

Sound



Waves

Magazine

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**Volume 30
Issue 7
July 2020**

**An
Interview with
BEAU
SASSER**

Plus

- Tyler Morris**
- Liz Mandeville**
- Ron Addison**
- Jon Strahl Band**

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INSIDE THE WAVE

Music Notes	Pg. 4
World's A Stage	Pg. 6
Cover Story.....	Pg. 8
Band Dates	Pg. 10
Local Beat.....	Pg. 11
Farm Stands	Pg. 12
Hearing Aid	Pg. 14
Cooking w/ Blues..	Pg. 16
Classified.....	Pg. 19



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Morning Mojo
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Event Specialist
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Freelance Writer

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Editor

David L. Pottie

Contributing Writers
Bill Harriman
Mark T. Gould
Rex Rutkoski
Andrew Kerbs
Stephanie Shawn
Ali Kaufman
Sue Menhart
Tom Matthew
Jon Persson
Jack Chaplin
Adrian Webb

Advertising Sales
Kathy Pollard
David Pottie

860-572-5738

Email
editor@swaves.com

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

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Dear Readers,

Anyone else feel like we been put in a time out? It's like Mother Nature got tired of how we been treating her, and said "ENOUGH"! Go sit in the corner! The atmosphere has cleared up so much, that the astronauts on the space station said they can see parts of the Earth that they couldn't before all this happened. Hopefully we will take away some good from all this chaos. Hopefully mankind will learn to treat their Mother with more respect. Hopefully.

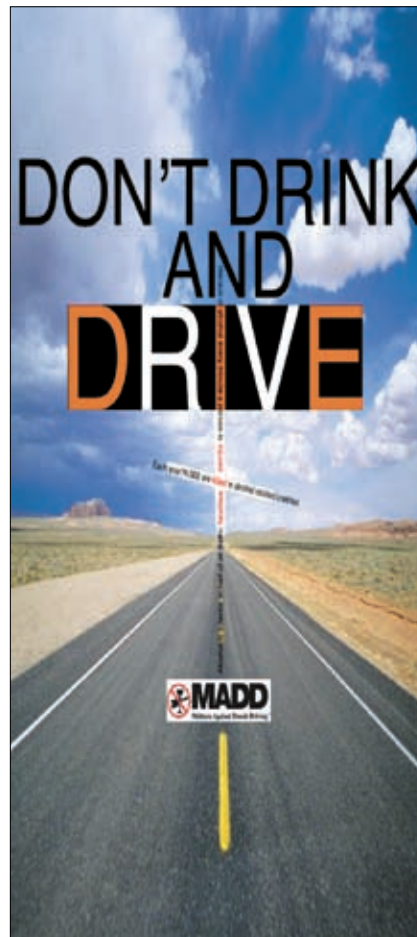
Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without. - Confucius

During these times, we cannot forget the people in the arts. They are hurting during this pandemic. All concerts are cancelled, most big venues are closed, bars are operating at a limited capacity. All the people that create the things that enrich our soul, are in need of our support. Without out them life would be black and white. Dull! Support the arts! Do what you can, when you can. What is life without music?

Without music to decorate it, time is just a bunch of boring production deadlines or dates by which bills must be paid. - Frank Zappa

Peace
David Pottie
 Publisher

2 SOUND WAVES



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MUSIC NOTES

“On With The Show(s)”

By Mark T. Gould

“We can succeed only by concert.” – Abraham Lincoln, 1862.

“I just want to go to a... concert.” – Jimmy Koplik, 2020.

When our greatest President, and, for my money (literally) our greatest concert promoter agree, you know we must be on to something.

While the Covid-19 pandemic has raised havoc, insanity and, most regrettably, tragedy, on far more important things, it has virtually wiped out the live concert industry. And, in a time of masks, social distancing and, as of this writing, no cure and/or vaccine in sight, I think it's going to be a while before we experience that shared thrill again.

What do I miss? Let me count the ways.

The excitement of ripping open that envelope that arrived in the mail, and finding out where we are sitting for the show. The dinner, and, yes, the libations, before the show. Settling into our seats and chatting with new-found friends around us. Speculating (after copiously avoiding Internet reviews of earlier shows) on the night's set list. That split-second roar of anticipation when the lights go down, followed by an equally vociferous howl when the stage lights come up to reveal the band on stage, raring to go.

So, while we wait patiently for a return to a new concert normal, I thought I would take the time to try to come up with my favorite 10 shows (plus 1), not an easy task, given that I've probably been to well over 500 of them in the literal half century that I have been going to concerts.

But, here goes:

1. Bob Dylan/The Band, January 31, 1974, afternoon

4 SOUND WAVES



show, Madison Square Garden, NYC

Would you believe I barely knew Dylan's music at the time, and went to see the Band? Scout's honor. Boy, did that change fast. Dylan has since bashed this tour repeatedly, but it remains the best concert I've ever seen, two-plus hours of mythic stories and anthems by two of the very best acts ever to walk on a concert stage.

2. Paul McCartney, April 27, 2002, Madison Square Garden, NYC

We really wanted to go to this one, but it seemed to sell out in minutes. A couple of days before the show, our good friend Dennis Richards told us new seats were released. We ended up literally feet from the stage, in front of the VIP seats. It was as I've said many times since, like seeing the greatest Beatles tribute band in the world, fronted by Paul McCartney. There was so much screaming that I thought we were at the Ed Sullivan Show in '64. You name it, he sang it. I'm still smiling about this one. I never

saw the Beatles, but, after this, I feel like I did.

