

Sound

Magazine



Waves

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Volume 30
Issue 3
March 2020

- Plus**
- Pear Duo
 - The Forrest McDonald Band
 - The Meadows Brothers Band
 - Hudspeth & Taylor
 - Johnny Rawls
 - Daphne Lee Martin

**New England
Music Hall of Fame**

**A Southern New England
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An Interview with **The Chieftains**



**Buddy
Cage**



NEW LONDON COUNTY - MYSTIC - WESTERLY - RHODE ISLAND

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I would like to share with our readers the introduction Buddy Cage did for the 1st issue of Sound Waves Magazine. Buddy also did the cover story - The Grateful Dead.

A NEW MAGAZINE. The mind reels with the possibilities. And I have an assignment, a "cover" no less. Dynamite. I've been hammering away on this Brother word-processor for almost a year now and I'm eager to strut my stuff. Never taken a typing course, I was always too busy learning technique of quite another kind.

I have written pieces for **RELIX** magazine on occasion (they still list me as a staff writer) and those stories were centered on my past musical experiences, first-hand stuff, not from the eye of a bystander but from one of a participants, one of the principals.

I wish this new magazine prosperity and fun and am looking forward to a relationship where I feel comfortable in my expression. I am hopeful, since the publisher and I are old friends, that I can write what I see fit. That is the only way I can enjoy writing. Notwithstanding, the state of Connecticut has an exigency, created by the demise of **ROCKFAX**, for a magazine or similar paper to support rock fans' desire to be informed of latest attractions, and so on. Of course there are many paths available to a writer's fancy. Whither? We'll find out in time, I reckon.

Good Luck David and Crew!
Buddy Cage (July '90)

*Thank You My Friend. R.I.P. Buddy
Till we met again*



Ali Kaufman
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Sound Waves

March 2020

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 3

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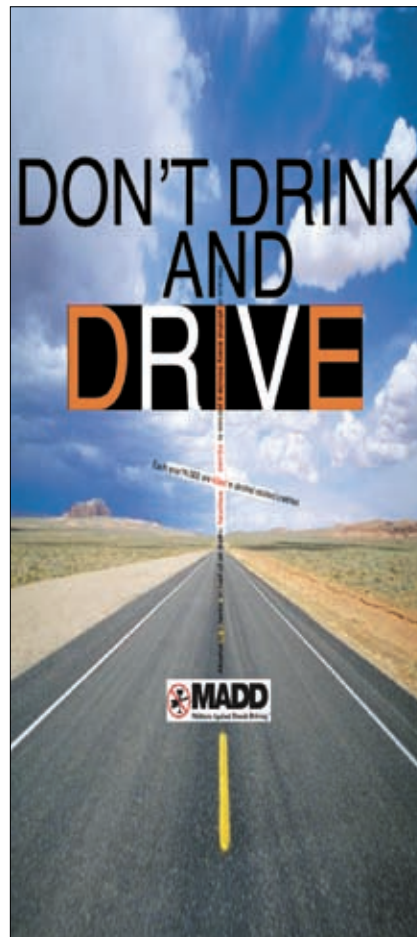
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BUDDY CAGE

2/18/46 -2/5/20

Oceans Of Love -Light - Sound
A Life Inside The Music

Buddy Cage has left this life on earth to journey on towards the comic inner light...to set sail across the universe.



To all his fans, friends,& family, the legacy of music Buddy has recorded will stand the test of time and inspire future generations.

Oh what a mighty time!, to have been a part of changing music and it's culture with his soul traveler Jerry Garcia, who sent him with his love and admiration to be a New Rider.

To know Cage was a life long friendship of love and soul. Fifty years here!. Buddy was about doing it!, and doing it right!!. If you couldn't cut it..then you don't deserve to play it!. Buddy was a master, a genius, on the petal steel guitar, an innovator playing space and time. When Buddy played he would lead, knowing what to put into a song, and what to leave out in the most tasteful way, enhancing and taking it up on so many levels in every band and the artists he played with..Buddy was and is, and will always be a "Different Drummer!" adding his original sound called BUDDY CAGE!.

As for the man, Buddy was a most private, and selective towards the end of his time here...Lisa Allega, Shanoah Whitman, and yours truly, were the loves he trusted to go through it with him. It was a privilege to be with such a warrior fighting the brave battle of cancer, that could not silence his courage, could not cripple his love..and could not destroy his peace!!

Buddy Cage is the best in my life time, we will never see his like again, nor will we hear his beautiful ways of describing life, the beauty of nature, and his love of birds. Buddy's joy of playing was a force through decades... playing inside his music for people everywhere, who would hear his magic soar on infinite levels on his beloved petal steel guitar.

Buddy Cage played for us all, to always imagine with love...and now we imagine with love for Buddy.

Till we meet again my Brother..Love you forever & ever.

Jack Scarangella



Frank Sanzo, Jack Scarangella, and Buddy Cage

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3/14 THE CHIEFTAINS
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4/2 COMPLEXIONS
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4/4 NEIL BERG'S 50 YEARS OF ROCK & ROLL
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MUSIC NOTES

"Requiem For an Old Rider"

By Mark T. Gould

It's hard enough when any of us music fans loses one of our favorite performers, but it is doubly tough when that person also happens to be a friend.

That's what happened to Sound Waves editor and publisher Dave Pottie with the passing last month of Buddy Cage, the legendary pedal steel guitarist with the equally legendary New Riders of the Purple Sage.

For Dave, who has been in and around the music business for a long time, it was the loss of not only a musician he long admired and enjoyed, but a friend.

"I first met Buddy back in 1987," Pottie told me shortly after Cage's death. "My roommate picked me up in Montville, and Buddy was in the car.

"He told me Buddy needed a place to stay, and asked if it was okay if he moved in. Of course, I had no objections.

"He ended up staying for a few years, and there were some interesting moments, like the time Jerry Garcia called the house to wish us a Merry Christmas, or when Rick Danko from the Band spent some weekends at the house, which resulted in some outrageous jam sessions in my living room."

The attraction of other important musicians like Garcia and Danko to Cage's sphere was no accident.

Cage learned to play pedal steel guitar at a young age, was a professional musician by the mid 60s, and joined the seminal Canadian band Great Speckled Bird in 1969. During the next few years, he also

4 SOUND WAVES



worked with singer Anne Murray and the folk duo Brewer & Shipley.

In 1971, Garcia, who had become friendly with Cage, left the New Riders, and Cage replaced him as the band's pedal steel guitarist. He remained with them through 1982, and was featured, among many other recordings, on "The Adventures of Panama Red," which many New Rider fans consider to be the group's masterpiece.

In 2005, Cage and original member David Nelson reformed the band, and they continued to perform on and off for a number of years. Cage also played with Derek Trucks and Sonny Landreth, among others.

But, despite his musical accomplishments, Cage became much more to Pottie.

