC RIVER PARK, Try the moorings and water taxi to the best beach bar in Connecticut, at the PAVILION in Old Lyme on Tuesdays to see JAMIE'S JUNK SHOW, or the Sunset at SUNSET RIBS for daily entertainment on 2 floors in Waterford!! And of course, AMY HELM at JONATHAN EDWARDS WINERY on Aug. 13!

I'm trying to list more calendar items so message me! August, baby. Sheott's flying by! RHYTHM AND ROOTS is swiftly approaching on



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|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 4 <b>Fusion</b>                           | 5 <b>Never Enuff</b>  | 5 <b>James Harris</b>   | 6 <b>Cabana Boys</b>          |
| 11 <b>Franklin Brothers</b>               | 12 <b>Squelch</b>     | 12 <b>John Erikson</b>  | 13 <b>Boat Cake</b>           |
| 18 <b>License To Groove</b>               | 19 <b>Styff Kitty</b> | 19 <b>John Maziarz</b>  | 20 <b>Kevin &amp; Heather</b> |
| 25 <b>Erik Narwhal &amp; The Manatees</b> | 26 <b>Alter Ego</b>   | 26 <b>TBA</b>           | 27 <b>The Choos</b>           |
| 1 <b>Neal &amp; The Vipers</b>            | 2 <b>Turbulence</b>   | 2 <b>Ground Control</b> | 3 <b>TBA</b>                  |

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# BAND DATES

## ANDY & BETHANY

8 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 6-9  
10 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 5-8  
18 - Vineyard, Stonington, CT 6-9

## ANDY CHANEY

3,17,31 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT 8pm  
4 - Angies Pizza, Mystic, CT  
7 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT  
16 - Mystic Pizza II, Stonington, CT 7:30pm  
20 - Spouters, Mystic, CT 5pm  
22 - Rathskeller, Charlestown, RI 8pm

## AZALEA DRIVE

4,25 - On The Waterfront, New London, CT 7pm  
12 - Sunset Rib, Waterford, CT 6pm

## BEBOBALOUBOB

5 - Indian Field Campground, Salem, CT 7-11  
11 - Angie's Pizza, Mystic, CT  
12 - Witch Meadow Campground, Salem, CT 7-11  
19 - Acom Acres Campground, Bozrah, CT 7-11

## BRANDT TAYLOR

2,23 - Market Place, Avon, CT 7-10pm  
3,10,17,24,31 - Spring House, Block Island, RI  
4 - Sunset Ribs, Waterford, CT 6-10pm  
6 - River Brewery, Southwick, MA 2-5pm  
7,14,21,28 - D&G Pub, Canterbury, CT 6-9pm  
11 - Mulhearn's, E.Providence, RI  
12 - Farmers Market, Stafford Spring, CT 11-2pm  
13 - Bin 228, Glastonbury, CT 12-3pm  
13,20 - Brick & Basil, Norwich, CT 4-7pm  
16 - Rooster Company, Newington, CT  
18 - Jacky Boy's, Cranston, RI  
19 - Apricots, Farmington, CT 7-10pm  
25 - Tavern on the Hill, W.Greenwich, RI  
26 - Groggy Frog, Southington, CT  
27 - Kinsmen Brewery, Southington, CT 4-7pm  
30 - Bee & Thistle, Old Lyme, CT 6-9pm

## THE CARTELLS

3,5,10,17,24,26 - The Spa, Norwich, CT 6:30pm  
4 - Museum of Art, New Britain, CT 5:45pm  
11 - Washington Park, Groton, CT 6:30pm  
13 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3pm  
14,21 - Point Inn, Old Saybrook, CT 6pm  
16 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7pm  
19 - Pazzo Cafe, Rocky Hill, CT 7pm  
25 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm

## 10 SOUND WAVES

## CHEZ LORENZ BLUES PROJECT

5 - Village Fair, Stonington, CT 11am-2:30pm  
27 - Velvet Mill, Stonington, CT 12-2pm

## THE CRITIC'S

18 - Stonehouse, Baltic, CT

## DAN STEVENS

2 - Old Lyme Inn, Old Lyme, CT  
3 - Gritty McDuff's, Auburn, ME  
4 - Whale's Tale, Boothbay Harbor, ME  
6 - Revolution Taproom, Rochester, NH, 11am  
6 - Andy's Old Port Pub, Portland, ME, 7pm  
7 - Lake Pemaquid, Damariscotta, ME  
8, 15,22,29 - www.icrvradio.com, 4pm  
8, 15,22,29 - Nightingale's, Old Lyme, CT  
9,16,23,30 - Inn, Old Lyme, CT  
10 - Pa's Place, Guilford, CT  
11 - Town Green, Meriden, CT  
12 - Diddley Bow Workshop, Burlington, CT  
13,26 - Black Hall Outfitters, Old Lyme, CT  
17 - Shanks, Clinton, CT  
18,19,20 - Hamburg Fair, Lyme, CT  
24 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT  
25 - Arts Center, Marlborough, CT  
31 - Smokin' W/ Chris, Southington, CT