3. Rolling Stones, March 28, 1999, Hartford Civic Center

By some amazing luck of the draw, we ended up in the section literally right next to the stage, where we could almost reach out and touch Mick and Keith. This was one of those nights where the moniker "Greatest Rock 'n' Roll Band in the World" was truer than ever. Our section went bat crazy all night. As the Stones were walking off the stage at the end, Mick pointed up to our section, applauded, and shook his fist toward us. That was about as cool as it gets.

4. Simon & Garfunkel, November 29, 2003, Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, Connecticut

This one almost made it into the Top Three. Never mind how incredible they were, the opening act was the Everly Brothers, who also performed "Bye Bye Love" with the headliners. Watching Art Garfunkel walk out of the spotlight and behind the stage to compose himself before he sang "Bridge Over Troubled Water" was one of the most moving things I've ever seen on a concert stage.

5. James Taylor/Carole King, June 13, 2000, Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, Connecticut

I've never been to the legendary Troubadour, where so many careers got their jump start in West Hollywood, but after seeing this show, I feel like I have been there. Performing in the round, solo and as a duo, every

song brought back a memory, if not a tear to my eye. King's "Will You Love Me Tomorrow," and Taylor's "Carolina In My Mind" were worth the price of admission in themselves.

6. John Fogerty, July 19, 1997, Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, Connecticut

I was a bit too young to see Creedence in their heyday, but, man, this had to be just as good, if not better. Fogerty's enjoyment, energy and love for performing was intoxicating. The whole night was song, standing ovation; song, standing ovation. We've seen him three or four times since, and while he's always good, on this night, the bayou was on fire.

7. Weather Report, June 1971, Newport Jazz Festival, Avery Fisher Hall, NYC

I fell in love with this seminal jazz band after its founders, Joe Zawinul and Wayne Shorter, split from Miles Davis. At this show, they were in the midst of their first tour, opening for Chick Corea's Return to Forever. They played one song, straight, for over an hour, and got one of the loudest, longest standing ovations I've ever heard. I don't even remember Return to Forever playing that night.

8. Emmylou Harris/Linda Ronstadt, September 25, 1999, Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, Connecticut

Two beatific, angelic voices. For my money, their "Western Wall: The Tucson Sessions" was not only the best album of that year, but pretty much every year. The concert was no different.

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One cool thing was former Eagle and Burrito Brother Bernie Leadon on guitar, along with the renowned Buddy Miller, behind them. Toward the end of the show, Ronstadt literally brought the Oakdale house down with a tornadic "Blue Bayou."

9. Beach Boys, May 12, 2012, Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, Connecticut

The 50th anniversary tour. First song of the second set: Mike Love, Bruce Johnston, Al Jardine and David Marks circled around Brian Wilson's white piano, performing an a cappella "Add Some Music To Your Day." 'Nuff said.

10. Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young, March 12, 2000, National Car Rental Center, Sunrise, Florida; April 12, 2000, Hartford Civic Center, Connecticut

Truth be told, there is no way I can separate these two, the first times, after so many near misses over the years, that I got to experience CSNY

in concert. The shows lasted well over three hours, and there wasn't one song I wished that I heard that they didn't play. During the acoustic set, Young sat a piano and sang "After The Goldrush," with Crosby and Nash on background vocals. The hair on my arms just stood up as I typed that memory.

11. Eagles, June 22, 1996, Meadows Music Theatre, Hartford, Connecticut

Hell, thankfully, finally froze over. Three hours. Much like the Fogerty show above, it went like this: Song. Crowd singalong. Standing ovation. Song. Crowd singalong. Standing ovation. Song. Crowd singalong. Standing ovation. Even better than the show, we chatted up the great folks sitting next to us, and they've been friends ever since. Mark Layman. Donna Layman. The power and beauty of live music.

We need to get back to that power and beauty again.
Soon.

OK, so I can't stop at 11.....
Honorable Mention (no particular order): Tom Jones, July 14, 2005, Mohegan Sun Arena, Uncasville, Connecticut; Rod Stewart, February 27, 1999, Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, Connecticut; Kinks, November 25, 1974, Felt Forum, NYC; Miles Davis, October 17, 1973, Jazz Workshop, Boston; The Band, November 18, 1976, Palladium, NYC; Neil Young, April 25, 1999, Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, Connecticut; Bruce Springsteen, October 25, 2012, XL Center, Hartford, Connecticut; Roy Buchanan, March 10, 1975, Shaboo Inn, Willimantic, Connecticut; Emmylou Harris/Hot Band, October 16, 1974, Shaboo Inn, Willimantic, Connecticut; ; Poco, August 21, 2009, Bethel Woods, NY Amphitheatre; Sonny Rollins, August 7, 1999, New Haven, Connecticut Green; Richie Furay, July 29, 2006, Turning Point, Piedmont, NY; Ringo Starr, July 27, 1995, Oakdale Theatre, Wallingford, Connecticut; Poco, August 2, 1974, Waterbury, Connecticut Palace Theatre;

Huey Lewis & The News, October 23, 2012, Ridgefield, Connecticut Playhouse, Better Midler, January 1, 2004, Mohegan Sun Arena; Herman's Hermits (honest), August 26, 2006, Milford, Connecticut Oyster Festival.

Whew. That's it.
So, what's yours?



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All The World's a Stage

"Improv"

By Sue Menhart

Improvisation in music is a time-honored skill reserved for the best of the best musicians. In jazz, it's downright required to have the skill. In rock, we call it jamming. In theatre, we call it sketches. Whatever the words we use it all means we're making stuff up as we go along, and we're rolling with it.