"Buddy was there when I decided to start Sound Waves Magazine," Pottie remembered. "He wrote the introduction, and he did the first cover story, on the Grateful Dead.

"He was a big supporter of the magazine," he added, "but that was Buddy's nature, he would always help you if he could."

He also kept things lively around the Pottie residence, he said.

"I remember one time that he had just gotten back from an Australian

tour with the Band," Pottie recalled. "He had spent some time with the native Aborigines, and they had given him a tribal symbol that looked like an upside-down cross.

"So, one day the doorbell rang, and wearing only his shorts and the 'cross', Buddy answered it.

"The people at the door were Jehovah's Witnesses. They took one look at Buddy, and turned around, and without a word, ran down the walk, and they never came back."

David regrets that he didn't see

much of Cage in his later years, but his thoughts about his old friend were never far away.

"I didn't get to see him as much as I should have during the last few years of his life," Pottie said. "There was always something else going on.

"Buddy was a good soul, and anyone who got to know him was lucky to have him in their lives.

"We all need to take the time to see those we love and cherish. Life is too short."





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All The World's a Stage

"Desperados"

By Sue Menhart

We musicians can be a desperate bunch. We act like "we're all that" but we're really not. We desperately want to show off our stuff because there's some inner drive within us that does not end and continually calls to us. We take gigs at questionable venues because people nicely ask. We fill in for somebody who's sick even though we've probably got what they got. We spend our last dime to fix an amp because the show must go on. We play outside in sweltering hot conditions because we already committed. We troll the internet looking for open jams. We throw bands together and practice for months to play one special private show. We look up songs on our iPads and play them on the fly because an audience member begged for it. We're not so sure we have a clue what we're doing or why. Or, like I (numero uno desperado) recently did, we take last minute outdoor gigs knowing it is going to be 36 degrees out with a chance of snow.

Desperados.

Though precautions were taken to ensure the success of putting on the most wonderful of shows, it was, in the nicest of terms, a sh*t show. Firstly, and unbeknownst to me, wearing a hat that covers your ears, in order to keep warm, blocks, well, your ears, and you can't hear the monitor. Yelling and screaming at the sound man inevitably ensues. Secondly, wearing nice warm winter gloves when playing guitar as you can imagine, is not possible. I could have purchased fingerless gloves, but there was no time. Thus, my fingers froze. I had a little portable heater with me but even laying my hands directly on the device (as outlined in the directions is something you just absolutely shouldn't be doing) didn't do sh*t to warm my fingers. Here's an experiment for you all: Put your hands into a www.Swaves.com



nice, big fresh bowl of freezing ice water. Hold them there for about 10 minutes. Find a guitar pick or something similar, like a toothpick. Can you grasp it? Hold onto it? Act like you're strumming? Does the item keep falling out of your grip? Okay, keep trying. After about 10 minutes you may be able to hold onto the thing. Great! Now, stick your hands back into the cold water for another 10 minutes. Repeat the steps above. Now, repeat the steps above for three hours. Fun isn't it? Feel like a rock star? Thirdly, there's the constant runny nose when out in 36-degree weather with a chance of snow. I won't go into the details here, but it's pretty hard to keep on singing with that stuff running down your face.

Desperados.

Every time I agree to these questionable things I say the same thing to myself: NEVER AGAIN. How many times have I said that to myself? About 36 million times. Including the time(s) I said yes to playing on the back of an Irish Parade float. But that's another story...

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

See ya out there!

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.

March 6th

TONY MARSHALL

March 13

TOM BROWN 3

March 20

JAVA GROOVE

March 27

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LIVE MUSIC

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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn

Hello! My sweet Bar Flies! Happy St. Paddy's Day! Very exciting! I will be heading to MYSTIC for the Annual ST. PADDY'S DAY PARADE, that I've been excluded from for the last 4 years. But anywho. Who's counting? I'll be hanging at ANGIE'S PIER 27 with the Gang to see THE FAKE EXPERIENCE and of course enjoying various other Shenanigan's in town! □

Had a Fabulous time last month with a big group of friends at CC O'BRIEN'S! BOBBY CHRISTINA started a 6 week event JUKEBOX JOINT on Sundays with different musical guests joining him weekly.



And it starts early for us oldies who have to be home in bed by 7!

The week I was there BOBBY was playing with LISA MARIE. Can I hear an Amen? She was on fire! With songs like Your Past is All Trash, Booze in the House, Until I Dropped into the Drink and Getting Loaded Tonight everyone in the joint was dancing and BeeBopping away! The sax guy BOB HASSAN also rocked the house! It was sooooo good!

BOBBY and guests will be at CC O'BRIEN'S on Sundays from 2-5. Check out March 15 when he plays with DAVE HOWARD, TOMMY FERRARO, TOMMY REED and DICKY REED for a HIGH ROLLERS REUNION!

Had Talented MIKE ROGOFF in the House at the HANDLEBAR CAFE. It was a Friday afternoon, the wind was blowing, the smell of loaded baked potatoes was in the air and he began to play. What a show. All the usual suspects were on hand, BONNIE, SHELLY, LISA, JIM, YVONNE, DAWN, the other DAWN, HARRY, NANCY, JANINE, MARK, ED, KATHLEEN, HEATHER, BILLY, MELISSA, DAVE, ROCCO, LISA, the other LISA, BRIAN, DOUG, TERRY, MATT, TAMI and a few others who flitted in and out. Was an awesomely good time! I love it when a plan comes together!

Speaking of plans..ROLLIN' WITH NOLAN will be happening on March 14 at the HANDLEBAR CAFE. MIKE has been a bit under the weather, so let's show him some support. And Speaking of support, long time friend ROSE TURDO from CLYDESDALE'S TAVERN lost her nephew DERRECK recently and a GOFUNDME page was set up to help his 3 small children. Let these kids feel your love! Support Local!

Went to PHOENIX last night after the ROGOFF Show to see WILD NIGHTS with sweet TAMI. It was WAYNE BYZDLO'S 40TH Birthday Bash! Had 2 chocolate martinis before we got there and had to write this the next day :(but saw a few faces before I ran out the door! WAYNE'S beautiful wife SAM, her parents RITCHIE and CANDY, KELLY ANDREWS, MARK SILVA, MICHELLE BABCOCK, MARIA LEMAY, MELISSA DOTY MURRAY and a whole roomful of people I couldn't see without my glasses! Oh and the music? Rocked the House!!



6 SOUND WAVES

It's my birthday, it's my birthday! Ald as a few Bar Fly fans know.. It's also Sister ELIZABETH MITCHELL CIPRIANO'S and alsooo. ARTHUR J WEYANT'S. All in the same day! Yikes! So there's that, but also DARLA VEILLEUX, BARBARA STILLMAN and that's all I got because again, lovely FaceBook has robbed me of my page, my faith and my ability to see other people's Birthdays. So Happy Happy Everyone!