## DAN WATSON

2,16 - Dog Watch, Mystic, CT  
3,10,17,20,24,31-Mahogany Shoals, B.I., RI  
5,13,27 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT  
8,18,22 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT  
9 - Tipping Chair, Southington, CT  
12 - Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI  
19 - Mariner Grill, Narragansett, RI  
23 - Mystic Pizza II, N. Stonington, CT  
26 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT  
30 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT

## DARIK & THE FUNBAGS

11,12 - Capt Nicks, Block Island, RI  
14 - Wolf Den, Mohegan Sun, CT 7pm  
18 - Wolcott Fair, Wolcott, CT 7pm  
19 - Sheas, Manchester, CT  
20 - Pavilion, Old Lyme, CT 2pm  
23 - Green, Southington, CT 7pm  
26 - Downtown Getdown, Chicopee, MA

## THE DRAWBRIDGE BAND

12,26 - Two Trees Inn, Foxwoods, CT 5-8pm  
25 - Tamarack Lodge, Voluntown, CT 7-10pm  
31 - Public House, Old Lyme, CT 6-9pm

## EIGHT TO THE BAR

3 - Patriots Park, Coventry, CT 6:30-8:30  
5 - Hygienic Art Park, New London, CT 8-10pm  
6 - Ninigret Park, Charlestown, RI 2:30-4pm  
16 - Elizabeth Park, Hartford, CT 6:30-8pm  
22 - Town Common, Burlington, MA 6:30-8pm

## FRANKENPHIL

2 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm  
4 - Ridge Vineyard, Preston, CT 5:30pm

6 - Tamarack Lodge, Voluntown, CT 5pm  
11 - Son's Of Liberty, Wakefield, RI 6pm  
13,20,27 - Christopher's, Warwick, RI 5pm  
14 - Rathskeller, Charlestown, RI 7:30pm  
17 - Tower Square, Springfield, MA 5pm  
19 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30pm  
25 - McBride's, Providence, RI 6:45pm  
26 - On The Waterfront, New London, CT 7pm  
29 - Stomping Ground, Putnam, CT 8pm

## GREEN TEA

4 - Andrea, Misquamicut, RI  
5 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT  
7 - Town Beach, Westerly, RI 6-8p  
11 - Voodoo Grill, Mystic, CT  
27 - Andrea, Misquamicut, RI 1-5

## GREEN TEA LIGHT

3 - Tap Room, Westerly, RI 8pm

## JAMES HARRIS

1,8,22,29 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT 8pm  
2,9,12,23,26,30 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT  
4,25 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT 10pm  
11 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 10pm  
27 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3pm  
31 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 7pm

## JUNKYARD HEARTSTRINGS

4 - First Friday, Putnam, CT 6:30-9pm  
5 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 8-11pm  
8 - Rathskeller, Charlestown, RI 8-11pm  
10 - Farmers' Market, Lisbon, CT 4-6pm  
11 - Farmers' Market, Bozrah, CT 4-7pm  
18 - Crossings, Putnam, CT 8-11pm  
19 - Farmers' Market, Lebanon, CT 9-11:30am  
25 - Baci Grill, Cromwell, CT 7-11pm  
26 - Green Vineyards, Lebanon, CT 1-4pm  
26 - Canal Rest., Worcester, MA 7-10pm  
31 - Strawberry Park, Preston, CT 8-10pm

## KEEP IT ROLLING BAND

5 - Octne Bar, New London, CT  
26 - Wildemess Lake, Willington, CT 7:30pm

## KEVIN MANZELLA

19 - Christo's, Mystic, CT 7:30-10:30  
26 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT

## KEVIN MANZELLA & HEATHER LEPAGE

6 - Spouter's Tavern, Mystic, CT 5-8  
18,29 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 6-9  
20 - Windjammer, Misquamicut, RI 1-5  
25 - Brazen Hen, Westerly, RI 8:30-11:30

## LOCOMOTION

19 - Water's Edge, Westbrook, CT 6-10pm  
23 - Walnut Hill Park, New Britain, CT 7pm-9pm

## THE LOCOMOTIVES

5 - POCO Fest, N. Branford, CT  
12 - The Stand, Branford, CT

14 - Gelston House, E. Haddam, CT  
26 - Angelicos, E. Hampton, CT

## MATT n DEAN

10 - Hardrock, Foxwoods, CT

## Ms. MARCI & THE LOVESICK HOUNDS

11 - Progressive Therapies, Manchester, CT 7:30-10pm  
24 - Uncle D's, Norwichtown, CT 5 - 7:30pm

## NICK BOSSE

10,17,24,31 - Habour House, Mystic, CT 5:30-8:30  
11 - Cleats Sports, Westerly, RI 6-9  
13 - Nickle Creek Vineyard, Foster, RI 1-4  
18 - Two Brothers, Voluntown, CT 8-11  
19 - Mystic Pizza II, N.Stonington, CT 8-11  
25 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT 5-8

## THE PIRANHA BROTHERS

10 - Bills Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7-10

## PIRATES FOR PEACE

12 - Strawberry Park, Preston, CT  
26 - Octane, New London, CT

## 60's EXPLOSION BAND

9 - Waterfront, Norwich, CT 6-8pm  
11 - Atrium, Mashentucket, CT

## SUE MENHART BAND

5 - Mistick Village, Mystic, CT 2pm  
18 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm

