

Sound

Magazine

Volume 29
Issue 4
April 2019

Waves

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**The Green
Shaw Davis
& The Black Ties
Tom O'Farrell Band
Brandon Santini**

**An
Interview
with**

Aaron Neville



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Sound Waves

April 2019
VOLUME 29, NUMBER 4
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SOUND WAVES is a
 monthly publication
 Send all inquires,
 editorial submissions &
 subscription request to

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

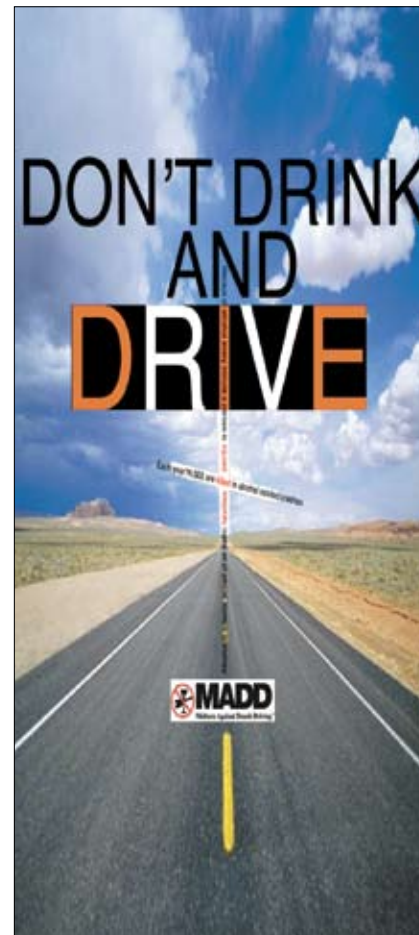
Yearly Mailed
Subscription
price ~ \$35/year

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CELTIC WOMAN TRANSPORTS NEW ENGLAND TO IRELAND ONCE AGAIN

By Rex Rutkoski

More than its individual members, as talented as they are, Celtic Woman is an entity that embodies the spirit and culture of Ireland.

And that identity is so indelibly connected to the American spirit and culture, especially New England, that the group's frequent visits to the United States are always welcomed, as they are being embraced on their new tour.

It includes stops April 2 at Providence Performing Arts Center; April 3 at Bushnell Center, Hartford; and April 7 at Hanover Theater, Worcester, Mass. (They are in Concord, N.H., March 29 at the Capitol Theater).

Some of the faces and voices are new, but the essence of the Irish/Celtic experience and how it resonates far beyond its shores, and very deep into the American experience, doesn't change.

"Celtic Woman is an uplifting experience that will take you on a journey with us. We have wonderful musicians and dancers up on stage with us and an amazing set," says violinist, singer and harpist Tara McNeill, from Antrim, Ireland, whose artistry is meant to bring centuries of musical and cultural tradition to life.

"This tour has lots of new music so even if you've seen us before you have to come back again to see this incredible new show," she adds.

The entertaining entity that is Celtic Woman is comprised of four young Irish women, vocalists Mairéad Carlin, Éabha McMahon and Megan Walsh, alongside Tara McNeill.

In concert, those angelic voices and instrumental virtuosity are accompanied by an energetic ensemble that includes Irish dancers, bagpipers and a full band playing an array of traditional Celtic instruments, including bodhran, tin whistle, bouzouki and Uilleann pipes.

McNeill became the newest member of Celtic Woman in 2016, and is only the group's second violinist. She is also the first multi-instrumentalist in bringing her harp and voice to the group.

The honors graduate of the Royal Irish Academy of Music has toured Canada, China, Japan and Holland as both a singer and solo violinist with the vocal group Anúna. She is also the solo violinist on their album "Illumination."

In Celtic Woman's 2015 TV special "Destiny," she appears playing the harp.

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Mairéad Carlin's has performed for the President of Ireland, toured the UK and Ireland with Don McLean, including a sellout concert at the Royal Albert Hall, and made her debut this year with Irish National Symphony Orchestra in the National Concert Hall for RTE TV

"A motto I've used throughout my career so far," she says, "is a quote from the award-winning poet Seamus Heaney: 'Sing yourself to where the singing comes from.' I think there's a lot to be said for that."

At the age of 15, Éabha McMahon was approached to audition for Anúna, (the Original Riverdance choir) and in 2005 Éabha became the youngest member to join Anúna. One of her early teachers was Clannad's Moya Brennan, known as "The First Lady of Celtic Music."

Megan Walsh, whose education includes the Royal Academy of Music in London and the Royal Irish Academy of Music, is a classically trained soprano proficient in many genres.

A seasoned performer, having been on stage from a very young age, she has been a soloist in many prestigious venues, such as Carnegie Hall and Ireland's National Concert Hall.

The new Celtic Woman show maintains the quality and consistency of the group's tradition, blending new numbers with songs that define the essence of Celtic Woman.

"Ireland of course is our homeland. The United States is very much our heartland," McNeill tells the audience when she leads the singers into "My Heart Goes On."

It once again is a nicely balanced program with soloists, group numbers, wonderful lighting and video background scenes of the Emerald Isle.

A bag piper playing the opening notes of "Amazing Grace" is a prelude to the singers' sensitive rendition of the classic.

Does "Danny Boy" ever get old? Not when rendered by Celtic Woman, with an instrumental lead in by McNeill, this time on the harp.

THE REPERTOIRE

There are many new numbers from "Ancient Land" in the show. "We're so proud of the album and want to bring it to life on stage for our audiences," McNeill says. "People have been asking for new music and we made this album full of brand new material. It's authentic and from our hearts and we think it's the best one yet."

Recorded in Real World Studios in the UK this past summer, "Ancient Land" is the 13th studio album featuring all new material for Celtic Woman, including original compositions "Follow Me," "Be Still" and "Love & Honour" (instrumental), Irish traditional songs "Sive," "Women of Ireland" and "Moorlough Shore" and some reimagined workings of contemporary songs "Long Journey Home," "Going Home" and "Homeland."

NEW ARRANGEMENTS

The touring show also offers new arrangements of such Celtic Woman classics as the aforementioned "Danny Boy" and "Amazing Grace."

"We are thrilled with how the show looks and sounds and can't wait to share it with our audiences," McNeill says.

A new concert spectacular is to air on PBS stations this fall (check local listings for airdates). Filmed against the backdrop of the historic Johnstown Castle in County Wexford, Ireland, the outdoor concert special features the new music from "Ancient Land," timeless Irish favorites and unexpected cover songs.

Celtic Woman has sold more than 10 million CDs and DVDs, making it, says its management, the only all-female act to achieve multi-platinum success in the classical crossover and world music genres during the past decade.

TOP OF THE CHARTS

They have been named Billboard's #1 World Music Artist of the Year six times and have regularly been #1 on Billboard's World Album chart. Celtic

Continued Page 7

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19 Tony Marshall 6-10pm DJ Jsmith 10-2pm	20 Rob Brannon 6-10pm DJ Jsmith 10-2pm	21 Sick Since Sunday 3-7pm
26 Tony Marshall 6-10pm DJ Jsmith 11-2pm	27 Red Hot Rascals 6-10pm DJ Jsmith 11-2pm	28 Uninvited Wilson 3-7pm

All The World's a Stage

"Conundrum"

By Sue Menhart

For those following along, we've been discussing here why musicians do what they do, even at the age of 80 and beyond. Thank you all for your insights and personal reasons for continuing the rock star struggle. I've concluded, after more soul searching and input from my fellow pals in musicianhood, that the reason we still do it, in essence... is a conundrum. It's vexing. It's like an April Fool's joke that never ends.

But the best reason I heard was: "We do it because we can, and we'd miss it if we didn't." That's the ticket!

If we stopped, we wouldn't feel alive. We'd look with ferocious jealousy upon the band playing in the bar we used to play at. We'd beg for a slot at karaoke nights. We'd religiously attend open mics, get there early to get our name on the list, for three minutes of shining.

We're not like normal people. We can't just go to work every day and come home and cook a nice salmon filet on the grill and do it all over again tomorrow. We want more. We have something to say, lyrically or musically, and this is the only way we can figure out how to say it without being berated and dejected on Facebook. Music is its own language.

We're not going quietly into that dark night. To continue on, we buy lighter weight equipment. We book earlier and shorter gigs. We try to stay in shape so we don't fall down on stage. It's human nature, you see? We fight to survive, aim to hold on to things that matter, to achieve, to be all we can be, no matter what it takes, even if it kills us. We do what is required to fulfill our desires and to not have that Stepford Wife look in our eyes, trolling through our days. We do not want to live a life of quiet desperation.