Don't forget about the SPRING FLING to be held at the PORT AND STARBOARD DECK at OCEAN BEACH! The E STREET BAND, the longest running and most requested BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN Tribute Band will be playing to support PREVENTHEALTHRIVE.ORG which was inspired by MICHELE COTE BASSETT and helps to improve the lives of those touched by cancer. Cocktail hour is at 7:30 on March 6!

I'm on my way to BIKE WEEK in DAYTONA with the beautiful Miss BABCOCK, probably just have a boring ol' time (insert laughing my ass off emojis here) so I'll let you know how that whole thing works out! Keep ya posted my sweet flies! Ciao!



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3 **Sarah Luann Thompson** 5-8pm
6 **Izzy Malek** 7:30pm

13 **Chris Plymton** 7:30pm

17 **Andy & Bethany** 5-8pm
20 **Kevin & Heather** 7:30pm

24 **Lucas Neil** 5-8pm
27 **Dos Amigos** 7:30pm

31 **Jaime Livesey** 5-8pm



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20 **Brothers Donovan**

27 **Five Bean Row**

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Sat

7 **Patty Tuitte**

14 **Lonnie Gasperini Trio**

21 **Dan Stevens**

28 **Vince Thompson & The Next Fun Thing**

4 **The Troublemakers**





BAND DATES

ANDY & BETHANY

17 - Angie's, Mystic, CT 5pm
26 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 5pm

ANDY CHANEY & FRIENDS

6 - Rocks 21, Mystic, CT 6:30pm
12,26 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 5pm
14 - Mystic Pizza 2, N. Stonington, CT 7pm
16,31 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
19 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT 8pm
21 - Shipyard Tavern, Mystic, CT 7pm
27 - Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI 7pm

AUBREY ATWATER, ELWOOD DONNELLY, CATHY CLASPER-TORCH

7 - Common Fence Fest, Portsmouth, RI
14 - All Souls, New London, CT
21 - Unitarian Church, Sharon, MA

AZALEA DRIVE

7 - Black Sheep, Niantic, CT
13 - Stoney Creek, Mashentucket, CT 6pm
28 - Bowling Center, Groton, CT

BARSTOOL DIPLOMATS

14 - Excalibur, Versailles, CT
21 - Ryan's, Canterbury, CT

BRANDT TAYLOR

6 - "86'd", Taftville, CT 8-11
7 - Horsebrook, Plainfield, CT 9:30-12:30
8,15,29 - Music Lady, Moosup, CT 4-8
12,26 - Daddy Jack's, New London, CT 7-10
13 - Hops 44, Mansfield, CT 7:30-11:30
14 - Railside, Dayville, CT 7:30-10:30
27 - Sasso's, Torrington, CT 8-11
28 - VFW, W.Hartford, CT 5-10
30 - Hungry Tiger, Manchester, CT 9:30-12:30

THE CARTELLS

5,12,19,26 - Norwich Inn, Norwich, CT 6:30pm
5 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7pm
8 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3pm
11 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 7:30pm
14 - Sneekers, Groton, CT 8:30pm
27 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6pm

CRAZY ANTS

14 - June's Pub, Killingworth, CT
28 - Scotch Plains Tavern, Essex, CT

DARIK & THE FUNBAGS

6 - Six String, Foxboro, MA
7 - Poor Richard's, Chicopee, MA

8 SOUND WAVES

13 - Blackstone, Southington, CT
14 - Newport Blues, Newport, RI
17 - Brennans, Holyoke, MA 8pm
27 - Shamrock, Waterbury, CT
28 - Phoenix, Pawcatuck, CT 8pm

Dr. G & THE BELIEVERS

15 - Black Eyed Sally's, Hartford, CT 3pm

EIGHT TO THE BAR

6 - Town Hall, W. Hartford, CT 8:30-11:30
20 - Black Eyed Sallys, Hartford, CT 8:30
21 - Community Ctr, E. Lyme, CT 8-11
24 - Oakdale Theater, Wallingford, CT 5:30-10pm
27 - Vinnie's, Middletown, CT 8-11
28 - German Club, Pawtucket, RI 8-11

F & BLUES BAND

21 - Toyo, Colchester, CT 8:30-11:30
27 - Sneekers, Groton, CT 8:30-12

FRANKENPHIL

5 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
6 - McBrides Pub, Providence, RI 8pm
7 - Noble Jay, Niantic, CT 5pm
13 - Break Hotel, Narragansett, RI 6:30pm
14 - Shermans Taphouse, Southington, CT 8pm
15 - Askew, Providence, RI 1pm
16 - The Pub, Matunuck, RI 3pm

JAMES HARRIS

4,7,11,18,25 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT
6 - Latitude 41, Mystic, CT 7pm
13 - Iron's, Mystic, CT 5pm
14 - Vineyard, Stonington, CT 2pm
15 - MBar, Mystic, CT 4:30pm
19 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI
20 - Steak loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
27 - MBar, Mystic, CT 4pm
28 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT
29 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT

KEN SERIO JAZZ TRIO

8 - Perks & Corks, Westerly, RI

LARA HERSCOVITCH

8 - First Church, Middletown, CT 4pm
14 - Find on 6, Johnston, RI
27 - Rockwood Stage III, Manhattan, NY
28 - Next Door, New Haven, CT

LOUIS & CLARK

13 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 6-9pm

THE LOCOMOTIVES

6 - Elks Club, Westbrook, CT
11 - Habit on the Hill, Marlborough, CT
25 - Toyos, Colchester, CT

NICK BOSSE

6 - Beach Hotel, Madison, CT 8:30-10
7 - Mystic Pizza II, N.Stonington, CT 7-10
13 - Phoenix, Pawcatuck, CT 8-11

14 - Public House, Niantic, CT 7-10
15 - Shunock River, N.Stonington, CT 1-4
20 - Brazen Hen, Westerly, RI 8:30-11:30
25 - Main St. Rest, Pawcatuck, CT 5:30-8:30
28 - Haversham Tavern, Westerly, RI
29 - The Irons, Mystic, CT 2-5

NORTHERN ROOTS

13 - Phoenix, Pawcatuck, CT 8-11

RAMBLIN' DAN STEVENS

3,10,17,31 - Nightingale's, Old Lyme, CT 6pm
5 - Public House, Old Lyme, CT 6pm
7 - Witchdoctor Brewing, Southington, CT 6:30pm
11 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
12 - Beach Hotel, Madison, CT 8pm
13 - Noble Jay Brewing, Niantic, CT 5pm
14 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 10pm
15 - Bee & Thistle, Old Lyme, CT 6pm
19 - Hog River Brewing, Hartford, CT 7pm
20 - Sarah's, Ridgefield, CT 7:30pm
21 - Daddy Jack's, New London, CT 8pm
24 - Theodore's, Springfield, MA 9pm
26 - Gritty McDuff's, Auburn, ME 7:30pm
28 - Thirsty Pig, Portland, ME 2-5pm

