

Sound Waves



Volume 28
Issue 4
April 2018

An
Interview
with

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BROWNE**

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MARK DANIEL
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CONCERT INFO
BAND LISTINGS
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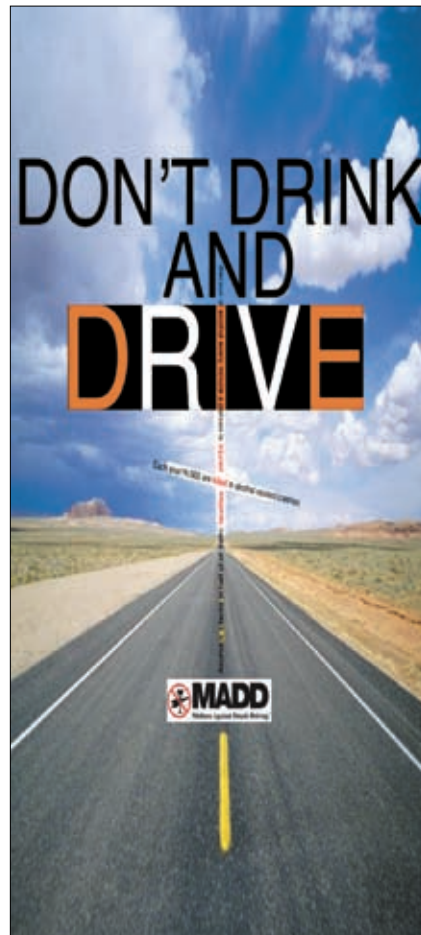
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MUSIC NOTES

“Power of Tower”

By Mark T. Gould

I thought I’d died and gone to rock ‘n’ roll heaven.

It was the early 80s, and, taking a break from studying in law school, my roommate and I made a pilgrimage to Eastport Plaza in, if memory serves, the Northeast section of Portland, Oregon.

The biggest yellow sign you’ve ever seen told us we’d arrived, but it was like nothing this music-collector fan-



natic had ever seen.

Thousands and thousands of record albums, stacked tower high (why that’s a pun will be obvious in a minute), amid racks upon racks of even more vinyl, as far, literally, as the eye could see.

It was true. It was not a dream.

It’s was Tower Records (now, you know why they piled ‘em up tower style). And, this collector was in shock and awe.

We must have spent most of the day there, and we really didn’t want to ever leave the store.

If you’ve ever lovingly caressed a vinyl album in a sealed jacket, well, you know what I’m talking about.

If you haven’t, well, you don’t know what you’re missing.

Equal parts exhausted and exhilarated, and armed to the gills with our piles to purchase, we paid and walked out of the store. In the days, weeks and months to come, I kept going back and back there, never satiated to its enormity.

How did such a mecca come to be?

Tower Records was the brainchild of Russ Solomon, who passed away last month at the age of 92.

Solomon was a high school dropout who began selling used jukebox records in his father’s drugstore in Sacramento when he was all of 16 years old. His first Tower store opened in that city in 1960, and, in its prime, became one of the most dominant music retailers, comprised of almost 200 stores in 15 countries. Sales of recorded music, videos and books at Tower eventually topped \$1 billion a year.

It would be a drastic understatement to say that Solomon thought big. He didn’t simply build stores, he built vinyl palaces, some bigger than football fields, stocked with as many as 125,000 titles, encompassing virtually every popular and classical recording available on market.

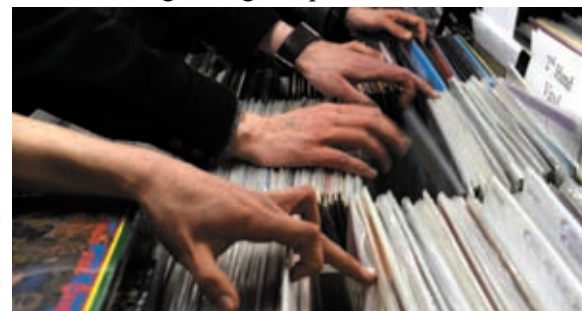
In a way, he paved the way for I-Tunes, which is sort of an on-line digital cousin of Tower Records in itself.

As big as the stores were, though, there was a clubby intimacy in the aisles of racks, where we vinyl aficionados could congregate, kibbutz, and generally revel in our shared hobby/obsession of record collecting.



Open every day, all year, from 9 a.m. to midnight, and usually staffed by fellow music freaks whose knowledge about recordings would put present-day Wikipedia contributors to shame, the stores had seemingly endless collections of rock, heavy metal, jazz, blues, standards, classical, country-western and myriad other offerings. Sometimes popular bands and singers performed in the stores. Bruce Springsteen, Bette Midler, Lou Reed, Elton John and Michael Jackson were among its regular patrons.

In an interview with the New York Times shortly before his death, Solomon said that he opened the first Tower Records store with \$5,000 in borrowed capital in what had been his father’s drugstore. He called it “a neighborhood business,” naming it after the Tower Theater, a local Sacramento landmark that was built in 1938, which was topped by a neon-bathed, 100-foot Art Deco pillar. He soon opened a second Sacramento outlet, but the business did not take off until 1968, when he opened a store in San Francisco.



“I stole ideas from supermarket merchandising,” Mr. Solomon told the Times. The store, he said, stacked hot-selling items on the floor, to encourage impulse buying and to suggest plentiful supplies, reinforcing the impression that Tower would be well stocked when its competitors’ supplies had run out.

As business boomed in the ‘70s and ‘80s, he established Tower Records outlets in major cities across the United States, many with 20,000 to 40,000 square feet of space, if you can picture that. The New York flagship, in Greenwich Village, opened in 1983.

Tower began opening stores abroad in the 1980s, starting in Japan and spreading in Asia, Europe and Latin America. In the 1990s, it became the nation’s largest privately-held music retailer, with nearly 200 stores in the United States and in 14 other countries.

Tragically, Solomon never took the company public, which he acknowledged was a big mistake. Instead of selling stock, he borrowed to finance more stores, and his debt ultimately swelled to \$300 million. In 1999, Tower sales topped \$1 billion, but its financial tailspin had already begun. The company lost \$10 million in 2000 and \$90 million in 2001. Solomon sold and closed stores, and converted others to franchises. At the same time, the music business went into a slump. Tower declared bankruptcy in 2004, and in 2006, amid fierce commercial and pirated downloading competition from the Internet, he was forced to liquidate and close the remaining stores.