During this COVID-19 global pandemic and economic disaster, businesses across all industries are improvising to make it through. Restauranteurs are serving meals in their parking lots. Manufacturers are making masks. Distilleries are making hand sanitizers. The list goes on.

Musicians, those most creative of human organisms, are really getting clever. The need to express themselves and try to send out healing and comforting vibes is at an all-time high.

Here are some rather interesting examples of ingenuity and improvisation I've witnessed on a musical level:

- Load a band onto an oyster barge, drop anchor, and tell other boat owners to gather 'round and drop anchor. Power up the amps, speakers and mixing board with a generator. Ocean Concert - Done

- Load a band onto the back of a flatbed truck. Same concept with the generator. Drive through neighborhood streets and crank it up. Encourage people to come outside and listen if they want. Stop the truck in front of a house if there's interest. Band on a Float - Done.

- Set up a band on a stage in an empty field. Have fans drive their cars and park in the field and lis-

6 SOUND WAVES



ten to the band. Drive-In Concert – Done.

I'm sure there are more. Let's keep it up. It's the American way!

God Bless America and Happy Fourth!

Peruse more cautionary tales, rants and raves over on my blog "Menhart Musings" at www.suemenhart.wordpress.com. Get my latest book over on Amazon at https://www.amazon.com/They-Made-Me-Play-Polka/dp/1725534584/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=&sr=



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BEAU SASSER

Photo By
Bill Harriman

By Tom Matthew

Beau Sasser has been a local legend in Western Massachusetts for many years. Whether you saw him with Sparkplug jamming out on his Hammond organ or as a long-time host at Wednesday Funk Night, it was a guarantee that you would see great jam sessions and a big smile on Beau Sasser's face.

Beau has been a busy musician filling his time between The Z3 tribute to Frank Zappa, Kung Fu, and Beau Sasser's Escape Plan. He's got incredible chops, a ton of creativity as well as a positive attitude that becomes contagious. I had the pleasure of spending some time talking with Beau about his bands, his love for music and the great music communities that support us.

Beau Sasser Interview

Tom Matthew: You've been working with Tim Palmeiri for many years now between the Z3 Frank Zappa tribute band and now with Kung Fu. What brought you and Tim together back in the day?

Beau Sasser: I met Tim in the late 90's at some point. I was playing in a band called Uncle Sammy, and Tim's band Psychedelic Breakfast was starting out around the same time. I met Tim and Adrian then as well as another whole cast of characters in the Connecticut crew down there. I had known Tim for a long time, and then many years later I was able to start playing with him in Z3.

TM: I imagine that you all must be big Zappa fans and the project came together around that.

BS: It's really interesting. Z3 came together with an idea from me and Bill Carbone. We were playing with Melvin Sparks at the time, this would have been the mid-2000's I guess. We were doing an organ trio kind of thing with Melvin Sparks. That's the way he ran his band, it was me and Bill and

of course Melvin. So Bill and I were getting used to travelling together and being on the road, and one time we were driving to dinner and Bill had put on some Frank Zappa in his car. I immediately knew what song it was and we started talking about Zappa.

That's where we came up with the idea, because we were both so into Zappa and also into the organ trio thing. We thought how cool it would be to have an organ trio and play Frank Zappa music. And we couldn't think of anyone who could pull it off on guitar other than our friend Timmy, of course. So we asked him if he wanted to start a band, and he said yes. And here we are.

TM: One of the great things about playing Frank Zappa's music is that you have an exhaustive amount of material to work from. How big is the repertoire you work from?

BS: We've definitely put together

quite a lot of material over the years. Some of it is rehearsed and ready to go, especially some of the trickier tunes, and some of it we have to plan a little bit before each show what we're going to play and what everyone feels comfortable with.

So we do have quite a lot of material to pull from. It seems to me lately, especially when we were playing more shows, we would start to put together a setlist the week before and draw from what we had and see what people wanted to play. What they felt comfortable with. That's how we would do it.

But we definitely have a lot more material than we need for each show, that's for sure. And the band has been together for 6 or 7 years now or longer, so over those years we've definitely added a lot. But also we try to cater the material to what we think the organ trio sound will work well with. There might be some songs where we feel like it might not be the vibe for what we can do with an organ trio. We probably shy away from those. We try to keep it high energy and funky, and we definitely play some songs that we want to play too, because we're big Zappa fans. So it's a little bit of everything from all the genres.

TM: Being big Frank Zappa fans, it must have been a real treat to be able to bring Ed Mann in from the original Frank Zappa band.

BS: Absolutely, yeah. We were very lucky to do it. Bill had reached out to him years ago, and we knew he was living in Massachusetts. I think since then he's moved out to Denver. But back then, he was living in the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts. So Bill reached out to him and said "Hey, if you want to do some shows we'd love to have you". And he did, we developed a great friendship and really spent a lot of time on the road together. We went to Germany together to play in the Zappanale festival.

We had a great time and in those couple of years we played with Ed pretty extensively. It was a treat to hear him tell lots of great stories of his time on the road with Frank, and to have his input on all the songs that we played. I thought it really made us sound authentic, with the sound of the percussion

and the vibraphone and the mallet KAT. It added a depth of authenticity with the music we were trying to do. Very special, and what a great guy, I miss him a bunch. I hope he's doing good.

TM: So now you're playing with Kung Fu in addition to your other projects. When did you join up with them?

BS: Jeez, it's been a while. I guess this would be my sixth year with the band? I believe I started with them in 2014. Kung Fu is, for a player like me who has tried his best for many years to play music at a level that was really challenging, it really is special to be surrounded by players that challenge you. That's the thing about the band I like the most.

