

Sound Waves



Volume 28
Issue 1
January 2018

**BEST IN
THE BLUES
2017**

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SAVOY BROWN
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BAND LISTINGS
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& MORE**

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Ali Kaufman
Morning Mojo
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9am-noon



Event Specialist
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Freelance Writer

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Sound Waves

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 Bookstores everywhere
WWW.KenPottie.net

ED ROACH
1944 - 2017
Sound Waves Magazine
 was started in August of 1990.
 At the time it was just me
 and an enthusiastic salesperson
 Ed Roach.
 Without out Ed, this magazine
 would not be where it is today.
 Ed was a great salesperson
 and supporter of the concept
 that is Sound Waves.
Till we meet again my friend

In Memoriam : People We Lost in 2017

JANUARY:

William Peter Blatty, 89. A former Jesuit school valedictorian who conjured a tale of demonic possession with the best-selling novel and Oscar-winning movie "The Exorcist."

Butch Trucks, 69. A drummer who was one of the founding members of the Southern rock legend The Allman Brothers Band.

Mary Tyler Moore, 80. The star of TV's beloved "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" who helped revolutionize the depiction of women on the small screen.

John Hurt, 77. An actor who had a half-century career with two Oscar nominations, a Golden Globe and four British BAFTA awards.

FEBRUARY:

Al Jarreau, 76. A Grammy-winning jazz singer who transcended genres over a 50-year career.

Bill Paxton, 61. A prolific and charismatic actor who had memorable roles in such blockbusters as "Apollo 13" and "Titanic"

Joseph Wapner, 97. The retired Los Angeles judge who presided over "The People's Court" during the heyday of the reality courtroom show.

MARCH:

Robert Osborne, 84. The genial face of Turner Classic Movies and a walking encyclopedia of classic Hollywood.

Robert James Waller, 77. His best-selling, bittersweet 1992 romance novel "The Bridges of Madison County" was turned into a movie and later into a soaring Broadway musical.

Chuck Berry, 90. He was rock 'n' roll's founding guitar hero with such classics as "Johnny B. Goode," "Sweet Little Sixteen" and "Roll Over Beethoven."

James Cotton 81, an American blues harmonica player, singer and songwriter, who performed and recorded with many of the great blues artists of his time and with his own band.

Chuck Barris, 87. His game show empire included "The Dating Game," "The Newlywed Game" and the infamous, "The Gong Show."

APRIL:

Don Rickles, 90. The big-mouthed, bald-headed comedian whose verbal assaults endeared him to audiences and peers and made him the acknowledged grandmaster of insult comedy.

J. Geils, 71. He was founder of The J. Geils Band known for such peppy early 80s pop hits as "Love Stinks," "Freeze Frame" and "Centerfold."

Erin Moran, 56. The former child star who played Joanie Cunningham in the sitcoms "Happy Days" and "Joanie Loves Chachi."

Jonathan Demme, 73. The eclectic, ever-enthusiastic filmmaker behind the Oscar winners "The Silence of the Lambs" and "Philadelphia," and the director of one of the most seminal concert films ever made, the Talking Heads' "Stop Making Sense."

Lonnie Brooks, 83. was an American blues singer and guitarist.

MAY:

Powers Boothe, 68. The character actor known for his villain roles in TV's "Deadwood," and in the movies "Tombstone," "Sin City" and "The Avengers."

Chris Cornell, 52. A rocker who gained fame as the lead singer of the bands Soundgarden and Audioslave and was one of the leading voices of the 1990s grunge movement.

Roger Moore, 89. The suavely insouciant star of seven James Bond

films.

Gregg Allman, 69. A music legend whose bluesy vocals and soulful touch on the Hammond B-3 organ helped propel The Allman Brothers Band to superstardom and spawn Southern rock.

JUNE:

Glenn Headly, 62. An early member of the acclaimed Steppenwolf Theatre Company who went on to star in films and on TV.

Adam West, 88. His straight-faced portrayal of Batman in a campy 1960s TV series lifted the tight-clad Caped Crusader into the national consciousness.

Michael Nyqvist, 56. Swedish actor well known for his role as the lead villains in Mission: Impossible.

Samuel Shepard, 73. was an American playwright, actor, author, screenwriter, and director whose body of work spanned half a century. He won 10 Obie Awards for writing and directing, the most given to any writer or director.

Geri Allen, 60. was an American jazz pianist and composer.

JULY:

Martin Landau, 89. The chameleon-like actor who gained fame as the crafty master of disguise in the 1960s TV show "Mission: Impossible," then capped a long and versatile career with an Oscar for his poignant portrayal of aging horror movie star Bela Lugosi in 1994's "Ed Wood."

George Romero, 77. His classic "Night of the Living Dead" and other horror films turned zombie movies into social commentaries

Chester Bennington, 41. The Linkin Park lead singer whose screeching vocals helped the rock-rap band become one of the most commercially successful acts in the 2000s.

John Heard, 71. An actor whose many roles included the father in the "Home Alone" series and a corrupt detective in "The Sopranos."

Nelsan Ellis, 39. was an American film and television actor and playwright. He played Lafayette Reynolds in the HBO series True Blood and Bobby Byrd in the 2014 James Brown biopic Get on Up

Fresh Kid Ice, 53 was a founding member of the Miami hip hop group 2 Live Crew.

AUGUST:

Glen Campbell, 81. The superstar singer of "Rhinestone Cowboy" and "Wichita Lineman" whose appeal spanned country, pop, television and movies.

Dick Gregory, 84. The comedian and activist and who broke racial barriers in the 1960s and used his humor to spread messages of social justice and nutritional health.

Jerry Lewis, 91. The manic, rubber-faced showman who rose to fame in a lucrative partnership with Dean Martin, settled down to become a self-conscious screen auteur and hosted the annual muscular dystrophy telethons.

Thomas Meehan, 88. A three-time Tony Award-winning book writer best known for transforming the Little Orphan Annie cartoon strip into the smash Broadway musical "Annie."