From Oliver’s in Mystic as a boy to the incomparable, long lamented Cutler’s in New Haven as an adult, I’ve loved record stores. And, like all of them, Tower had the individuality, the warmth and the hospitality to make even the most obsessed customer (which may have been me) welcome. Now, fast forward at least a decade from that Portland law school jaunt. Completing a circle of sorts, I was driving home late one day from Stamford court, where I had a case on trial as a practicing lawyer. I was mentally and physically exhausted, and I still had the daunting, potentially hours-long, rush-hour commute back home north on the Merritt Parkway facing me.

I was just getting to the entrance ramp, when a sign in a nearby shopping plaza caught my eye.

It was bright. It was enormous. And, it was yellow. It was, you guessed it, a Tower Records sign. Somehow, the store had followed me back to Connecticut.

Naturally, I pulled off the road and went in. It was, as Yogi said, déjà vu all

over again. The same ginormous, piled towers of records on the floor, the same miles of aisles covered with vinyl gleaming in its racks.

Before I knew it, I'd been in there for about two hours, totally wiping out the rush hour challenge that had been in front of me.

I walked out with another large stack of records, just like that day back at the Eastport Plaza in Portland. In its unique way, Tower Records had made me whole again.

Thank you for your vision, Russ Solomon. Rest in peace, and spin to as many records from your Tower as you can.



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All The World's a Stage



“Lessons in Life”

By Sue Menhart

Growing up, I had a love of music that I will attempt to explain here. It all started in a Catholic church in Groton, Connecticut and the Folk Group Mass. I had been going to church since I had been swaddled and the ancient hymns performed usually out of tune by a failed opera

singer and a failed concert organist had been ingratiated in my brain. When the family moved from Florissant, Missouri to Connecticut in 1975, we realized things were a tad different in The North. Hippies were everywhere. Acoustic guitars and long-haired tie-dyed clothed cool people took over the repetitive music portions of the weekly ceremony, and I fell in love. Songs like “Morning Has Broken” and “Jesus Christ Superstar” fit into the service like jelly on peanut butter and I dug it. I was too young to join the folk group, but I wanted in on the action. Somehow.

I started timidly. I asked for a pink 45-RPM record player. I would take my paper route money, any money I could find actually, and purchase the hit songs of the day. Listening actually became quite a favorite activity of mine. I would sit on the floor of my room for hours on end. I wore out Beach Boys, Carpenters, and Barbra Streisand records and the worst pop songs ever recorded like, “The Night Chicago Died,” and “Billy Don’t be a Hero,” and “Sylvia’s Mother.”

But I learned. The Beach Boys taught me how to sing harmonies, Karen Carpenter taught me how to control my voice, and Babs taught me how to make every word and every note count. I used to play tiddlywinks with the insets of the holes in the 45s. I would set them up on the floor shaped into little neighborhoods where I would one day live, where everybody had 45s playing different songs, at the same time, in a symphony of ridiculousness. I remember just sitting on the floor for hours, and with six siblings in the house, no one even noticed. Besides, my parents were forever cranking the Ray Conniff singers on their big album record player. Their music was not my music. Not cool enough, sorry.

When it was time for bed, I would play my clock radio all night long, tuned to whatever station played Barry Manilow and Bread. Those melodies permeated my subconscious every single night throughout my growing years. Even now, I can name those tunes in three notes. I could win a million dollars if that ‘70s show Name That Tune was still on.

Since I had two older brothers, I also learned how to be a cool listener. I would hang out in their room, lie on the floor, stare at the ceiling, and groove to Led Zeppelin, Genesis, Boston and Pink Floyd. I still like to get high listening to the greatest ending of any song ever - “Freebird.” Just kidding. About the getting high part.

But when I watched Julie Andrews in The Sound of Music it really started to click with me. That movie is like a master class in what music is all about which simply is: do-re-me-fa-so-la-ti-do. I could finally visualize how all the sounds on those wonderful 45s were made, and I wanted to know more. I wanted to know everything. I wanted to be in the folk group

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at church.

So I gathered up some confidence and told my parents I wanted to learn how to play music so I could join the folk group at church. They did what all well-intentioned Catholic parents would do when faced with such a request. They signed me up for accordion lessons! The checkered panted, collared-shirt-buttoned-up-too-tight, thick mustached dude showed up with this monstrous bag of piano keys, and began his lesson. I didn’t have a clue what he was saying or how he was making sound come out of the thing. That thing sat untouched in my room until the next lesson, and the non-learning went on. I explained to my mother that I just wanted to sing and play guitar with the cool long-hair people at church. These pleadings, and pretty much all outrageous requests for the next nine years, were usually answered with the emphatic Hungarian phrase: Uyum Puffum Vogluk kutchya kate a semmed kitick! Didn’t know what it meant, other than, forget it! I would stomp up to my room and slam the door, or sometimes run away which meant, throwing some underwear and some candy in a paper bag and walking down the street to my friend Sara’s house. My younger brother Paul, on the other hand, would handle undesirable answers to requests by sticking his hand onto a hot pile of spaghetti and holding it there for as long as he could.

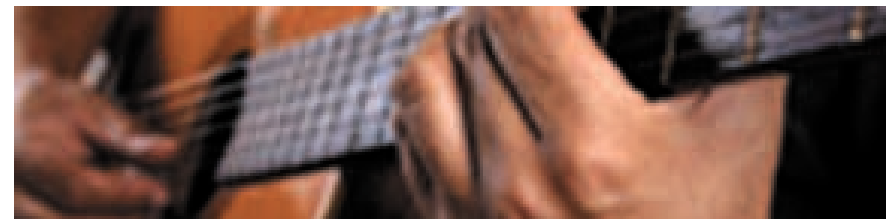
But eventually, they gave in. “Well, if you’re going to use the lessons for playing in church, that’s alright with us,” they said. I guess you could call this my first lesson in “How to Manipulate a Situation to Your Advantage.” I was eight years old.

Somehow an acoustic guitar was purchased and then I couldn’t believe my eyes, I got to take guitar lessons from none other than Peter Frampton!