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In a music store the other day I witnessed a guy blissfully shredding on a sunburst Tele flawlessly executing everything from Dire Straits, to Lindsey Buckingham to Duane Allman to Lynyrd Skynyrd and beyond. He's not in a band. And I wanted to just simply cry 96 tears. I had to sit there and take it, reveling in the glory of his talent, in solitude.

It's hard work, staying in a band and performing and putting up with all sorts of atrocities. But we're following our dream - even if it most likely leads to nowhere. This is why we still do it. So, get off your cell phones and stop talking during our shows! Peace out.

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.



KARL KELLY

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Celtic Woman Continued

Woman has also scored two Top 10 debuts on Billboard's influential album chart and five Top Five DVDs on Billboard's Top Video chart, as well as achieving platinum-level sales in nine countries.

The name "Celtic Woman" suggests a woman of substance, of strength.

In old Irish poetry and literature Ireland was often referred to as a woman, McNeill says.

"And to us Ireland is strong, intelligent and beautiful and Celtic Woman wants to reflect all of those elements," she explains.

She insists it is not difficult, even on their many long tours, to look forward to each performance.

"Each venue and audience is different so there's always something fresh. The way our music rings out in a hall or how the audience reacts is what makes the show for us," she says. "And we're always striving to improve ourselves and make the show better, so each night is a chance for the best show yet."

McNeill believes that Celtic Woman continues to resonate with people, that their music continues to speak to them because it comes from their hearts and history and they love to tell these stories through song.

"People all over the world can relate to stories of love, loss or hope and our Celtic melodies hold so much emotion," she says. "Music is a universal language and we feel honored to share ours with the world."

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April 21st: no music
April 28th: Kala Farnham

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BAR FLY JOURNALS



By Stephanie Shawn

Hello my sweet Bar Flies....Easter bunny is on his way! Or her...what-evs. . Spring has definitely sprung and this Girl has been on Fire! I pulled a 10 year plan together and had a Surprise Birthday Party for my husband at DOONEY AVIATION in Westerly recently and it was a huge success!

The man had no clue. I had a 40th with a stripper for him at the ANDREA IN 1999. The man had no clue. Back in the day you could call strippers to come through an Ad in the yellow pages (that was a book that came out with phone numbers for businesses for all you young kids) so I ordered a blonde dressed as a nurse with big boobs. The night of the party, an hour late, in comes a brunette, weighing 88 lbs., wearing

a leopard print bikini. Oh well, we had to work with what we had.

Mom, Dad, Gramma, Grampa and the kids were all there, so she was given specific instructions that she could not be nude, she just had to entertain the crowd. And entertain the crowd. The Girl was Amazing! and Limber! She sat him in the middle of the crowd at the Andrea and cartwheeled back and forth over him, danced like the Girl from Flash dance and definitely earned her \$100 tip. DJ DAVE CHRISTINA played her 90's music.. It was fab!

Fast forward 10 years and the KNICKERBOCKER CAFE in Westerly is due to open after being closed for several years for renovations. It was gonna be a big thing! So I booked the place for his 50th. Of course, as the day came closer and the KNICK still wasn't open, the panic started to set in. Butttttt. It all came together. We were there first Private Party and we kicked ass. We had DJ DAVE CHRISTINA and a huge crowd. My beautiful friend PAM ROSETTA showed up an hour and a half late, with a chocolate fountain, needing electricity and a knife to cut up her fruits! I love that Girl! We were wearing TEAM SHAWN 50 T shirts and still the man had no clue. Another fabulous party!

Fast forward another 10 years (anyone seeing a pattern here?) my husband was going away. I had booked a band months before. I had to change the date 3 times. Thank you DIRTY DEEDS for putting up with my Ass! The day of the plan was ...I'm going for pedicures with my friend CAROL. Then her husband STILES will pick up my husband and we will meet for dinner in town.

I'm trying to keep him away from the Airport because we are setting up. He decides to show up, so my whole posse is hiding out up the street at STOP & SHOP and of course he's chatting away with the guys, who are explaining all the set up going on as a country style wedding with band, because they knew he'd have no interest in country music. Eventually he leaves, we scurry around like ants trying to get everything done. I go home

shower and get my Rock Star outfit on featuring a baby devil which is a match to the one on his arm! I leave out his clothes to put on, which also includes a t shirt with a devil peering out a window with 60? on it and STILL LIVIN THE DREAM. (which is a take on his airplane catchphrase LIVIN' THE DREAM).

Meanwhile, I am back at DOONEY, greeting the DIRTY DEEDS and of course, DJ DAVE CHRISTINA (who also did our wedding...just saying. Love you Dave) getting the Bar set up, the tons of food, balloons etc. He meanwhile has gotten home and starts calling STILES trying to figure out where CAROL and I are. We claim that the pedicure lady was late and now we are having cocktails. My 2 sons are sitting in the living room with him on a Friday night at 7. Is any of this starting to set off warning bells in his head?? Nope!

STILES stops answering cuz he can't lie to RICKY anymore. MIKE FERRIGNO puts the last part of the plan into place by calling RICKY and telling him to quickly get to DOONEY AVIATION, because he accidentally hit HUMPHREYS plane with the Tug and it's bad. Well of course, my husbands theme song, which plays on a continuous loop in his head is I NEED A HERO! So he jumps to his feet, tells my boys that MIKE needs him at the Airport. They volunteer to drive him, since they just happen to be hanging out in the aforementioned living room on a Friday night and off they go.

Meanwhile, there are several ways to get into the Hangar. I am on the phone with him, the crowd is completely silent, the lights are off and his distinct voice is coming over the line. I say "where are you?" he says if you'd answer your phone you would know that I am on my way to the airport. Blah Blah Blah...suddenly I Hear Hi Ricky and the lights go on and everyone yells SURPRISE!! I'm at the Wrong Door.

The night was an Amazing Success! DIRTY DEEDS put on their Best Performance ever! and trust me I have see them many times!! Thank you to BOB'S (lead singer) son NATE CONTI for putting up with my months of changes and angst. So much food! I honestly have the best friends and family a Girl could ever ask for, and they came through with tons of delectable dishes. And the gags and gifts were so thoughtful and fun! You guys Rock!!

But anyways, what a freakin' good time! He had No Idea!! The pedicure story, the no answering the phone, the boys in the living room, the T SHIRT??!! Nope, nothing! So, I need to thank all of our friends that were able to come that night and make the man of my life happy. But several people get a special thanks for all there behind the scenes Pre Help!

RONNIE ULSCH and the MISQUAMICUT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION for the stage and for his set up and break down. My sister BETSY for always being there for me no matter what crazy idea I come up with. WENDY CARR for being my friend and main BAR

BOSS. as well as DEB TURRISI and MICHELLE POWELL, for their help as my Bar Girls! JOYCE AMEDEO for her friendship and delicious food from JOYCE'S GOURMET, DOT SANDERS and her daughter LEX for blowing up over balloons, the fabulous guys at THAVENETS for being so kind and generous over the years by donating helium tanks whenever I have a hot spark dream for a party!D

AVE and SUE DONOVAN, as well as ANDY MCGUGAN for their coolers and ice and ANDY for going above and beyond in helping that day. My sons friends ETHAN and MATT for helping with the set up. TINA MARIE PLENNINGER for creating an Amazing Cake which was the perfect setting for my mini stripper Barbie I had coming out of the top, com-

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plete with matching tattoos on her back just like her creator (me). And MICHELLE BABCOCK for being RAFFLE GIRL, as well as KEVIN ALLEN and MIKE FERRIGNO for everything DOONEY related. And of course, TONY CARDWELL for letting us store everything in his office at TILWELL PETROLEUM before the Party, on the bearskin rug!

So, my sweet sweet flies, it's been a busy month. I also managed to hit BIKE WEEK in DAYTONA, and the GATOR NATIONALS, as well as a quick trip to KEY WEST. I'm leaving in a couple days to go see GEORGE THOROGOOD, GODSMACK, BUCKCHERRY and so many others. I'm taking the girl's into renting a Golf Cart to zoom around the venue at?! Sounds freakin; Fab to me! Oh forgot to tell you! We are hitting ARIZONA BIKE WEEK at WESTWORLD! Holy Sh*t!! Girl Trip!! Again!! It's like the the BUFFALO CHIP of SCOTTSDALE, PHOENIX area! Can't wait! Prolly gonna a be a few crazy stories on that deal, keep you posted! Love you, miss you! Ciao for now, my sweet loves!