Jay Thomas, 69. was an American actor, comedian, and morning radio personality

SEPTEMBER:

Walter Becker, 67. The guitarist, bassist and co-founder of the 1970s rock group Steely Dan.

MUSIC NOTES



"Five Years, 20 Angels"

By Mark T. Gould



Five years on, always in our thoughts and prayers.

Sandy Hook strong.

May God bless and keep you always
May your wishes all come true
May you always do for others
And let others do for you
May you build a ladder to the stars
And climb on every rung
May you stay forever young
Forever young, forever young
May you stay forever young.

May you grow up to be righteous
May you grow up to be true
May you always know the truth
And see the lights surrounding you
May you always be courageous
Stand upright and be strong
May you stay forever young
Forever young, forever young
May you stay forever young.

May your hands always be busy
May your feet always be swift
May you have a strong foundation
When the winds of changes shift
May your heart always be joyful
And may your song always be sung
May you stay forever young
Forever young, forever young
May you stay forever young.
---Bob Dylan.

Amen.



WHAT THIS COMMUNITY NEEDS.

Did you know that for the average cost of a holiday meal, you could provide up to 490 meals to someone facing hunger?

Unfortunately, hunger doesn't end after the holidays. Last year, the Gemma E. Moran United Way/Labor Food Center, a program of United Way, provided the equivalent of 2.25 million meals. For every dollar donated, you will give the equivalent of 10 meals to hungry kids, adults, and seniors.

Please consider a donation of \$49, the average cost of a holiday meal, and help feed people in need now and for months to come.

**When it comes to changing lives,
what this community needs is you.**

To make a donation, go to uwsect.org/give

Because great things happen
when we LIVE UNITED.



The Best in Blues 2017

2017 was a tremendous year for new blues music. Doing a top ten in anything music related is always and obviously very subjective, but I must say that I really like my list this year. Blues music can encapsulate many diverse styles. It can lean towards country, rock, jazz, zydeco, and Americana. It can be acoustic or electric with varying instrumentation. It can be played by a solo performer or an orchestra. It can also be happy or sad. The first track on the Rhiannon Giddens record (my year's best) is called "At the Purchaser's Option" and it's about as sad a song that you'll ever hear. There's a song on Chris Thomas King's new disc (my second favorite) called "Les Bleus was born in Louisiana" that might very well be the happiest blues tune ever written. The contrast between these two songs is striking yet they're both blues songs.

Once again I've asked radio personality Dana Fagnoli for his opinions. Dana is the host the "Out of the Blues" show on WCNI 90.9 FM which is stationed at the beautiful campus of Connecticut College in New London. You can hear Dana's show every Saturday morning from 9:00 to noon. I'm sure Dana will be playing all of these fine records over the next several weeks. Let's hope that the new releases for 2018 can be this good!

Bill's List:

1. **Rhiannon Giddens** "Freedom Highway" Nonesuch Records
2. **Chris Thomas King** "Hotel Voodoo" 21st Century Blues
3. **Eric Bibb** "Migration Blues" Stony Plain Records
4. **Gregg Allman** "Southern Blood" Rounder Records
5. **Eric Gales** "Middle of the Road" Provogue Records
6. **Lucky Peterson** "Tribute to Jimmy Smith" Jazzbook Records
7. **Robert Cray** "Hi Rhythm" Jay-Vee Records
8. **Ronnie Earl & The Broadcasters** "The Luckiest Man"
Stony Plain Records
9. **North Mississippi Allstars** "Prayer for Peace"
Songs of the South Records
10. **Ronnie Baker Brooks** "Times Have Changed"
Provogue Records

Dana's List:

1. **Rick Estrin & The Nightcats** "Groovin' in Greaseland"
Alligator Records
2. **Cash Box Kings** "Royal Mint" Alligator Records
3. **Big Bill Morganfield** "Bloodstains on the Wall"
Black Shuck Records
4. **Ronnie Earl & The Broadcasters** "The Luckiest Man"
Stony Plain Records
5. **Kim Wilson** "Blues and Boogie" Severn Records
6. **Tommy Castro & The Painkillers** "Stomp'n' Ground"
Alligator Records
7. **Elvin Bishop** "Elvin Bishop's Big Fun Trio" Alligator Records
8. **Andy T Band** "Double Strike" American Showplace Music
9. **Monster Mike Welch & Mike Ledbetter**
"Right Place, Right Time" Delta Groove Music
10. **Karen Lovely** "Fish Outta Water" Self release

I would like to wish all Sound Waves Magazine readers a happy and

www.Swaves.com

healthy 2018. Also, Dana and I would like to dedicate our top ten lists to the memories of James Cotton, Lonnie Brooks, Geri Allen, Fats Domino, Charles Bradley, Al Jarreau, Chuck Berry, Butch Trucks, and Gregg Allman.

- Bill Harriman



Chris Thomas King

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Fri	Sat	Sun
5 8:30pm-11:30pm Shiny Lapel Trio	6 Just Released	7 1pm-4pm Gary Torello
12 Sick Since Sunday	13 Righteous Continental	14 Ashlee Paradis w/ Chris Cirullo
19 Driving Route 9	20 Don Giroux Trio	21 Christopher Abbott
26 Old Dog New Trick	27 4 Barrel Billy	28 Ken Morsch

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All The World's a Stage



"blah blah blah"

By Sue Menhart

Music died the day dawned on the digital age, people say. Nobody buys music anymore, as we all know. There are so many ingenious ways of stealing newly created music I could write a book about it (hmmm....) But when we musicians actually do make new music

for people, we sort of want people to buy it so we can recoup the cost of making it, even though we know in our hearts of hearts, that we're living in a pipedream. We try to make it as cheaply as possible, in our basements and such, and put it out into the universe on an air of hope that it will "click" with millions of people. We dream that one day we can move out of the basement and record on a ranch or something or at Abbey Road. We want better gear. Some of us even want the big stage that comes with chart-topping hits. Or a golden trophy.