Everybody in the band is really trying to push themselves in a really athletic way playing, soloing and listening to each other. It's a really special band. Rob Somerville on saxophone is extremely talented and Chris DeAngelis on bass are some of the best musicians I've ever been around in my life. And of course Adrian and Tim are top notch and have been playing together for so long. It's a really special band and a special team to be involved in. It's a dream band for me for sure, I feel really lucky.

TM: So what are you doing with Beau Sasser's Escape Plan?

BS: When I put the band together, I think it's been 3 or 4 years or so, it was a band that kind of came together at our Funk Night in Northampton, our Wednesday night funk night at Bishop's Lounge. So it was kind of born of Funk Night residency. Over the years many different players have come through, and many different bands have been able to hone their craft there, bands like Z3, bands like The Escape Plan. So it was born out of a labor of love on our Wednesday night residency.

The original band had Bill Carbone, Danny Mayer, Mary Corso and Justin Henricks, and that was our original lineup. We just had a lot of fun playing. So it kind of took off and we were offered some other shows, and it was like the little band that could. We never really thought it would go anywhere other than Bishop's Lounge, so I think in a lot of ways that band is still kind of like that. We've done a lot of work on the band over the years.

We have an album that's getting the finishing touches we hope to have out this year that we worked really hard on. We just did a tour in Florida, down in Key West with The Escape Plan. It was an amazing trip. So that band, like I said, has always been "The Little Band that Could". And we're still playing some gigs and have a lot of fun planned for this band. Keep your eyes out for the new album in the summer or the fall. We've been working on it for a few years now.

TM: Bishop's Lounge is a special place in our music scene out here in Western Mass. There's a lot of great talent from the local guys like Dan Thomas or Colin Jalbert or any number of other regulars there in Northampton.

BS: I feel so lucky to be a part of a residency there that's gone so well. I feel like we've had a few different phases over the years. We've been doing it for over ten years, I think this is our 11th year. I'm not sure if anyone even knows how long we've been doing it. Over the years it's gone through different phases, different levels of popularity, but overall it's meant a lot to the players around here and players from all over the Connecticut and New York region.

People love to come up and play, the vibe is always so wonderful. The crowd enjoys it and people who come to the show know they can expect top musicianship, but also the players that perform know that they can stretch a little bit. Do things on a Wednesday night that they might not be able to do with their regular bands on a Friday or Saturday. So it really makes it special.

You have people like Adrian Tramontano who will play guitar on a Wednesday night. You don't usually get to see him play guitar ever, and

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he's up there killing it. It's amazing. He's kind of up there pushing himself a little bit. You get drummers like Michaelangelo Carubba from Turkuaz to come in and play on a Wednesday night and play licks and try things out that you wouldn't normally try out on their gigs, and maybe they'll take that somewhere else, have a different feel or a different vibe.

So I think that's been the coolest thing about the whole night. Having these musicians playing in a relaxed atmosphere where they can really push themselves and push each other, and make some pretty incredible music on what's usually an off night has been really special.

TM: Tell us a little bit about your background. What got you to start playing? Where did you learn to play music?

BS: Well, as a kid I watched some of my family members play. My mom played the piano and my grandmother played as well, and my dad played guitar. I had a handful of other family members that played instruments too. As a little kid, I grew up watching them play and I always liked it a lot.

When I got to elementary school I started playing trombone. This is probably in the fourth or fifth grade band, and I started taking piano lessons about the same time. I really just loved it. I was one of those kids where my parents never had to ask me to practice or anything like that. I just always worked hard at it and took it upon myself to learn and push myself.

In high school I got into jazz and pop music and started listening to some progressive rock and decided that I wanted to pursue music as a career. I went on to music school at the University of Miami and then continued on at Berklee College of Music after high school. From there I've always been on a path of trying to learn more about the piano and more about the Hammond organ.

Playing in a Hammond organ trio was a big deal for me coming out of school. Learning how to do that was something that I pursued for a while. As I went through different bands and I end up where I am at this point, it's been quite a journey. A lot of different keyboards and synthesizers and learning all about them. It's been quite a journey.

TM: What's one good piece of advice you have for an aspiring musician, trying to come up and make it in the world of music?

BS: I'll give two bits of advice. The first one I read in a keyboard magazine in high school, this was years and years ago. I don't remember who said the quote, but they said "Always take the job". They went on to talk about that if you put yourself out there, even if you're a young musician, even if you're not entirely sure what you're doing, or maybe your personality doesn't allow you to get out there as much, always put yourself out there and take the job.

You might think you're not ready for it. When you do take a job, you go



in and you meet people and the networking starts to begin. If you stay at home, then you won't go out and network and meet other musicians and get other jobs. So my first advice would be to go out there and get jobs and take what jobs you can. Don't think that you're too good for the job. Go out and get them and take them.

My second advice is to always read the owner's manual of the equipment that you have. I read that in a Pat Methany interview years ago and it saved my life so many times. You have to read the manual because it does all this crazy stuff that you don't know about unless you actually read it. And sure enough, that has been some great advice over the years.

TM: Very good. It's been fun talking to you, thanks for taking the time to chat with us today!

BS: I appreciate it man, thanks so much!