P.s. I'm sure I have forgotten many of you but my computer will not let me insert anything without erasing my whole article, so suck it up Buttercups!! Love you all and thank you!!

EmojiEmoji

I was going to write a glowing story about the MYSTIC IRISH PARADE, but I guess they forgot me again?? I don't know? I guess I will give up on trying to be a part of the Parade because we don't seem to be on the same page. Not on the list again for participants?? Maybe I'll try again next year,

because I think it looks like an amazing parade, but I am getting disheartened by their lack of interest in me :(



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9 - Angie's Pizza, Mystic, CT 5pm
10 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 7pm
11 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 5pm
19 - Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI 7pm
20 - Tamarack Lodge, Voluntown, CT 6:30pm
22 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT

AZALEA DRIVE

12 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
14 - Aquarium, Mystic, CT 11-3
25 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm

BETHANY AND KEN

6 - The Haversham, Westerly, RI

THE CARTELLS

4 - Norwich Inn, Norwich, CT 6pm
5,26 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm
6 - Harbour House, Mystic, CT 7pm
11,18,25 - Norwich Inn, Norwich, CT 6:30pm
12 - La Vita, E. Haddam, CT 8:30pm
14 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3pm
17 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 7:30pm
20 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7:30pm
21 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 7pm

CRAZY ANTS

6 - June's Outback, Killingworth, CT
20 - Ponemah Cafe, Taftville, CT

DAN WATSON

2,16,30 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
3 - Mystic Pizza II, N. Stonington, CT
4 - Cleats, Westerly, RI
5 - Fitch High School, Groton, CT 7:30pm
6 - Brewett City, Jewett City, CT
7,26 - M/Bar, Mystic, CT
9,14,24 - Dog Watch, Mystic, CT
11 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT
12 - Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI
13 - Dog Watch, Stonington, CT
17 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT
18 - Sneakers Cafe, Groton, CT
19 - Haversham-, Westerly, RI
20 - Harp n Hound, Mystic, CT
23 - Angie's Pier 27, Mystic, CT
27 - Calabrese Club, Westerly, RI

DARIK & THE FUNBAGS

5 - Hardrock Cafe, Foxwoods, CT

10 SOUND WAVES

6 - MAGs, Seymour, CT
12 - Tipping Chair, Southington, CT
13 - Sunday River, Newry, ME 4pm
26 - Poor Richards, Chicopee, MA
27 - Chicago Sams, Cromwell, CT

THE DRAWBRIDGE BAND

4 - Public House, Old Lyme, CT 6-9pm
19 - Latitude 41, Mystic, CT 7-10pm

EIGHT TO THE BAR

5 - Elks Lodge, Albany, NY 8-11
12 - Moseley's, Dedham, MA
13 - Berkshire Ballroom, Pittsfield, MA 6:30-11pm
19 - Parrott Delaney, New Hartford, CT 8-11
20 - Community Ctr, E. Lyme, CT 8-11
26 - River Inn, Norwich, CT 7:30-10:30
27 - Bond Ballroom, Hartford, CT 5:30-10:30

THE FAKE EXPERIENCE

5 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10

FRANKENPHIL

5 - Highliner III Cafe, Westbrook, CT 7pm
6,13,20 - Bistro Mediterranean, Westbrook, CT 7pm
7 - Phoenix, Pawcatuck, CT 2pm
12 - McBrides Pub, Providence, RI 7pm
21 - Scotch Plains, Essex, CT 3pm
26 - Kings Crossing, N. Kingstown, RI 5pm
27 - Penny Lane, Old Saybrook, CT 7:30pm
28 - Ridge Vineyard, Preston, CT 12pm

FRANKIE & THE KNOW IT ALLS

13 - Dano's Pub, Central Village, CT 8pm
20 - Hide a Way, Colchester, CT

JAMES HARRIS

3,10,12,17,24 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
4 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
5 - Fitch, Groton, CT 7:30pm
11 - Aquarium, Mystic, CT 6:30pm
12 - Preston Ridge, Preston, CT 5:30pm
13 - Tuscany, Mohegan, CT
14 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 8pm
15,16,17 - Aquarium, Mystic, CT 11am
16,23,30 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT 8pm
19 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm
20 - Iron's, Mystic, CT 8pm
25 - Friar Tuck's, Mystic, CT 8pm
26 - Latitude 41, Mystic, CT 7pm

THE KENNEDYS

6 - Linden Tree, Wakefield, MA
7 - Blues Cafe, Southbury, CT
12 - All Souls, New London, CT
13 - Rose Garden Coffeehouse, Mansfield, MA
22 - Buttonwood Tree, Middletown, CT

KEN SERIO & TEN DIRECTIONS

13 - The Phoenix, Pawcatuck, CT
21 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

KEVIN MANZELLA

12 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7-10
20 - Friar Tuck's, Mystic, CT 10-1

KEVIN MANZELLA & NANCY MENHART

4 - Sneakers Cafe, Groton, CT 7:30-10
5 - Harp & Hound, Mystic, CT
13 - Calabrese Club, Westerly, RI 7:30-10:30
27 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT

THE KOSMIK KATZ

12 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

THE LOCOMOTIVES

12 - Steady Habit, Haddam, CT
13 - Bongo Rons, Old Saybrook, CT
27 - Toyos Lounge, Colchester, CT

MEN WITH GUITARS

27 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

NEW LONDON BIG BAND

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

NICK BOSSE

13 - Mystic Pizza II, N. Stonington, CT 7-10pm
20 - Boneyard BBQ, Ashaway, RI 8-11pm

THE PIRANHA BROTHERS

5 - The Diamond, Glastonbury, CT 8-11
20 - Carmines, E. Hartford, CT 8:30-12:30

PIRATES FOR PEACE

13 - Sneakers Cafe, Groton CT
26 - American Cafe, Plainfield, CT

RAMBLIN' DAN STEVENS

9,16,23,30 - Nightingale's, Old Lyme, CT 6pm
10 - Bee and Thistle, Old Lyme, CT 6pm
11 - Gritty McDuff's, Auburn, ME
12 - Blue, Portland, ME
13 - Gritty McDuff's, Freeport, ME
14 - Infinity Hall, Norfolk, CT 6pm
18 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm

19 - Chamard Vineyards, Clinton, CT 5pm
20 - Witchdoctor Brewing, Southington, CT 8pm
25 - Public House, Old Lyme, CT 6pm
26 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
27 - Hubbard Park, Meriden, CT 1pm
27 - Finnegan's Tavern, Burlington, CT
28 - Steady Habit, Haddam, CT 1:30pm

SEX & CANDY

18 - Radio 104 Live, 9am
19 - Chicago Sams, Cromwell, CT
25 - Tipping Chair, Southington, CT

SUE MENHART BAND

12 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10pm

SUGAR

5 - Mohegan Sun, Uncasville, CT 8pm
13 - Blues Cafe, Newport, RI 10pm

2 CAT ZOO

5 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT
25 - The Irons, Mystic, CT

WOOLY MAMMOTH

13 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT

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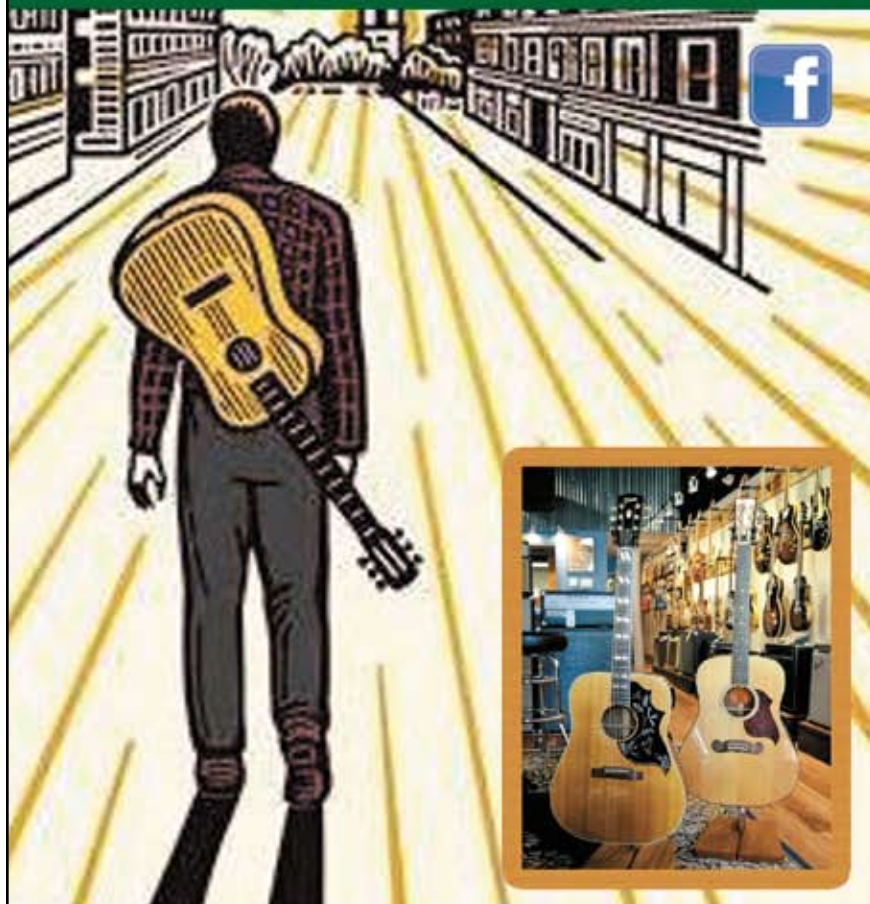
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CONCERT DATES

