

Sound



Waves

Magazine

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**Volume 29
Issue 3
March 2019**

**Chris O'Leary
Katie Henry
Thor Jensen
Big Joe &
the Dynaflows
Ron Spencer Band**

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

**A Southern New England
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**An
Interview
with the
Music Maker**

**JOHN
SIMON**



NEW LONDON COUNTY - MYSTIC - WESTERLY - RHODE ISLAND

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Sound Waves

March 2019
VOLUME 29, NUMBER 3

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SOUND WAVES is a
 monthly publication
 Send all inquires,
 editorial submissions
 and
 subscription request to

SOUND WAVES
MAGAZINE
P.O. Box 710
Old Mystic, CT 06372

Yearly Mailed
Subscription
price ~ \$35/year

www.Swaves.com

Code Name Series

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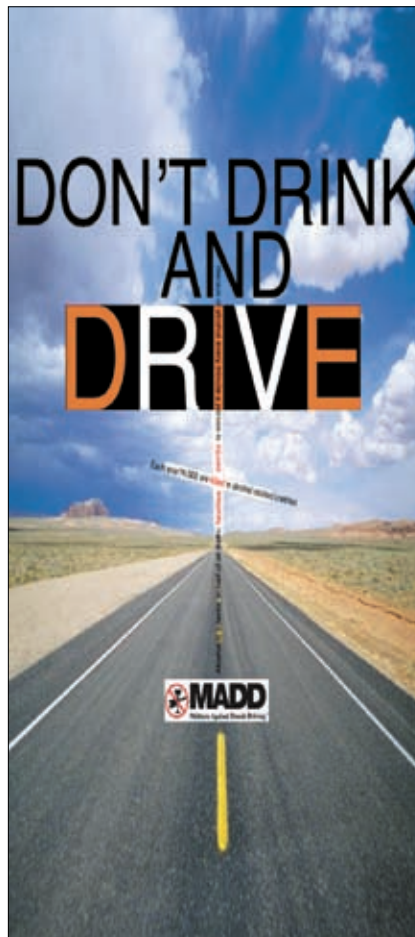


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All The World's a Stage

"Why Do We STILL Do It"

By Sue Menhart

Three years ago, in this very column, I asked the rhetorical question of we musicians - Why Do We Do It? If we never made it as a rock star by now, what on earth was the point in continuing the charade? Why continue to put up with the empty clubs, the lugging, loading, maintaining of equipment, the late nights, the back aches, the sore throats, the bloody fingers, the ridicule, the blame game between club owner and band, the in-fighting, the drama. For a few dollars and a couple hand claps.

Back then, I received replies from songwriters, garage bands, bedroom players, cover bands, young ones, old ones, nobodies, wannabes and people making a darn good enough living with music.

The WHY we do it is simple. We were put on this earth for it and we can't deny it.

The why we STILL do it remains a bit more complicated.

Recently, a guy told me, "At 30 years old, I gave up. Why would I continue to pretend to be a rock star on stage for two hours when I'm absolutely never going to be?" Then I talked to a 60-year old who said, "I still do it because I'm simply not done yet." Then I tried to understand why the 80-year old the other night heaved a massive piano with 80 weighted keys into a venue for his weekly gig. I didn't get to talk to him; he started jamming with his band mates right away. 80 years old? Really?

Is it STILL in the hopes of having a Lady Gaga Bradley Cooper moment at the Oscars? Still thinking there might be a chance to rock arenas like Freddie Mercury? Because having a steady gig with your buddies in your 80s will always be bet-



ter than watching Jeopardy on the couch, in your 80s? We like living in vans and never warmed to kitchens and baths?

Personally, I am still struggling to find the answer to the question: Why STILL?

I guess it's like at the end of that movie "Contact" when Jodie Foster is talking to kids pointing her satellite to the Heavens wondering if "it's just us" in the Universe, and she says, "As long as you keep looking for your own answers..."

And so on we go.

I wrote a book about this stuff! "They Made Me Play a Polka" is available here:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1725534584/ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_bibl_vppi_i0

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

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Susan Tedeschi



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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn

Hello my Sweet, Sweet Flies...I'm in an exceptionally good mood this month because I just returned from the vacation of my dreams and..It's My Birthday, It's My Birthday!! Yup, it's that time of year again where I feel free to celebrate the entire month of March as my own personal Rock Star Birthday Month! Let it begin...

So..as faithful readers (hello PETER DIBBLE!) will remember, I was boarding a LUFTHANSA Jet and flying off to Italy. And as you recall I listed all the plans I had as "SCaptain of the Crew, for the Girls. Well! we did 'em all! We stayed in mansions and palaces, we rode horses on the APPIAN WAY, (3000 year old road to Rome),



we drove antique FIATS in Tuscany, rode the water taxis all through Venice (until we were fined \$70 apiece for not getting our tickets validated), got lost on our giant jet (yes, it had two floors) and drank, ate and made friends like the Queens that we are all across the Country.

Memories..Lorenzo guiding us through the streets of Florence, showing us how they would break someone's ass in the old days..yes that's a thing, (not like today but on a stone with some one holding your arms and someone holding your legs and wacking you up and down til your damn ass was broken!) Who knew?, TAMI'S many Birthday Cakes and celebrations, lost on the streets of Florence:)



(my version? I went up a spiral staircase to pee (as usual) and came down and the girls were gone...they of course didn't see me go up the spiral staircase and go pee, so they thought I had pulled an Irish Exit and left so they went out looking for me. My ringer was off on my phone, too much wine, None of us could remember what our door looked like and the rental guide was nice enough to find me and bring me home!!), ahhh the joys of being me!

Anyways driving through the gorgeous countryside of Tuscany, the barnyard in the backwoods of Ancient Rome where our fabulous groomsmen and steeds awaited us. Mine was ZORO! Eating and drinking a OMBRE ROSSA for 3 days with our bestie CHIARA, bartender to the Stars, and getting tattoos with DAVIDE DOT at JAY LESTER TATTOO in

the Old Jewish Ghetto Section of TRASTEVERE in ROME. Having a fabulous translator along definitely was a plus! LINA argued with, bargained with and befriended many locals for us and we are all indebted to her for her help. And TRISH held us all together with her calming influence and humor. It was truly amazing, and the wonderful memories will last me for the rest of my life! I must also point out that 4 women went across the world and came back loving each other more than when they left. It can be done!