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NICK BOSSE

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5 - KOA Campground, Mystic, CT 6-9pm
10 - Phoenix, Pawcatuck, CT 8-11pm
11 - Yacht Club, Westerly, RI 7:30pm
23 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 6pm
24 - Smoke, Richmond, RI 8-11pm
26 - Rathskeller, Charlestown, RI 3-6pm
31-Tamarack, Voluntown, CT 6-9pm

NICK BOSSE & THE NORTHERN ROOTS

10 - Phoenix, Pawcatuck, CT 8-11pm

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LOCAL BEAT

“Bartleby’s and Green Marble: Gone But Not Soon To Be Forgotten”

By Andrew Kerbs

Alas the time everyone feared would come has now arrived: a nasty pandemic and the collateral damage of small business fallout that has claimed 2 landmark restaurants in the heart of downtown Mystic: The Green Marble and Bartleby’s cafes. Both cafes will be sorely missed and have been the center of much of the social life of the town as comprising its geographic center since the 1990s. Familiar faces were always seen and people who hadn’t seen each other in weeks could catch up over coffee and mingle with the owners Bruce Carpenter and Ross Mandel (of the Marble and Bartleby’s, respectively). Although Bruce had passed away, his wife Lisa kept the business going strong until last month when she decided to retire (for reasons unrelated to low demand due to viral distancing). For years tourists would pass through the café alleyway, dodging skaters seen doing tricks in between getting snacks and drinks. Hippies and punk rockers could often be seen sitting outside strumming guitars while slurping mugs of coffee and munching on delicious home-made cookies in between the café and Mystic Disc. Upon entering, visitors were struck by the smell of fresh aromatic coffee beans at the rustic venue ground by the hip young people that worked there. A science teacher before he was a coffee man, Bruce’s embrace of the art and chemistry of brewing fine global coffee was a bit ahead of its time, as was his embrace of hip youth culture which sprung up around the café.

On the other hand, Bartleby’s across from the alleyway on the www.Swaves.com



other side of Main Street was more formal but no less engaging thanks to the consistent set of characters that frequented the joint. The checkboard floor and clean décor usually featured pictures by local artists and board games (including chess sets) people were often seen playing. Owner Ross could often be seen giving customers advice on chess moves or drawing them into some random conversation about a smattering of topics like Republican politics, business or punk rock music (the latter a peculiar interest for such a bookish owner). The coffee was nutty, the Greek tuna salads hearty and the pot of African tea was a really winner (not to mention the peanut butter milkshakes in summer time). The cast of regulars there was remarkable, including wide-eyed chatterbox Mark the Cyclist whom one would never start a conversation with if you had someplace to be. And there was the flatly enigmatic Wild Bill Mc-C and his favorite red corner sofa from which he would mutter random and repetitive musings at customers. Ross was always overgenerous in letting even the unsavory characters borrow his phone line and many workers considered the café home, having worked there since he when he 1st opened his doors back in 1999. Upon walking into the café at that time, Ross thrust a strong-tasting coffee into my hand before even

shaking it and exclaimed “Never say a coffee is strong, but flavorful.” He was too nice to fire argumentative staff on the spot, instead putting them to work by hailing in a long line from a tour bus and replying “You’re throwing spitballs at a battleship!” At the end of a long summer weekend he would even invite staff to join him for tacos at Margaritas.

Its hard to know what shape Mystic will take without these 2 cafe cornerstones but owners are already opening new businesses there which should help the Mystic community to evolve into the great neighborhood it has always been . . for everyone from tourists to old tavern-going boatmen(and women) alike.



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- **Farm To Table Market** our own (Elm Farm) milk and meats. Bread, pastry, Tulmeadow Farm ice cream and Cabot Cheese. 324 Woodstock Rd, Woodstock, 10-6:30 daily.

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Tolland County

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- **Yankee Chicken Company** natural pasture raised chickens, 8-6 daily, 40, Seckar Road, Willington

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- **Copper Hill Farm** Pork, turkey including ground turkey and lots of delicious eggs. 144 Hall Hill Rd, Somers, Tues + Thurs 4-6, Sun 10-4.

Hartford County

- **Sub Edge Farm** every day, 10-6. 199 Town Farm Rd., Farmington. We have our eggs, lots of pork, honey and some other local products like cheese and pickles.

- **Hastings Farm** open Monday through Saturday 9 am to 6 pm no matter what! We have milk, yogurt, beef, honey, etc. 472 Hill St, Suffield

- **Easy Pickin's Orchard** fresh produce including baby kale mix & spinach both fresh-cut, cabbages / carrots / potatoes / onions, frozen blue- & rasp-berries, and lots of apples. Saturday 9am to 1pm, 46 Bailey Rd, Enfield

- **Killam & Basset Farmstead**, LLC 14 Tryon Street, South Glastonbury, honor system open 9:00-6:30 every day - free range eggs, farm raised, USDA pork, USDA chicken backs (great for soups & stocks), jams, relishes, pickles, apple sauces, & chow. Meat pick up by appt - 860-833-0095. All non-gmo, nitrate & steroid free. No growth hormones either!

- **Smyths Trinity Farm** their own milk, yogurt, cream, butter, eggs. 4 Oliver Rd, Enfield. M-F: 6-6, Sat: 6-4.

- **Maple View Farm** has beef and pork, eggs and milk from Sweet Pea Cheese. Open everyday 8am-8pm cash check PayPal or Venmo. 192 Salmon Brook St, Granby.

- **Hayes Farm 1868** has milk, yogurt, ice cream, fresh eggs, grass fed beef, farm raised pork, chicken, and goat meat. Honey, marinara sauce, www.Swaves.com

jams / jellies, maple syrup etc. Open Mon-Fri 3pm-6pm, Sat-Sun 10am-6pm, 269 Hayes Rd, Rocky Hill

- **Lost Acres Orchard** In addition to an extensive selection of soups, breads and dinner options (pot pies, quiche, meatballs, mac & cheese, etc) in our freezer, this week we are also making Moroccan Lentil Soup, Chicken Butternut Quinoa Soup (both gluten and dairy free), Pasta e Fagioli, Rosemary Flatbread, a new Apple Spice Granola, Cranberry Pecan Chicken Salad and Roasted Carrot Hummus. 130 Lost Acres Rd, North Granby, Weds-Sun, 9-5

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- **Penfield Farm** Free-range, Grass-fed, meats raised without hormones and antibiotics. We offer Aged Black Angus Beef, Berkshire Pork, Lamb, Chicken, Duck, Emu. Sat 9-3, 51 Ames Hollow Road, Portland.