Well, he was Peter Frampton in my mind anyway, and he could do no wrong, not with that long blonde hair anyway. He was the Frampton Comes Alive version, not the 2017 version mind you. Turns out, he wasn’t really Peter Frampton, and he eventually opened up a very successful music store in Groton, Connecticut called Ron’s Guitars. He asked me what song I wanted to learn first. “I want to learn them all,” I said. So first he taught me “Angie” by the Rolling Stones, which I can still groove on if called upon by the way. I was amazed at how my fingers could create the harmonies I had learned from the Beach Boys’ voices. You just had to press your fingers on the wood in the right formation – and voila! Majors, minors, diminished, sevenths, ninths. I purchased a huge poster illustrating the fingering of every chord there was and practiced them all. I still have the poster. After about three months of guitar lessons from Peter Frampton, the family fortune ran out, and I was on my own. These were the only professional musical instructions I have ever taken. The best teachers are the ones who don’t just teach skills, but impart wisdom on you or encourage you to think for yourself, and that’s the most important thing Ron did for me. After our lessons were over, I continued to teach myself and still do to this day.

Oh, and thanks Mom and Dad, for that guitar. And well, for everything.

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



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20 Matt Vizzo 6-10pm	21 Rob Brannon Duo 6-10pm	22 Uninvited Wilson 3-7pm
27 Whisker Fish 6-10pm	28 Back In the Day 6-10pm	29 J Krak & Cairo 4pm-8pm

BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn

Hello My Sweet Flies..what a glorious month March was, filled with all sorts of Birthday Adventures, including but not limited to a tiny little Road Trip taken with Mr. STEVEN SLOSSBERG and the Girls to see a Showing of PINK EGGS AND GLAM at the SOCIAL on Bank Street in New London! Gorgeous SUTTON LEE SEYMOUR was our Drag Queen Du Jour and did an Amazing Act portraying many different personalities. She became LIZA, CHER, CELINE, (Oh wait, that was me) anyhowoooo She was Fabulous, the venue beautiful and drinks and eats were damn good!

OK..Birthday Celebration #965.



Me and the Goyles, TAMI, WENDY, DAWN, BARBARA and GERI decide to head to the MOHEGAN SUN to celebrate her again at MICHAEL JORDAN'S 23 and then head over to JIMMY BUFFETT'S MARGARITAVILLE to see WICKED PEACH.

We hit the RAINMAKER Parking Garage, threw TAMI'S giant COACH BAG, WENDY'S keys and various coats etc inferno my trunk and hit the casino. Yes, 6 of us had driven up together in my 5 seat car! Dinner was good, dancing was fun. Band was fun bit of 80's and 90's rock and dance music from back in the day, but for some reason I just couldn't get into it. Wasn't feeling Birthday Celebration 965.



So, we leave! WENDY is now driving this mess. GERI is in my lap in the back. We get back to HANDLEBAR CAFE at about midnight, open the trunk and TAMI'S Bag and WENDY'S Keys gone! Wtf! What???? I knew I had a bad feeling. So we get on the phone, call LARRY SMITH with the MOHEGAN TRIBAL POLICE, and he tells us We have to head back up and park in our exact spot.exact!. Suddenly everyone's checking their watches. Look at the time. Gotta get home...etc etc. And who can blame them! The ride sucks!

So off I go, with my ever present sidekick TAMI, Park in our "exact" spot. Hear that it happens all the time..yikes? Are told they will call if they can find any info. And basically I get home at 4am, feel horrible for my friends, terrible about dragging them out blah blah blah

Flash forward, Monday morning 7am. TAMI calls. She's on her way to MOHEGAN SUN! They got the purse, they got the keys and they got the slimey crook who took it all!! Yay, MOHEGAN SUN and Officer LARRY SMITH! AMAZING!!!

Now then..it's Birthday Time! First! Happy 29! Again, to my Baby Sister CHRISTINE, can you believe it? I remember when you were born! And staring through the window at the hospital at you and mom on her ground floor hospital room! How the time has flown. But anyways..Romper Stomp-
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er Babies..MAC ORDONIO JR. TIM BURRIDGE, KRISTEN MITCHELL, ANDREA MAGLIERI, JOANNA ALLEN, CHAPPY CHAPPELL, GINA LAVALLEY, ANDREA EITEL, TODD CENTER, MIKE COVAL, GUY GENGARELLA, DAVE FERRARO, STEVE RUSHFORD, ALEX HOLZINGER, MIKE MAIN, JEFF PITCHELL, ELIZABETH OCONNOR, TARA JOHNSON, PETE ODDO, CHRISTOPHER DIPAOLO, TODD OSFIELD, LOU VETELINO, CASWELL COOKE, MARC DOUGLAS BERARDO, MARK TERMINI, KYLE GADWAY, JAY BOWDY, JULI KATERINE, JOYCE JONES, VICTOR NYE, RONNIE PRATT, SHELLEY HOUGHTALING, MEGAN TAYLOR, MAE HINDLE, MICHELE LAVENDER, ALBERT OSSWALD, DAVID POTTIE, DAN WATSON, BECCA ANN, GENE DELICATO, SANDRA DAGGETT, DAVE HOUSEMAN, NICK PIZZA, JIMMY PONT, JOE TEXEIRA, MICHELLE HAFERS, CHERYL VARS, STEVE ANTOCH, JIM HARTLEY(who i ran into recently at DPI!) JEANNIE ANTHERS, ROB RIVERS, CATO ZANE, WILLIAM LIGHT, ANTHONY EDLEY and JIMMY CUNIAN. Happy Birthday to all you Rockin' Flies!!

So, I have a big month coming up! BUSINESS AFTER HOURS for the BLOCK ISLAND CHAMBER OF COMMERCE at the SPRING HOUSE, BLESSING OF THE BIKES @ OCEAN BEACH on April 8!! ROGER CERESI'S ALL STARZ at the KNICKERBOCKER on April 28, KARL KELLY'S 6TH ANNUAL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP CONCERT @ LANGLEY'S RESTAURANT on Sunday April 29, DINE TO DONATE at AMIGO'S for my son's CHARIHO CAREER AND TECH SKILLS USA Event on Wednesday April 11!! Hope to see you there!

And I'm thrilled for my niece SARAH ELIZABETH and her boyfriend BEN as they jetted off to IRELAND and appear to be having the time of their lives. And a side note, missed the ever Amazing ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE! We had a family emergency and I couldn't make it..but Next Year!! Pencil me in!



KNOXXSTAR @ THE BROWN DERBY on Sat April 14, and oh dear God!!! BERNIE WORRELL NIGHT: PARLIAMENT FUNKADELIC VS. TALKING HEADS...can anyone say Flashlight?? On So 12 at STRANGE BREW PUB!! AND

Opening Day at SALTWATER FARM VINEYARD on Friday April 13 @ 11am. Also FRANKENPHIL is playing a few events in the area including STEAKLOFT on May 2!! Check it all out online or on FaceBook!! And a sad note on SUE And NANCY MENHART and their families losing both their mom And dad this month. Our hearts go out to you all.