## SUGAR

6,7,14 - Ballards Inn, B.I., RI 2pm-6pm  
25 - Blues Cafe, Newport, RI 10pm  
26 - Ocean Mist, Matunuck, RI 10pm

## SUNDAY GRAVY

10 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm  
12 - Hot Rod Café, New London, CT  
13 - Back Porch, Old Saybrook, CT 3-7pm

## THE SYSTEM

11 - Rusty Nail, Torrington, CT  
26 - Angelicos, E Hampton, CT 7-11

## 2 CAT ZOO

4 - Vineyards, Stonington, CT

## VINCE THOMPSON THE NEXT FUN THING

12 - Capt. Scott's, New London, CT 5-9  
17 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10  
19 - Chateau Le Gari, Marlborough, CT 3-6:30  
27 - Donahue's, Madison, CT 4:30-8  
31 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT 7:30-11

## THE WHALES

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# CONCERT DATES

## Albert Cummings

9 - Beach Hotel, Madison, CT

## Amy Helm

12 - Rock Pine Festival, Coventry, RI

13 - Jonathan Edwards, N. Stonington, CT

## The Beach Boys

9 - Bold Point Park, E. Providence, RI

## Brad Paisley

6 - Xfinity Theatre, Hartford, CT

## Donavon Frankenreiter

8 - Rooftop, Providence, RI

20 - Jonathan Edwards, N. Stonington, CT

## Goo Goo Dolls

9 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

## Gordon Lightfoot

5 - Twin River, Lincoln, RI

## Green Day

29 - Xfinity Theatre, Hartford, CT

## Joe Bonamassa

8 - Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, CT

## John Mayer

20 - Xfinity Theatre, Hartford, CT

## John Mellencamp

13 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

## Kenny Chesney

10,11 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

## Lucinda Williams

16 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

18 - Columbus Theater, Providence, RI

## Martin Sexton

6 - Jonathan Edwards, N. Stonington, CT

## Railroad Earth/Moe.

24 - Bold Point Park, E. Providence, RI

## Santana

19 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

## Stephen Stills/Judy Collins

17 - College St., New Haven, CT

## Walter Trout Band

27 - Perf. Arts Ctr., Simsbury, CT





A full-page photograph of Steve Riley, a man with dark hair and a goatee, wearing a white short-sleeved button-down shirt and blue jeans. He is playing a black and gold button box accordion. The background is a rustic wooden structure.

## The Tradition Continues

### A Conversation with Steve Riley

By Ali Kaufman

It's an auspicious moment in time for Grammy winning Cajun Zydeco legend, Steve Riley to grace the August cover of Sound Waves Magazine. His band Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys are embarking on their 30 year anniversary of forming and again will play the Rhythm and Roots Festival held over Labor Day Weekend, which is celebrating 20 years of being a perennial favorite. With all that history to cover I jumped right in to find out what it is that keeps fans flocking to see them year after year.

They are a Louisiana band that has its feet planted firmly in tradition, with good songwriters, strong players, (originating from a place that has many), and a passion for keeping the genre vital, they connect with their audience in a way that other bands can only hope to. It's not only their hometown fans that they make feel like family, there are many in the Northeast that feel the same kinship with music that has evolved over the centuries. "We have folks from 8 to 80 at our shows, I love it when the 20 year olds let me know they grew up hearing our music, that's how we know we are setting the standard for the up coming generations" Steve commented. As long as I was asking about history, I went way back to get a lesson in Cajun vs. Creole and the melting pot it has become, to which Steve explained that Creole was a predominantly black influence with sounds of the Caribbean and Blues while the Cajun's white population brought Celtic sounds with reels and jigs. The cross-pollination in the mid 1700's propelled the music of Louisiana began the evolution that is still going on today with borrowing from both sides.

Long before the band we see today, consisting of, Kevin Wimmer on fiddle, Sam Broussard on guitar, Kevin Dugas on Drums, Brazos Huval on bass, and of course Steve who is multi instrumental and able to play not only the button box, accordion but the fiddle, guitar, drums, bass AND piano!!! Steve set out playing with a pioneer in Cajun music, the legendary Dewey Balfa. Dewy is credited with being one of the first people to take Cajun music outside of Louisiana on a large scale, in no small part due to his 1964 performance at the Newport Folk Festival. Touring the Northeast and gaining recognition was a springboard for what was to come as Steve moved on and formed the Mamou Playboys in 1988. The first Rhythm & Roots Festivals that Steve played go back to the days at Stepping Stone Ranch with Dewy, illustrating festival owner, Chuck Wentworth's continued commitment to the musicians of Louisiana and his festival guests. Steve expressed much gratitude acknowledging Chuck's support from the earliest days, as a fan, festival owner and friend. During last year's Rhythm & Roots, Chuck and Steve collaborated on a fundraiser to help Louisiana residents after the latest round of storms ravaged their community, and assured me that if we ever need the help, they've got our backs. "Chuck and the folks here are extended family, we've built a bond with Rhode Island and are happy to be asked to come back again and again, it is a high point of our year with the wrap up of summer touring schedule, it's become a home away from home without a doubt." Steve explained.