Stomper Time, baby! Let's see who else has a Birthday during this Amazing Month ...I see DARLA VEILLEUX, SUE BLISS DONOVAN, RJ POST, STEVE BIGELOW, ED CHIBURIS, MICHAEL PACHECO, MIKE OGLE, JOE GORFINKLE, BRUCE BRUNELLE, GARY THIBEAULT, BILL BALLATO, BARBARA STILLMAN, DEIDRE ALFONSO, DEREK PALMERONE, RONALD GUY, SUE WOYCIK, JERRY LONGOLUCCO, AMY-JO MAGGS, KERRI LAMB, DAN SHERER, SUE SCHLAIS, KEENY DONAHUE, ARNOLD BELLAMY, GEOFF HAUSMAN, KEVIN SLOCUM, TODD CAMBIO, DADE NUNEZ, DENISE BEDDELL DESROSIER, CAROLYN O'BRIEN, DARREN FIORE, VICKI WALBRIDGE, JAY DEMPSEY, CHERYL CENTER, KIMBERLY SCOTT, SUNNI JORDAN SMITH, AMY PALMER BABCOCK, STACIE MARIE, ERIC PRACHNIAK, TINA PAGLIUISI, HANNAH SEL-



VIDIO, MACKENZIE FERREIRA, JILL JEFF NOLAN, JAKI FARRAR, MICHELE SHAW, BECCA TIN, LAURIE WEBER ANDRIES, ROB LORENZO, TOM RIUSI, KENNY OLSEN, ODESSA MEDINA and Rockstar Supreme JOHN MERSHON! Oh...by the way ME, BETSY and ARTIE!!

So just got home from the OCEAN HOUSE where I attended a spectacular event to Benefit the WESTERLY ADULT DAY CARE (thank you KELLY LEE for having me). My dates were My New Best Friend AMY VANDERFELL (looking absolutely gorge in a sexy black leather dress that she doesn't know it yet, but I will be borrowing), KATE and DAN CAREB, HANNAH CAREB and her handsome beau JOEL VALENTI, who was kind enough to help me out with various things (like seeing) for the better part of the evening.



All the local see and be seens were out. ANGIE and ARTHUR SMITH were the first of the glam couples I saw, always beautiful LISA KONICKI in a stunning gown and speaking of stunning gowns...MARIA ALLEN, What the Wha??? Perhaps, The Dress Of the Evening!! My new boyfriend handsome CHARLEY KELLOGG, newly married NANCY CARINI-BOEGLER and her handsome husband. ROB



and DEB VALENTI, SAM and WAYNE BYZDLO (my future Fantasy Fest dates in Key West this October) and many more....oh what a night!!

So this month, I will be attending the MYSTIC IRISH PARADE, 2 days after the

biggest event of the Century(more on that next month). I'm going to the GATORNATIONALS in Gainesville, FL and then heading to DAYTONA for Bike Week. Then down to KEY WEST for a night a MARGARITAVILLE the Resort!!

I am also heading to Scottsdale Arizona the first week of April to see GEORGE THOROGOOD at WILDWOOD for ARIZONA BIKE WEEK... who knew?? BUCKCHERRY and GODSMACK?? Miss MICHELLE BABCOCK and I along with LINA POLIZZI rented a condo so anyone who wants to fly out with us let me know!! We have room! I'm thinking it's gonna be quite the Sh*tShow!! Heading over to LISA NOYES-DUGUAY'S for a wine and dine afternoon tomorrow with Mr STEVEN SLOSBERG as he lives in the area and we need an afternoon together to hone our writing skills (mine).

Have a lovely month, my sweet flies and be ready for a humdinger of an Article in April. Go see a band! JEFF PITCHELL W JAMES MONTGOMERY & THE TEXAS FLOOD @ the KNICKERBOCKER, BEES DELUXE on March 9 at DADDY JACK'S, LIVE MUSIC Every Sunday from 4-7 at the M BAR in Mystic. Shop local! GIBSON'S MUSIC & MORE in Jewett City! SPINDRIFT GUITARS in New London! Or just pencil me in as your Officiant at Your Wedding!! I can do it!! Ciao for now, my Sweet, Sweet Flies. Love you long time!!



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8 P & J Band 5-8pm	9 Sunday Gravy
15 Call for info 5-8pm	16 Red Light
22 Justin Harris 5-8pm	23 Call for info
29 Sands of Time 5-8pm	30 Unify

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BAND DATES

ANDY & BETHANY

23 - Frair Tuck's, Mystic, CT

ANDY CHANEY & FRIENDS

1 - Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI 7pm
8 - Angie's Pizza / Pier 27, Mystic, CT 8pm
15 - Brewett City, Jewett City, CT 7:30pm
16 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 7pm
16 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 9pm
21 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 5pm
23 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT 10pm
29 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7pm

AZALEA DRIVE

23 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
30 - Stoney Creek, Foxwoods, CT 8pm

BETHANY AND KEN

1 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT

THE CARTELLS

1,22 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm
7,14,21,28 - Norwich Inn, Norwich, CT 6:30pm
9 - The Parrot, New Hartford, CT 8pm
10 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3pm
20 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 7:30pm
23 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7:30pm
24 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 3:30pm
30 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 7pm
31 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 6pm

DARIK & THE FUNBAGS

1 - Barcode, Orange, CT
2 - Nanola, Malta, NY
8 - Trilogy, Seymour, CT
15 - Blackstone, Southington, CT
16 - Newport Blues, Newport, RI
29 - Shamrock, Waterbury, CT
30 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT

Dr. G & THE BELIEVERS

30 - Daddy Jacks, New London, CT

EIGHT TO THE BAR

1 - Town Hall, W. Hartford, CT 8:30-11:30
8 - River Inn, Yantic, CT 7:30-10:30
15 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 8-11
31 - Elks, Leominster, MA 7:30

THE FAKE EXPERIENCE

24 - Angie's Pizza, Mystic, CT 3-7

FRANKENPHIL

1 - Nightingale's, Old Lyme, CT 7pm

8 SOUND WAVES

29 - Bistro Mediterranean, Westbrook, CT 7pm
3 - Steady Habit, Haddam, CT 2pm
8 - McBrides Pub, Providence, RI 7pm
15 - Elks Club, Westbrook, CT 6pm
16 - Shaidzon Beer, W. Kingstown, RI 3pm
22 - Kings Crossing, N. Kingstown, RI 5pm
23 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30pm
24 - The Pub, Matunuck, RI 3pm
29 - Ridge Vineyard, Preston, CT 5:30pm
30 - TJ's, Newington, CT 7pm

GREEN TEA

16 - Wood River, Richmond, RI
17 - Strange Brew, Norwich, CT
30 - The Social, New London, CT

GREEN TEA LIGHT

14 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 5:30pm

IZZY MALEK

1 - MBAR, Mystic, CT 7pm
8 - Amigos, Westerly, RI 7:30pm
10 - The Pub, Matunuck, RI 3pm
12 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
14 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT 8pm
16 - Gray Sail, Westerly, RI 4pm
21 - Little Pub, Old Saybrook, CT 7pm