And if course, the EVENT OF THE CENTURY dun dun dun dunnn(Or at least the month of May)! BAR FLY throwing herself off the roof of FOX TOWER on their new ZIP LINE ADVENTURE. 350 FEET UP..3800 FEET LONG. Hopefully looking amazing while I do it and raising copious amounts of cash for a fabulous cause the OCEAN COMMUNITY CHAMBER FOUNDATION! Join us there on May 5..CINCO DR MAYO

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..donate. Watch. Have a Margarita...oh what a day it's gonna be!!

And btw...quite a Pool we have going at the HANDLEBAR for this event and look out for postings this month as we pick the \$250 winners. Hint ..it will involve a deck of cards, a barbie, duct tape and clothesline...keep you posted!

Spring is in the Air..hope to see you all at OCEAN BEACH. Get out, see a show, shop local, get your haircut at CoCo's Salon...ciao for now , my sweet flies and wish me luck on my Fly from the Sky!



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BAND DATES

ANDY CHANEY & FRIENDS

5 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 5pm
6 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7pm
13 - Friar Tucks, Tavern, Mystic, CT 10pm
16 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
19 - Breechway Grill, Charlestown, RI 7pm
20 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 7pm
25 - Mystic Pizza 2, N. Stonington, CT 7:30pm
26 - Friar Tucks, Mystic CT 8pm
29 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 6pm

AZALEA DRIVE

6 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
13 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
20 - Waterfront Cafe, N.L., CT 7pm
27 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 7pm

BARSTOOL DIPLOMATS

6 - The Gallery, Norwich, CT
28 - Tamarack Lodge, Voluntown, CT

BEBOBALOUBOB

6 - Winchester Cafe, Portland, CT 8:30-12
21 - Toyo, Colchester, CT 8:30-11:30

THE BROTHERS OF THE ROAD BAND

14 - Bijou Theatre, Bridgeport, CT

THE CARTELLS

5,12,19,26 - Norwich Inn, Norwich, CT 6:30pm
6,20 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm
11 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 7:30pm
13 - Pazzo, Rocky Hill, CT 7pm
29 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3pm

DAN STEVENS

3,10,17,24 - www.icvradio.com 4pm
3,10,17,24 - Nightingale's, Old Lyme, CT 6pm
4 - Tapped Apple, Westerly, RI, 8pm
5 - Public House, Old Lyme, CT, 6pm
8 - Infinity Hall Bistro, Norfolk, CT 6pm
11 - Kinsmen Brewing, Southington, CT 6pm
13 - Chamard Vineyards, Clinton, CT 6pm
14 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 10pm
15 - Bee & Thistle Inn, Old Lyme, CT 5pm
19 - Andy's Old Port, Portland, ME 7pm
20 - Gritty McDuff's, Freeport, ME 8pm

10 SOUND WAVES

21 - Old Goat, Richmond, ME 8pm
22 - Red Lion Inn, 3Stockbridge, MA 8pm
25 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
27 - Rapsallion Brewery, Sturbridge, MA 6pm

DAN WATSON

3,17 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
5,19,29 - Ancient Mariner, Mystic, CT
6 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT
7,28 - Harbor House, Mystic, CT
8 - M/Bar, Mystic, CT
11 - Mystic Pizza II, N. Stonington, CT
12 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT
13 - Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI
14 - Dog Watch Cafe, Stonington, CT
18 - Cleats, Westerly, RI
20 - Lansdown Pub, Uncasville, CT
24 - Angie's Pier 27, Mystic, CT
25 - Chapter One, Mystic, CT
26 - Dog Watch Mystic, Mystic, CT

DARIK & THE FUNBAGS

7 - Shamrock, Waterbury, CT
13 - Trilogy, Seymour, CT
14 - Hurricanes @ Garden, Boston, MA
21 - Chicago Sams, Cromwell, CT
27 - Maria Vs, Shelton, CT
28 - Tipping Chair, Southington, CT

FAKE EXPERIENCE TRIO

13 - Silver Oak, Mystic, CT 6-9pm

F & BLUES BAND

6 - Elks, Willimantic, CT 7pm-10pm
21 - Sneakers, Groton, CT 8:30pm-12:30am
26 - Atrium Lounge, Mashentucket, CT 8:30pm-12:30am

FLEET

15 - Stony Creek, Branford, CT 12-3
19 - Tapped Apple, Westerly, RI 8-10
21 - Still Hill, Rocky Hill, CT 2-5
21 - 33 Golden St, New London, CT 9-12
25 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI 8-11
28 - La Boca, Middletown, CT

FRANKENPHIL

3 - Twisted Vine, Westerly, RI 6pm
13 - McBrides Pub, Providence, RI 7pm
27 - Ridge Vineyard, Preston, CT 5:30pm
30 - Rathskeller, Charlestown, RI 7:30pm

GREEN TEA

7 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI
20 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT

GREEN TEA LIGHT

13 - Wood River Inn, Richmond, RI 8pm
19 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 5:30-8:30
29 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI 8pm

HOPE ROAD

14 - Electric Haze, Worcester, MA

JAMES HARRIS

2,4,11,18,21,25 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
3,10,17,24 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT 8pm
5 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
7,28 - Friar Tuck's, Mystic, CT 10pm
8 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3pm
12 - Iron's, Mystic, CT 5pm
13 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 9pm
14 - Tuscany, Mohegan Sun, CT 9pm
19 - Aquarium, Mystic, CT 6-8pm
20 - Latitude 41, Mystic, CT 7pm
27 - Iron's, Mystic, CT 8pm

KEEP IT ROLLING BAND

31 - The Hideaway, Colchester, CT

KEN SERIO JAZZ TRIO

21 - Hilliard Mills, Manchester, CT

LLAMA TSUNAMI

13 - 33 Golden St, New London, CT

LOUIS & CLARK

6,20 - Evil Olive, Norwich, CT 5-7pm
13,27 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6-9pm

THE LOCOMOTIVES

14 - Toyos Lounge, Colchester, CT
21 - LaVita Gustosa, E. Haddam, CT
28 - The Stand, Branford, CT

Ms. MARCI

& THE LOVESICK HOUNDS

27 - Lakeview, Coventry, CT 7-11pm

Ms. MARCI & JIM HOOPER

7 - German Club, Mystic, CT 7-11pm

NICK BOSSE

5,12,19,26 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 5:30-8:30
21 - Mystic Pizza II, N. Stonington, CT 8-11pm
27 - Two Brothers, Voluntown, CT 8-11pm