One can not talk festivals without asking about the holy grail for many, The New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Fest which like Rhythm and Roots, Steve has played consecutively every year. Suffice to say that explaining this event's importance to the culture, musical community and residents would be a story unto itself but Steve put it this way, " It's just HUGE, and intense, a microcosm of what the culture is down here, full of music, great bands, food and more. A lot of it is on display for the 2 weekends and week

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in between. It is really great to be a part of the scene and an honor to be recognized in the midst of all this talent."

Being surrounded with so much talent naturally lends itself to collaborations like the one that bubbled up like a roux between Steve and CC Adcock while sitting around CC's living room thinking about favorite local musicians. Those shared ideas gave birth to Lil Band O' Gold, a 9 piece, swamp pop supergroup that incredibly, coaxed old school style New Orleans, R&B drummer Warren Storm out of retirement. This sought out band was a cult favorite as it rarely played outside of their home base and was made up of such luminaries in their world, it was always a thrill to catch them when you could...I can personally attest to that! Sadly Warren and extraordinary songwriter, for artists like Joe Cocker, Irma Thomas, Etta James, keyboardist David Eagan, have both passed. You can still find their recordings if you try hard enough, their 2012 release of Lil' Band O Gold Plays Fats has help from Robert Plant on 2 tracks, Lucinda Williams with And DiFranco and others. Not too shabby! This band was a magnet for delighting audiences with the special guests that sat in, like Elvis Costello, Steve likened it to "our version on the Buena Vista Social Club, a multi-generational big band, always an awe inspiring experience. This band was also the vehicle that put them on the road opening for Plant with the Sensational Space Shifters for a 7 date run.

Being no stranger to brushes with greatness, Steve sat in with Willie Nelson at his standing room only gig in Baton Rouge after striking up a friendship with Willie's harmonica player and accordion fan, Mickey Raphael. Another highlight was being asked by friend Doyle Bramhall II to be part of the album that he was working on recording in NOLA with Eric Clapton. As it turns out Steve said he couldn't hear himself on the final cuts but that will never take the experience away!!!!

The experiences have been so numerous that I am just scratching the surface here but it would be blasphemy not to mention The Band Courtbillion, his Grammy winning work with the great Wayne Tups on the self-titled, multi-generational acoustic project in 2013. That was only the second year since the Grammys introduced the category for Best Regional Roots Music Album! Actually Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys had been nominated in the inaugural year of the category with "Grand Isle". On winning the Grammy and the 4 nominations Steve was thoughtful, "this never becomes common place, the first time was a huge surprise and probably the best of them all, it felt so unreal....to be recognized on that level is just incredible." We briefly spoke about albums, and agreed that the true impact of a record isn't felt until maybe 10 years after it comes out. Does it resonate? Was it timeless? "We have always strived to make the best music possible, you can't mess around down here, there are so many great musicians, writers and the like, we keep pushing the limits on stage and in the studio to keep the experience moving forward." When I pressed a wee bit, it sounded to me like there may be a new CD in the offing, perhaps to celebrate their 30th Birthday!

Wrapping up the generous time I was granted I couldn't resist pulling my trusty "Do you remember hearing yourself on the radio for the first time?" Out of my trick bag. I'm glad I did because for the first time ever I got "I hated it".....before elaborating and spinning what seemed a negative into pure positivity. "My initial reaction was that It didn't feel like what we were about, we were working with Zachary Richard and I thought he made us sound tougher than we were." With a smile in his voice he continued, "however, people loved it, I mean they went crazy for it! I was so happy when it took off and I tip my hat to Zachary's wisdom and experience."

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While songs sung in 17th century French are not the usual fare of the Northeast, Steve had this to say about what keeps them in high demand, in his patient, French tinged, southern cadence Steve imparted, "Those early shows in the 60's touched a nerve with people, our sound is fun, dance music, music of hardworking people and maybe the people of the Northeast are just those kind of people too." The fact that we keep looking forward to the next show is proof positive he is right so get ready to hit the dance floor and laissez les bon ton rouler!!!!

Find out more about Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys at <http://www.mamouplayboys.com/>

All the details for Rhythm and Roots can be found here

<http://www.rhythmandroots.com/>

And ME! Morning Mojo on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/Morning-Mojo-136067513108877/>



14 SOUND WAVES



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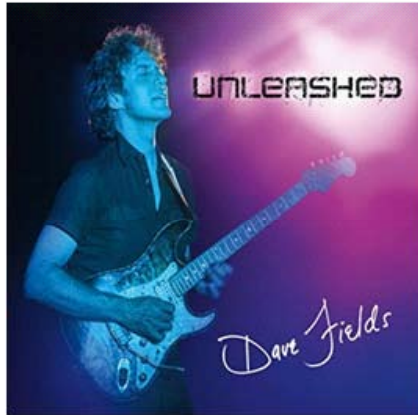
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# HEARING AID



## Dave Fields *"Unleashed"* FMI Records

New York blues rock master Dave Fields not only can rip on the guitar and write a killer song, the Berklee grad plays piano, bass, mandolin, banjo, pedal steel, ukulele and drums. He sings real sweet too. Inducted into the New York Blues Hall of Fame, Fields' awards include: Best Self-Produced CD 2006, 2009-2010 Mojo Boogie Award, and the Big City Blues Magazine Happy to Have the Blues Lifetime Achievement Award. He really lets it loose on his latest CD "Unleashed" which includes seven live tracks proving he can lay it down in front of your eyes, and seven studio recordings emphasizing his thoughtful songwriting. Fields grew up in the studio of his famous father, producer Sammy "Forever" Fields and learned his lessons well. His talent, drive, showmanship and songwriting skills are front and center on this latest album, and you have to hear it to believe it.