Before we release new music, we beg bloggers and media people to review our stuff to up the chances of people clicking or buying when we do release it. We try to create a buzz. We wish we could afford fancy PR people who do this kind of thing for a living, but most of us can't. So we do what we can.

So with a recent album release, we did everything we were supposed to. We got lots of nice words from some really nice people exalting our musical art, gathered up our mailing lists and social media accounts, and let the thing fly.

I hit send on an email blast advertising our new album, chock full of text from wonderful and insightful reviews of the album, announcing our joyful glee of finally releasing something, and held my breath.

Some people responded - "Yay! Finally!" Or, "Congratulations!" that sort of thing. But my favorite response was from an email subscriber who simply wrote, "blah blah blah."

That's it. blah blah blah. Not even in CAPS.

Not one to be intimidated by derogatory email list subscribers, I quickly replied, "I know, right!"

He responded that he was glad I had a sense of humor (duh!) and proceeded to ask me where he could go to listen to our stuff for free so he could decide for himself how awesome we were. He said he doesn't give his credit card number out to anyone even if you're Van Halen or Toto. He also chastised me for self-promoting, blowing our own horn, that sort of thing. By the time he was done with me, geez, I didn't want the damn album either!

He proceeded to tell me that he was a musician himself with a record label and that he knew a thing or two. So I, the awesome investigative journalist that I am, looked him up. Upon review, yes he had put some music out. He didn't have any trophies or hits though. His music was artistic and fine. blah blah blah. I showed him how to listen to one of our tracks for free, because I'm a sucker.

What to do? Accept the inevitable is what to do.

6 SOUND WAVES

NOBODY BUYS MUSIC ANYMORE.

So we, the peddlers of melody and lyric and dreams, must decide: Keep writing, recording and releasing music for the love of it with absolutely no hope for financial return, or, die the slow burning death of giving up on a dream? Keep going about my errands with loads of free burned CDs in my purse to be doled out to passersby as I see fit? Hope beyond hope to be included on some famous person's Spotify playlist so that each stream nets us \$.000001 cents?

We in this millennium kind of get a kick out of getting stuff for free because we're in the 99 percent. I get that. Gimme gimme gimme, that sort of thing. But we still hope that if we get millions of clicks, we could get into the one percent, and make even more awesome music, and live happily ever after.

But I shan't forget - to the four people who have purchased the album - WE LOVE YOU!

That guy from the email? Haven't heard back.

BLAH BLAH BLAH.

Happy New Year!



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



www.Swaves.com

In Memoriam Continued

Troy Gentry, 50. As one half of Montgomery Gentry, he helped the country music duo become a successful act in the genre.

Jake LaMotta, 95. An iron-fisted battler who brawled his way to a middleweight title and was later memorialized by Robert De Niro in the film "Raging Bull."

Monty Hall, 96. The genial TV game show host of long-running "Let's Make a Deal".

Harry Dean Stanton, 91. was an American actor, musician, and singer. In a career that spanned more than six decades

Hugh Hefner, 91. was an American businessman, magazine publisher and playboy. He was the founder of Playboy and editor-in-chief of the magazine, which he founded in 1953

Charles Bradley, 69. was an American singer, His performances and recording style celebrated the feel of funk and soul music from the 1960s and 1970s.

OCTOBER:

Tom Petty, 66. An old-fashioned rock superstar and everyman who drew upon the Byrds, the Beatles and other bands he worshipped as a boy and produced new classics such as "Free Fallin," "Refugee" and "American Girl."

Fats Domino, 89. The amiable rock 'n' roll pioneer whose steady, pounding piano and easy baritone helped change popular music while honoring the traditions of New Orleans.

Robert Guillaume, 89. A star in stage musicals and winner of Emmy Awards for his portrayal of the sharp-tongued butler in the TV sitcoms "Soap" and "Benson."

NOVEMBER:

Liz Smith, 94. A syndicated gossip columnist whose mixture of banter, barbs, and bon mots about the glitterati helped her climb the A-list as high as many of the celebrities she covered.

Malcolm Young, 64. The rhythm guitarist and guiding force behind the bawdy hard rock band AC/DC who helped create such head-banging anthems as "Highway to Hell," "Hells Bells" and "Back in Black."

Mel Tillis, 85. The affable longtime country music star who wrote hits for Kenny Rogers, Ricky Skaggs and many others, and overcame a stutter to sing on dozens of his own singles.

Della Reese, 86. The actress and gospel-influenced singer who in middle age found her greatest fame as Tess, the wise angel in the long-running television drama "Touched by an Angel."

David Cassidy, 67. The teen and pre-teen idol who starred in the 1970s sitcom "The Partridge Family" and sold millions of records as the musical group's lead singer. .

Jim Nabors, 87. The Alabama-born comic actor who starred as TV's dim but good-hearted Southern rube Gomer Pyle and constantly surprised audiences with his twang-free operatic singing voice.

DECEMBER:

Johnny Hallyday, 74. France's biggest rock star for more than half a century and an icon who packed sports stadiums

Bruce Brown, 80. He molded the modern image of surfer as seeker and transformed the sport with his 1966 surfing documentary "The Endless Summer."

Kim Jong-hyun, 27. was a South Korean singer-songwriter, radio host, and author. He was a vocalist of the South Korean boy group Shinee.

Rose Marie, 94 was an American actress, singer, comedienne, and veteran of vaudeville — with a career that spanned over nine decades

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LOCAL BEAT



“Matt Frazer Bespeaks Love and Death on New Album “Flies Through the Dark”

By Andrew Krebs

Rhode Island vocalist/guitarist Matt Fraza tackles themes of loss death and family on his new album *Flies Through the Dark*. Matt’s band also consists of Joel Hague

and Steve Cevoli on guitar, Tom Champlin on bass and Matt Johnson on drums. Their album “*Flies Through the Dark*” is about a smattering of subjects ranging from the pain of war and addiction to the pleasures of domestic relationships after moving to a new place.