PAUL CARAHER

4 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
7 - Mystic Pizza II, N. Stonington, CT 8pm
14 - Two Brothers, Voluntown, CT 8pm

POSITIVE NRG

27 - Black Dog Bar, Putnam, CT

SUGAR

14 - Blues Cafe, Newport, RI
27 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

SUNDAY GRAVY

6 - Sneakers, Groton, CT
15 - Ocean Mist, Matunuck, RI 3:30-6:30
26 - Back Porch, Old Saybrook, CT 7-11
28 - Wood River Inn, Richmond, RI

2 CAT ZOO

27 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT

VINCE THOMPSON

& THE NEXT FUN THING

12 - Painted Pony, Bethlehem, CT 7-10
19 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10
29 - Brewing Company, Woodbury, CT



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CONCERT DATES

Ana Popovic

12 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

Devon Allman Project

17 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Dweezil Zappa

12 - Columbus Theater, Providence, RI

22 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Hot Tuna

6 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Ja Rule/Ashanti

21 - The Strand, Providence, RI

Jerron "Blindboy" Paxton

20 - All Souls, New London, CT

Jesse Cook

12 - Odeum, Greenwich, RI

Joe Bonamassa

26 - Perf. Arts Ctr., Providence, RI

Lorde

7 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Patty Smyth & Scandal

28 - Odeum, Greenwich, RI

Punch Brothers

24 - Jorgensen Ctr., Mansfield, CT

Rodriguez

13 - Garde Arts, New London, CT

Roger McGuinn

21 - Odeum, Greenwich, RI

Sister Sparrow & The Dirty Birds

19 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

Steve Martin/Martin Short

14 - Perf. Arts Ctr., Providence, RI

Straight No Chaser

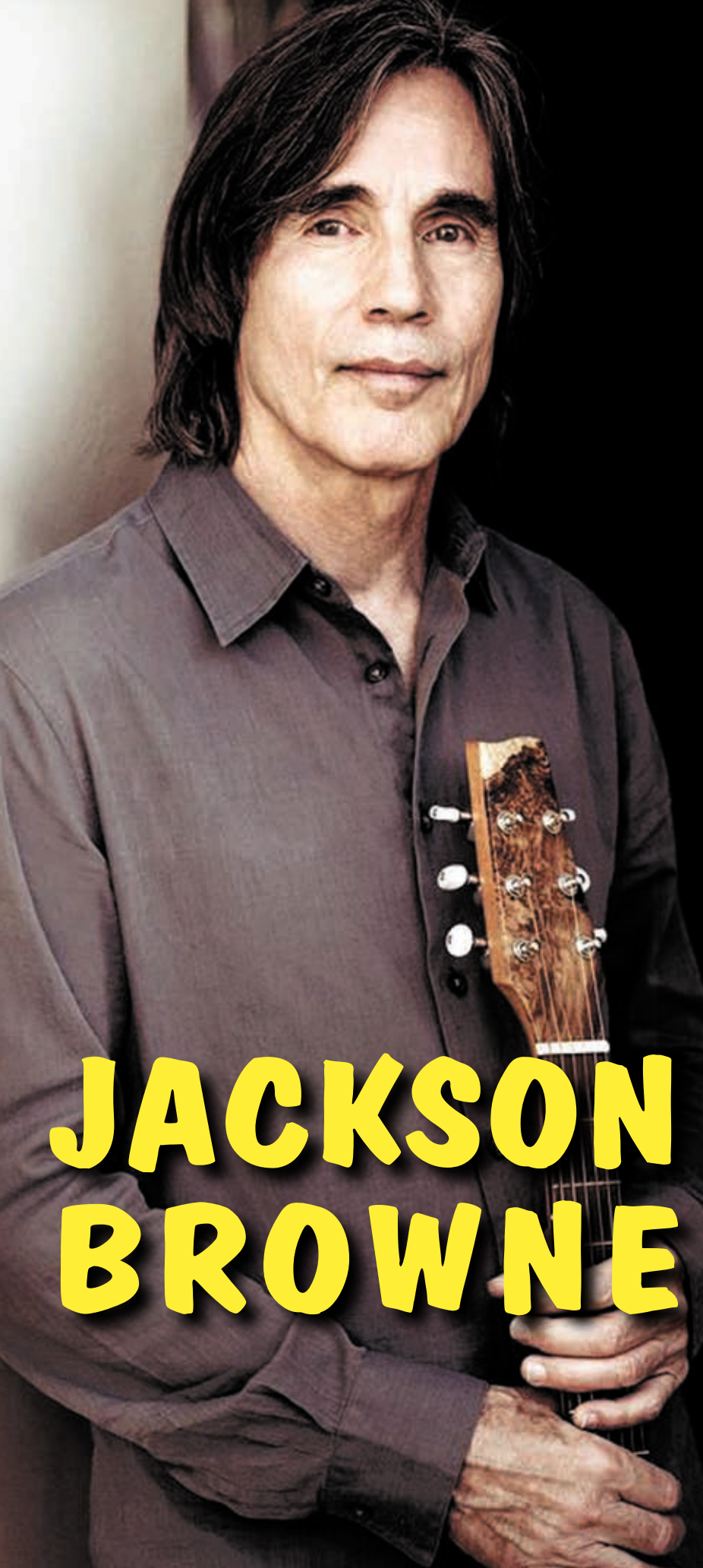
6 - Jorgensen Ctr., Mansfield, CT

Tony Bennett

11 - Perf. Arts Ctr., Providence, RI



SOUND WAVES 11



By Rex Rutkoski

Even a quick visit to social media provides the answer as to why Jackson Browne endures.

Listen to this conversation among longtime fans of the singer-songwriter and activist:

“It’s well-earned respect. I think he sort of knows he’s become an icon,” says one. “What I wonder is if he really gets how much people genuinely love him, even strangers, because his songs have been such a part of their lives?”

“People consider him to be one of their best friends even though they have never spoken to him,” adds another. “I am still amazed that 40 plus years later his lyrics/music still move me like no other. I have always found his music to be the perfect balm for my soul”

And still another: “He just takes me to a calm place! I just can’t believe how good he is at putting emotions into words that mean so much to so many of us! Nobody makes you sit up in your seat and take notice of what we should be ‘really paying attention too’ better than Jackson Browne!”