The kickoff instrumental "Anticipating You" is full of funk, jazz and progressive rock and the musicianship is simply on fire. Precision licks and percussion round out the feast for your ears, recorded live. You'll hear a little bit of 1980s power rock on the next live track "Going Down" with Fields' own commanding style breaking through. The blues rock number "Child of the World" was written after the terrorist attacks in Paris and is a heartfelt callout for love in this crazy world.

The raucous barroom blues tune "My Mama's Got The Blues" has a big sound

and pretty humorous lyrics while dance tune "The Boy Wants to Play" features guest vocalist Lisa Sherman and a crazy guitar solo. "Jagged Line Pt. 1" is a cinematic and courageous addition to the album. The song pushes the boundaries of standard blues as it is more similar to 1970s prog rock. Here Fields prefers to make a statement and put out art rather than get a song on the radio. The story continues in "Jagged Line Pt. 2" with long, reverberated guitar lines enhancing the narrative. It concludes like the ending of a great movie that pulls it all together. This is brave stuff here!

The Stevie Ray Vaughan-like "Better Be Good" is another live recording, with a super tight band and wah wah! "How Am I Doing" is a driving number with a killer guitar solo while "Pocket Full of Dust" slows it down for traditional blues. It almost seems too easy for Fields – he can play anything. The dynamics of the three piece band, recorded live, puts a 10-piece band to shame!

And then he plays Hendrix. Live. His rendition of "Hey Joe" is fearless, and so good. While you've still got your mouth agape, then the CD breaks into the "Star Spangled Banner"... Hendrix style, and still live on the floor. Does he play it better? You be the judge. Phenomenal is the only word I can think of at the moment. Fields takes command of his axe and his amp like no other! My favorite tune on the album is the gorgeously written ode to his obviously beloved city, New York with "New York City Nights." This sweet, jazzy, romantic sonnet is complete with finger snaps, strings and reverb-infused guitar. It takes you right there. Love it.

Fields pulls out all the stops on the final instrumental track "L.E.S. Hoedown" which is exactly what it sounds like... a hoedown! His lightning fast fingers will leave you trying to catch your breath while his solid band with undeniable talent keeps right up with him. Whew!

I'm thinking it's a must to see this guy live. He's coming to Daddy Jacks in New London on Aug. 11. Do it!

Upcoming shows:

Aug. 9 – American Trash, New York, NY

Aug. 11 – Daddy Jacks, New London, CT

- Sue Menhart



## Chris Robinson Brotherhood

### *"Barefoot in the Head"* Silver Arrow Records

Chris Robinson is the well-known front man for The Black Crowes, with hits like "She Talks To Angels" and "Money Maker". He's got a distinctly strong voice that is very characteristic, belting out blues-rock numbers that millions of people sing along with world-wide.

This is a very good album. In Chris Robinson Brotherhood, there's a whole different feel. Robinson carries a lot of that blues/rock flavor vocally, but the music is so much broader. This is a band to make jam festivals dance. There's so much Grateful Dead feel to the music, that I got nostalgic. Phil Lesh and Bob Weir have sat in with them and are inspirations and friends.

That's not to say they sound like they're copying the late-70's Dead – these are very original songs. It's just the detail – the clever songwriting structure, some real funk and jazz flavor, some really nice changes – it's a very well written album, and shows a lot of respect to musical tradition while also sounding new and exciting.

There's a lot of variety in "Barefoot in the Head". They open the album up with "Behold the Seer", an upbeat blues-rock stomper that really shows off some nice funk keyboard and bass and noodly guitar hooks. They follow up with "She Shares My Blankets", which starts off slow but then transmorphs into some nice psychedelic moments.

There's some nice 12-string guitar on "Dog Eat Sun" working parallel with a piano to set a beautiful, almost medieval motif. They then pivot completely to a very cool "Blue Star Woman", featuring some nice chromatic work on the piano and an old blues stomp feel.

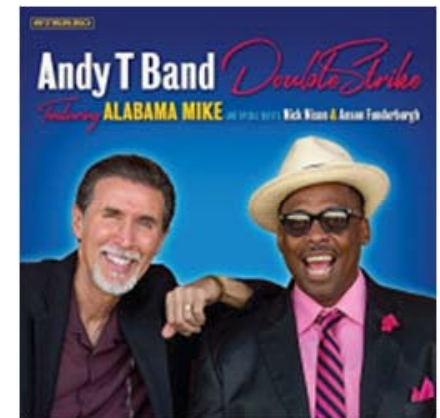
They follow that with a very country/folk feel on "High Is Not the Top".

There's some banjo picking in the background, and the song has an upbeat campfire tale vibe to it. The harmonica comes in tastefully on the breaks, and the harmonized vocals on the chorus makes me feel like I'm in the deep south.