Alabama

26 - Dunkin' Center, Providence, RI

Ana Popovic

18 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Aaron Neville

13 - Fox Theater, Mashentucket, CT

Bela Fleck/Chick Corea

25 - Jorgensen, Storrs, CT

Celtic Woman

3 - Mortensen Hall, Hartford, CT

Denny Laine

13 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Dream Theater

9 - Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, CT

"Experience Hendrix"

6 - Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, CT

Jason Derulo

27 - Grand Theater, Mashentucket, CT

Jason Ricci

12 - Black-Eyed Sally's, Hartford, CT

Mariah Carey

5 - Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, CT

Max Creek

19 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Plywood Cowboy

19 - Cafe Nine, New Hven, CT

Ryan Montbleau

27 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI

Trey Anastasio

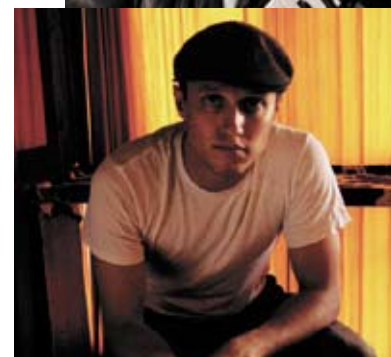
27 - College St, New Haven, CT

Turkuaz

5 - Infinity Hall, Hartford, CT

Twiddle

12 - College St, New Haven, CT



LOCAL BEAT

"Highs and Lows of Love With Chill Rock and Roller Bensko"

By Andrew Kerbs

Guitarist Brad Bensko has released a fine eponymous debut album consisting of country-influenced rock n roll jams recorded Danny Motta and singers Kathy Parks and relative Tyler Bensko. Brad is also a multi-instrumentalist who plays keys and percussion and released a fine album last Fall whose basic thrust concerns the highs and lows of relationships.

Brad Bensko begins his album by strumming a muted guitar with echoey space-rock notes and a Floydishly psychedelic wall of sound only to launch into southern rock boogie. "Shallow Eyes" also features a low "wah" solo showing up at the end of the song instead of the middle as the chorus fades out. Brad sings sharp lyrics on the Dylanesque "Waiting Game" about packing up and leaving a miserable relationship with a girl that's afraid to commit so that he runs "in circles." A somber organ solo sets the tone for this song which is only the beginning of a series of relationship-based songs that set the tone for most of the album.

Leaving a relationship after waiting on the sidelines for so long leaves a man with nothing but the "Hindsight of His Gaze," the next song in which he and his girl hang on by a hair from eachother's side just prior to separating. The song starts like a lazy Neil Young song as Brad sings morbid lyrics about graves and being kept in the dark as he longs to be "through with you" in his "shades of blue." His loneliness is only broken as he sings a high-pitched rednecked whistle, cueing the start of a string section as his strumming intensifies and ends on a sudden sour chord.

And yet "He's Still Here" as "years 12 SOUND WAVES



of walls are built up all around." She's quiet with still so much to show, but his perks she emulates are a thin veil for her negativity and Brad wonders why she hasn't left him yet. This generic McCartneyish piano ballad could use a few more 7th chords but adds enough tension to the tune to echo the desperate codependency of this album's theme. The bridge of the song picks up in pitch and stridency (amidst Ahh choruses). Don't fear, Brad's still here.

But then comes the relationship "Tipping Point" on a folksy song in which Brad sings sweetly about the unraveling of smiley memories like over-exposed kodachrome of a picturesque Main Street without much to feel. At this point our protagonist cannot get around but how women (like the leaves in the song) change before blowing away as love so easily given too quickly hits the ground once reality sets in. Bensko's old time organ simply adds to the nostalgia of the song's lyrical theme. The drumming and strumming lumbers down to a halt as the singer drifts to the ground like a leaf thanks to the loss of plans for his relationship.

"Immobile Dreams" returns to a more upbeat sound while echoing the same themes of madly wasting life on foolish games in which she only occasionally reciprocates his love. His girlfriend tries too hard playing the wrong cards and yet the singer enjoys playing into her code-

pendency as she brings him beer and his guitar . . . advising him and giving him something to do (even if she misses his point of view). "Is there no turning back from this life in our home?" the singer laments in the song "Why Do You Do That" (as if this were a bad thing). What else is there to do but stay in eachother's bed and "scream some sense into her" he suggests: a possible reason for the > 50% separation rate in most relationships. Although strangely contradictory, Bensko's lyrics speak honestly about relationships and his harmonica solo in the song's middle is refreshingly original for a rock song. If you have to live with someone you might as well make it more fun.

There are more optimistic notes on Bensko's self-titled debut. "Alexandra" playfully struts as Brad whimsically sings about a crush he wants to start loving today. This woman lazily goes on about her business "teasing" as he plays along with her affection oh so "pleasing." The guitar playing is melodic here with layers of harpsichord.

"Worries Go With the Night" is another ballad that comes full circle back to Shallow Eyes by bespeaking a woman's eyes full of sorrow in which she don't take them off tomorrow (just look around at smiling faces its gonna be alright). Both members of the relationship have "grown much thicker skin," but "don't let that hide what's really in" Mr. Bensko exclaims warily as he continues to ponder his relationship's meaning.

The album closes with a song

"Winter Solstice" about yet another woman Kathleen, now with a face grayed by the winter but nonetheless caring towards him (cold hands warm heart, lol). This closing tune picks up with a melodic piano and drum beat as Brad celebrates their companionship. Then, out of the blue, the song shifts key with Danny Motta's horn solo, organ ditty and Na Na Na before resolving back to the original vibe only to end with a sleepy lullaby like keyb hook.

Brad Bensko's self-titled album are a collection of richly sung and strummed songs about the highs and lows of a cohabiting relationship. This album features other highlights including "Long Gone," with its low reverby country guitar notes, although the most remarkable of this musician's traits is his voice which is remarkably fluid and supple, particularly on the albums opener Shallow Eyes. Young stoner couples should enjoy this album at it gets to the core of the realities of relationships with out sugar coating but is still chill enough to enjoy without getting too deep in ways to kill the buzz. Buy it soon from New London's Telegraph record store.