“I’ve been a fan of Jackson since I was 16,” says yet another admirer. “His music has got me through many tough times. I’m 58 now and still have his music and words easing me through life.”

Browne, who turns 70 in October, appreciates those who have made the life journey with him.

His 2018 New England dates begin with a May 9 full-band performance at the Providence Performing Arts Center. He moves on to the Oakdale Theater in Wallingford, Ct., May 10 and Boston’s Blue Hill’s Bank Pavilion, May 15. A familiar name from his past, singer-songwriter-actress Vonda Shepard, will join him as a special guest for the Providence and Wallingford shows.

Shepard sang with Browne on tour in 1995, and after the release of her, “It’s Good, Eve” album, Browne invited her to open for him, as well as sing with him on the 1996 tour. She previously sang backup for Rickie Lee Jones.

“It’s a trip down memory lane as I get ready to go back on the road with my dear friend Jackson Browne!” Shepard says. “He has been a real mentor to me.”

(Shepard talks about her early time with Browne in this YouTube video: <https://vondashepard.com>)

Browne let her use his studio to record “It’s Good, Eve,” which she credits with leading to her landing the hit television show, “Ally McBeal.” She appeared as a regular in the show as a resident performer in the bar where the show’s characters gathered.

As for Browne’s new concerts, he can be expected to deliver a performance of his new single, “The Dreamer,” which he wrote with Eugene Rodriguez, addressing the plight of those facing deportation under the Trump administration. Los Lobos’ David Hidalgo, along with Los Cenzontles, performs on the recording

Browne sings, “We don’t see half the people around us/But we imagine enemies who surround us/And the walls that we’ve built between us/Keep us prisoners of our fears.”

Link to video: [https://www.jacksonbrowne.com/news/jackson-browne-the-dreamer-\(featuring-los-cenzontles\)](https://www.jacksonbrowne.com/news/jackson-browne-the-dreamer-(featuring-los-cenzontles))

He had an early start in the New Year to emphasizing the importance of music in young peoples’ lives, hosting a benefit concert for the non-profit organization Grand Vision Foundation, and its youth music education program, at the Warner Grand Theatre, San Pedro, Calif., Feb. 9

Success for him is “living a full and interesting life,” he says, and music

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“is the means by which I confront what I’m concerned with in my life, whether it is some personal challenge or something that confronts a lot of us.”

It is a means, he adds, in which he accesses “what’s going on inside.” “It’s like a bridge between people that bring us close together,” Browne explains.

The California native has constructed a strong bridge that touches not only fans, but his peers and those who chronicle popular culture and world affairs in general.

Bruce Springsteen, the Eagles’ Don Henley and Bonnie Raitt were among artists covering their favorite Browne tunes for the 2014 album, “Looking into You: A Tribute to Jackson Browne.”

When Springsteen, his former opening act, inducted Browne into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2004, he described him as “simply one of the best songwriters of all time . . . each song is like a diamond.”

Browne, who was enshrined in the Songwriter’s Hall of Fame in 2007, once recalled that his musician father “raised me to love words.” He grew up reading Shakespeare and Mark Twain.

“Literacy is really an aspect of my songs that is not necessarily the most essential component,” he says. “It happens to be one of the main features of mine. A lot of music that I really like I’m not really sure what the words are. There are many places where meaning resides in music, not always in words. I happen to have a love of language.”

..As did the great American author, fellow California native John Steinbeck, and in 2002 Browne became the fourth recipient of the John Steinbeck Award, given to artists whose works exemplify the environmental and social values that were essential to Steinbeck.

Browne also received Duke University’s LEAF award for Lifetime Environmental Achievement in the Fine Arts, and both the Chapin-World Hunger Year and NARM Harry Chapin Humanitarian Awards.

Occidental College in Los Angeles, in 2004, gave him given an honorary Doctorate of Music for “a remarkable musical career that has successfully combined an intensely personal artistry with a broader vision of social justice.”

Human rights and ecology continue to be at the top of Browne’s priority list. “They really sort of overlap too. It’s a basic human right to live in a safe environment,” he explains.

While some suggest it is difficult to find hope, he reasons, “Hope lies in actually doing something.”

He told Mother Jones magazine he felt honored when he learned he was receiving the Spirit of Americana Free Speech Award at the Americana Music Awards and Festival a few years ago, “for speaking truth and being undaunted by the reluctance people have to hear songs on political themes.” “I’m happy because that means that people understand there are times that you are compelled to say what you believe.”

Part of being alive, he says today, is understanding that you are part of the world.

“When you are singing about your life, if you sing about life then you are singing about every aspect of it,” he insists. “No life is untouched by events of the day, political or social issues, and it would be a mistake (to ignore that).”

Browne says that even his most personal love song is accompanied by his most socially aware songs. “They take their place in some sort of context. You can’t have a political or social focus to life and forget all about it,” he says.

“I hope my albums are entertaining, but I always hope they are more than that,” Browne says. “I never thought of myself as an entertainer. I don’t have any patter. I don’t have any stich, any prepared format except to continually question things and provide myself with some answers.

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LOCAL BEAT



“Strident Rock Veterans Brandish Synthesizers at Oasis Pub in Downtown New London”

By Andrew Krebs

After having spent awhile frequenting popular New London club

33, I decided to return to Oasis Pub for the first time in years to see 2 highly original rock acts. The Oasis has been a consistent billiard and concert venue since the early 2000s and featured 2 of this month’s greatest electro-rock artists: DJ Falcon Punch and T Wreck. Both performers commanded listeners attention and made everybody want to get up and dance.

Mr. Gil Morrosin of Falcon Punch took the stage 1st, inviting crowds of local listeners to join him on a spiritual journey of music and dance. His Korg keyboard compositions were heavily influenced by video game music, the wall of sound which served as a backdrop for this journey like an instrumental version of Tears for Fears complete with a keyboard beat and sensuous synthesizer fades. Cover songs included a tribute to police hero Axl Foley of Beverly Hills Cop and the chirpy tremolo synths reminded me of the soundtrack to videogame Megaman. The DJ was visually impressive as well, donning a Daft Punk space helmet and technicolor background screen. Gil said his musical influences included LCD Soundsystem as well as such older established performers as Phil Collins who popularized cutting edge techno-rock of the 80s. Gil seemed excited to claim his 1st gig included playing a gay pride parade in New Haven before coming here.