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- **Why Not Farm**, Angus beef, contact to arrange pickup or delivery, Whynotfarmangus@gmail.com, 203-509-6325, or 203-685-767393 Kasson Rd, Bethlehem

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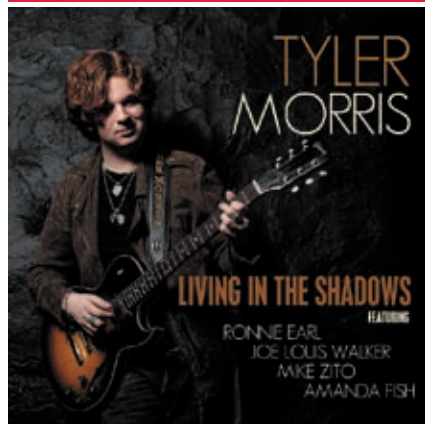


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HEARING AID



TYLER MORRIS

“Living In The Shadows”

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Tyler Morris is a 21 year old guitar prodigy from Boston who’s raw talent surprises many and impresses all. He has an uncanny knack for interpreting rock & blues music with his own style of guitar playing that only enhances the overall sound of which ever band he is playing with, or so they say. Mike Zito, artist and producer gave Morris his day in the sun by producing Tyler Morris’s first solo CD “Living In The Shadows” which places Morris front & center for all to hear.

As I was doing my research on Morris I was impressed to see how many high profile instrument endorsements he has such as Gibson guitars, Eminence speakers, and Supro amplifiers, to name a few. Along with a very powerful marketing machine which has his latest CD selling through main stream distribution channels like Walmart, Target, FYE, and Amazon. With all these powerful forces backing him, Morris has his place set at the table for potential blues stardom.

However, although Morris was propped up with a band made up of talented, seasoned, guest musicians like Ronnie Earl, Joe Walker, Mike Zito, and the amazing vocals of Amanda Fish, I have to sadly say that for the most part Morris’s poor vocals makes this production falls short throughout. His constant singing off key and missing the mark overshadows his exceptional guitar playing and hinders his hopes of becoming a blues super star. He may

be a talented guitarist but Morris is no singer, at least not yet. Maybe after a couple years of formal voice training?? Only time will tell.

BUT WAIT !! All is not lost. I did find a few golden nuggets amongst the mounds of coal. “Temptation” is one of the tracks where Morris really shines. He sings in a lower register which is a better fit for him and along with his enticing guitar playing makes this sound track one of my favorites. I will be the first to say I was really impressed. The sound track “Better Than You” is another winner that features Amanda Fish on vocals with Aretha Franklin-like tones with Morris leading a tight band backing her. And on “Young Man Blues” the dueling guitars of Morris with guest artist Ronnie Earl was exciting, blended well, and had that great raspy guitar tube tone I always look for. Next we have the track “On To You” where Morris and the band played blues at its best for sure. You couldn’t sit still if you tried but maybe better if Mike Zito sang the vocals on this one. Still a winner though. However, In “Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven” Morris gave me hope that he will eventually evolve into a blues force to be reckoned with but at every opportunity to show off his chops in this slow blues rendition he falls short. And in “Polk Salad Annie” with guest Jo Walker on vocals and Mike Zito on guitar and vocals Morris once again fails to deliver. His overly loud, squeaky high notes on lead guitar was like nails on a chalk board.

Morris is a young, raw talent that needs nurturing. Maybe Zito plucked this one from the tree a little too soon and needs to ripen a bit more. If Morris works on his vocals and learns better note selection on his guitar leads we may have the making of a future blues great. For the average listener I would give this CD a “Maybe” buy rating at best BUT for anyone who can listen beyond the vocals and focus on the instrumentation of the guest musicians and the capable guitar playing of Tyler Morris I would recommend this CD. Available for purchase literally EVERYWHERE.

- Adrian Webb



Liz Mandeville

“Playing With Fire”

Blue Kitty Music

Chicago blues musician, vocalist, songwriter and yoga instructor Liz Mandeville is a storyteller whose songs are on-point, short and sweet and always fun. With her classic raspy blues voice, and top-notch musicians backing her up, she has performed at festivals worldwide, is a 2013 Inductee to the Chicago Blues Hall of Fame and a 2011 Winner of the Windy City Blues Challenge, among many accolades. Her latest release “Playing With Fire” is 13 honest-to-goodness down-home blues tunes.

Sassy vocals highlight the opener “Bailing the Titanic” in this throwback slow blues tune. “Online Love Affair,” about Tinder, is modern and fun. “Everybody Got Wings” also has a modern feel with some nice slide guitar and violin. In “Comfort Food Blues” she laments “When life gets me down I turn off the news, I turn to my comfort food blues.” Appropriate. The upbeat shuffle in “Keep on Workin’” introduces some harp to the collection. “I Just Cry” is classic soulful blues. Guest vocals from Johnny Cotton, Charlie Kimble and Jeannie Tanner, along with some smokin’ guitar from Big Dez round out quite nicely the “How Many Times (Do You Get to Break My Heart).” “He Loves My Biscuits” is old-school swing complete with blues fiddle. “Just Give Her Chocolate” is rockabilly, while “Poor Robert Johnson” features some more shuffle, and the slow blues burner “Joliet Town” features some more harp. Mandeville talk-sings while telling the story of herself and her personal mantra perhaps, that she’s the “Boss Lady” of the blues. Fun! The closer “Hey Babe Ya Wanna Boogie,” complete with tuba and washboard, is a New Orleans style rockin’ composition. Just loads of talent comprised in this album.