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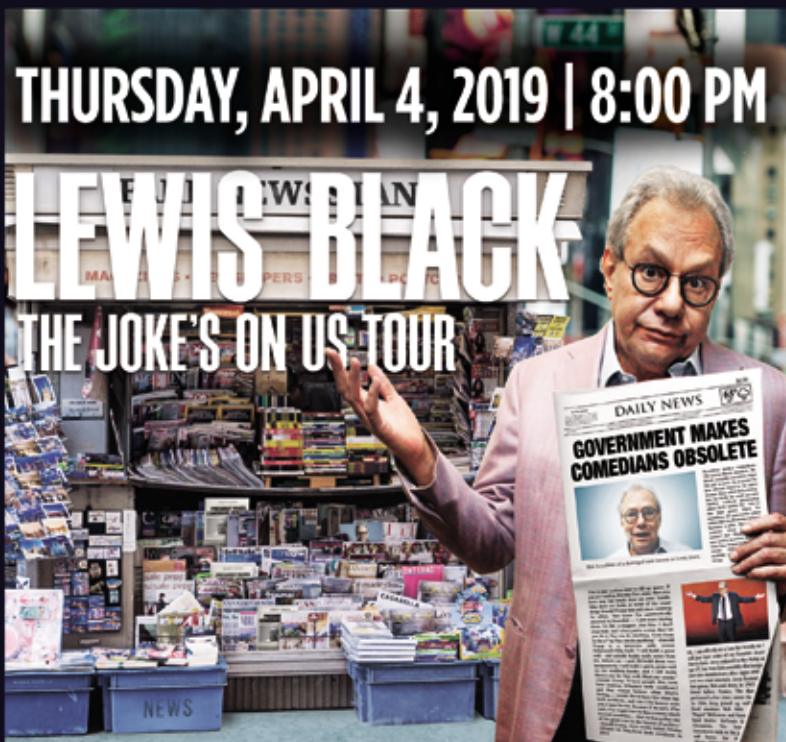
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Lewis Black came into national prominence with his appearances on *The Daily Show* in 1996. Those appearances on *The Daily Show* led to comedy specials on HBO®, Comedy Central, Showtime, and Epix. He has released eight comedy albums, including the 2007 Grammy Award®-winning *The Carnegie Hall Performance*. He won his second Grammy Award® for his album *Stark Raving Black* and has published three bestselling books: *Nothing's Sacred* (Simon & Schuster, 2005), *Me of Little Faith* (Riverhead Books, 2008), and *I'm Dreaming of a Black Christmas* (Riverhead Books, 2010).



SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019 | 6:00 PM

LONG LOST

CT Film Premiere of a made-in-CT psychological thriller. **Rated R**

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SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019 | 7:00 PM

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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

Celebrating its 10th Anniversary, the Happy Together 2019 Tour stars: **The Turtles** • **Chuck Negron** formerly of **Three Dog Night** • **Gary Puckett & The Union Gap** • **The Buckinghams** • **The Classics IV** • **The Cowsills**

TOMMY EMMANUEL, CGP

THURSDAY, JULY 18, 2019 | 8:00 PM

Tommy Emmanuel, CGP (Certified Guitar Player), the Grammy Award-winning international master of the solo acoustic guitar, transforms the guitar into an entire one-man band. Appearing with Mike Dawes, young fingerstyle guitar virtuoso.

GRAHAM NASH:

AN INTIMATE EVENING OF SONGS AND STORIES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2019 | 8:00 PM

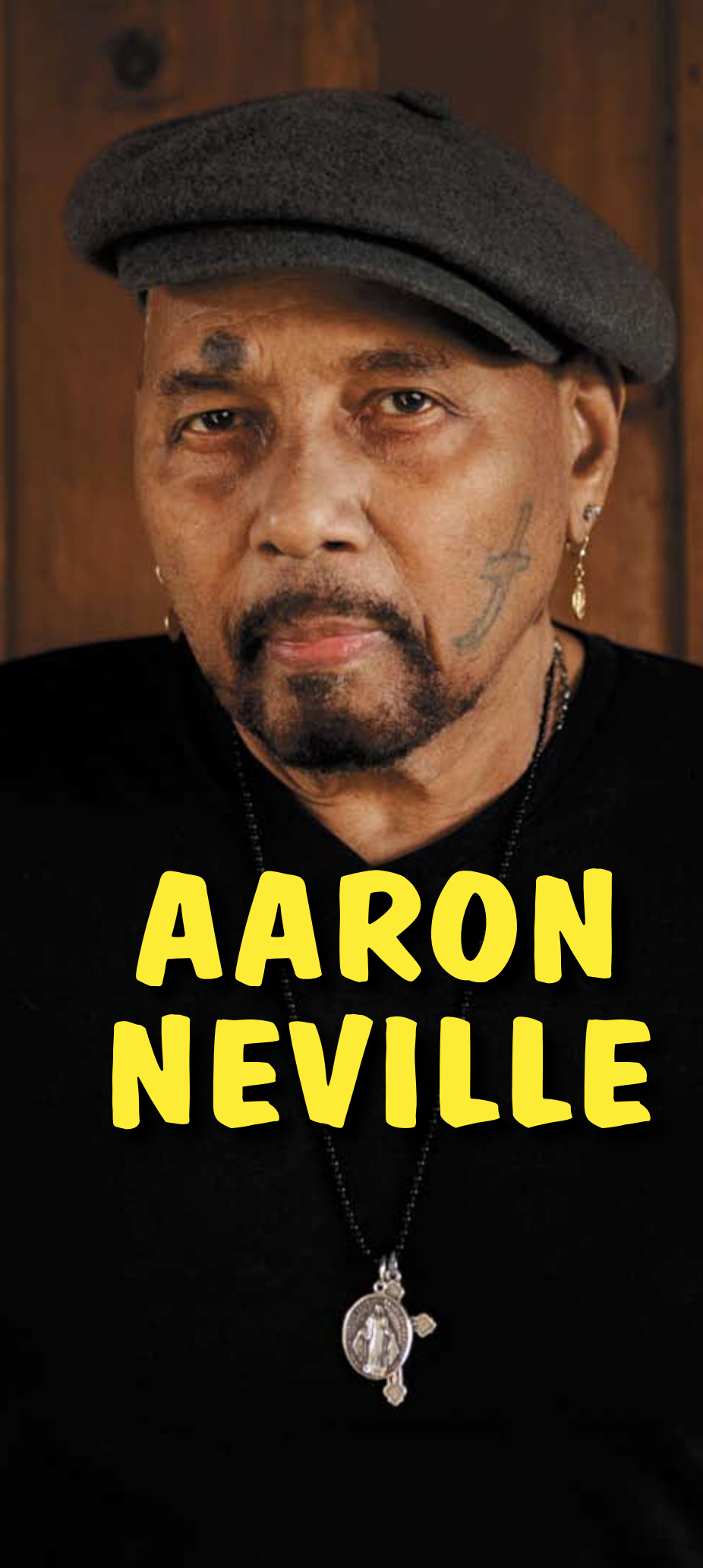
Graham Nash will perform songs from his days in the Hollies through his years with Crosby, Stills & Nash as well as from his beloved solo recordings, weaving anecdotes and tales from his 50-year career. Throughout the evening, Nash will be accompanied by longtime collaborator, and This Path Tonight producer, Shane Fontayne on guitars and vocals, and former CSN keyboard player and vocalist, Todd Caldwell.



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AARON NEVILLE

By Ali Kaufman

Technically, Aaron Neville made his first recording in 1960 with a song called “Every Day”, which he wrote for the flip side of the single, “Over You”, written and performed by his his life long friend, Allen Toussaint. I say technically because he shared a story with me about meeting Mac Rebennack, Dr. John as he is known to most of the world. When they were both around 16, Mac was already producing records and asked Aaron to do some background vocals, thus the connection to the man Aaron refers to as a brother was born. You can hear the affection and respect he has for him, or Allen or any of the people and places that hold a special spot in his heart. In particular, his Mother, whom he described as, “the kindest person, I try to look at the world through my Mother’s eyes” he credits her with the best advice he has been given, “It’s so nice to be nice and it don’t cost a cent”. It is advice that has served him well and he continues to heed. His Mother and Father can also take credit for introducing Aaron to Nat King Cole, they were big fans, and got a kick out of 6 year old Aaron imitating him. Those imitations went on to get him into the movie theaters, singing a tune for the ticket taker and perhaps were the first performances he got “paid” for! Aaron’s smash hit “Tell It Like It Is” came 6 or so years after that first single with Allen, reaching number 2 on the Pop chart and number 1 on R&B. Unfortunately, the record label went out of business, there was no follow up to capitalize on that success.