The second band T Wreck featured veterans of fine New London rock bands from over the years, including drummer Mike Winslow (of Fatal Film and Incognito Sofa Love fame), singer Dan Boroughs (of Ferocious Teeth) and Dave Freeburg (of Fatal Film) on synthesizer. Singer Dan’s barking of hardcore lyrics over the constant electric buzz of background sound sounded like early 80s punk rock (or Joy Division at their most garage). The vocals and hip-hop beat also sounded like Rage Against the Machine. Mike’s vocals screeched and Freeburg’s keyboard ejaculated bubbly electronic sounds. Songs featured lyrics about 2 roads wide open and the set ended with Borough’s emo wail at the end which echoed with the help of an effects loop. What made T Wreck so interesting was the fact that they were so hardcore despite having no guitars. There were hints of MGMT and the Prodigy as well: an array of droning, chirping and bloopy keyb hooks. The band is finally able to indulge in music they knew they loved but perhaps were afraid to play onstage at an earlier, more grungy (90s) era.

T Wreck formed after taking an open slot at music festival Sailfest and 33 Golden at which time they started as a vocal project with poet Scott Mackenzie. Dan also had sat in for the band Total Bolsheviks. “We’re anti-rock and tired of guitars. We don’t need them. Yet were still a screamer band whose bass synthesizer can sound enough like a rock bassist” the band explained. However, the band wants to keep things low key and go with

14 SOUND WAVES

the flow like other bands do. Their favorite songs include “No Nada” and “Footsteps,” which are “long enough without becoming boring” and which the band writes the rhythmic patterns 1st before improvising the lyrics.

Like Falcon Punch beforehand, deep bass synthesizers reminded some listeners (myself included) of videogame soundtracks (in this case Nintendo’s Rygar). The sensuous synth grooves were poignant if poppy on the surface with keyb guy Dan tickling the sonic rheostat on his electronic box . . . actuating the mechanism! As for their future, T Wreck hopes to play Boston and the rest of CT this summer. Look out for this band’s album release party May 4th at 33 Golden. Keep your eyes on electronic spaceman Falcon Punch as well.



Cover Story Continued

“I hope my music is compelling and people get from it what it does for me. I make it for myself and I hope others (identify with it). Saying what you believe in is good for you. Identifying yourself to others who believe the same, and finding common ground with people, it’s a healthy thing to do. I really feel fortunate having this job.”

“One of the highest moments you can experience in a concert is the surge of connectedness with people, it’s wonderful,” he adds.



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HEARING AID



Downchild

"Something I've Done"

True North Records

In describing the music of Downchild, presented in full force on their newly released album *Something I've Done*, one must go immediately to words like "genuine", "authentic", "the real deal." And, balanced, versatile, and talented at every position, too. First appearing in 1969, with a consistent makeup for the past twenty years, Downchild is six musicians with one focus: playing the blues, the "jump blues" specifically, strong on the piano, bass, drums, with a mix of guitar, sax, harmonica, and the decisively blues vocals of Chuck Jackson.

Singling out any one performer, though, is not what this band is about; bringing their classic sound to long time fans and young aficionados, is the mission behind their music. Opening with the rousing *Albany, Albany*, the band quickly makes that point apparent; a driving bass and baritone sax jumps out at the listener, quickly settling in behind vocal lines and piano riffs, capped off with a refreshing bari sax solo by Pat Carey. Everybody Worried About The World takes blues to its logical limits ("Nobody worried about me"), while *Mississippi Woman*, *Mississauga Man* blends harmonica, rhythm, and tongue-twisting lyrics in a recipe of pure southern blues, finishing with the guitar work of Donnie "Mr. Downchild" Walsh. The versatility and artistry of the band continues throughout all ten tracks on their new album.

In recognition of the band's prolific talents, the new album has already re-
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ceived a nomination for Blues Album Of The Year at the 2018 Juno Awards, an honor added to a long list of such honors. Downchild maintains a schedule of live performances, which are updated along with free samplings of *Something I've Done* at www.downchild.com. This is a band, and an album, which any blues fan will happily add to their regular listening routine.

- Jon Persson



Roots of Creation

"Grateful Dub"

Bombshelter Records

Debuting at number one on the Billboard reggae charts, New England's own Roots of Creation have successfully launched a thoroughly enjoyable album of Grateful Dead covers. They have done a great job being faithful to the original vibe of the songs whilst adding their own particular flavor - reggae and dub.

Brett Wilson is the driving force behind the band, and his love for the Dead has been no secret. Every time I've seen him solo or with Roots of Creation he has pulled out some tunes from the Grateful vault. His talent and artistry shines on this album, bringing a lot of energy and creativity to the project.

They've brought an impressive cast of all-stars from various genres to help them carry the torch for Jerry Garcia and the Grateful Dead. Opening up the album is a stellar version of "Fire on the Mountain" featuring the one-and-only Stephen Marley. They follow up with support on other tracks from the likes of local favorite Hayley Jane, G. Love of Special Sauce fame, Fortunate

Youth, and several tracks with longtime organist of the Jerry Garcia Band, Melvin Seals.

The song selection is great. They hit on both mainstream favorites like "Ripple" and "Friend of the Devil" as well as deeper cuts such as "Standing On The Moon" and "Black Muddy River". Some of the songs stay remarkably akin to the original, like the note-for-note guitar solo in "Casey Jones", whereas on other tunes they take it in a whole new direction, like the instrumental dub version of "Shakedown Street".

One of the highlights for me is "Deal" which retains its full swing appeal and features some New Orleans vibe with what sounds like an accordion comping the backbeat. "Sugaree" kicks off with some heavy blues feel before the seg-way into a sweet reggae beat.

It's not always easy to pull off an album covering a legendary band like the Grateful Dead. You run the risk of sounding banal in copying the original too closely, or on the flipside, taking it too far away from the original and hence sound like you're trying too hard. Roots of Creation manages to walk that line expertly, creating something that is new and interesting to vibe to while still pulling at the heartstrings of longtime Deadheads like myself.

Brett Wilson and Roots of Creation have done a nice job producing a very fun album that will be sure to tug at your memories while putting a bounce in your step. They accepted the challenge of turning covers into something refreshing and new, and they have done it with style. I highly recommend that you check out "Grateful Dub" and get back to the magic of a ripple in still water, when there is no pebble tossed, no wind to blow.

- Tom Matthew
Two Ton Music



Mark Daniels

MarkDanielMusic.com

Connecticut native Mark Daniel leads a power trio on his self-named EP, harkening back to the rock & roll days of the early 70's. His insistent and sometimes thrashing guitar work backs a sometimes raspy, always expressive voice which invokes comparison to Robert Plant: yet his true focus has been on presenting a sampling of his own songwriting after more than a decade of playing back-up to other artists.