Fraza’s album starts off with a song about starvation called “Black Mark” whose echoey vocals are indecipherable. However, this album opener does end with a distinctive sounding synthesizer buzz at the end. Matt’s new album also tackles the pains of war and loss. Songs such as “I Don’t Want It” features a whiney harmonica lamenting the apathy of fighting a far away war and the grief of a mother whose President sends her son off to fight so he can die like a “black rock in the sun” by a “man up in the capitol who set up to kill .” Similarly suits the song. The song “Drugs” proves that a “happy peaceful face” is really just a “dying mask” for an addict who ends up “face down on the floor” thanks to an Empire Street dealer. Lastly, “Circle” also tackles the weighty subject of a man reflecting on the death of his female friend whom he once shared good times as he looks for the space where she lay and hopes she found a lasting peace without dying alone. Fast-paced boogie-woogie piano, tasty 70s keys and a tense 3-chord-progression lightens up these song’s otherwise dark lyrical themes.

Alas songs of pain must be balanced by songs about the more pleasing aspects of relationships and home life. “Deep” is erotic emo about a hard-to-get Rapunzel with a slow country twang: “Hey you star, let down your hair and fly through the dark” sings Matt as he longs to do anything to share the world with a woman “standing still on a frozen field.” On the other hand, the sexual tone of the song “Mountain Lion” is subtler and more domestic: a laid-back song for every bread-winning male that enjoys the privilege of owning a home with a man-cave. The subject of this album-closing song compares a human male provider to a “buff” beast which breaths and sleeps in his den as he mates with his she-lion and cares for his family of yawning cubs. Lastly, “Moving Day” is as vocally restless and repetitive as the Trashmen’s “Surfin Bird,” but set to surprisingly lethargic beat for what could have otherwise been an energetic song to inspire your friends to get up off their asses and leave town. Before the listener gets a chance to hit eject however, the tune’s tempo suddenly speeds up right after the mic is punctuated by a jangly guitar line reminiscent of the Byrds.

Fans of dark-themed stoner rock with hippie vibe should enjoy Matt Fraza’s EP, available at your local small town RI music store.

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F & BLUES BAND

18 - Atrium Lounge, Mahanuck, CT 8:30-12:30
19 - Tamarack Lodge, Voluntown, CT 8-11

FOUR BARREL BILLY

5 - Sneekers Café, Groton, CT 8pm
7 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 3:30pm
12 - Winchester Café, Portland, CT 8pm
13 - Scotch Plains, Essex, CT 8pm
14 - Donahue's, Madison, CT 4:30pm
26 - Doc's, Clinton, CT 8pm
27 - La Vita, E. Haddam, CT 8pm

FRANKENPHIL

5 - Sons Of Liberty, Peacedale, RI 5:30pm
6 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 7pm
10 - Lionheart, Niantic, CT 7pm
12 - McBrides Pub, Providence, RI 7pm
19 - Grill 37, Pomfret, CT 7pm

GEOFF KAUFMAN & SALLY ROGERS

19 - All Souls, New London, CT

GREEN TEA

19 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
20 - Wood River Inn, Richmond, RI

JAMES HARRIS

29,16,23,30 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT 8pm
3,10,13,17,24,29,31 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
4 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 7pm
5 - Friar Tuck's, Mystic, CT 10pm
6 - Tuscany, Uncasville, CT
12,26 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT
14 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3pm
19,27 - Iron's, Mystic, CT 8pm
25 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

KEN SERIO & TEN DIRECTIONS

20 - CC Obriens, Pawcatuck, CT
21 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
27 - Tapped Apple, Westerly, RI

THE LOCOMOTIVES

12 - Butterballs, Hebron, CT
20 - Toyos, Colchester, CT
27 - Angelicos, E, Hampton, CT

MATT n DEAN

14 - Hardrock, Foxwoods, CT

NAKED SUNDAY

20 - Brown Derby, Montville, CT

NICK BOSSE

4,11,18,25 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 5:30-8:30pm
20 - Mystic Pizza II, N. Stonington, CT 8-11pm
26 - Two Brothers, Voluntown, CT 8-11pm

POSITIVE NRG

19 - Music Lady, Moosup, CT 8:30pm

26 - Lionheart Tavern, Niantic, CT

RAMBLEWOOD

26 - Malted Barley, Westerly, RI

SUE MENHART BAND

9 - WCNI Radio 90.9, 10am
12 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
27 - Crocker House, New London, CT 7pm

SUGAR

6 - Blues Cafe, Newport, RI 10pm
19 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI
27 - Dublin Rose, Seekonk, MA

SUNDAY GRAVY

25 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT

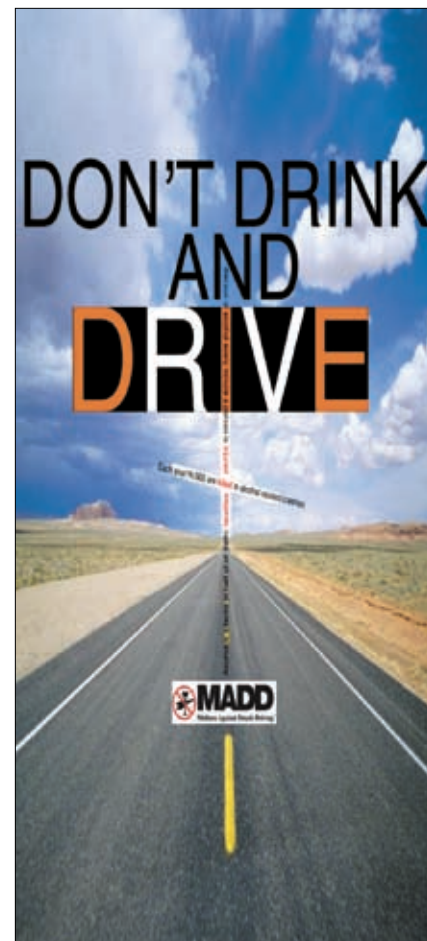
VINCE THOMPSON & THE NEXT FUN THING

28 - Donahue's, Madison, CT 4:30-8



Mail Listings to the magazine
or E-MAIL:

Editor@swaves.com



ANDY CHANEY & FRIENDS

4,18 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 5pm
5,13 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7pm
10,23 - Chapter One, Mystic, CT 8pm
12 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT
24 - Mystic Pizza 2, N. Stonington, CT 7:30pm
26 - Angie's Pizza, Mystic, CT

AZALEA DRIVE

26 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 7-10

THE CARTELLS

4,11,18,25 - Norwich Inn, Norwich, CT 6:30pm
5,19 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm
10 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 7:30pm
13 - Pazzo Cafe, Rocky Hill, CT 7pm
14 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 6pm

CRAZY ANTS

13 - June's Pub, Killingworth, CT

DAN WATSON

4,18,28 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
5,19 - Harbor House, Mystic, CT
9,23 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
11,16,26 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT
19 - Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI
13 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT
17 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT
25 - Dog Watch, Mystic, CT
27 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
30 - Angie's, Mystic, CT
31 - Mystic Pizza II, N. Stonington, CT

DARIK & THE FUNBAGS

6 - Tipping Chair, Southington, CT
12 - Windmill Tavern, Stratford, CT
26 - Ouzo Blue, Watertown, CT
27 - Chicago Sams, Cromwell, CT

DOUBLE THE DIAL

12 - Toads Place, New Haven, CT 7:30

THE DRAWBRIDGE BAND

4 - Public House, Old Lyme, CT 6-9pm

10 SOUND WAVES



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13 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Black Violin

22 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Cash Cash

23 - Foxwoods, Mashentucket, CT

Chris Botti

18 - Bushnell Center, Hartford, CT

Foghat

19 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

G. Love & Special Sauce

28 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Guster

12 - College St, New Haven, CT

Susan Werner

20 - Sounding Board, W. Hartford, CT

Umphrey's McGee

25 - College St, New Haven, CT

Vince Neil

5 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT



Levon Helm & Rick Danko



TIM MCGRAW & FAITH HILL

By Rex Rutkoski

Johnny and June, Garth and Trisha, Tim and Faith...

Country fans traditionally seem to hold a special place in their hearts for married couples that have delivered their music to them through the decades.

"They have always seemed to like real life couples who perform together, maybe because most of the songs are about love, and being a real life couple adds authenticity," says author and country radio programming heavyweight Ed Salamon, who was inducted into the Country Radio Hall of Fame in 2006. "Then again, the couples we are talking about were and are really great performers individually in addition to being great duos, so fans are getting two for the price of one."

No better example, he suggests, is Tim McGraw and his wife Faith Hill, whose first tour in 10 years together, Soul2Soul, has just been extended into 2018 with dates that include concerts June 15, 2018 at Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, CT and June 16 at SNHU Arena, Manchester, N.H.

Based on Pollstar, a touring trade publication, mid-year reports, the tour is one 2017's biggest, ranking it #1 for Average Grossing Country Tour (North America), Average Grossing Country Tour (US), Average Grossing Country Tour (Canada), Average Grossing Country Tour (Worldwide) and Average Grossing Co-Headline Tour (US).

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Hill took a break at the conclusion of the 2007 tour to raise the couple's three daughters.

"It was the height of my success, but I wanted to be a mom," she says of her decision. "It was about being there and raising these daughters."

Tim and Faith each established comparable solo careers before they became a couple, reminds Salamon who was president of programming of Westwood One, the nation's number one radio network at the time. He also had a 15-year business partnership with the late Dick Clark.

Salamon interviewed McGraw and Hill individually at many points in their careers. "When they became a couple they always talked affectionately about the other," he recalls.

When they perform together, either on record or live, suggests McGraw, "it's about the beauty of blending the differences in both our music and relationship."

The concept of couples performing together has always been a staple of country, and there's something of a shared intimacy in watching it happen, explains Jimmy Roach, recently retired from his career in country and, earlier, one of the leading rock radio stations in the nation, WDVE-FM, Pittsburgh.

"It's almost like we're flies on the wall of a musical conversation between partners, as opposed to just a couple of singers thrown together in the stu-

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dio,” says Roach, who has interviewed the artists many times through the years.

“Tim and Faith have to rank near the top all-time when it comes to country duos, primarily due to the national and worldwide scope of the music these days,” he adds. “In the early days of the format, it was basically a regional product, more or less like NASCAR.”

When Hill is on stage, McGraw says, he turns from being a husband to being a fan. “I’m a huge fan of hers. I learn every time I see her. She’s so great at what she does. She is just such a great singer, such a soulful singer, one of the best singers I’ve ever heard. She inspires me for sure.”

That was evident in their November, 2017, Showtime special, “Tim & Faith: Soul2Soul,” now available On Demand.

The tour documentary includes live performances from their Soul2Soul tour, as well as up-close access to the couple with never before seen interviews and behind the scenes footage capturing their chemistry on and off the stage.

It was the first ever country music concert film for Showtime. “A lot of people can sing you a good song and tell you how they are feeling,” McGraw says of his wife. “More importantly, she tells you how you are feeling.”

While they are different artists and, in certain ways, have different approaches to music, they respect what each other does, McGraw says. “We absolutely value each other’s opinion.”

It was in March, 1996 when McGraw, then touring with Hill, borrowed a Jeep from an employee at the Jordan Center in State College, Pa. (home of Penn State University) and took Hill on a romantic afternoon ride through the Centre County countryside before their show. They were married in October of that year.

Hill reminisced about that experience when the duo returned to the Jordan Center in 2000, telling the crowd, “In this very venue several years ago, Tim and I made the declaration of love for one another. It was an amazing night. We decided in this very town that we were going to be together forever.”

The venue staff made t-shirts for the couple that read, “Where it All Began.”



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Later, Hill tracked down the Jeep and bought it for McGraw as a birthday surprise.

It might be said that the joint and separate careers of McGraw and Hill have been full of surprises, opportunities earned by their talents as they individually embraced other areas of creativity and expression, films, television and artist management among them.