Neville is a name that is synonymous with New Orleans. Aaron and his siblings, Art, Charles and Cyril, have become just as much a part of the Crescent City’s history as anyone has. Their roots are strong and the limbs continue to branch out, reaching audiences all over the world, together as well as in their own endeavors. Their uncle, George Landry, also known as “Big Chief Jolly”, formed The Wild Tchoupitoulas in the 70’s. They are a group of Mardi Gras Indians, a collective of feathered and festooned revelers whose intricately crafted ceremonial garments are heavily influenced by Native Americans. The Neville’s bloodline traces Aaron’s great grandmother from Martinique to settling in Convent, Louisiana where they added more cultures to their African lineage. The Neville Brothers came together as backing for the Wild Tchoupitoulas and that was the springboard into touring and eventually releasing their critically acclaimed album on A&M Records in 1989, *Yellow Moon*. The Neville Brothers continued to find ways to balance their responsibilities as part of a cohesive band while also stretching out in their own right. One such way was the period that Aaron referred to as “a great time in my career”. That chapter starts with a very special guest coming to see the Neville Brothers play at the World’s Fair that was held in New Orleans in 1984. That guest was Linda Ronstadt and Aaron couldn’t resist calling her up on stage where she sang some impromptu doo-wop. Ms. Ronstadt later remarked to Aaron that, “she had never done that before, she said she felt like Cinderella at the ball with her favorite band of singers!”. The next year he and Allen Toussaint had organized New Orleans Artists Against Hunger and Homelessness, (NOAAHH.org), where at an event, he and Ronstadt sang “Ava Marie”, “and that’s when we decided we should really record something together” Neville quipped, “our managers liked the idea!” ya, I bet!!! It took them until 1989 to record together, Aaron elaborated, “I told her that I would meet her at the Grammys as I was leaving. I was joking but turned out I was serious!”. That collaboration, “Don’t Know Much”, brought home a Grammy for Best Pop Performance by a Duo in 1990 and they did it again in 1991, winning in the same category for “All My Life”. There was another Grammy win for Best Country & Western Vocal Performance few years later for “I Fall To Pieces” with Trisha Yearwood. In addition to these 3 wins, Aaron has also collected at least 9 other nominations and a slew of other prestigious awards along the way.

Recent years have seen many changes in Mr. Neville's life but the constant has always been his deep spirit and belief in something bigger than himself. Clearly God plays a big role in your life if you wear a cross tattoo on your face but what I am referring to is about the times that his faith has sustained and lifted him when he was most in need. The passing of his wife Joel, and having to say goodbye to her in this life, actually on their 40th wedding anniversary in 2007 was surely one of those times. Another more recent passing was that of his brother Charles, the Horn Man, just a year ago in April 2018. Another challenge of his fortitude came tearing through his home in the form of Katrina. Joel was at home at the time and packed up some things, fully expecting to return. That was not to be, it was just too much for him as it was for many others that survived the terrible storm and aftermath. He is quoted as saying, "I was mad. I didn't know at who. But it was just from seeing all those people that had lost their lives, we only lost material stuff." Don't misunderstand though, while he was in a world of hurt about what happened, the love of his home town and the family he still has there was, is and will always remain solid.

I try to look at the world through my Mother's eyes" he credits her with the best advice he has been given, "It's so nice to be nice and it don't cost a cent". It is advice that has served him well and he continues to heed.

One return visit to NOLA that is on the calendar is his trip back to take part in the 50th Anniversary of the legendary New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, held from April 26th until May 5th where he will be performing. "Even the Stones are gonna be there!!!" he enthusiastically replied, adding, "Jazz Fest is just so special, it's the stuff!". I couldn't agree more, but for those of us that aren't making the pilgrimage to the Big Easy this year, I asked him about the shows and festivals he plays around the world. "It feels great, (to be on those lineups), since Katrina, almost every state I go to has people that have been displaced. They want some NOLA and they are always appreciative," he told me. In particular, I asked about Michael Arnone's Crawfish Festival in Augusta, NJ, which is as close to New Orleans as you can get without traveling there, Aaron will again be headlining on Saturday June 1st, "we will be there! The Quintet, with Charles there in spirit". Crawfishfest.com

Hopefully the set lists will be populated with some songs from his latest release, Apache, an album that feels like a great big love letter. Love for the world, a higher power and especially for the woman that proved he could again find someone to share his life with, Sarah Ann Friedman. Aaron met his second wife when this incredibly talented photographer that has photographed everyone from Obama to Sharon Osborne, was sent to capture his image for People Magazine, she got her shots and also captured his heart for good measure. The song "Sarah Ann" started off as a poem, lifted from the pages of the poetry journal that Aaron has faithfully kept since the 70's. Eric Krasno, (guitarist for Soulive and producer for artists like Norah Jones, 50 Cent and so many more), and Dave Gutter, (frontman for Rustic Overtones), collaborated with Neville for the first time to help bring this fresh offering, that includes the Dap-King horns on a couple of tracks, to life and harkens back to when soul and funk ruled the day.

From the Big Easy to the Big Apple, Aaron likes to say about the place he now calls home. He and Sarah were in the Manhattan before moving out to Pawling, NY where they traded Sarah's jungle of plants she was

growing on a terrace for an honest to goodness farm where, they combined their last names to create Freville Farm llc. "I'm enjoying it, it has been a learning experience," says Aaron with a smile in his voice. Just one look at the website, FrevilleFarm.com and you can see how important being good to Mother Earth and their fellow humans is to them, from the unique offerings like Aarons Elixir, a combination of Turmeric and Ginger, all made in small batches, using as many ingredients as they can from their own CNG, (Certified Naturally Grown), produce to the solar powered kitchen they create in, they take their care of the land seriously.

The other thing that Sarah has had a big hand in is helping to grow is Aaron's social media presence, which he genuinely seems to have embraced. Followers of Aarons Facebook page can now get a glimpse of Aaron at home on the keys, actually answering some of the questions his fans ask in real time, sometimes even filling song requests! Mr. Neville has circled this globe, probably many times over but seems tickled at the fact that this medium is connecting him with fans as far away as Dubai and Africa. He mentioned an upcoming podcast as well so stay tuned!

Before we wrapped up our conversation, I had to ask about his incredible fitness, not for his age but at ANY age this guy looks fantastic! "Working out has always been part of my life," he obliged, "Charles is the one that got me into it way back, Tazzie Colomb is the trainer that gave me the education...and pushes me to get it done. I love the way it makes me feel and look." Rest assured we do too Sir. And what about exercising that unmistakable voice? "Use it or lose it. I've had to stop from time to time because of bruised vocal chords and such. Taking time off means I need to relearn and teach my voice the notes so I sing everyday to keep it." My take away from the incredible opportunity I had to speak with this special soul is this, Be Kind, tend your piece of the world, never give up on love and give thanks for the many blessings we all have in our lives....and that may be all I need to know.

Catch Aaron live in our area at Foxwoods on April 13th and check his website, aaronneville.com for complete listings of other June dates close by!



HEARING AID



Shaw Davis & The Black Ties *"Tales From The West"* Independent

The power blues-rock trio Shaw Davis & The Black Ties from Pompano Beach, FL have only been on the scene since May 2016 but have already played over 300 shows, headlining festivals and opening tours. Influenced by the sounds of vintage, heavy blues-rock, they have opened shows for acts such as Samantha Fish, Chris Duarte, Mike Zito, Albert Castiglia, Matt Schofield, Popa Chubby, GE Smith, and have toured with Anthony Gomes. They also participated in the South Florida Blues Challenge and won their Road To Memphis, representing South Florida at the 2018 International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Backed by drummer Bobby Van Stone and bassist Patrick Stevenson, 24-year old lead guitarist and singer Shaw Davis packs a seasoned and confident punch well beyond his years. The trio released their self-titled debut album in 2017, a three-track live EP in January 2018 and their second album "Tales From The West" in October 2018."

"Tales From The West" includes seven psychedelic rockin' originals and two covers. Davis' vocals are a little like a younger lower register Robert Plant or Steven Tyler. The opening track "Take My Hand" drives and packs a punch leading into the Frank Zappa cover "Willie The Pimp," which is heavier than the original, but just as passionate and a little Hendrix-like. The title track is confident and heavy and in your face.

16 SOUND WAVES

"Mamma Told Me" is a kaleidoscope of solid licks while "Fire Inside" is Aerosmith-like with lyrics like there "ain't no cryin' in rock-n-roll."

"Know Where You Been" starts off sultry and bluesy, then Davis proceeds to shred the guitar solo lightning fast. "Atomic Groove" is a fun one with a catchy chorus while Stone and Stevenson have a ball bringing up the bottom. Their cover of Junior Kimbrough's "I Gotta Try You Girl" gets a heavier modern take. The final tune, "My Friend," features rain storm sound effects, is intense and seriously good (aka Sloe Gin by Joe Bonamassa.) Davis erupts for the solo then the almost eight-minute song ebbs and flows with harmonies and phrases to close out the album. A nice change of pace that shows off the obvious talents of all three men.

www.shawdavisblackties.com

-Sue Menhart



The Green *"Black & White"* Easy Star Records

If you've read my column for a while, you know I'm a sucker for good reggae, and even more so for good acoustic reggae albums. Well just my luck, another great example has come through my inbox and made it into my rotation this month: "Black & White" by The Green.