Opening with *Slow Setting Sun*, the simple yet powerful combination of Daniel's guitar is driven by the strong bass of Marc Hickox with Mickey Curry on drums. *Heart Stops Beating* features a tight and effective guitar riff accenting the soaring voice of Mark Daniels. On *Walk Through Fire* and *Coming Down*, the trio stretches its considerable talents with intricacies of rhythm and melody.

Mark Daniel has fine tuned his talents while supporting the work of artists like Steve Vai, Everclear, Marshall Tucker, and more. During a break from touring, he recorded the new EP in his home studio, releasing a total of five songs. This was a process which included honing his musicianship and delving into the art of songwriting: the result is this expression of the straightforward rock and blues which drive his musical passions.

A newly formed performing trio, Mark Daniels & the Free Radicals, is at work on a schedule of live shows, even as more original music takes shape. Perhaps future releases will explore the more laid back guitar and vocal work on *Got It Bad*, the final song of the current EP. More information, and samples of the EP, are available at www.markdanielmusic.com, or on Facebook under Mark Daniel.

- Jon Persson

COOKING WITH THE BLUES



By Jack Chaplin

Well, spring is here but where is the spring weather? My prediction is that we will get one of those freak snow storms the second week of April. The weather patterns these days are wacky. The last storm was predicted to dump 6 to 12 inches, we closed the restaurant, schools had early dismissal, it never happened! They continued to call in the 4th NorEaster in a row into the next day! My pet peeve of the month, all day coverage of the storm, no Good Morning America, No Judge Judy, just continued reports from the mobile Storm Tracker 8. Any other job besides being a weatherman and if you failed so miserably at your job, you would be toast! I guess I can't

complain, we enjoyed an extra day off to rest up plus it was right after St. Paddy's Day!

Lucky Peterson was in the house a few weeks ago and played Friday and Saturday night. Sunday Shor-ty Billups was in town and the St. Paddy's Parade was happening. Lucky said he could stay and sit in, I needed to find a backing band and called Ronnie Lewis of the Troublemakers. He was on his way out of town but turned around, got his drum kit, called up his bass player Marty Marone and showed up within an hour. What a couple of good guys! It was a last minute thing and it worked out fantastically. Lucky and I go back to the Texas days and it was his first time at Daddy Jack's. He loved the crowd and being in New London! He will be back at Daddy Jack's, doing a solo acoustic act Thursday May 9th and Friday night the 10th with his full band. We are working on the 2nd Annual New London Blues and Brews Fest, Sat. June 2nd and Sun. the 3rd. Lucky will be headlining Saturday night along with a great lineup and Christine Olhman is the headliner for Sunday. Daddy Jack's will be doing the food for the festival. My friend Tim Jarish has built an amazing BBQ trailer and I'm bringing my wood grill so watch out! Brisket, rib sandwiches, burgers, chicken sandwiches, seafood skewers and more. It's shaping up to be another great festival so try to get your tickets early, they can be bought on the Hygienic Website, hygienic.org. They are offering an Early Bird weekend special, don't miss it, it has great value and specials.

Well, LaKisha and I went to the much talked about movie The Black Panther a few weeks ago. It was a long movie, 2 1/2 hours but full of action and had me on the edge of my seat. We like to go to the Mystic Cinemas, comfortable seats and all first showings of the day are \$6.00! You can't beat it and they always have the latest and greatest features. They even have craft local beers and wine offerings. It was a stormy day and there were 60 plus mph gusts of wind and heavy rain. We got to some nail biting moments towards the end and the power went out. I had to be to work and was cutting it short already so we got a rain check to come back and catch the last part. A few days later we came back but were too late and missed

16 SOUND WAVES

the ending yet again! The third time was the charm, we came back plenty early and even had time to eat next door at The Blue Squid. The name had been throwing me off for a while but a friend said how good it was, I guess it fits in with the Aquarium being just down the block. As I've stated before I am always in search of a good breakfast spot that uses real butter to cook their eggs. Another issue is pricing, usually very pricey in the better places, around \$10.00 pp. I tend to cook my own breakfast just how I like it but now I have found a home away from home. We were seated and from the start I knew I had found what I have been looking for. The waitress came right over and took our drink orders, the water and coffee came toot sweet! Looking over the menu everything looked amazing from the eggs and toast for \$3.25 to a Signature Benedict \$10.50. Omelets are fairly priced around \$8.95 but you can splurge for a Lobster, Green Onion & Cream Cheese number for \$15.95, I see the summer tourists jumping on this one! Breakfast Sandwiches start at a very reasonable \$3.95 to \$7.25 for a deluxe Egg, Avocado, Cherrywood Smoked Bacon, Tomato & Salsa Crema. The Squid offers Fresh Squeezed Juices, Smoothies, House-Made Granola, many Hot and Cold Beverages, and Coffee from Mystic Coffee Roasters. LaKisha ordered the Sweet Corn Polenta w/Pulled Pork, I was able to finagle a few bites, I ordered the Blueberry Pancakes, just what the doctor ordered! Being brunch time we also ordered a cup of the Soup du Jour, Herbed Chicken Noodle for \$3.95, reasonable, the most anyone should charge except for Lobster Bisque maybe! It had a fresh chicken stock flavor with a nice blend of herbs and vegetables. I've written all this and not even scratched the lunch menu which starts at 10:30 am. They started in Mystic Village 10 years ago with a Grilled Cheese and Cup Cake menu and opened in their new location a year ago. They have now added Gourmet Sandwiches, Salads, Soups, all very reasonably priced, even it being in Mystic! I have to say Connie Carocari and Her Husband Gary Everett have done an amazing job expanding into this beautiful new spot. I believe they have a racehorse on their hands, I predict they will win the Triple Crown!

I hope everyone had a nice Easter or Passover, Time to plant the vegetables now. I'm finally going to put in a few blueberry bushes, been talking about it for years! I can't wait to see the yellow Forsythias and Daffodils, the Greens of Spring, and The vibrant colors when the tulips pop! Makes living here through the cold winters that much sweeter! Got to soak up some warming sunshine the other day, 54 degrees but blissful, stocking up on my Vitamin D.

Meal deal of the month, 2 Dollar, Two Taco Tuesdays At The Brown Derby, FYI. Have a wonderful month and reach out to a loved, I guarantee they are waiting by the phone.

God Bless, Jack



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