ROCK N' SOUL REVUE

6 - Lyme Tavern, Niantic, CT 8-11
14 - Bills Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7:30-10:30
28 - Portuguese Club, Stonington, CT 7-10

SEX & CANDY

6 - Chicago Sams, Cromwell, CT
20 - Tipping Chair, Southington, CT

SHAME DAN SCANDAL

27 - Amigo's, Westerly, RI 730pm

SUE MENHART

21 - Rocks 21, Mystic, CT 6-9pm

SUGAR

13 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI
22 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 2pm

SUNDAY GRAVY

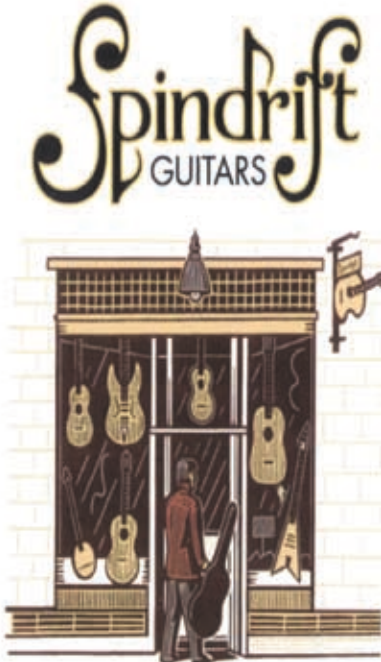
13 - Sneekers, Groton, CT

14 - Wood River Inn, Richmond, RI
28 - Lyme Tavern, Niantic, CT 8pm

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By Rex Rutkoski

NEW ENGLAND-BOUND PADDY MOLONEY AND THE CHIEFTAINS: AT 81, STILL DOING WHAT FEELS RIGHT!

That human leprechaun, Paddy Moloney, the chief of the Chieftains, is in a jolly mood this morning as his eyes dance across his property, focusing on his garden.

"It's cool and beautiful here in Ireland and the blooms, you wouldn't believe, my wife and I love our garden," one of the legends of traditional Irish music explains over the phone. "Don't invest in a house if you come here. You won't go back. If you come to Ireland you won't regret it. It's the whole friendliness, the whole feeling."

Yet he and his mates, officially named "Ireland's Musical Ambassadors" in 1989, are indeed about to leave the Emerald Isle for a while on a major USA tour, dubbed "The Irish Goodbye," including a Storrs concert March 14 at UConn's Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts.

Is that title a wee bit of a tease, suggesting this is the Chieftains last go round, or does the band, formed in 1962, just playfully want to keep its generations of fans guessing?

Moloney laughs in answering.

"The Rolling Stones (showing no signs of retiring), started six months after we did," he reminds.

So, he is asked directly, "Will this be your last tour, or is that up in the air?"

"I think it's up in the air. I didn't invent that tour title ('The Irish Goodbye.') Somebody else came up with it," he replies through more laughter.

Yes, he acknowledges, he is 81. "That's where I am at the moment, but I don't feel like that," he says. "My wife Rita says I have been in rehearsal for retirement for the last 10 years."

Who knows, he implies, there could be another 10 years ahead. After all, he explains, there are many things he hasn't done but still wants to take on.

Tomorrow, for instance, he will be in the studio recording a piece of music for a poet.

10 SOUND WAVES

"It's poetry and music. Essentially, I want to contribute to the whole world of Irish art. My daughter is a tremendous artist herself. My youngest son is a rocket scientist, an MIT grad in Boston. An awful lot drives and motivates me, my wife torments me every minute of day and keeps me going. She is an artist herself. A lot happens in the life of team Moloney."

ALL-STAR ADMIRERS

Through the decades it seems that everyone of renown wants to play with this beloved group, or have them perform with them. Their list of admirers includes Van Morrison, Eric Clapton, Roger Waters, Roger Daltrey, Jackson Browne, Nanci Griffith and -- for heaven's sake! -- the Pope! They have toured and recorded with classical flutist James Galway and provided the music for "The Tailor of Gloucester," a children's story with narration by actress Meryl Streep.

In 1994 they were invited to be part of the "Great Music Experience," a concert beamed worldwide from a temple in Japan. It featured the Chieftains in solo performance and in collaboration with such artists as Joni Mitchell, Bob Dylan, the Tokyo Philharmonic, even 150 chanting Buddhist Monks.

They have performed at the Berlin Wall, on the Great Wall of China and in the U.S. Capitol building, while being embraced by fans of multiple genres, including rock, folk, country and classical. Outdoors in Dublin, they performed before Pope John Paul II and a record-breaking 1.3 million people.

They joined the Boston Pops' John Williams in recording music for the Tom Cruise film, "Far and Away." They also wrote and performed the Academy Awards-winning score of Stanley Kubrick's 1976 film, "Barry Lyndon."

GIVING MUSICAL CREDIT

"It's so uplifting for us," Moloney says. "We have to give full credit to the music itself. That's what made us popular. It's so melodic. Once you get people's attention and they listen, we win them over. We've been very lucky and successful that way. We must be doing something right. For decades we have been getting our message across in a very light-hearted way."

He is proudest, he says, of "having crossed the barrier and getting across the message of real Irish music, getting it across to the world. It seems to have happened without any gimmicks whatsoever."

It has been said that The Chieftains' range of music is among the most eclectic and expansive in the world. Their 1995 album, "The Long Black Veil," stands in testimony to that observation. In addition to The Rolling Stones -- Mick Jagger sings the title song -- guests include Sting, Van Morrison, Marianne Faithfull, Sinéad O'Connor, Mark Knopfler and Tom Jones.

The caliber of Moloney's pipe and whistle playing has been recognized by Paul McCartney, Stevie Wonder, Eric Clapton, Jagger and many others.

"Folk music is the beginning of all music," Moloney says. "It's music from the heart, the soul, the stomach. To me, this is something that is just me. I've been chosen. I'm very fortunate to be able to play it and have it as a career."

DOING WHAT'S RIGHT

He says there was no undue pressure on the Chieftains after they were designated their homeland's musical ambassadors. "I don't say, 'I better do this,' or 'Should I do this?' I just do what I feel is right."

Praised for expanding the boundaries of Irish music, The Chieftains accept the recognition with gratitude.

Moloney says when he started the band, he had a dream about something happening, but it was only a dream. "My deep love was for traditional Irish music, which was my forte and the other musicians' forte," he explains. "Some of the purists had some reservations about us. I did different arrangements. It painted a different picture, a different color. It brought the

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music out of itself. More people who may not have been into it could see into it a little deeper.”

Audiences awaiting them in America certainly have embraced that depth.