They follow up with some slower, more ballad like tunes to drive the album out. It's amazing how many different feels they can play while still retaining this cohesive sound. This is a really tight album musically, and the great production makes it a perfect for a summer chill session.

"Barefoot in the Head" really seems more like a jam band album than a blues/rock album. It's solid from front to back, and the songs are just so clean and well executed. Chris Robinson's vocals are top notch. If you like anything in the jam band genre, you will find something to enjoy here. If this is new territory, it is welcoming and easy, so jump on in.

- Tom Matthew  
Two Ton Music



## Andy T Band *"Double Strike"* American Showplace Music

Blues bands tend to roll with the punches. When Nick Nixon announced his retirement from the Andy T Nick Nixon band, San Francisco Bay area singer Alabama Mike (aka Michael Benjamin) stepped in to fill the void. Both singers share lead vocal duties on the Andy T Band 2017 release "Double Strike" though Nixon will no longer tour. With Nixon, Andy T and company were nominated for numerous blues awards, toured the U.S. and Europe and released three albums. The thirteen power-packed songs on "Double

Continued Page 21

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# LOCAL BEAT



## “Why U2 Still Matters”

By Andrew Kerbs

Twas a swell night for concert. As much as I admire the local small town flavor of a good club or bar band in CT, I find myself occasionally drawn to some New England arena for what few big name international acts draw listeners by the thousands without compromising their integrity. One of the few stadium rock bands that still manage to

pull that off is U2. When the group made “Band of the 80s” on a 1986 cover of Rolling Stone, experts called them “perhaps the only band that matters,” a title all the more relevant today seeing that they are one of the last remaining bastions of true rock music.

For those unfamiliar with U2, the band has always consisted of 4 members: drummer Larry Mullen (founder), bassist Adam Clayton, singer “Bono” Hewson, and the enigmatic guitar wizard “Edge” Evans. The band started off playing small schools and churches before landing a record deal and playing larger venues in the 1980s. The band’s sound and message was different than most blues-rock and disco bands of their age, but they paid tribute to American rock n roll icons on their 1st number one album “Joshua Tree” which they replayed in its entirety at Gillette Stadium last month. The band didn’t simply regurgitate the entire Joshua Tree album. Instead, they played more of a career retrospective, starting with their earliest hits (New Years Day). Singers are rarely as good live as they sound on record, but Bono’s vocals were surprisingly bright and he hit nearly every note. Close your eyes and you’d think it were 1983 all over again. Then came a couple cuts off of Unforgettable Fire album, including a seamless segue between Pride “In the Name of Love” and Joshua Tree opener “Where the Streets Have No Name.” Then there was “Red Hill Mining Town,” a song rarely played live because it “wrecked Bono’s throat.” Not tonight. The sheer intensity of his vocal range during the crescendo of that song’s chorus proved that Bono hit his notes even more perfectly now than he had during the original performance of that song during the original Joshua Tree tour of the 80s.

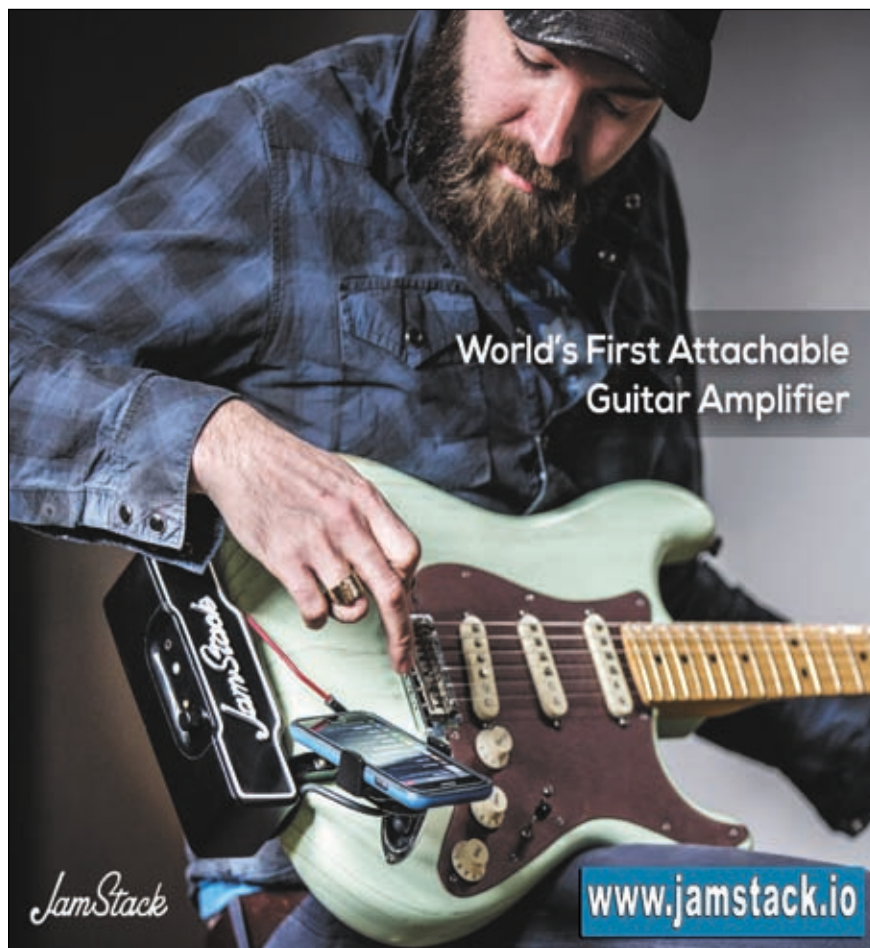
More than any other singer, Bono personified the perfect fusion of elder statesman/philanthropist and die hard rock star. A U2 concert wouldn’t be complete without Bono talking politics in between songs. Bono’s support of AIDS relief in Africa and his feminist advocacy has few parallels in the aging world of rock. Yet concerned citizens attending the show were left asking questions: Why didn’t the singer with the most reach and influence regarding humanitarian issues not preface the opening of “Red Hill Mining Town” to mention the struggles faced by Midwestern American miners? Why did Bono mention their bassist’s struggle with heroin addiction long after (not during) the heroin-victim tribute song “Bad?” Furthermore, I was disappointed the band failed to close their concert with Psalm 40, a favorite closer during the band early days. Nevertheless, the band closed their set with more recent hits Beautiful Day and Vertigo which appealed to the band’s younger fans.