The Green hails from Oahu, Hawaii and brings some of that sun and sand energy to the flavor of the songs. "Black & White" has managed to capture that vibe with the acoustic flavor while keeping the

tempo upbeat. This isn't an album all about the ballads - just cleverly written gems where you can hear every part and really feel the texture of the vocals.

The energy on "Black & White" is solid from front to back. The opening track "Alone" does a great job of setting the expectations for the rest of the album. It features nice percussion in a sparse arrangement, with lush harmonies entering in the chorus and just filling up all the space with beautiful sounds.

"Good Vibration" is a common theme in reggae music and track 2 does it justice with a popping bass line and passionate, high-energy vocals. Again, thick harmonies fill the background on the chorus and the percussion peeks through driving the rhythm.

The feel on this whole album is excellent. It's mostly self-produced, which says a lot for the level of talent and ear for music amongst the members of The Green. There's a lot of room in the sound for small details like chimes and background vocals, and they use that space so tastefully, it's impressive.

Another one of my faves on here is "Runaway Train". It's got a great vocal melody, and the bass is just ear candy, again using short notes and a lot of space to create a lot of atmosphere. There's a guitar solo on the acoustic guitar that just sounds like butter. The key to making music like this is that the vocals need to pop out of this ambience with passionate energy, and these guys understand that completely.

Another song with a great hook is "Wake Up". Towards the end of the album, this is the one that tends to get stuck in my head long after the music has stopped. "You gotta wake up brother/ open your eyes/ you gotta wake up it's time to realize" echo on with vigor while bluesy acoustic leads and buttery lead vocals dance over the top.

There are eleven more songs on here I could write about - some ballads, some nice ukulele work, some more production tricks I liked - but you're going to have to check it for yourself. It's a little early for summer release, but "Black & White"

by The Green is going to be in my beach ride this year.

- Tom Matthew
Two Ton Music



Tom O'Farrell Band *"This Time Around"*

The cover of the Tom O'Farrell Band's new album, This Time Around, features a photograph of a black Stratocaster leaning against a brick wall, on a wood-plank floor that looks to have seen years of hard use and wear. This should give an indication of what lies within this fine tome to the blues of another time. Inside the CD cover is another little insight into this band: of the four primary players, Tom O'Farrell is listed last, credited with guitars, background vocals, and bass on a couple tracks. Topping the list is John Piccolo on lead vocals, guitar and harmonica, Fred Fagan on bass, and Jim Murphy on drums. Connecticut's Ken Serio also sits in on drums for a few tracks.

The album opens with yet more subtlety, on the traditional Deep Elem Blues; highlighted by Piccolo's harmonica, singing "If you go down to Deep Elem Keep your money in your shoes." The soft opening continues until a satisfying guitar solo which moves with ease between shredding speed and sustained bends, the delta blues on Stratocaster announcing the virtuosity of the decidedly discreet guitarist. The continuing message is, this musician lets his guitar do the talking.

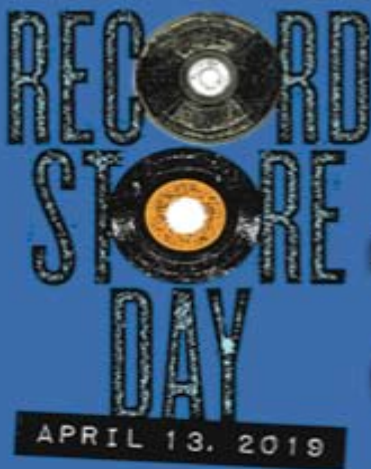
Next is Ike Turner's Matchbox, with more of the fast-fingered guitar work and call-answers with the vocalist. Born Under A Bad Sign has www.Swaves.com

the feel of BB King in the backing music, which carries over to the guitar, in the distinctly sharp tones of a Strat. My Old Friend The Blues is, by contrast, a strummed and arpeggio piece, the last hope of "Can't believe I ever doubted you, My Old Friend The Blues," while I Know Its A Sin is a slow number with nice melodic guitar work. Throughout the album, Piccolo's vocals add feeling and depth, the rhythm players, flair and steadiness.

This Time Around is a fine tribute to the blues, delivered with flair and finesse. The album is available on all of the major online music sites.

- Jon Persson





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Brandon Santini

"The Long Shot"

American Showplace

Brandon Santini earned his chops through immersion, spending his nights singing in the Beale Street clubs that reveal more than anoint the talents of those who would approach the blues. His voice is smooth yet gritty, his echoing harmonica tells those parts of tales that words cannot convey. Santini wrote or co-wrote ten of the eleven tracks on this new album, and drew together no less than ten musicians to provide backup and accents to the opus. The result is tight, pulsing rhythms, with guitars that respond to vocal phrasing before soaring briefly into concise solos that compliment the songs. Keyboards provide undertones, and a complete, nicely produced sound carries throughout the album.

One More Day offers a nice contrast, a slow opening, guitar strumming piece over a bass line that is almost melodic. Santini sings "I keep prayin, Lord, for One More Day," bringing some slow, feeling harmonica work to the forefront. A distorted preacher precedes some www.Swaves.com

backup choral verse. In recent years Brandon Santini has been recognized for just such work with multiple nominations by the Blues Music Awards, and has been chosen to perform at a number of their awards ceremonies. Hailing originally from North Carolina, he relocated in 2003 to Memphis, where he absorbed the music and vibe of the Delta and North Mississippi hills.

Drive You Off My Mind highlights the energy this assemblage of musicians is capable of, with intimate harmonica and pedal guitar, as the protagonist sings "All the passing miles, you know the mirror just won't fade." Brandon Santini continues to earn his claim on the blues by performing 250 concerts per year around the world, adding miles to a voice that touches at the heart of the blues.

More information may be found at www.brandonsantini.com; bookings may be made at: doug@road-dawg.com.

- Jon Persson



COOKING WITH THE BLUES

By Jack Chaplin

Well, We are officially out of the woods weather wise, what a disappointment, not even one snow day! See, I like those nasty storms that could knock the power out for a few days, gets you stranded in the house, makes you have get out and shovel. Your all set with a weeks worth of groceries that you just bought (Had Enough To Last Two Weeks Already) and every snack that you could think of. If you smoke and or drink you have enough to last a few weeks because god forbid you should run out! If you got to shop late, no more bread and milk for you, shelves are bare. You lay around all day binge watching Shameless, playing games, reading, eating, drinking and napping. One bad storm years ago we got into the show Lost and watched it for 3 days! I love it though when the storm clears, the sun comes out and we're out shoveling in a light sweater. You wave to your neighbors, we all came out of it all right. A few years back we got hit with 3 feet, my daughter Luci and I worked out a good system. 10 shovels apiece, trade places, take a break, we cleared a wide swath out to the street in no time. It makes you feel good when you finish and look back, we are safe now and can escape if need be. Come on Spring with your Yellows and Greens, flowers that lay dormant poking their heads out with the thaw and continued warm sunshine. Almost time to dust off the Harley! (Did Just Fire It Up]

We beat the winter this year for a week and went down to Naples, Fl. What a great time although it was hot and broke records for March. 89 degrees when we left but it did feel good in the shade with a light wind blowing. We checked out a few nice restaurants but the one that took the cake was Trulucks.



We went one day for the Happy Hour which started at 4:00 but got we there at 5:00 and it was super packed. We were instructed by the hostess to stand next to a few seats at the bar that looked like they had been there a while and camp out but to not be obnoxious. Voila within 10 minutes we had a seat front and center. We ordered drinks all half price and perused the food specials. We started off with Tuna Tartare, served under a Guacamole stack with Tortilla Chips, very tasty with a hint of Sesame Oil. Next came 5 Jumbo Shrimp cocktail served in a silver dish with smoke billowing out from dry ice underneath, what a presentation! Next Escargots Bourguignonne (had to look up the spelling, been a while) classically served in a garlic butter sauce w/ toasted circles, Perfect. Lastly we order calamari which had a Thai twist to it, we even shared with 3 well dressed ladies next to us, making friends through food and drinks. We had a good time rubbing elbows with the privileged. Two wines, two Coconut Mai Tais, 3 mixed drinks for our new friends and all the appetizers, \$98.00 ! Such A Deal! We

went back the Following Monday when it was All You Can Eat Stone Crab Claws, \$89.00, Splurge for the week. Came with a Wedge Salad, extra of that Apple Smoked Bacon and The Roquefort Dressing please! They served a whole loaf of some amazing crispy house baked bread, I had their game though trying to fill me up before the crab hit the table. Out came the Stone Crab claws on ice, served with a classic mustard sauce and Jumbo Asparagus with Bernaise. I chose to dip my crab in the hot drawn butter. You could reorder all you wanted but I managed 18. The record I was told was 66. Stone Crabs are sustainable, when they are caught they break off the large claw and throw them back. They regenerate a new claw and the cycle continues. We saved room for a Baked Alaska, flamed up with rum table side. It was such a nice time that everyone should treat themselves to occasionally, life is too short!