PADDY'S GOOD VIBES

“I have great feeling about this tour. It's going to be a superb tour. We'll reintroduce and bring back some of the music that made us very popular, give people the feel of the Chieftains music on over 50 albums, six Grammys and an Oscar to boot. We have a fantastic group of musicians with us,” he says. “Who would ever believe that traditional Irish music, without some flashing lights, just music, would continue to this very day. It's been a super musical journey over the 58 years now and it's still continuing. The United States has always been a tremendous market for us to go and play for those great people all over the states, absolute superb. New England is always good for us there. And we continue to visit new places worldwide.”

He still enjoys touring.

“Once we hit the boards (stage), not checking in to hotels and all that stuff, touring and the concert we put on is great. We have some local dancers come on and have a local choir sing songs we did from ‘Long Journey Home,’ including Van Morrison’s ‘Shenandoah,’ the best version I’ve ever heard, and we finish with Elvis Costello. There’s a lot of magic in the whole thing. People love us. We give people an image and vision of Ireland, which to me is one of greatest countries in the world.”

(Rex Rutkoski is a veteran regional, national and international freelance writer. He can be reached at rexrutkoski@gmail.com)



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LOCAL BEAT

“Daphne Lee Sings and Plays “Scared Fearless:” Yet Another Country and Blues Laced Album of Love and Loss”

By Andrew Krebs

Alas . . . Daphne hath recently graced us with yet another poignant album of longing and regret as exemplified by the lyrical release “Scared Fearless” about the ambivalence, resilience and dignity of finding and losing love. The album is peppered with playing- card-and-sailboat metaphors and is an achey but satisfying release of dignified Americana.

The album starts out with “Done Let the Sun Go Down” featuring fiddle, twangy electric guitar bends and plucky echoey leads. The longing in her words is evident as she tries to “see some good in your heart . . . just once more before we part.” hints at Daphne’s hints at how she might not be around one morning as she ventures into an unknown future life direction symbolized by riding a boat pointing currents towards the sunrise.

Next comes “Young Man’s Game” which starts with moving strings and organ with Eagle-esque lyrics about card-playing . . . trading passion for pain in relationships and the music business like an inspirational fire that’s warm but burns if you get too close. “Rainy Day Woman” is a song with low guitar notes about the loneliness of life on the road. Country and blues rock organs touch this song about “feeling empty when everything’s going alright . . . for dear life hold on tight.” Sometimes there’s a void in oneself that even love cannot always fill.

The search for integrity and direction continue on “Some Fool (In 12 SOUND WAVES



My Heart): a gentle guitar and fiddle laced love song like nakedness aching to be made whole as they lay briefly together: “Casting lives into the gale, mistaking an anchor for a sail . . . spying a calm glint of light and hope . . . longing to dive into making mistakes she wishes her younger self made.” This song conveys the tension between wanting a consummate relationship while still wanting to avoid feeling stuck.

Bad feelings simmer starting with “Break My Heart Tomorrow:” one of her more intense songs about relishing with blind desire the early honeymoon part of a relationship only to later doubt their devotion after years of hot headed arguments, “cold feet” and “skinned knees.” “In Certain Company” starts sadly off with slow, thumping drums and more plucky strings about a talented former friend or lover whose company adores him but whose dishonest drive to drink is like the pull of the moon, denying his desire to fight it. Memories burn like old photos (she sings) and love can change everyone.

The relationship she once sailed with into the sun becomes a weight to bear on “Willing Victim,” which smacks not of relationship masochism but of “knowing how it will end before the 1st line dries (as she puts on her makeup and the curtains rise).” Doesn’t a ship need a sail or an anchor? Daphne inquires. Feel-

ing rootless and directionless can be distressing like being trapped in the belly of a prestigious lover confidently braving the darkness but knowing the storm will eventually drive you apart.

Daphne resolves her cognitive dissonance on “I Hope I Never Meet the Bitch Who Broke Your Heart” by sensing the affections of another lover on his fingertips and lips but assuming she “got nothing but the timing wrong” in the relationship. “Fuck Tinder I’m Standing Right Here” finds the singer dreaming of a California vacation during a precarious time in her relationship. “You’ll realize I’m the one for whom you come knocking . . .” she warns as dating sites compete for his affections and he scrolls through other pretty faces on the internet. “. . . (but) one of these days will be the last time I pick up” she warns. Sometimes dating sites make secure lifelong relationships a little bit harder as the fleeting ease of finding someone new and exciting is just a click away . . . The ship finds

a ray of light once again as Daphne bridges the transition between romance and friendship. The guitarist sings “John Henry’s Lullaby” with dignity and faith in helping her unnamed lover (or friend) lean their weary self on her and get their feet back on the ground so they can walk together. Like the rebirth of an unbroken sailboat rising from the ashes and “catching air on the water,” Daphne uses relationship similes to great effect on similar song “Jack of Diamonds.” Finally, “Till We Meet Again” is a sad slow guitar song about him leaving his hat on her head before he gives her one more memorable kiss (as the scent on his pillow fades).

For listeners experiencing heartache, Daphne’s recent album may be a welcome panacea for your blues or just a nice country blues journey for laid back fans of guitar-organ-and fiddle Americana. Enjoy.



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By Author Kenneth Pottie

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New England Music Hall of Fame Announces Inaugural Induction

Event March 26, 2020

Composer Henry Purcell once said, "If music be the food of love, play on." Music knows no race, or gender. It is one of the most powerful forces in the world, and can both inspire and heal. Owned by New England-based business Tag Team Friendship Productions LLC, the New England Music Hall of Fame was founded by ECW legend Angel Orsini, Queen of the Paranormal, Kadrolsha Ona Carole, and International award-winning filmmaker and Blues Ambassador Christopher Annino who also suffers from Asperger Syndrome. Its mission is to unite, educate, promote and preserve the integrity of New England music and the people who represent it. The board of directors is a diverse group of musicians and educators.

March 26, 2020 at 7 pm will be the inaugural New England Music Hall of Fame induction ceremony and concert, held at and hosted by The Phoenix, located at 215 Liberty Street, Pawcatuck CT. The concert will begin at 7pm however the venue will be open all day and most of the musicians will be available for a meet and greet. Tickets are available online at Eventbrite and can be purchased at the door. The event is a fundraiser for Jean Millington, bassist and co-founder of the first all-female music group signed to a major record label "Fanny." Jean had a debilitating stroke and a portion of the proceeds of the event will go towards her recovery and medical bills.

The slated inductees for the March 26 event are: Co-founder and lead guitarist of Fanny June Millington (MA); featured vocalist for NBC's SNL Band and leader of Rebel Montez, The Beehive Queen Christine Ohlman (CT); Joe Cocker's and Robert Palmer's guitarist Cliff Goodwin (MA),



renowned blues artists Marci and Jim Hooper (CT); founding member of Roomful of Blues Greg Piccolo (RI), lead guitarist of Autograph Jimi Bell (CT); Grammy-nominated Joseph Firecrow (CT); The Legendary Shaboo Inn (CT); David Lefty Foster (CT); and internationally-renowned drummer Bobby T Torello (CT). Additional awards that evening will include: the Sound Waves Award: Ron Carson; Bruce Rieder Award: Thomas Horan; Best New Artist: Ryan "The Continental Kid" Newman; Best Young Artist: Veronica Lewis; Lifetime Achievement Award for Music: George

Baker; Historian Award: Steve Kubica; T.V/ Film Lifetime Award: Cassandra Peterson (Elvira); and Lifetime Achievement Award for Journalism: Denise D'ascenzo WFSB.