JAMES HARRIS

1 - Iron's, Mystic, CT 8pm
4,6,9,13,20,27 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
8,15,29 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm
14 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
15 - Friar Tuck's, Mystic, CT 10pm
16 - Latitude 41, Mystic, CT 7pm
21 - Aquarium, Mystic CT 6:30pm
22 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 7pm
23 - Tuscany, Mohegan, CT
30 - Mystic Pizza2, N. Stonington, CT 7pm
31 - MBar, Mystic, CT 4pm

JAY DEMPSEY BAND

1 - Sneekers, Groton, CT
6 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
8 - Comix Roadhouse, Uncasville, CT
14 - Atrium, Foxwoods, CT 8pm

KEN SERIO JAZZ TRIO

24 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

LOUIS & CLARK

31 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3-6pm

THE LOCOMOTIVES

23 - Steady Habit, Haddam, CT
30 - Docs Bar, Clinton, CT

NEW LONDON BIG BAND

20 - The Social, New London, CT 7:30pm

NICK BOSSE

1 - Two Brothers, Voluntown, CT 8-11pm
7,14,21,28 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 5:30-8:30pm

9 - Boneyard BBQ, Ashaway, RI 8-11pm
16 - Mystic Pizza II, N. Stonington, CT 7-10pm
31 - Mystic Hilton, Mystic, CT 2-5pm

THE PIRANHA BROTHERS

2 - Carmines, E. Hartford, CT 8:30-12:30
9 - The Diamond, Glastonbury, CT 8-11
15 - Rusty Nail, Torrington, CT
29 - Baci Grill, Cromwell, CT 6:30-10:30

PIRATES FOR PEACE

1 - American Cafe, Plainfield, CT
9 - Irons, Mystic, CT
16 - Tamarack Lodge, Voluntown, CT
17,22 - Sneekers, Groton, CT
23 - Atrium, Mashantucket, CT
29 - Music Lady, Plainfield, CT

PLYWOOD COWBOY

15 - The Kate, Old Saybrook, CT 8pm

POSITIVE NRG

15 - Lionheart Tavern, Niantic, CT
23 - Strykers Café, Berlin, CT 8:30pm

RAMBLIN' DAN STEVENS

1 - Finnegan's, Burlington, CT 6pm
2 - Hidden Still, Ellington, CT
3 - Tapped Apple, Westerly, RI 8pm
5,12,26 - Nightingale's, Old Lyme, CT 6pm
8 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 10pm
9 - Rapscaillon, Sturbridge, MA 4pm
10 - Silvana, New York, NY
15 - Sarah's, Ridgefield, CT 7pm
16 - Historical Society, Old Lyme, CT 7pm
19 - Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA 8pm
22 - Note Kitchen, Bethel, CT 6pm
23 - Witchdoctor Brewing, Southington, CT 6:30pm
24 - Steady Habit Brewing, Haddam, CT 1:30pm
30 - Noble Jay Brewing, Niantic, CT 5pm

ROCK N' SOUL REVUE

2 - Bill's Seafood, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30pm
8 - Sneekers, Groton, CT

SEX & CANDY

9 - Elm City Taproom, New Haven, CT

17 - Blackstone Pub, Southington, CT
22 - Jakes, Wallingford, CT

SHAME & SCANDAL

8 - Wood River, Richmond, RI 8pm

SUE MENHART BAND

1 - Turnpike Cafe, Montville, CT 6-9pm
8 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10pm
22 - Christo's Pizza, Mystic, CT 8-10pm

SUGAR

7 - Engine Room, Mystic, CT 8:30pm
22 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI
24 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 3pm

SUNDAY GRAVY

9 - Turning Tide, New London, CT
23 - Dan's Place, W. Greenwich, RI
28 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
29 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

WOOLY MAMMOTH

30 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT

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CONCERT DATES

Alan Parson

2 - Foxwoods, Mashentucket, CT

Ariana Grande

30 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Bella's Bartok

16- Arch St. Tavern, Hartford, CT

Tom Chapin

15 - All Souls, New London, CT

Fleetwood Mac

15 - XL Center, Hartford, CT

James Taylor/Bonnie Raitt

2 - Dunkin' Center, Providence, RI

Jim Messina

17 - Kate Center, Old Saybrook, CT

Joe Bonamassa

21 - Bushnell, Hartford, CT

John Fogerty

29 - Foxwoods, Mashentucket, CT

Kinky Friedman

19 - Cafe Nine, New Haven, CT

KISS

23 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT

Lyle Lovett & John Hiatt

3 - Garde Theater, New London, CT

Matisyahu

22 - Toad's Place, New Haven, CT

Punch Brothers

15 - College St., New Haven, CT

Queensrÿche

8 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT

Red Hot Chilli Pipers

8 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Ricky Skaggs

30 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Weezer/Pixies

16 - Grand Theater, Mashentucket, CT



SOUND WAVES 9



JOHN SIMON Producer of The Band, Janis Joplin, Leonard Cohen, Simon & Garfunkel, Blood, Sweat & Tears, etc.



Music from Big Ideas (and Talent): The Legendary Career of John Simon

By Mark T. Gould

In the mid-1940s, He learned to play piano and violin by the time he was four. By 1950, he'd been writing his own songs for a few years. By the late 50s, when he graduated from high school, he writing for several bands and had composed two original musicals. He then went to Princeton, where he wrote three more musicals.

But, John Simon's biggest influence on music arguably came in the 1960s, when his young experience as a composer, bandleader, and musician combined to make him one of the top record producers in the country, the behind-the-scenes creative genius behind innumerable classic albums that still stand the test of time more than half a century later, including The Band's "Music from Big Pink;" "The Band;(aka "The Brown Album)" Big Brother & the Holding Company's "Cheap Thrills," featuring Janis Joplin; Simon & Garfunkel's "Bookends," and Blood, Sweat & Tears' "Child Is Father to the Man," and many, many more.

"Music is like candy to me, if I were a candyholic," The 77-year-old Simon told me in a recent interview. "I guess I'm a musicholic. If I hear notes of any kind, I log what they are instinctively.

"Some nights, when I can't fall asleep, and often when I first wake in the morning, I have little scraps of music in my head, often just one-bar cadences from Sousa marches. Or a

melody will come to mind and I'll try to work out how to notate it without pencil and paper," he added. "It just enriches my life in a way that's inescapable for me. It hasn't changed."

Simon has now shared his gift with his fans, with the recent publication of his memoirs, "Truth, Lies & Hearsay," a honest, witty, and clever assessment of his remarkable influence on what has been the epitome of great popular music for the past 50 years.