Readers of local publications may scoff at reviews of over-the-hill arena

bands recycling the same old hits (with all its wiffs of commercial excess), but hits are hits for a reason and give people something to hum to as they pass their time, tune in their car radio, or share fond memories with a loved one. U2 has rarely deviated from their signature sound or message. As cliched as Bono may seem, very few bands of today’s free downloadable music-culture can still fill an entire stadium with such sound and message all by themselves. One must give U2 credit for being one of the few remaining rock bands that can fill in a stadium all by themselves without any support from a bill full of other (indie) acts like so many other small bands struggling in the 21st century musicscape. For those readers that have never seen U2 and write them off as formulaic or cliché has-been, you readers are missing a very exciting show.



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SOUND WAVES 17



# COOKING WITH THE BLUES

**By Jack Chaplin**

Like Sand Through The Hour Glass, Sorry that's been used already! How about Damn, How Time Flies? August Already! As I write this we have just come off a good ole Ct. heat wave, hot and humid! Ritchie from Rich's Heat and Air saved the day yet again, got my air units charged up and running just in time, we would have lost business surely otherwise. Again it is great being in a small business and making friendships with those we deal with on the day to day. Just as fast as the heat was on us it went down to 57 degrees and rainy but I'll take it! One year when I was living in Texas it hit a 100' everyday in June. I'd wake up, outside at 8:00 am and it



would already be 90'! The ground was all clay which retained the heat, the rest was asphalt and concrete! It could be 100' in May and I'd seen it 100' In October during the State Fair Of Texas. I personally saw a day when it hit 112' degrees! In the kitchen I had a thermometer that read many nights over 120' No thank you, I'll take New England weather anytime. I made a pact with myself that I would't bitch about any weather under a 100'!

Speaking about small businesses I ate at Cafe NV last week and I have to say they may be my favorite restaurant in this area. Their lunch menu is diverse with everything from appetizers, hot and cold sandwiches, wraps, pastas, burgers, hot entrees, and at least thirteen salads at very fair prices. Cafe NV has been in business for sixteen years and is owned by three sisters, Maria, Felia, and Vaso. The sister's are Greek and so are many items on the menu, it is one of my favorite cuisines. It is a healthy way of eating while at the same time very tasty and mouthwatering. We started off with the Shrimp Saganaki, Jumbo Shrimp in a Spicy Tomato Sauce with Feta Cheese served with Grilled Pita Bread. Absolutely mouth watering, Good to the last drop! Next we shared the Bonnie's Pecan Salmon. Out came a huge cut of fresh Atlantic Salmon Baked and topped with a mountain of Toasted Pecans over a large salad. It came with a honey mustard vinaigrette but I also asked for their house balsamic dressing. A time before I had ordered the Lamb Gyro which came with a small Greek Salad. The Gyro was fantastic served with Tzatziki Sauce, the traditional cucumber, garlic, yogurt sauce. The clientele seems to be older and many seemed to be regulars. It has to be good, it is one of Dr. John Drew's favorite restaurants! I will frequent Cafe regularly from now on, I'm not sure why this hasn't been on my dining radar screen sooner, my loss!