To be considered for a nomination for the NEMHOF the candidate must be a New England-based musician, songwriter, singer, producer, promoter or historical location. The individual must have lived in New England for approximately ten years or more. Nonresidential candidates must have either frequently toured or recorded in New England.

The ceremony will feature the debut of the NEMHOF All-Star Band Sister Funk, Sinthea Sinatra, Dave "Kosher Kid" Robbins, members of Johnny Winters Band The

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Killer Bee, Jade Stoltz, The Blue Collar Band, and Blues Hall of Fame inductees David Stoltz and Tom "The Suit" Forst. The event will be hosted by Queen of the Paranormal Kadrolsha Ona Carole and "The Prince of Mystery" Skip Daniels, Jade Stoltz, Senator Heather Somers, more (the lineup is subject to change).

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HEARING AID



Pear Duo "No Boundaries" Ginsky Music

The Husband and wife team known as "Pear Duo" are "unapologetically middle-aged" and carving out a new music career after spending decades in the L.A. music scene performing with American Idol, the Moody Blues, Ray Charles and Sheena Easton among others. They got outa town, as it were, and crossed the country twice in their VW Sedan performing intimate house concerts, carving out their own path. Their new album "No Boundaries" is an impeccably produced collection of piano, acoustic guitar and vocal tunes, some originals and some covers. Julie Ragins sings in a sweet, higher register and handles the guitar while Curtis Brengle expertly accompanies on piano. The album fuses jazz, blues, rock, soul and Americana to form an easy listening experience; sometimes nostalgic, but always fresh, modern and true.

The opener "Soul Refill," penned by Ragins, is uplifting and catchy. "Lay My Head" features bluesy piano and a passionate vocal line from Ragins. "The Texting Song" is tongue-and-cheek, jazzy and fun with plenty of vocal acrobatics. "Where Do We Go From Here" is introspective and just a beautiful song. The duo's cover of Aretha Franklin's "Baby I Love You" showcases their undeniable talent as Ragins effortlessly hits those classic notes. Tony Bennet's "You Must Believe in Spring" gets a fresh new take from Ragins' higher register. While listening you can imagine yourself walking around Central Park in New

York or enjoying a cocktail at a piano bar in a bygone era. The piano instrumental "Six Eight Tune" showcases Brengle's serious chops (the man can rip on the ivories.) "Radio" is a road trip song, wide open and hopeful. "7 Fairway Drive" is just exquisite, full of longing and memory. The album wraps with the rockin' "Twenty Bucks."

Pear Duo will be booking more house concerts in the future if you're looking for a close up and personal musical experience in your own home. Visit their web site below for info.

Link:

<https://pearduo.com>

- Sue Menhart



The Forrest McDonald Band "Blues in a Bucket" World Talent Records

Forrest McDonald has a lifetime of blues under his belt as he cranks out his 15th full length album "Blues in a Bucket". He puts to shame the idea that you get slower as you get older; he celebrates his 70th birthday this year and is doing it in style. Fiery blues licks and innovative twists on the chord progressions breath life into this set of songs.

Forrest has played with a long list of legendary musicians including Jeff Beck, Jimmy Page, Johnny Winter and Duane Allman to name a few. He's recorded albums with Bob Seger and performed with Eddie Van Halen. Despite a long lifetime of cranking out the blues, he still has more in the tank.

On "Blues in a Bucket" he adds a full horn section and background vocalists, lending to a rich musical texture and re-

ally adds polish to his slick songwriting. Vocalist Andrew Black adds a lot of color to the music with his powerful voice that really expresses the soul of blues music.

Much of the album is upbeat southern blues that will get you dancing. It opens up with "Boogie Me Till I Drop" has a great New Orleans style upbeat feel. The title track "Blues in a Bucket" continues the dance party with some nice keyboard sections and a catchy rhythm.

He really captures the essence of the blues with "Blue Morning Sun". It's a track about losing his brother to cancer last year and really captures a lot of emotion. It's a very personal track about saying goodbye and all the feelings that go along with it. "Go To The Light" continues those feelings with a gospel flavor and a positive view of life on the other side of the veil.

Another highlight is "Windy City Blues". It's a tribute to the great blues city of Chicago and continues to pay tribute to the legacy of that great scene. "Going Back To Memphis" is another track dedicated to celebrating the history and culture of the blues.

It has its down tempo moments too like "Blues in the Basement" and "Misery and Blues" adding some contrast and depth to the mix. All in all its a fun album just in time to get you ready for the warm weather of springtime. If you like fresh takes on the blues you're bound to enjoy "Blues in a Bucket" by The Forrest McDonald Band.

Tom Matthew
Two Ton Music



The Meadows Brothers Band "The Big Chillin'" Ghost Hit Recordings

The Meadows Brothers Band is Connecticut's own home grown hailing from Chester, CT just north of Essex.

The main players consist of brothers Ian and Dustin Meadows who do all the vocals, harmonica and guitar as well as Tim Leffingwell on bass, and Steve Cusano on drums.

They call their music genre as "Roots Music", and on several other reviews I've read its also been called Country Rock, and Folk Rock. Whatever you want to call their music there is no denying a strong early rock presence in their music. Right from the first track "If You Would Just Try" you can actually feel the organic meld of raspy country rock vocals combined with one of the best vintage tube amp tones I've heard in a very long time.

As a vintage guitar and tube amp collector and self-described tube tone junkie I would say they definitely found the sweet spot on their rig. These are guitar tones that legends are made of.

Track #3 "Understanding You" is another song that stood out with excellent bluesy Harp playing and of course more great vocals. Track #4 "Letters" on the other hand was a more soulful rendition. The combination of harmony and that million-dollar tube tone easily makes this a sippin Kentucky bourbon song and that's exactly what I was doing while listening to this great misty tune. Moving onto the last Track #6 "Back When You Were Mine" I would say this track as well as Track #1 is their cash cow as potential commercial hits if they can find the right representation. However, maybe there is much to be said about remaining a small-town country band/local celebrity. I was friends with one of the producers of the famed "Don Kirshner's Rock Concert" show that was aired on ABC and had a successful run for 8 years. I must have been invited to at least a half dozen live tapings with back stage passes and all the trimmings, and I saw firsthand the price these internationally famous celebrities have to pay for their fame. My hats off to Ian and Dustin for keeping it small, and keeping it real... I am looking forward to their next music project.