"I never kept photos, (and I had) no eye on posterity," Simon said about the idea to write the book. "I was just focusing on the task-at-hand. But some things just etched themselves in my memory as things sometimes do."

While the book is an eye-opening, behind-the-scenes read that certainly reflects Simon's deep involvement in so many, many pivotal projects, it is, by design, not a "tell-all" in the unfortunate sense of that genre.

"Hey, man, it's virtuous to take a higher road, and I want to be a good guy," he told me. "Every one of the world's religions has a 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you' variant. So, I guess trying to be a good guy is self-protection."

Frankly, Simon's book is so chock full of detail, anecdotes, reflections and sturring, and stunning, memories that it's a "tell-all" in its own way, that is, Simon's way. If you are a fan of the music from that period, Simon's writing fills in many of the gaps and does so in such a witty, positive way that it's frankly hard to put the book down at times.

After Princeton, Simon got his first break when was hired as a trainee at Columbia Records, working under the aegis of Goddard Lieberson, who was the president of the label. Initially, he worked on original cast albums of Broadway shows and audio documentary albums, including "The Medium Is the Massage," inspired by the writings of media guru Marshall McLuhan.

He took that job, he said, instead of one working in advertising for Anacin in Chicago.

"It was a no-brainer," he recalled. "The Anacin job (for Ted Bates in Chicago) required in their job description that I wear a suit and tie. And it was in Chicago which, at the time, I considered a city inferior to NYC."

In 1966, he made the shift to popular music, when he arranged and produced "Red Rubber Ball" by The Cyrkle. The song, which was co-written by Paul Simon of Simon and Garfunkel and Bruce Woodley of The Seekers, went to No. 2 on the Billboard Hot 100 chart. It sold over one million copies, and was awarded a gold disc.

As such, it was the precursor of much popular success to come for Simon.

"It wasn't a challenge, but rather a relief (moving from Masterworks to pop)," he recalled. "The arrangement ideas (for 'Red Rubber Ball') were instinctive, improvised. No pushback. The guys liked the chart as it came together."

In moving into the world of pop, Simon got to work alongside and learn from two absolute legends of the business, John Hammond and Tom Wilson, who both were already putting their stamp on the seismic changes

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that gave birth to Sixties rock and roll.

Still, in working with and learning from them, Simon was able to incorporate what he learned before that, and he took that into what was a rapidly evolving new music forum.

“Rock ‘n’ roll was hot stuff among my high school peers,” he said. “The girls loved Elvis. So it was hard to ignore. And, a lot of it was too simple for a jazz-head like me.”

“I still differentiate between the music in rock and roll and the tribal, visceral element of it that’s the same as trance music and the like in any culture,” he added.

“John Hammond commanded respect, and was at ease in his person (common among wealthy folks I think),” Simon said. “He was a model of someone I would have liked to be after many years in the record business. But the record business changed so much, his type of producer became a dinosaur. Tom Wilson was like a big brother to me, a teacher and a confidante.

“But, you know there was no transition necessary (moving into the ‘rock world’),” he recalled. “The job was the same: ‘Here’s the raw material, make a record.’”

“(Janis Joplin) seemed unable to sit quietly and just let things happen,” he wrote. “She had an opinion and she was going to tell you what it was. I noticed that she coated her outside with patchouli and her inside with Southern Comfort.”

Simon stuck to that outlook and philosophy when, at the urging of Al Kooper of Blood, Sweat & Tears, he left Columbia and struck out on his own as an independent producer.

“Not getting the steady paycheck (from Columbia) was a little bit scary,” Simon said of his move into independent production. “But, my reputation was on the rise, so I felt secure in jumping off the corporate ship.”

Successful (and influential) might be too simple a word to describe that move, as all his reputation did was grow, as, along the way, he produced the first two, seminal albums by the Band, basically brought Janis Joplin to the world through her album “Cheap Thrills,” with Big Brother and the Holding Company; did yeoman work on Simon & Garfunkel’s masterwork “Bookends,” and also worked with the Electric Flag, Taj Mahal, and scores of others.

The deep-seeded beauty of Simon’s book is the incredible, behind the scenes details of those seminal projects, wherein he literally makes a reader feel as if she or he is right there in the studio, or even on the stage, with Simon as he wove his musical magic.

“The playing was unique,” Simon writes about The Band, whom he started to work with just before Levon Helm rejoined the group. “Garth (Hudson) was all over the place, many levels above the organists and pianists in other rock groups. Rick (Danko) played the bass melodically, they weren’t just ‘oom-pah’ bass parts. Richard (Manuel) was hearing things that other rock drummers wouldn’t even consider, and they came out in his fearless drumming. Robbie (Robertson’s) tremulous solos and his rhythm patterns were all perfectly well-chosen. And the voices! Rick and Richard could howl like in-tune wolves or gentle along a sweet melody.”

“They (The Band) had a deep respect, bordering on reverence, for the roots of American music, stretching back from the music of their generation, through rockabilly and early rock and roll, to the Bluegrass of Appalachia, the Blues of the Mississippi Delta and even Stephen Foster and

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popular music of the 19th Century,” Simon wrote. “And, it seemed to me that they had a sort of unspoken commitment to be as good as they could in order to earn their place as part of that tradition.

“It’s really hard to quantify what my actual influence was on them,” Simon told me. “We were all in it together.”

Simon got to work a proverbial encore a few years later with The Band, when he was asked to help coordinate “The Last Waltz,” their marathon opus at Winterland in San Francisco on Thanksgiving Day, 1976, which brought an end to the career of the original Band quintet.

“The dress rehearsal was very special,” he told me about that gig. “I stood in the middle of the vast empty ballroom and listened to the entire show, gave impressions of what I heard, suggested touch-ups, etc. A very responsible position.”

“(Janis Joplin) seemed unable to sit quietly and just let things happen,” he wrote. “She had an opinion and she was going to tell you what it was. I noticed that she coated her outside with patchouli and her inside with Southern Comfort.”

“She was non-conforming, smart, loud, brash, volatile, more sensitive than she appeared, and the center of whatever storm was in progress,” he added. “She was a trailblazer, and became a trend-setter. I think part of her vast popularity came in part from her appearance and the way she behaved.

“‘Big Brother’ were a family in a way, equals in that regard,” Simon told me. “But soon they became unequal as she (Janis) became famous.

“It was most evident that I needed to crack the whip during the recording of ‘Cheap Thrills,’” Simon told me. “It can be a delicate balance. It was a challenge, because they were the farthest from the polish needed.”

“I enjoyed working with Simon & Garfunkel a lot,” Simon wrote. “They were smart, hip, a little neurotic ... I was familiar with that combination.