McGraw acknowledges that country music has been their foundation, and it is one that they honor when they take the stage together.

“We just go out and relate our songs to the people as best as we can,” he says. He hopes the audience senses the honesty that they bring.

Their first-ever, album together, the new “The Rest Of Our Life,” honors their country tradition with songs like “Speak To A Girl” and “Break First.”

Being real is part of the appeal of country music, he insists. “You just can’t fake anything in country music. You can’t get away with not being able to pull it off. Listeners know. Country fans just know. Country music to people is a serious thing. They take it seriously.”

This is America’s music, after all, he says. “It’s been here a long time. The roots of country will always be there, which is what attracts people to it.”

The more the energy level of an audience increases listening to that music in a concert, the more it does for the artists too, he explains. “The fun is real for us. We wouldn’t be out there doing it if it wasn’t,” McGraw says.



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SOUND WAVES 13

HEARING AID



EmiSunshine "Ragged Dreams"

Little Blackbird Records

Americana artist Emily Sunshine Hamilton is 13-years old and has already been on the scene for four years. She's amassed fourteen million views on YouTube and has released four albums. She sings, plays ukulele and writes her own songs. She's a bit of a force.

Hailing from Madisonville, Tennessee and backed by her family band, The Rain, she is touring extensively and shows no signs of stopping. Her latest album, "Ragged Dreams", was recorded at Blackbird Studio and Creative Workshop in Nashville, TN and includes songs written or co-written by herself with a multitude of top notch musicians offering resonator guitar, mandolin, fiddle, dobro, banjo and cello.

EmiSunshine's passionate voice will immediately remind you of a young Dolly Pardon or Loretta Lynn, twang and all. Her songwriting is steeped in Appalachian tradition and tackles such issues as autism, tragedy, deceit, murder and incarceration. Socially aware and destined to "use her words for good," the album includes one song written in support of the 2016 Tennessee Natural Disaster Relief (Gatlinburg wildfires) and another in support of the 2016 West Virginia flood.

The first track, "Ragged Dreams," is a sophisticated and abstract take on lost love while "Sinner's Serenade" features cool harmonies in a minor key. The talking-singing ghost story portrayed in "Strong Armed Robbery" is good clean fun while the mature vocal phrasing in "Porter Wagoner Blue" is

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pure country. "Ninety Miles" tackles autism with dry and straightforward vocals out front. EmiSunshine's talent is undeniable on this one. She tackles murder of all things in the tongue and cheek "Tennessee Killin' Song" while the well-constructed "Little Blackbird" is destined to be a country classic. The dark "Shame, Shame, Shame" is followed up with the hauntingly beautiful song about loneliness, "Stepping Stone."

"Danny Ray" completes the collection with a New Orleans big easy tune complete with bebopping vocals.

Fans young and old of country music will immensely enjoy this latest album from a rising young star. Check out her web site here: www.theemisunshine.com.

- Sue Menhart



Savoy Brown "Witchy Feelin'"

Ruf Records

Savoy Brown first took the stage in London's Soho back in 1966, taking a leading role in bringing the blues to England and then, with an added flavor of the band's own style, back to the American birthplace of the blues. From Soho the band made its way to Carnegie Hall, the Fillmore East and West, Cobo Hall, and points in between. Over the years, now stretching into decades, the band has seen a steady rotation of new musicians and vocalists, producing some thirty five albums plus a compilation of collected works. Through all these changes and creative expressions, Kim Simmonds has been the steady hand at the center of this now iconic band.

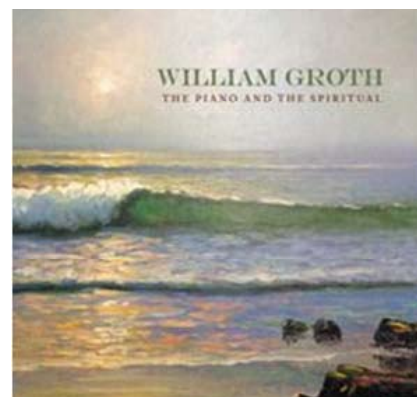
In it's present make-up, Savoy Brown is a blues/rock trio, featuring Kim Simmonds on guitars and vocals, Pat DeSalvo on bass, and Garnet Grimm on drums. Their latest album, *Witchy Feelin'*, features eleven new songs, all written by Simmonds. The lyrics range from the gritty read on life of a blues man with years of playing on the road to draw on, to the reflective and nostalgic thoughts which, we assume, fill the quiet moments of a blues man's days. Throughout the album, the accomplished and distinctive guitar work of Kim Simmonds compliments each song with riffs and rhythms, accenting without overwhelming the underlying songs.

Savoy Brown blends the roots of the blues with what, after all, are the roots of rock and roll: Why Did You Hoodoo Me opens the album, with a strong lead guitar, followed by *Living On The Bayou* with it's intricate guitar melody. *Vintage Man* is a tribute to the music and adornments of a simpler time. At the album's conclusion, Savoy Brown indulges the listener in an instrumental that showcases the musicianship of this vintage band.

This is a very tight and talented trio, and a good listen for fans of the blues and the exemplary guitar work put forth by Kim Simmonds.

Savoy Brown maintains a website at www.savoybrown.com, and a Facebook page at [SavoyBrown65](https://www.facebook.com/SavoyBrown65).

- Jon Persson



William Groth "The Piano and the Spiritual"

Independent

If you're in the need for some soothing instrumental music to start off your new year, I recommend checking out "The Piano and the Spiritual" by William Groth, a Berklee grad who lives in Deep River, Connecticut. Groth is the keyboardist for the popular roots rock

group The Riverdogs and also performs as the Bil Groth jazz trio. He's put together a collection of long-forgotten folk hymns and spirituals, performed and arranged by him alone on just a single black and white ivory instrument. Styles range from jazz, folk, gospel, rock and blues.