I've been ducking into the movies lately over at the Mystic Cinemas in Old Mystic Village. The first showing of the day is \$6.50 for first run movies, they start as early as 10:30 am. The seats are uber comfy, popcorn is popped fresh, and they do serve beer and wine if you want to get tanked up for your added enjoyment. I always use to miss so many films but this year I was up on them come Oscars time. My pick was Green Book, I liked the story, music and the period cars and scenery, glad it won Best Picture. While your over in Mystic Village check

out Pink Basil. My friends Jill and Edward gave me a certificate and we went a few weeks back. Lavish ordered A Stir Fry Chicken dish which was great, I had never had Ramen Noodles before so I ordered the Spicy Ramen Noodle soup, \$12.95. It was so tasty, slow cooked Pork, Bok Choy, Veggies, a perfect boiled 3 min. Egg (soft center) and Ramen Noodles in a spicy soy broth. The pork belly was so tender and the broth was to die for! I had a cold and it did send me into a coughing fit until I got it under control. I went back a second time to see if it was as good, thumbs up! My suggestion is to eat half and bring half home, it is a huge portion! I want to try other menu option it all looked so good. Mystic Village Has It Going On!

My friend Nabil and his wife Kelly have opened Meatballs in the old Paisano's space on Upper Bank St. just on the Waterford line. It use to be a Howard Johnson's back in the day!! They had been looking for a space in New London for well over a year. They have a successful restaurant in E. Hampton, Long Island, had come over on the ferry to visit friends and fell in love with the town. Nabil looked at Captains Pizza, The Exchange, The Bulkley House and many other spots until the right one opened up. They signed the lease at the end of Feb. and had it opened by the third week of March! I have never seen such a quick turnaround, the staff is trained and are putting out a full menu of great pizza (ready to go slices), and a soup to nuts list of pasta, chicken,



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seafood, and veal dishes. They haven't opened up the bar and main dining room yet but coming very soon. They have done it right, got the doors opened and revenue coming in. So many restaurateurs take so long to get open and the meter is running. The cash becomes tight and the nerves set in! I am totally impressed and I see big business and success for Kelly, Nabil and their Family. Stop in and give them a big welcome to Ct, you'll be glad you did.

What a great parade New London had on April, 17th, St Patrick's Day. the whole city came out and what a time was had by all. Thank You especially to the New London Fire Departments Bagpipe and Drum Corp. They graced Daddy Jack's with their awesome music and presence. What a wonderful area we live in, my vow is to never take it for granted!

Happy Spring To All, put a few plants in the ground it will do you good. Grow some vegetables and watch the miracle of life. Jack

p.s. Rachel had been telling me about the restaurant in the old Otis Library downtown. It is an amazing space with a beautiful restaurant which just opened a few days ago. I'll tell you more next month, stop in and tell Nancy we sent you. Support Local Business, We Depend On You!!

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Fri	Sat
5 Carl Franklin	6 Roy Dunn Maclean Band
12 Chris MacKay & the Tone Shifters	13 Dick Campo Band
19 Hoot For Hunger	20 The Sons
26 Coalition Jazz Band	27 Mobiles
3 Dana and Hugh	4 The Red Liners

Registration for Second Annual Make Music Day Southeastern CT 2019 Now Open

The Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition seeks musicians, bands, and venues for 2nd annual Make Music Day Southeastern CT. Make Music Day 2019 takes place on June 21.

Registration is now open! Using the matchmaking software venues and musicians can register, create profiles and find a match for their Make Music Southeastern CT performance. Deadline to register is June 1.

Cultural Coalition Executive Director Wendy Bury says, "In the first ten days, we had about fifteen performers and a dozen venues register or renew their registration, which is exciting. New venues like Groton Family Farm registered and are looking for musicians for the whole day, while venues who had great experiences last year like New London Maritime Museum, Right Path Organic and Reliance Health Gallery are excited to participate again this year." Bury continues, "We are building on 2018's success and working towards a much bigger event this year with more musicians, venues, marketing and promotion that will turn southeastern CT into a music haven on June 21. We want to see performances in every city and town in southeastern CT."

Musicians of all abilities and genres are invited to showcase their talent and share their love of music! The event is an all-ages, all-inclusive celebration of music. Performers register by creating a profile then browse available venues and make an offer to perform in a Southeastern CT location. There is no fee to participate.

Make Music Southeastern CT wouldn't be possible without venues to host musicians. Venues can be in front of or in stores and restaurants, front porches, parks, schools, and more. Venues may be located indoors or outdoors (preferably outdoors) and must be accessible to the general public without an entry fee. Venues register, create a profile, browse musician profiles and then request a performer for their location.

Restaurants, storefront sidewalks or just spacious front gardens, any location can host a performance or participatory event as long as it free and accessible to the public. Make Music Southeastern CT is a unique way to activate a space, engage a community, and inspire anyone and everyone to discover the joy of making music.

All matches made through the matchmaking software will appear on the Make Music Southeastern CT promotions later this spring.

In 2018, the Southeastern CT Cultural Coalition, along with peer organizations from across the state, and in partnership with the CT Office of the Arts, brought Make Music Day to Connecticut for the first time. In Southeastern CT, Make Music Day 2018 featured more than 70 performances at over 50 venues that took place in the region featuring young musicians, emerging singers, established bands, community sing-a-longs and music lessons.

More information about Make Music Day 2019 can be found at www.makemusicday.org/southeasternct/ and www.makemusicday.org



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Foxwoods® Resort Casino and Sam Adams present Battle of the Bands Summer 2019 at Live@Atrium Bar & Lounge. Beginning May 15, and running every Wednesday evening throughout the summer, bands will rock the house for the chance to take home the grand prize of \$10,000. Each week, fans who attend the battle will have a chance to win prizes in appreciation for their support. Audience prizes include Foxwoods concert tickets and Battle of the Band t-shirts.

The \$10,000 grand prize will be awarded to the best overall band based on musical presentation, stage presence, audience response and originality. The run-

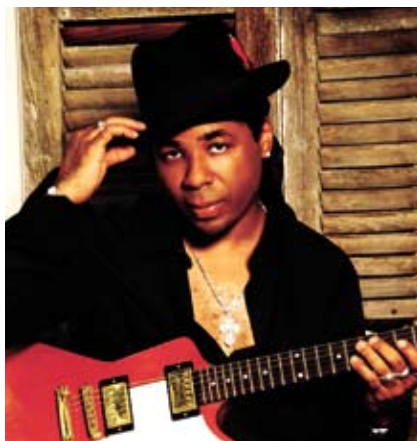
ner-up will win a party in The Music Box at Foxwoods' Grand Theater for the entire band, including food & beverage provided by Foxwoods Resort Casino. Runner-up band members will also receive overnight accommodations at Foxwoods. The third place winner will receive Foxwoods Extreme Adventures passes for each band member.

Interested bands may submit demo file or a link to their demo to BattleOfTheBands@Foxwoods.com by April 8. Videos are encouraged, but are not required. With each submission, bands should include a photo, bio,

contact email and phone number. There is no entry fee required.

Qualifying bands will be notified by April 22 via the email provided with their date selected to battle. Bands must have a 45 minute set prepared. Original songs are accepted; however bands must include at least 50% cover songs in the set.

For more information about Foxwoods Battle of the Bands 2019 visit www.foxwoods.com/battle-of-the-bands/



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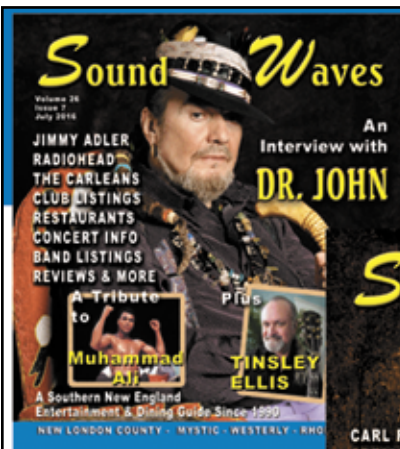
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