“Of all the acts I’ve worked with before and since, I never saw artists who were as comfortable and relaxed performing as they were,” he wrote. “It was all so casual. The transition from their ease before their show into their ease onstage was seamless. Their performance was just like a conversation with the audience. Maybe it was because they’d been performing together for so long -- since they started out in school as the musical duo, ‘Tom and Jerry’.”

Along the way, Simon continued to compose film scores, ballet scores, and worked on Broadway productions. Within a short time, he released two of his own albums, “John Simon’s Album,” and “Journey.” Later, his released four albums in Japan.

“I’ve always been a songwriter,” Simon told me. “You can hear how record #1 is Band-influenced, record #2 is jazz-ier. And the others are simply good songs set in the most suitable and interesting ways I could think of.

“(The singer/songwriter) AJ Croce has pointed out that records sometimes embrace too many different moods, when what a listener really wants often enough is a sustained mood throughout (i.e., all ballads, all uplifts, all dance music, all sad stuff),” he said. “I agree, but could never get myself to do that. Maybe I will yet.”

With such an amazing, influential career and resume, Simon is seemingly well-appointed to comment on the current state of music and its industry.

“I think the music business is still going in one direction, not, to my taste, a good one at this point,” he told me. “Remember, the record business is part of music. We’ve gone from solitary, itinerant balladeers and monks fearful that God will strike them dead if they don’t adhere to stringent principles of music structure to an electronic blanket of musical sounds, seldom of our own choosing, that pervades our lives from dawn to dusk.”

Given that, and reflecting on such an influential, important career, how does John Simon fit into that mosaic?

“I’m proudest of my own stuff,” he said. “Anyone can learn to be an effective producer. Creating art is a special, individual, unduplicatable thing.

Continues Page 13
SOUND WAVES 11

LOCAL BEAT

"Desiree Plays Funky Hits at The Social Club in New London"

By Andrew Krebs

Last weekend was a good night to hear band Desiree play a show at The Social Club at the top of Bank Street in New London. The band consists of the beautiful Mitch Week on vocals, Jon Thomas on keys, Steve Tavaref on drums, Stef Denegre on guitar and Mystic Disc owner Dan Curland on bass. One of the band members donned black glitter outfits and guitarist Stef has played with Chaka Khan. The band played a blend of sensuous soul ballads, jazzy 80s hits and was enjoyed by the craft beer crowd of various ages who frequented the venue that night.

Desiree started the night by playing great funk tunes like The Jackson 5's A-B-C featuring Dan Curland's heavy thumping bass and Stef's muted guitar solo. Singer Mitch sang well-mixed harmonies on the Stevie Wonder song "Signed Sealed Delivered" while Stef noodled around the neck of his guitar in an extended jazz guitar solo jam on the Stevie Wonder classic "I Wish." Jon Thomas expertly and convincingly executed a horn section on that number as well. However, the best moment came when the band launched into Toto's Africa in which Dan's front and center bass counterpointed the band's subdued synthesizer and vocal sounds. Synth-man Jon did not copy the sound of the original but added his own twist to that great cover tune. Guitarist Stef did a very snazzy (if a bit long) jam to impress the crowd. The band also played Amy Winehouse's "Valerie" in which Dan's bass (again) thumped away while Mitch sang smooth, subdued vocals.

Dan was the coolest member of the bunch with his black hat and pais-



ley-pink shirt, and spectators could tell he was really feelin the music. He shoegazed at his instrument, coolly leaning into his bass guitar with eyes closed. He was also a fast bassist. Instead of stretching his pinky to reach the frets up the neck of his instrument, Dan deftly shifted his entire hand up and down the bass at the speed of light as if his hands were doing gymnastics. Dan is also a "public character" and an important part of South-Eastern CT's social fabric, having owned "Mystic Disc" music store in a hip alleyway for years. Amazon's weakness is that it is a poor substitute for the work of such public characters, which include not only local bartenders but retail owners as well. Dan is fun to talk with about bands and albums and gives good advice on what to shop for based on the acquaintances he and his music customers have in common. The man is also opinionated about music and politics, often loudly so. One is wise not to argue with him about politics: you won't win. Yet that is part of Dan's character and charm. His love of politics and music keeps his staff by his side and keeps customers buying discs at a time when most music stores have shuttered their doors. By experiencing less overturn in staff and customer base, small town public characters create social glue important for safe, helpful and sociable street life in towns and small cities. Finally, Dan has

played with such greats as Dan Fogelberg and the drummer of the Byrds back in the day. Dan's musical knowledge has kept his customers buying great music and has kept Dan playing great bass for Desiree as well.

The band members from Desiree has been around for almost 3 years although the band members have known each other for a total of 4 years. They spent a year backing up a singer on her solo album after meeting in her van. They soon moved on to form their own band and "kept on going..." Their favorite songs include "I Wish" by Stevie Wonder, Africa's "Toto" (with its high pitched guitar crescendo at the end) and Chaka Khan's "Sweet Thing." They saved the best for last by finishing with "Don't Stop Believin'" by Journey!

This band's future plans include cutting an originals album and playing bigger shows at bigger places (with backup singers). Although the band could have mixed instruments a bit lower so as not to drown

out the keys, the bands musicianship was great and enjoyed by the audience at The Social that night. If you live in Southeastern CT or Western RI, go see them at your local club or bar sometime.



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Cover Story Continued

"It's always a thrill to be on a stage, and have everyone's attention directed toward me, and the others in the band," Simon added. "It is thrilling, too, because it puts me on my toes, and I want to do my best.

"I can do 'library talks,' where I just riff with the audience, and that's easy and natural for me and requires no rehearsal," he added. "But, if I'm doing an actual show of my own songs, I rehearse the show a lot. The audience deserves the best I can give since they're paying for it.

And, we've clearly gotten John Simon's best for a very, very long time.

John Simon's memoir, "Truth, Lies & Hearsay," voted by Billboard Magazine as one of the 10 best music books of 2018 (an endorsement to which I heartily agree) is available through Amazon. Further information is available



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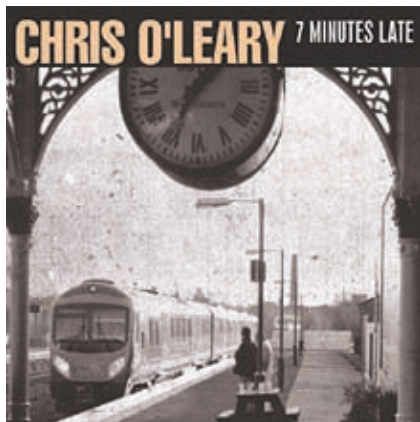
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HEARING AID



Chris O'Leary "7 Minutes Late"

American Showplace

Chris O'Leary is in some ways a throwback to another time, when singers fronted bands formed of musicians flowing with talent and style, a supporting role interspersed with soaring musicality in fitting, measured tones. It is a dance well played on this at times gritty album, O'Leary's vocals seasoned, coarse but delicately so, in controlled forays across the scales of an impressive range. For six years he was lead singer and front man for Levon Helm's band, the Barnburners, during which he toured within the very roots of roots music.