The Meadows Brothers Band's CD "The Big Chillin'" only has a total of 6 tracks but then again the cost is only \$5.00 and can be purchased as a download from CD Baby. Here's the link:

<https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/themeadsbrosbrothers4>

- Adrian Webb

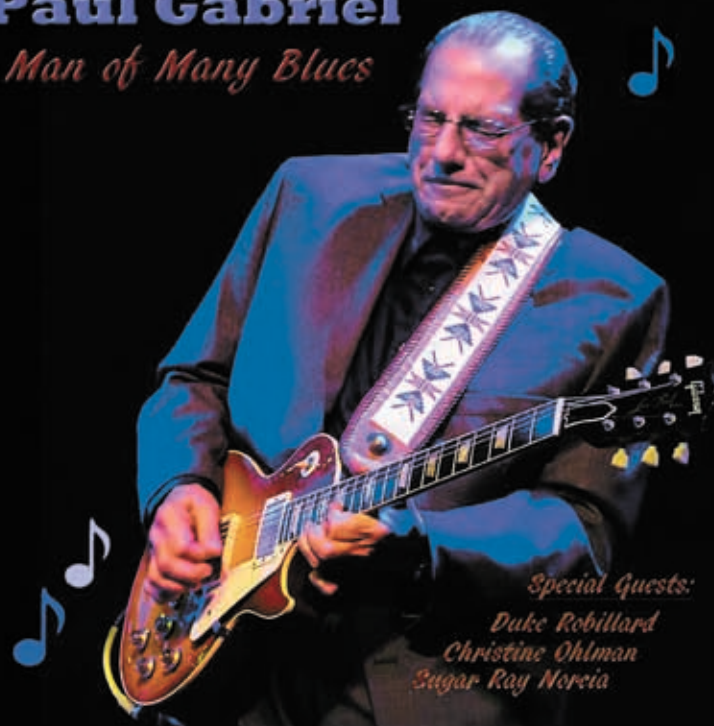


Continues Page 18
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Man of Many Blues

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The making of "A Man of Many Blues" was a very special thing for me and the results are obvious. It's a very personal statement both deep and entertaining with Paul's expressive voice and distinctive guitar touch front and center.

~ Duke Robillard

**Sound Waves Magazine
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**Deep Roots Magazine
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**Vintage Guitar Magazine
March 2020 review
Sean McDevitt**



COOKING WITH THE BLUES

By Jack Chaplin

I remember when the 1st of March was considered the beginning of spring, but I'm not so sure these days. It seems like our winter season may have shifted, I think we may be in for some snow and cold even into the start of April. The old saying may apply, "In Like A Lamb, Out Like A Lion." This winter has been a piece of cake weather-wise. This past week I was getting some sun, the third week of Feb., who would have thought? LaKisha had to put a hat on yesterday; the sun was so bright and hot! Like I always say, take what Mother Nature gives, you can expect anything weather-wise here in the Northeast. Either way, I always look forward to spring when everything comes alive, and we all come out of hibernation!

It seems like it has been all about Mystic these days. LaKisha and I took a ride over the Gold Star (bridge) quite a few times this month, and Mystic even came to us one day (Dave Pottie with a grinder from Pasta Fresca). We had a hankering for one of our favorite meals, the Split Roast Chicken at Grass and Bones. It was a rainy day and perfect for some good ole comfort food. We ordered a whole bird that came out in two halves minus the backbone and giblets, which is one of the main reasons to order it (great for chicken stock). It was delicious, though, hot and tasty with crisp skin and all. We ordered the Caesar Salad, which was made with vibrant green Kale, farm right to the table. The dressing was on point; Bones should bottle it. I call the salad "Kale Caesar" a take on "Hail Caesar." We also ordered the warm Corn Bread w/ Maple Butter, which served as a nice accompaniment and a quasi dessert. I was eyeing the Hosmer Black Cherry over in the cooler that was calling my name; I couldn't resist. Years back, I had



Hosmer Soda on tap at my Daddy Jack's in Bozrah. I got to know the owners and about every flavor that they produce. If you haven't tried their soda, pick up a bottle, a case, or even stop by their store in Wilimantic. It is made with pure spring water and real cane sugar. Since we were in the area, we had to stop in to Sift Bakery! What a beautiful expansion they have done! They have added seating inside and out, even a rooftop deck which overlooks the water, it will be the place to be this summer. It seems like flour and sugar is a moneymaker, and their offerings are to die for. It was hard to restrain ourselves from ordering one of each; they have croissants, cookies, muffins, sandwiches, cakes, salads, coffee, and now even a beer and wine selection. After some intense thought, we ordered a coffee and chose an Opera Cake, a Key Lime White Chocolate Cheesecake, and a Carrot Cake Roulade. These desserts were to be savored, small bites that you have to eat slowly, and let the flavor linger. The Opera Cake was moist, layered with a mousse, and it had a deep rich dark chocolate glaze. The Cheesecake

was a perfect blend of Sweet and Tart, rich but with a creamy finish. The Carrot Cake Roulade was a Jelly Roll type of "construct," as my friend Rick Koster would say. The cake was wrapped around a cream cheese filling instead of the cake being iced with it on top. There is a reason why Adam Young won the 'Best Pastry Chef In The Country' on the food network show. We showed restraint and took half home to relive the experience the next day. I've been to some great bakeries and worked with some great Pastry Chefs and Sift rates with the best! 5 Stars! If The 5 Star Ocean House were smart, they would buy all their baked goods from Adam Young and Sift Bakery.

An Excerpt From My Cookbook "Cooking With The Blues" That's In The Works:

Maxwell Plum was built in Ghirardelli Square, overlooking Aquatic Park and Alcatraz beyond. I worked the morning shift and would catch the train a few blocks from my house then hop a bus that would drop me a few blocks away in Fisherman's Wharf. I would walk past the Boudin Bakery, famous for their great sourdough bread and the famous Aliotto's Restaurant. It was usually still foggy at 6:00 in the morning and couldn't see much but would hear the fog horn and the bells out in the bay. I would see the day boats going out to fish for the

Dungeness Crab and the great seafood out in the bay. I would first make a pot of coffee and grab a few slices of the Date Nut Bread spread with butter and sit in the plush dining room watching the sunrise, and the million-dollar view emerges through the lifting fog. I heard it cost 10 million to build this restaurant and \$800,000 for the chandeliers alone. It was owned by Warner Leroy of the Warner Brothers' fame. He also owned the original Maxwell's Plum in NYC and The Tavern On The Green. I started off on the line working as a Tournant Chef, I would work all the stations on the cooks days off, the hardest position in the kitchen. Carlo was the chef and he had three French chefs as his sous chefs, Girard, Hubert, and Didier. They had their own click and drank Pastise or Pernod every afternoon down in the bakery. The opening was quite a show with showgirls, a Carmen Miranda look-alike, and Werner all dressed up flamboyantly with a gold lame cape. We opened with a bang doing over 3500 meals a day, what a hectic pace! Carlo was less hands-on and more administrative, but I did learn quite a few new recipes. Vitello Tunatta, (Poached Veal w/ Tuna Sauce) Paglia e Fieno, (Straw and Hay Fettuccini w/ Bolognese). We had many famous people coming in and especially Werner's Hollywood guests. One day CBS brought in Sidney Pottier, and Girard was ex-