I have a long history with Greeks. Two Cousin's in Dallas, Pete Lucas and Tony Manzaranis gave me my first restaurant opportunity. I had been working at a bistro next door to their restaurant Little Gus. Little Gus was a breakfast and burger joint by day, at night they transformed it with blue and white checked tablecloths and red candles into a fine dining spot serving great Greek specialties. I had been eating there for many years and now

being neighbors we had a good working relationship. Pete would sell me trimmings from legs of lamb that I would make into soup and such. My owner was an international pilot and would bring me cookbooks from his travels and one day asked if I could make any Greek dishes. He wanted to put them on our menu, then onto a sidewalk board right outside their window. Pete came over the next day and had a talk with me saying that he didn't mind what we served but to advertise right outside their window wasn't right. I agreed and told the busboy to take the menu board away, the owner had a fit. I said me or the sign and that I agreed with Pete that it wasn't right. Pete and Tony also had a wine bar up the street and after St. Tropez closed I approached the cousins about partnering up. They were struggling and that I could bring my customers with me. They politely declined my offer and I asked for a consideration if there was ever an opening in the future. A few years later I got a call one dreary January day from Pete asking if I wanted to go into the restaurant business. I said I didn't have any money, a brand new baby girl, and a mortgage but thanks for the offer. He said to come down the next day to Little Gus's and lets have a talk. We sat at a corner table and worked out an agreement on a yellow legal pad. With a very fair arrangement and a hand shake I was able to open my first restaurant. So because of that I have a great fondness and love for the Greek people, their food and their culture. Opa

Shane O'Connell who is doing the video work with me on the cooking-withtheblues page on Youtube is in the band Marvelous Liars. We went down to Club 33 last weekend for their CD release party. I missed the first band but got there just in time to see the Liars go on, I was super impressed! They had a loyal following who were dancing and having a great time. I always say the best bands are the three piece groups, John Johns on Lead, John Cancelmo on Bass, and Shane on the Skins. I see big things in their future and if you get a chance check them out you'll have a great time.

**Continued Page 20**



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It blows my mind that we have such talent in our midst! We shouldn't take this for granted and get our asses out more to support the musicians and venues! The next band up was from Brooklyn, NY named the Nuclears, were another great hard driving rock band juicing the crowd up into a frenzy! We stayed right to the bitter end having a great time! I want to wish Gene the owner of 33 a speedy recovery. He was rear ended on Ocean Ave. last week and broke both hands, suffered a bad concussion, and he sustained severe road burns. He told me that his helmet saved his life! It was a hit a run and he's hopeful that the police may have leads to catch the bum who hit him.

We've been having a great time at the Blue Monday concert series in Mystic that Peter Moore and Blunt White have put together. There has been big turnouts for these awesome lineups. The highlight for me was a few weeks back when Kenny Neal and his band tore it up. it was my first time hearing Kenny, what a performer. His band was made up of mostly family members who grew up steeped in Louisiana roots music with multi generations of well know family musicians. There are a few more concerts with the Hollios doing a rain check date in early August. Le Bon Ton Roule!

I want to give a huge shout out to Jamie and his family at The Big House B&B here in New London on Granite St. They put up many out of town musicians during The Blues and Brews Fest the blues festival gratis and continue to do so. Anytime we have a musician that is need of a room they are there for us. They treat them so graciously and have been so hospitable. I would highly recommend anyone in need of lodging to reach out to Jamie @ 860- 439-0464. It is heartwarming to see such kindness and right here locally!

A few new openings to check out, Friar Tuck in Mystic has opened with Dave Pottie holding down the kitchen, no not the Dave Pottie, our fearless leader at Sound Waves but his nephew. The menu is English Pub Fare with

daily specials. Napolitano Pizza on Bank St. New London has opened serving Slices and a full Italian Menu. Support local business, we depend on You! Peace and Good Health, Don't let the negative news get you down. Do something nice for someone in need, it will boost your spirits.

*The Best, Jack*

*Check out some of my newest cooking videos*

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## Hearing Aid Continued

Strike,” produced by Anson Funderburgh and Andy T, prove once again the everlasting lure the blues can have on us, no matter the circumstances.

Andy T pulls together a stellar lineup of musicians and the infamous Texas Horns to put out classic original material and well-chosen covers by Chuck Willis and Goree Carter. Pour yourself a good smooth bourbon when you sit down with this one and enjoy.

The opening swing number “I Want You Bad” features new member Alabama Mike on vocals. While Nixon brought a gravelly baritone sound to the band, Mike’s voice is Otis Redding-like, higher and more in the tenor range. “Somebody Like You” is a slower swing, feel-good and catchy, filled with harmonies and out-front B3. Nixon takes over vocal duties on “Deep Inside” with his seasoned, assured style while Greg Izor’s harmonica is understated and smooth. “Sweet Thing,” penned by Nixon, has a 1960s pop feel where the sax fits in perfectly. The two Chuck Willis covers, “I Feel So Bad” and “Juanita” have nice guitar fills and crisp bass lines from Johnny Bradley. While the former was also covered by Elvis, the latter is a 1950s torch song getting a 2017 upgrade.

Modern blues guitar licks, B3 and slick drums make up the lone instrumental “Mudslide” while “Sad Times” brings back Alabama Mike with even more prominent B3. Tinkling piano on “Doin’ Hard Time,” written by Andy T, is destined to be a classic. The Goree Carter tune “Drunk or Sober” has dirtier guitar than the original with a matching gritty sax solo. “I Was Gonna Leave You” has cool guitar licks throughout with some tasteful sax.

The album picks up with “Dream About You.” Alabama Mike’s vocals just simply fly and it’s got to be a fun one to see live. The closing slow swing track “Where Did Our Love Go Wrong” showcases Mike’s impassioned vocals best of all.

An extensive tour in support of the new album is scheduled throughout the U.S. and Canada. Check out the band’s web site here: <http://www.andytband.com>.

- Sue Menhart



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