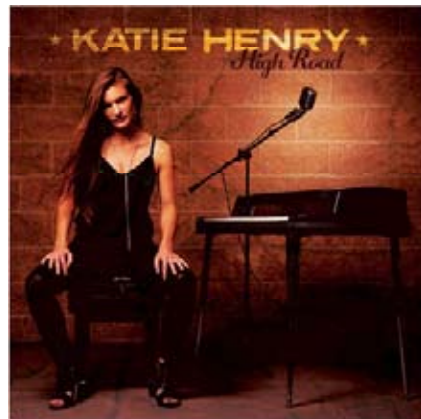
On his newly released album, *7 Minutes Late*, Chris O'Leary, backed by a total of eleven musicians, has produced twelve original, well-crafted and produced songs. He delivers his words with a power and control which demonstrates a confidence that only the combination of natural talent and long, driven experience can achieve. On *Your Day Will Come*, this appears in the slow, swamp blues tempo which demands vocal control even as deep emotion is soulfully delivered. The overall effect is a dark feeling to a song with an ominous warning. *Second Time Around* is a plea for a second chance from a woman who responds, 'I ain't nobody's doormat, Ain't nobody's clown, Gonna be a cold day in hell Before you get a Second Time Around.'

She Ain't Coming Back is perhaps the most powerful example of O'Leary's vocal prowess, the slow delta blues, low key lyrics half sung and half spoken, bursting into a sustained "She Ain't

Coming Back" with a sound recalling BB King but slightly higher pitched, strikingly effective and aged beyond the singer's years. The title track, *7 Minutes Late*, tells of the deflections of fate when a train runs "7 minutes late." The final song, a lullaby to a young boy, lays bare the bones of Chris O'Leary's voice and soul, a heartfelt piece over elegant, simple guitar, assuring the restless child with "Rest your tired eyes, Daddy's Here, I'll be right here When you rise."

More information may be found at www.thechrisolearyband.net.

- Jon Persson



Katie Henry "High Road"

Self-Release

New Jersey sing-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Katie Henry sings, writes, plays a vintage vibe piano, guitar and clavinet. Her debut album "High Road" is available now and is currently #12 on the Roots Music Report Top 50 Contemporary Blues Album Chart. Featured on the LP is accomplished blues organist and producer John Ginty (Dixie Chicks, Jewel, Robert Randolph and The Family Band), guitarist Jonathan Fritz (Lionel Richie, Rachel Platten), bassist Antar Goodwin (Sting, Wyclef, Lauryn Hill) and drummer Maurice Moe Watson. All songs were recorded at Showplace Studios in Dover, New Jersey.

The album kicks off with the funky shuffle tune "Nowhere Fast" featuring some incredible organ. "Nothing to Lose" is bluesy and sultry, followed by "Chapels," a Gospel soul tune featur-

ing Marcus Randolph on some sweet pedal steel. The title track is introspective with a driving beat and nice harmonies. "Carry You" is sweltering and bluesy as Henry offers to "let me carry you," complete with a growl and a rasp. The driving, purposeful and reflective "Gypsy Sister" follows. "Dead Man's Hands" is understated and haunting while "Someday" is upbeat and positive with killer musicianship backing her up. Henry keeps it rollin' with the radio-ready "Roll Away." The closing number "Takes A Lot" features some more funk, with a time signature change that just makes ya smile. Here's to hoping Henry keeps on going, on her own road.

Link:

www.katiehenrymusic.com

- Sue Menhart



Thor Jensen "Thor Jensen"

Independent

Thor Jensen, a New York guitarist who's native to Southeastern CT, has been playing guitar since age 10. He played with local jam bands before joining Portland based rock band Quiet Life and toured the US and UK as lead guitarist. He then joined French jazz guitarist Stephane Wrembel's band where he shifted his focus to learning gypsy jazz. Moving onto songwriting now he is releasing his debut EP. A release show is scheduled for March 23 at the Knickerbocker Music Center in Westerly, RI.

All songs were written by Thor Jensen, except "Quite a Feeling" which was written by Barna Howard. Support on the EP is provided by Ari Folman-Cohen on bass and Nick Anderson on drums. It was produced by Thor Jensen and Andrew Cruz. A guitar lovers collec-

tion, each song is a true masterful work of art. Jensen's pleasing baritone vocals and sheer talent take you on a soulful ride you won't soon forget.

The first tune, "I'll Be Alright," has a Stevie Ray Vaughan vibe with a Spanish/gypsy feel. It features raw and passionate guitar solos, punctuating notes and a syncopated beat. It's not your ordinary rock-n-roll song along with its thought-provoking lyrics. "Quite a Feeling," with its Southwest/frontier feel and lots of seventh chords, is just beautiful. This shuffle beat road song has lots of reverb and echo on the guitars which add to the essence of being on the move. Jensen's subtle vocals are steady and true with a perfect blend of backing acoustic guitars. Each guitar solo note is purposeful and continues the story of the song that the vocal line does not. A true master guitarist can pick notes to express the "feeling" of a song, and that's precisely what Jensen accomplishes here. It's just brilliant.

The sounds Jensen gets out of his guitars on the haunting "What Have I Done" are simply captivating; you'd think there was a full orchestra behind him. This bluesy lamenting arpeggio-based tune could fit right into a movie soundtrack. Jensen's note and chord fill choices are like a more mature Joe Bonamassa. Next is the upbeat, funky, fun "Hear You Cry" which delightfully concludes with a cinematic big ending...love it! The closer, "Shake Your Hips" is not like anything you've heard before. It's rockin' and unique with driving varied drum parts and layered guitars. And I heard Wah Wah which always makes me happy.

This EP showcases Jensen's undeniable guitar virtuoso talent, hard-earned through years of touring where he stretched his limits to other genres and styles. He now adds songwriting to his arsenal. Quite a force.

Upcoming Show:
Mar 23 - The Knickerbocker Music Center, Westerly, RI (EP Release Show) 7-10pm

Link:

thorjensenmusic.com

- Sue Menhart
www.Swaves.com



Big Joe and the Dynaflows "Rockhouse Party" Severn Records

Some people play the blues and mix it with modern creative sentiment, aspiring to leave a mark on the scene and pushing the genre to new creative heights. Other musicians play the blues in order to pay tribute to a time gone by, an homage to the traditions of our history and roots. Big Joe and the Dynaflows manages to do both on their recent release "Rockhouse Party".