The collection includes hymnal staples, many of which can be found in "Singing the Living Tradition" published by the Unitarian Universalist Association, three contemporary pieces, three African-American spirituals, and four Protestant numbers that became rock-Gospel outlets. The order of songs was set up to provide for variety of sound with a continuous rising of key. The CD is meant to be enjoyed from beginning to end.

The album was recorded in Waterford, CT and was mastered by Carl Franklin at PWOP Studios in New London, CT.

The album opens with "The Morning Hangs a Signal" and it does just that - it gets your morning going, and then "The Lone, Wild Bird" continues with an uplifting air. "Give Thanks" is also light and breezy with a hint of Gospel. A bluesy and beautiful rendition of the protest song "We Shall Overcome" follows. "Here on the Paths of Every Day" is another uplifting number and then Groth puts a jazzy take on "Oh What a Piece of Work We Are."

"This Old World" is a driving yet understated tune from the hymnal while "Hush" has a hint of ragtime that I can hear in a romantic comedy soundtrack. An interesting addition is the hymn "Alone She Cuts and Binds the Grain," from the William Wordsworth poem "The Solitary Reaper." The exquisite "Part in Peace" has tinkling high notes with the left hand holding down an entire separate melody simultaneously. The historic American Negro spiritual "Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child" is treated hauntingly. My favorite tune in the collection, though it is very hard to choose, is "A Long, Long Way the Sea-Winds Blow", a hymn constructed from William Stanley Braithwaite's "Lyrics of Life and Love." It's the perfect backdrop for walking along our New England beaches. The CD concludes with the visceral "The Sun at High Noon."

This album embodies Groth's undeniable talent, with the light touch of just two hands on a piano. Get it here: <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/william-groth>

- Sue Menhart

www.Swaves.com



Backtrack Blues Band

“Make My Home in Florida”

Harpo Records

The blues continue to roll on with Backtrack Blues Band based out of Tampa, Florida. They’ve released a new live album that is lively and full of blues machismo. Playing a selection of blues classics and originals, this is an upbeat stomper of an album that will live up your new year.

Backtrack Blues Band has been a major player in the Florida blues scene and has opened up for many of the greats including B. B. King, Buddy Guy, Johnny Winter and Stevie Ray Vaughn. Their style is a mash-up of Chicago-style blues featuring lots of wailing harmonica and hard-ripping Texas blues with great electric guitar riffs tickling the scales on each track.

You can hear how much fun the band is having on the album. Live shows really have a way of capturing the energy of a band unlike anything you can do on the studio. The energy is always high, the instruments are screaming, and singer Sonny Charles has a great blues voice.

The album kicks off with “Checkin’ on My Baby”, a Sonny Boy Williamson tune with a traditional shuffle feel and a lot of vocal energy. It’s a 12 bar blues number featuring some nice harmonica work.

The next track is “Woke Up This Morning”, a well-known B. B. King number with an easy feel and the harmonica punctuating the riff until the song changes pace into a swing feel. These guys have great timing and an obvious understanding of what traditional Chicago blues is all about.

Lead guitarist Kid Royal has a great feel for the scales, and brings an interpretation that leans towards jazz while

jamming out on these numbers. The rest of the band is just as tight - after playing together for almost 30 years, they’ve really polished their sound to a shine.

The original numbers are fun too. Tracks like “Heavy Built Woman”, “Your Funeral and My Trial”, and “Shoot My Rooster” showcase Sonny Charles’ writing skills and sense of humor. If you like traditional blues rock and that Chicago feel, you’ll really like this live album from these veterans of the Florida blues scene.

- Tom Matthew



Bobby Kyle & The Administers

“It’s My Life”

Juicy Baby Records

With the release of their new album *It's My Life*, Bobby Kyle & The Administers bring a decades-long quest and refinement of music making skills to a collection of twelve polished songs which cover a spectrum of the blues and rock genres. The core trio of Bobby Kyle on vocals and guitar, Everett Boyd on electric and upright bass, and Marc Copell on drums, are joined on various tracks by no less than eight musicians, providing saxophones, keyboards, harmonica, trumpet, and nylon string guitar. In his role as Producer, Bobby Kyle has wisely chosen to showcase the talents of all the musicians on this recording, creating a listening experience which combines a variety of talents and sounds.

The title song, *It's My Life*, is a declaration of the independence so important to creative voices: invoking images both of the excitement of playing on stages against the necessary sacrifices life on the road demands. *Tomorrow Night*, a song from the 1930's, harkens back to the days of nylon stringed gui-

tar, played by Fred Scribner, with harmonica by Little Sammy Davis. The effect invites one to re-live for a moment that simpler time, invoking images of such music played on back porches as the heat of the afternoon sun begins to ease.

Bobby Kyle has been a blues man for some forty years, playing alongside legendary mentors such as Lonnie Mack, Bill Dicey, and Blues Hall of Famer Johnny "Clyde" Copeland. For the past twenty years he has been leading his own band, the Administers, based on the East Coast. Along the way he has honed his skills as a blues guitarist, adding artistry to technique while developing his own style and brand. In addition six of the twelve songs on the new album were penned by Bobby. From the classic blues/rock guitar of Highway Man to the New Orleans feel of *Lost and Found*, this is a solid effort and good listen for the discerning blues/rock fan.

Bobby Kyle and the Administers maintain an active schedule of live shows, and are available for bookings. More information, and samples from the new album, may be found at www.bobbykyle.com; there is also a Facebook page at bobbykyleadministers.

- Jon Persson



COOKING WITH THE BLUES

By Jack Chaplin

Well, Christmas is over as I'm writing this article, New Year's Eve and the New Year are on the radar screen for me. The fact that New Year's Eve is falling on a Sunday doesn't feel right. Being in the restaurant business for years somehow I don't remember it falling on a Sunday even though I know it does every 7 years. I'm thinking we'll have a busy Fri. and Sat. and early Sunday business. This time of the year I always like to be home by dark, maybe a genetic hunker down gene, because the days are getting shorter and colder. We are in a cold spell the likes of which I don't remember in recent years, highs during the day near freezing and nights near or below zero.