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pediting. Sidney ordered the Petrale Sole w/ a Pink Peppercorn Sauce. The Poisonier (Fish Chef) was told to cook the fish at the last moment. He was told to fire the fish, and out it went to the dining room. Put in front of Sidney, he noticed something moving and doing curly cues in the sauce! It was worms that are in the sole, especially in the spring, they are usually found by candling but are also killed by cooking properly. What a screw-up and an embarrassment for all involved, another funny kitchen moment! After a few months, I had learned all there was, and Carlo offered me a position in the production kitchen downstairs working with Hubert. Hubert was a great chef, having worked in top restaurants in Europe and across the US. He was in the French Army cooking high volumes of high-quality food. My hours were 6 am to 2 pm, and we had to hit the door running. We did all the prep for 3500 meals a day, all soups, sauces, veg, roasted meats, ribs, roasted ducks, and all the specials of the day. ...To Be Continued

This Coronavirus has me going into survivor mode; we are preparing by stocking up on essentials in case we have to hunker down for a spell. If it hits this area, which I believe it will, it won't hurt to store in some dried foods, water, cleaning supplies, face masks, vitamins, medicine and other essentials in case we have to hunker down a spell. Unfortunately I hear that people are already staying away from Chinese restaurants and not buying Chinese goods. My friend Dominic had a trip planned to Bologna, Italy where a large outbreak just happened, lucky he was able to cancel his trip in time! My saying is, "Take Care Of The Down Side, and The Upside Takes Care Of Itself."

I'm always in search of a great grinder. Our Illustrious leader Dave Pottie piqued my interest by telling me about all the great grinder specials created daily by Tia over at Pasta Fresca in Mystic. One in particular intrigued me, The Roast Pork w/ Italian Green Beans, I had never heard of green beans on a grinder be-

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fore. On a cold and rainy day, Dave called and asked what time I was going to be in, 2:00 it was. In he came and unwrapped a warm foil encased work of art! Now I had eaten lunch already so I cut off a small piece. It was phenomenal! What a taste, thin-sliced roasted pork loin, melted swiss cheese, garlic aioli, and warm garlic and olive oil stewed green beans. I shouted in to B to come try this. Even though I wasn't very hungry, I found myself continuing to keep cutting off pieces, B and Dave were right with me! Have you ever been full but the flavor was so good you couldn't stop eating, I was glad that we split it three ways or I would



have been hurting worse! Dave was saying how sore he was from an earlier workout, I told him that he needed to head straight back to the gym and work off this masterpiece. There is a good reason that Pasta Fresca won The Day Best Of 2019 for Best Sandwich & Grinder, They Have My Vote for 2020! I hear the Hot Sausage Sloppy Joe Grinder is another winner, call check out their daily specials. Dave, I hope you're coming this way again soon bearing another gem from Tia and Pasta Fresca in Mystic!

Come On Spring! Have a Happy St. Patrick's Day and watch out for that green beer. New London is having a great parade as is Mystic, check them out and support our great towns and businesses!

Blessings and Stay Well
Jack

Hearing Aid Continued



Hudspeth & Taylor "Folie a deux" Independant

Hudspeth and Taylor play a style of blues that will go well with fine wine: aged and acoustic, music that will leave you feeling relaxed and satisfied. Brandon Hudspeth plays a variety of guitars, with underlying layers of shuffle beats underscoring intricate arpeggios and melodic runs. Jaisson Taylor adds his wide-ranging and emotive four octave vocals, taking on new personas throughout, gently driven by an ever changing array of percussive instruments.

The two did not start out with any intention of reaching this place: though they have known each other for some twenty years through the Kansas City blues scene, their first collaboration only happened in 2015. A request for a duo to play at a local gig was answered, at which they played more of a Hill Country sound, complete with distorted guitars. More shows followed, developing organically into an increasingly acoustic sound, simply because it worked for them. A following began to emerge, and regular gigs and now, this album.

Hudspeth turns regularly to a resonator vibe on the album, at times with a quick tempo, on other songs with a slow slide. His straight acoustic work, melodies over bass runs with jazz rhythms mixed in, break into short and pleasing melodies. Taylor's voice delivers the mostly original songs with inflection and variety, so much so that one might forget that there is only one voice heard throughout the set. The title track, Folie a deux (of which one interpretation is:

Group

Hallucination), is a fast paced, intricately finger styled, instrumental number.

This album is unique with its acoustic sound, musically very satisfying, showcasing the exceptional talents of the duo. For some fine blues music to sit back and enjoy over a glass of fine wine or such, one will not find better than this.

The music of Hudspeth and Taylor may be found on the various online sources of music.

- Jon Persson



Johnny Rawls "I Miss Otis Clay"

Third Street Cigar Records

Chicago style blues. Motown. R&B. Or perhaps the Toledo Blues best describes this new album by Johnny Rawls, with its cool, tight rhythms, the Toledo Horns providing backing and fills. Front and center is the voice of Johnny Rawls, bringing a smooth and pleasant blues across a wide tonal range, with stirring emotion.

The album is a tribute to the late bluesman Otis Clay, who could bring smiles or tears to an audience as surely with the Mississippi Blues as with an old time gospel. On the title track Rawls sings "I Miss Otis Clay, I miss his love, I miss him everyday. Every time you see him he had a smile on his face." The two met back in the 70's while performing at an event that included BB King: Johnny Rawls and Otis Clay formed a friendship that spanned the decades they traveled and performed together. The song is a reminiscence of good times now gone, and of deep personal loss expressed in the blues from one bluesman to another.

This album was produced on the eclectic

Third Street Cigar Records label, for whom Johnny Rawls is a featured performer. The Toledo based label also produced the video That's A Good Way

To Get Into Heaven in honor of local legend Jack Reynolds. Such regional labels promote and preserve the work of exceptional talents like Johnny Rawls for current and future audiences, which is worthy of commendation, and of support by music fans everywhere.

On this new album by Johnny Rawls, there is an early 70's feel that runs throughout, with its bright and hopeful sounds even when facing the difficult moments of daily life. Vocal harmonies and echoes interact with the Toledo Horns, Johnny Rawls presents as the center of cool, all at an upbeat tempo that pays fitting tribute to the vibrant life of Otis Clay, clarifying for posterity what has been lost in his passing.

More info may be found at JohnnyRawlsBlues.com.

- Jon Persson



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SUNDAY MARCH 8 | 3:00 PM



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