From the start you can recognize a nod to the old-school. The opening track "Driving Wheel" is a traditional 12-bar blues stomper. The drummer and namesake Big Joe Maher fills out a wide sound with his soulful vocals, bringing a B.B. King vibe that stands out over the tight comping of the rhythm section. There's a powerful guitar solo that kicks in before a series of stops leading into the final section.

On the next track "So Mean To Me" bassist Mookie Brill takes over on lead vocals and the two blues veterans swap vocals back and forth throughout the album. Like Big Joe, Brill has a large voice full of power and emotion punctuated by his punchy bass lines.

Most of the album is up-tempo. This isn't one of those slow, weepy blues albums - this is what you put on your system when you want to get up and dance. Following the short instrumental track "Overdrive" is a fast-paced number called "Tennessee Woman" that really gets up and boogies.

Tying the album together from front to back is the solid drum work that Big Joe is known for. Anyone who sings and plays drums has to have impeccable timing and a strong feel in order to not get carried away by the emotion that is part of every song. He demonstrates an easy feel behind the kit while

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singing punchy hooks and melodic turnarounds.

The album really doesn't slow down much at all until the last couple of tracks. "Sleepy Joe" is actually more of a mid-tempo swinging number than you would think from the title. They follow up with the final track, a passionately slow and emotional song called "Two Years of Torture" chock full of solos and running for over six minutes.

One of the things that drew me to "Rockhouse Party" was the inclusion of a couple of teenage musicians. Yates McKendree on guitar and Erin Coburn with backup vocals and guitar both have strong contributions on the album. I love hearing young people getting involved with a traditional style like the blues and really showing great skill and style. Check out Big Joe and the Dynaflows for a classic good time.

- Tom Matthew
Two Ton Music



Ron Spencer Band "Into The Blue" Real Gone Records

Ron Spencer and his bandmates bring a long history of musicianship and the blues to their new album, Into The Blue: more than 180 years between them, in fact. This shows up throughout this diverse rendition of the blues form, with New Orleans, Chicago, Memphis, and more represented. With a core group of four musicians, joined by piano and saxophone in fitting doses, Into The Blue offers a quick moving, energized listen for fans of the blues. Lyrically, the eight originals and two covers are both topical and timeless, well crafted for delivery by the full-throated vocals of Spencer and Mark Gibson. Bob Purdy adds bass and vocals, with Ross Moe on drums.

The opening song, Closer To The Bone, has a 50's drive to it, the tickling of piano ivory by Dan "Cato" Eaton

Continues Page 18

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COOKING WITH THE BLUES

By Jack Chaplin

Hello Spring - right around the corner, March, and we have mostly dodged any kind of wintery weather this year (except a few really cold spells). I pushed maybe a half inch of slush one day which probably would have melted away anyway. Mother Nature is something else. I do suspect as I write this that we may get one nasty storm to show us who's boss. I must be getting old because the cold has affected me this year like non others, especially at bedtime. I was complaining to a friend of mine that my feet get cold and he told me mattress warmers were the way to go. I ordered up a set for both sides of our bed with separate controls. We turn them on a half hour before bedtime and it is preheated when we get in. Blissful I call it. Best \$75.00 bucks I've ever spent, on sale at Macy's or online at Amazon. I came up with a new name, Comatoast, "Warm As Toast and Puts You Into A Semi Unconscious Condition". I highly recommend this beauty for us in the "Over The Hill Gang" or soon to be-ers!

A few months back I wrote about the many great Thai restaurants in New London. My sister Pam scolded me and said that I had left out her favorite, Jasmine Thai, on the corner of Bank and Howard Streets. She is right because I had eaten there many times in the past and also thought it was very good. A few weeks ago she invited me to join her for lunch, a day when we were getting a dusting of snow. We settled into a nice booth with a great panorama view outside. Pam introduced me to the owner, Noi, who has owned it for 6 years or so. Noi has worked there from day one, when Jennie owned it. Jennie now owns Rice and Noodles at 165 Bank St, my old Chaplin's spot. Pam ordered a Bento Box with Salmon and I ordered one with Tempura Shrimp, both for \$10.00. It



came with Hot Tea, Fried Samoas, Crab Rangoon, Jasmine Rice, Thai Salad, a Spring Roll and Sushi Rolls. They had just remodeled inside and added new carpet, recovered the chairs, and had plans to recover the booths. It all had a warm purple color scheme which worked well with the dark paneling. We had a really nice time and the food was great, what a deal! It's one of those places that you drive by a hundred times but don't eat there as often as you should. Maybe it's because I'm usually heading past with a destination already in mind or that it's a very busy corner, not too sure why. Noi's partner, Mark, had just remodeled the bar and gave us a tour. They have a Sushi Bar, TV's and a nice casual atmosphere to watch a game or just relax and have a few drinks with friends. I could hang there for hours if I had an Uber lined up or a DD. Jasmine Thai has an extensive menu that I plan to explore on the regular, and I do owe Sister Pam one on me!

The Day newspaper is at it again with the Best Of, people can vote for their favorite in a huge list of

categories. I am honored to be nominated this year, in the Best Chef category, along with four other chefs which I appreciate. There are so many great Chefs in the area that should be in the running and every year I say Bobby Sader should be listed among them. Other chef's in the hunt are our peerless leader's namesake and nephew Dave Pottie, Frank Grace, Julio Cancho, And Uncle D, all top notch! On-line voting ends March 12th.

We had a Celebration Of Life Service for my Mother this past Saturday at her church in Vernon. It was great to be back in the church that I grew up in and to see so many family members and friends that I haven't seen in a long while. Mom had friendships that went back 50 plus years and others not so far back. It was amazing to hear the impact that she had on so many lives. Her time on this earth was well spent and she surely made a difference. We should all strive to be as kind and good! We had an early dinner at Tony D's, here in New London, and they did a great job. They had us set

up in their private dining room with its own bar. It was kind of a last minute thing with family that came from far and near. The menu was Calamari, Caesar Salad, and Focaccia to start. Chicken Parmesan, Penne w/ Marinara, Tortellini Pesto Alfredo, and Shrimp Scampi w/ Spinach, Tiramisu, Cannoli's and Coffee for dessert. The food was spectacular, Steve the bartender was on point and the servers made us all feel welcome. We had family and friends up from NC, Upstate NY, RI, TX, Maine, NH, and Massachusetts. We stayed, sat around and talked for hours telling old stories and sharing memories from years gone by. It was a perfect sendoff for Phyllis Jean Chaplin. You will be loved and remembered forever! May You Go With God and Rest In Peace.