Link:

www.lizmandeville.com

- Sue Menhart



Ron Addison

“Testify”

Independent

The debut album from Virginia bluesman Ron Addison contains 10 solid blues-rock tunes with soulful background singers accompanying his raspy down-home vocals. With previous careers in the military as a helicopter pilot and as a Virginia State Trooper, the music was calling. Addison wrote nine of the ten songs (one by Martin Addison) and he gathered top-notch musicians for the recording.

The opener “Testify” is upbeat and and preps you for what’s to come. The haunting and heartfelt “No Damn Good” features some sweet saxophone from Mary Munsey and a soulful guitar solo from Billy Crawford. “Never Gave Up Loving You” is a swingin’ feel good tune. Addison tackles the horrors of child abuse with pleading lead vocals and more beautiful sax in “Crayons in Heaven.” The team get downright funky in “Long Way Down” while “Long Ago Another Time” is a nostalgic Allman Brothers-like tune in a duet with Samantha Grayson. The amusing closing tune, “Oyster Man,” about shucking oysters, is feel-good and fun.

Link:

<http://ronaddison.com>

- Sue Menhart



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which are featured on his jonstrahlband Facebook page; here he has done covers of the old blues songs, in fingerstyle guitar. The Jon Strahl Band tours when not recording; further information may be found at:
www.jonstrahlband.com.

- Jon Persson



Jon Strahl Band

"Heartache and Toil"

Jon Strahl grew up surrounded by music, mostly rock and roll records in a steady flow of new releases: but it was the blues that touched his soul, when he was not yet a teen. On Sunday nights he began listening to a radio program called Blues Sunday, broadcast in his hometown of Indianapolis, and the songs of the original bluesmen, deeply felt with their tales of struggle and survival, lead him to the road he has since followed.

On his latest album, Heartache and Toil, Strahl has stretched his guitar skills to cover a wide spectrum of styles, all rooted in the blues, providing a variety of sounds within a single album. Twelve songs, all originals by Jon Strahl, provide the setting for his musicality, at times backed by horns and keyboards, other times simple or solo arrangements. The opening track adds some fuzz to the guitar like it was 1968, the horns breaking in over a repeating musical phrasing. This is followed by How Long, amping things up with a bit of psychedelic feedback, vocals harmonizing with guitar in places. For the title track, Heartache and Toil, Strahl unleashes a brilliant guitar solo, nimble fingers soaring low to high with melodic sensibility. Throughout the album, Strahl's vocals add a dimension of character and emotion, musically controlled yet straining at the words. With Can't Look Back he displays a slow, bluesy guitar run that jumps into a quick rhythmic number, some bass runs, organ, and finally, blazing guitar solo. The Weight I Feel (I don't feel anymore) is a soulful R&B piece moving into a flowing, graceful guitar solo. The album closes with a fingerstyle guitar piece called Indiana Moonrise, an elegant and revealing number.

Jon Strahl has also, like so many musicians, been playing some online shows,

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COOKING WITH THE BLUES

By Jack Chaplin

I've been waiting for this birthday for a very long time, many, many moons! I turn 62 this month and it has been my plan since I was in high school to retire at 62, earlier if possible. I had a great teacher Mrs. Ward my Senior year, she really made us think. The last few weeks she had us do all kinds of life goals and we would spend days thinking of our future. One lesson was to write what we saw for the next year, 5 years, 10 years, 20 years and so on. It's amazing that if you put something down on paper, writing and rewriting it, it gets ingrained in your subconscious. It gave me a road map in life that I followed automatically! I ended up achieving everything I had written down and now the final goal is in sight! Some people wait until 65 or 66 to get the max benefits but I'm taking my monthly Social Security check the split second that I'm entitled to it. I did the math, with the rule that you can still make \$17,000 on the books, it would take me into my mid 70's for it to even start to make a difference. By then it is unlimited what you are allowed to earn. I've been paying into Uncle Sam since I was 15 years old, I was working 60 hours a week in High School and 90 plus hours a week in the hotel and restaurant business my whole life. I figured I've worked 2 or 3 times the hours as most people that work a 9 to 5, 5 day a week job. I AM READY! It's funny but at a young age I wanted to get a trade, I had thought about carpentry and music as well, but settled into the cooking game. I wouldn't recommend it to anyone but it has worked out ok for me. A lot of young chefs grow up these days watching the Food Network Stars and get a glorified idea that being a chef is all fame and fortune. I graduated from Johnson and Wales Culinary School back in