I remember a few years back when fuel oil was over \$4.00 a gallon, I would wince when the heat kicked on and stayed on for what seemed like eternity! We did dodge the heavy snows this time, 5 feet in Erie, Pa. My dairy farming cousins up in Lowville, NY got over 3 feet which is no big deal for them. They get the lake effect snow in the Tug Hill area which every year records some of the country's highest snowfalls. Cold and all but I'm still not budging, my thermostat is still set at 62!

We had a good Christmas, We decided to close for a few extra days and had a nice 4 day staycation. Got some good rest and even got a jigsaw puzzle going on the dining room table. Carl Franklin gave us a Cribbage set for Xmas, I need to brush up, it's been years and I think he wants a money game. One of the highlights for Christmas was an Hors d'Oeuvres competition between My Sister Pam and My Niece Maddy. It was a friendly challenge but got real serious when it came down to the votes! Maddy came out strong with one which had more of a professional presentation. A nice wedge of cheddar from England, and another wedge of a Swiss variety, top quality Pepperoni that wasn't pre sliced, Soppressata, cubed Swiss, crackers, pickled peppers, grapes, and the piece d resistance cream cheese that was mixed with some horseradish topped with apricot jam garnished with pomegranate seeds! Sister Pam's entry had a more home spun look but equally well thought out. Pam's centered around delicious smoked salmon and an onion dip made with my Grandmother's 60 year old recipe. It calls for the onion to be scraped to extract the juice and not minced. Pam had two kinds of chips, crackers, dishes with cashews, pistachios, diced Jarlsberg, one of my favorites .



She had two blocks of cheese, a Herbed Havarti, and Sharp Vermont Cheddar. She had her platter ringed with cranberries which scored a few extra points on decor. My Sister Holly's house was built around 1800 and the floors tilt a bit so every time you went in the cranberries would roll off, somewhat irritating, but no points taken off! Money was no object by the looks of the platters, Quality and Quantity! Come to find out Maddy had the Shingles a few days prior, the poor thing, and had help from her Mother Sister Holly which caused a disqualifying question and Pam kept pressing the 'Mommy's Help' factor all in good fun. We passed a ballot around with points awarded for taste, presentation, and quality of ingredients. I voted it a tie, I was so impressed it wouldn't have been fair to judge one over the other. Nothing like time with family and a new tradition!



Last week we went down to the Old Lyme Inn to check out the new chef LuAnn and her under \$15.00 weekday tasting menu. It caught my eye weeks ago, they promote it in the Day newspaper a few times a week, and the offerings looked enticing! It was a Thursday night and it was packed so we sat at the bar and had a cocktail with our friend Danny. I'm a fan of Bloody Mary's and the bartender made me a mean one! It took a while but good things are worth waiting for and this one was. She put out all the bells and whistles, the nice touch were little marinated pearl onions, I haven't



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seen them in years. Out of nowhere a New London legend Tommy Major appeared and bought the round of drinks, damn this night was going all right! They don't come any nicer than Tommy, a real class act! Shortly after our table was ready and we decided to order everything on the specials menu. We started off with the Clams Casino. Out came eight of the smallest littlenecks redolent with garlic butter and a piece of crisp bacon on top. Great things Come In Small Packages, these were so delectable I licked the inside of the shell until every bit of flavor was gone and glad we had ordered a second order. Next was a sizable filet of salmon over a citrus lentil stew. I really liked the smaller than normal lentils which had sectioned grapefruit and orange mixed in with wilted greens underneath which made for a nice presentation. Next came a Lobster, Spring Pea Risotto, it was so good that I could have ordered another plate of this creamy goodness but I showed restraint. The final act was a Burger & Fresh Cuts, just what was expected. At this point we had reached the tank full level but somehow we had saved room for dessert, always! I had the Brûlée with fresh berries and ordered the Spice Cake for the table with some house made French Vanilla which had the black specks telling of the use of pure scraped vanilla beans. They had a real good jazz trio playing and come to find out the drummer was Ken Kitchings himself! He took us into the Side Door, his state of the art Jazz Club that is gaining national recognition.

Had a quiet New Years Weekend with all the cold temps and light snow but got to visit with many friends and reach out to those far away. Wrapped up early on the Eve and was invited by Sarah at the Hygienic to stop by and I caught the Great Chris Leigh Band with Rufus Davis and Westerly's own Bobby Christina. What an awesome band if you ever get a chance to catch them live! Saw many downtown artists and supporters of the arts all dressed up bringing in the New Year. The new covering is up, it looks utterly amazing and will allow the Hygienic to have outdoor performances rain or shine for three full seasons. Stopped in to wish the gang at 33 and was sorry to hear Gene had slipped on black ice and broke his arm. Let's send healing prayers and thoughts his way for a speedy recovery!

I Wish You All A Happy, Prosperous, Peaceful New Year! Do something nice for someone in need it will make you feel great.

Blessings, Jack



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Thurs., Feb. 8, 2018 | 7:00 pm



KADAN BART ROCKETT & BROOKLYN

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Fri., March 2, 2018 | 8:00 pm



AN EVENING WITH ANDREW BIRD

Sat., March 2, 2018 | 8:00 pm



LYLE LOVETT & SHAWN COLVIN

Sat., March 10, 2018 | 8:00 pm



AIR SUPPLY

The iconic Australian soft-rock duo performs from among their multi-platinum catalog of classic romantic hits which include "Lost in Love," "All Out of Love," "One That You Love," "Making Love Out of Nothing at All" and "Every Woman in the World."

Fri., March 16, 2018 | 7:30 pm



POPOVICH COMEDY PET THEATER

Fri., April 13, 2018 | 7:30 pm



RODRIGUEZ

Rodriguez, the legendary self-taught singer-songwriter known only by his surname - and the star of the Oscar-winning documentary, *Searching for Sugarman* - brings his national tour to the Garde!

Sat., April 14, 2018 | 8:00 pm



AN EVENING WITH DAVID SEDARIS

Thurs., May 3, 2018 | 7:30 pm



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