Love, Jack and Family





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Fri

Sat

¹
**The
Subliminals**

²
**The
Sons**

⁸
**Desert
Rain**

⁹
**Bees
Deluxe**

¹⁵
**Phred &
Phriends**

¹⁶
**Dave
Fields**

²²
**Arlene
Wow**

²³
**Dr. G.
& The
Believers**

²⁹
**Patty &
Joe**

³⁰
**Dr. G.
& The
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Hearing Aid Continued

leading to a building guitar solo that support the singer's lament: "We got some hard times, We got distractions by design, We're out here on our own, We're living Closer To The Bone." A Chicago shuffle backs I'm Doin' Ah-ight, which includes a date night shadowed by "How I'm gonna pay for this I don't really know" but, as the song title assures, everything will be Ah-ight. A guitar solo displays some truly original blues licks that brighten the number.

Ron Spencer has indeed been refining his guitar skills for over thirty years, studying at length the masters of the style, performing alongside many of the present day top guitarists. He has mastered the most rare of guitar play, that of the understated solo which adds to, rather than overpowers, a song. This is well represented on a cover of O.V. Wright's classic Blind, Crippled, and Crazy; above a nice, fast paced rhythm, he plays a flowing melodic guitar riff which complements the feeling of the piece. A vocal section backed only by the bass and drums adds an element of variety and tension. On Callin' To Me, an interplay between bass and baritone sax drives a homesick tale which cannot be resolved: "My family and friends, I

sure am missing me some, The heart-ache I keep stuffed deep down inside. I don't wanna go home but it's Callin' To Me."

This is the third album released by Ron Spencer and his bandmates on Real Gone Records. More information may be found at

www.ronspencerband.com.

- Jon Persson



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BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY Friday, March 1, 2019 | 7:30 pm | Rated PG-13
The story of the legendary rock band Queen and lead singer Freddie Mercury. Five Oscar noms and Golden Globes for Best Picture and Actor.

STAN & OLLIE Wednesday, March 6, 2019 | 7:30 pm | Rated PG
Laurel and Hardy, the world's most famous comedy duo, attempt to reignite their film careers.

CAPERNAUM Thursday, March 7, 2019 | 7:30 pm | Rated R
A 12-year-old Lebanese boy sues his parents for neglect. Cannes Jury Prize and Oscar and Golden Globes noms for Best Foreign Language Film.

FREE SOLO Friday, March 8, 2019 | 7:30 pm | Rated PG-13
Professional rock climber Alex Honnold attempts to conquer the first free solo climb of famed El Capitan's 900-metre vertical rock face at Yosemite National Park. Rated PG-13

THEY SHALL NOT GROW OLD
Saturday, March 9, 2019 | 3:00 pm | Not Rated
From Director/Producer Peter Jackson this BAFTA-nominated documentary recaptures the real lives of WWI soldiers in combat in never-before-seen footage.

COLD WAR Saturday, March 9, 2019 | 7:30 pm | Rated R
The Cold War was a period of geopolitical tension between the Soviet Union with its satellite states, and the United States with its allies after World War II.

AT ETERNITY'S GATE Sunday, March 10, 2019 | 3:00 pm | Rated PG-13
Best Actor nominee Willem Dafoe stars as the famed but tormented artist Vincent van Gogh.

OSCAR SHORTS DOCUMENTARY
Wednesday, March 13, 2019 | 7:30 pm | Rated R

BOY ERASED Thursday, March 14, 2019 | 7:30 pm | Rated R
Lucas Hedges and Nicole Kidman star in the Golden Globe-nominated story of a Baptist preacher's son forced to participate in a gay conversion program.

MARY POPPINS RETURNS Saturday, March 16, 2019 | 3:00 pm | Rated PG
Emily Blunt and Lin-Manuel Miranda star. Four Oscar nominations.

GREEN BOOK Saturday, March 16, 2019 | 7:30 pm | Rated PG
A working-class Italian-American bouncer becomes the driver of an African-American classical pianist on a tour of venues through the 1960s American South.

FIRST MAN Saturday, March 30, 2019 | 7:30 pm | Rated PG-13
The story of astronaut, Neil Armstrong (Ryan Reynolds), the first man to walk on the Moon. Golden Globe for Original Score and 4 Oscar nominations. **You are also invited to a pre-cinema reception at 6pm in the Mezzanine lounge! Sponsored by Secor Subaru & catered by TVCCA**

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THE HIGH KINGS: DECADE WORLD TOUR
SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 2019 | 8:00 PM

The High Kings, the true heirs of Ireland's folk heritage, return to Southeastern CT after multiple SRO performances at the Katharine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center, celebrating ten years of sell-out shows and topping the Irish Album and World Music Charts.

LYLE LOVETT & JOHN HIATT
SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2019 | 7:00 PM

Iconic singer/songwriters Lyle Lovett and John Hiatt return to the Garde stage for an unforgettable night of intimate, acoustic music.

THE FAB FOUR: THE ULTIMATE TRIBUTE
FRIDAY, MARCH 15, 2019 | 8:00 PM

The Emmy Award Winning Fab Four is considered world-wide as the best Beatles tribute ever!

B-THE UNDERWATER BUBBLE SHOW
SUNDAY, MARCH 31, 2019 | 5:00 PM

Or... "The Unexpected Journey of Mr. B in the Colorful Underwater World of Bubblelandia" - where Cirque Du Soleil meets giant bubbles!

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LEWIS BLACK: THE JOKE'S ON US TOUR
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 2019 | 8:00 PM

The hysterical and insightful Grammy Award-winning stand-up comedian, actor, and author brings his highly successful The Joke's On Us Tour! to New London.

NEW LONDON TALENT SHOW IX
SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019 | 7:00 PM

Back for Season 9, the New London Talent Show delivers a show-stopping ensemble of talented artists from across the region. This event is one you do not want to miss! #SmallCityBigDreams

ANOTHER TEQUILA SUNRISE
AN EVENING OF EAGLES AND STEELY DAN MUSIC
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019 | 8:00 PM

ANOTHER TEQUILA SUNRISE is America's top Eagles Tribute band. This New England based tribute band has performed all over the country.

ARLO GUTHRIE: "ALICE'S RESTAURANT"
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND TOUR
FRIDAY, JUNE 7, 2019 | 8:00 PM

The legendary folk music icon brings his "Alice's Restaurant" Back By Popular Demand Tour featuring Sarah Lee Guthrie to the Garde.

DAVID CROSBY AND FRIENDS
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2019 | 8:00 PM

Two-time Rock and Roll Hall of Famer and co-founder of the Byrds and Crosby, Stills & Nash, David Crosby, joins with five musical friends, the 'SkyTrails Band'.

HAPPY TOGETHER TOUR 2019
FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2019 | 8:00 PM

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TOMMY EMMANUEL, CGA
THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019 | 8:00 PM

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