78 and there has only been a handful of us that stuck with it, but even fewer that are still cooking. I guess you have to be half crazy and have an unbelievable passion for the craft which I still love, but my desire to run a restaurant has waned! This shut down has been devastating for small businesses and most others for that matter. The silver lining in the dark cloud has been time. Time to while away the days and to have time to do as much or as little as you wish. I've become a bird watcher, especially Cardinals which I have been videotaping out my kitchen window. We've planted herbs, flowers and many tomato plants that are growing by leaps and bounds! We have them around the outside of our deck and they get much attention. We were ecstatic when the first piece of fruit popped and now proceed to count how many we have on the vines sometimes twice a day. Just a few days ago we counted 50, the next day it was 62, today we just counted over 70! This in itself has been a blessing that I have missed all these years, work just got in the way. Covid-19 pulled the rug out

from underneath the restaurant and we have been thinking hard about how to move forward or to shutter it, and lick our wounds which would be shame. Economically, in order to move forward, we have to reinvent how the business works to be able to achieve break even first before profits. While we were still operating before Gov. Lamont ordered the shutdown our business had dwindled down each week, losing any cushion we had as we slipped into a financial hole. Our thinking is to not risk getting ourselves even deeper into the muck. These are the times for Mom and Pop, family run businesses that don't have large payrolls. I think it's the only way to keep heads above water. I decided to reach out to a local chef of renown, David Pottie. Name sounds familiar? Yes, it's our Peerless Leader Dave's Nephew. David has worked in many kitchens and most recently manned the stove at the MBar.

We had talked about partnering up in a few other ventures that didn't pan out, but this is a winning plan I feel. David has another chef/good friend, Chad Hobert, that he has worked with for many years who is also going to team up with us. The plan is to change the menu into a Wood Grill, Wood Oven, Farm To Table concept, and keep the name Daddy Jack's. It's exciting to brainstorm ideas with young talent, they remind me of myself 30 years ago when I started my first restaurant, Chaplin's back in Dallas. I had energy to burn! Funny enough Chaplin's was a Wood Grill also, life does come back full circle! We will utilize local farms for produce, herbs, meats, poultry etc. We want the menu to change and evolve every few weeks with what's in season and available. We also plan to use the bounty in our backyard; lobsters, scallops, and fresh fish that come into New London's docks from Captain Mike, Emma and Maria Theiler w/ the Jennette T Fisheries, and Captain Rob w/ the Mystic Way. Of course we will purchase from Colby w/ City Fish and Sea Well Seafood in North Stonington. We plan to work with Nunzio and Irene w/ Four Mile River Farms for

our steaks, burgers, and chops and others that David and Chad have used over in Mystic. Also, support our locals farmers, Teresa and Digga, at Huntsbrook Farms. It is exciting for me to do a small Farm to Table menu, I've always wanted to do this for years, to not to be a slave to the same menu day in and day out. I think this will give us all creative freedom to keep menu ideas fresh and to give our great customers something new and exciting each week. I told David and Chad that there is no reason we can't be one of the top restaurants in CT and the whole East Coast! I called us the "Culinary Triumvirate". Got To Think Big Or Stay Home! We plan as of now to open July 22, depending on how things look with the Covid cases. Our fall back is to ramp up our nightly take out offerings and outdoor dining. We will keep You posted!

We've been ordering take out occasionally when we don't feel like cooking. Cafe NV is one of our favorites, we love the Pecan Salmon Salad, Shrimp Saganaki, and their Lamb Gyro. Their Greek Salad is one of the best around. I had a taste for it again the other day but we mistakenly ordered from NV Bakery across the street. The Greek Salad there was good but different from it's sister restaurant. You know how you have a taste for something and when you get it it's not what you expected! Deal With It! We often take a nightly drive through downtown and out by the Ocean Beach and then back along Pequot Ave. I had an urge for some of Fred's Shanty's French Fries even though we had just eaten dinner a bit earlier. We sat in the car and people watch and ate our shoestrings that were delicious. On a nice day last week we took a motorcycle ride over to Mystic and of course if we're in the area we had to stop by Sift Bakery. They have done an incredible expansion and it's first class. I secured a table on the patio while LaKisha went inside. I trusted her judgement besides everything is top shelf, impossible to make a bad selection! While I was waiting Adam Young, owner and

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America's Top Pastry Chef walked by with his Sous Chef. We talked about life and the business. They opened an upper deck/patio that is reservation only and sold out, hottest ticket in town. They serve Tapas and have a full bar, can't wait to check it out soon! We watched people one after the other go up and come back down, no reservations! I am amazed with what Adam has accomplished with his business. Sift has expanded it's original location over the years into an iconic destination there in Mystic. He has also opened a second seasonal location in Watch Hill also on my hit list to visit. He now plans to open a coffee and donut shop a few doors down, sure to be packed and serving the best donuts in the world. My Chef's Toque off to Adam and Sift, Always a special treat! By the way out came a Rhubarb Croissant, and a Lemon Meringue Tart, Ice Coffee, and Fresh Squeezed Pineapple and Ginger Lemonade. We thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and met a really nice couple that sat next to us, Alaina and Matt. They were doing the same as us, enjoying a leisurely afternoon, Covid holiday. They own their own business, Lens Crafters in Old Saybrook. We commiserated about how we've been impacted by the pandemic and what the future looks like moving forward. Our conversation evolved into food and recipes of course. Alaina said she is half Italian and Greek and we talked about all her family recipes from those two rich cultures. I had a question about Avgolemono Soup, a YouTube friend had requested it recently. I got the whole rundown right there on the patio at Sift!

Well, enough for this month, I'm late submitting my article and the deadline is here. I hope you all stay well and don't let your guard down. We need to stay on alert, continue to social distance and wear our masks when out in public. This pandemic is far from over.

Good Health and God Bless
Jack

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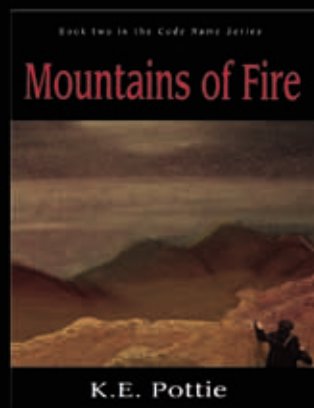
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