

Soundwaves

Magazine

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Volume 31
Issue 6
June 2021

An
Interview
with

QUINN SULLIVAN

Plus

- Tommy Z
- Marilyn McCoo
& Billy Davis Jr.



**JACK
CHAPLIN**

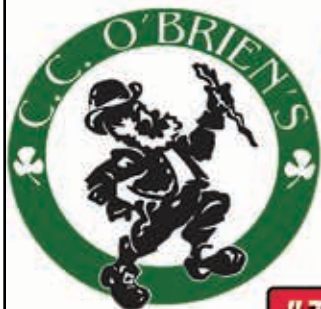
BJ.

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Justin Borucki



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MAILBAG

Dear Readers,

We have gone retrograde in the size of the magazine. Most will remember that this was the size of the magazine for the first 20 some odd years. We took a survey from a few folks, and they agreed, they liked the old size. It was easier to keep a copy handy to see what was going on. Hope you like it. Send us your feedback.

We are also dedicating this issue to Sound Waves columnist writer Jack Chaplin who passed away last month. "Daddy Jack" as he was fondly called by many will be greatly missed. He was a good friend and big supporter of this publication. There is a tribute section in this issue, and I hope you all will take the time to read it. Jack was one of a kind. This world needs more like him. Miss you my friend.

Now that we are back to printing, we need your support. Patronize our advertisers and tell them you saw their ad in Sound Waves! They are the ones that help keep this magazine a free publication. We have been free for 31 years! All because of your support. Thank You.

So check out this issue. Get out and enjoy yourself (safely). We all have had cabin fever for the last year and need to socialize again. And Dance!

Till next month
David L. Pottie
Publisher



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Sound Waves

June 2021

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	9 DJ DONNY D 1pm	10 CODY BONDRA 2pm	11 ACOUSTIC BEAT 2pm	12 THE CONTRA BAND 2pm	13 POP ROCKS 2pm
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	18 ED & MARTY Q 2pm				
24 MARTY Q 2pm		25 BRITNEE & BJ 2pm JUST THE 2 OF US 6pm		26 JUST BELOW ME 2pm	
		27 20th CENTURY KIDS 2pm			

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11 Just The 2 of Us
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DJ Jay Spring
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18 Proper Villians
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25 Wild Nights
 6-10pm
DJ Jay Spring
 10-Close

Sat

5 TBA
Call for info
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12 Highwire Band
 6-10pm
DJ Dyvine
 10-Close

19 Don't Tell Lisa
 6pm
DJ Dyvine
 10-Close

26 Off The Hook
 6pm
DJ K Frederick
 10-11

Sun

6 Paul Lucier Band 5pm

13 Fusion
 5pm

20 Scott Fowler & South Bound
 5pm

27 Shameless Band
 5pm

LOCAL BEAT

“Springtime in the New England Music Scene: Ray of Sunshine in Dark Political Times”

By Andrew Kerbs

Many area residents are anticipating shows and tours by favorite hit stadium bands like Silk Sonic, Panic at the Disco, Megan the Stallion and teen idols Billy Eilish and Justin Bieber. Many others look forward to concerts by their favorite neighborhood bands again. Hopefully residents are vaccinated 70% of the way by August before the new strains of the COVID virus re-surge. No one has the stomach to endure hibernating much longer and people want to enjoy festivals and meals out with friends against a backdrop of great music.

Its hard to feel optimistic when US Presidents and the media in general gravitate to irrational beliefs based on scant facts, whether accusations of rigged elections (which bore little proof) or the belief that the Executive Branch of government can play God by saving American people (either now or 4 years ago). Popular uprisings around such issues just add to the sense of mistrust and the undemocratic search for a Savior and Scapegoat. Conservative journalist Ms. S. Cupp asked it best when she interviewed Republican politicians: “What are you here for and what is your function” if not to preserve the American Republic? Even the staunchest conservatives have urgent “curiosity over what happened on Jan. 6” and how do they know that what they find out will implicate them? Mainstream news channels and historical documentaries cover more and more unscientific stories that just over a decade ago would have been laughable, including anti-vaxing sentiment and UFOs. The once clear, hard-headed and practical Republicans now “cower just

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to fetishize service to the narcissism of 1 man.” Between the self destructive refusal to investigate the will of the people behind the Capitol riot and the growing mistrust of basic reason and science (vaccines included), the glorious golden age of the American Republic risks lapsing prematurely into a new Dark Age peppered by unreasonable Pandemic resurgences, social isolation and unscientific paranormal conspiracy theories that threaten the feeling of togetherness of many regions of America (New England included).

Yet even as a new Dark Age looms, America’s commercial Springtime is dawning and people are ready to have fun. New Englanders are out swimming and playing baseball and outdoor basketball. As Senator McConnell takes a page from the Trump playbook by asking for a personal “favor,” Americans take a page from the Bush playbook, putting politics and conflict behind them and “going shopping for their families.” People are out at the mall, looking for the latest styles so they look good at concerts and the beach. People are eating watermelon at neighborhood BBQs like Harry Styles and are re-discovering the Beatles after hearing one of many comebacks by Aerosmith on their cover of “Come Together.” Just

because many of these acts they listen to are mainstream doesn’t detract from their influence on current events. Teen girls are embracing (some say winning back) their sexuality after listening to and watching Megan Thee Stallion and various other Riot Grrl singers. Americans, which include New Englanders, just wanna have fun and spend big at stores, amusement parks and various music arenas.

However its not just mainstream venues that American have been starved of. Americans crave local theaters and clubs as well, particularly New Englanders well known for local political capital. Its hard to believe its been almost 2 years since anybody has been out and about downtown. Residents of RI want to see the Downtown Boys at PPAC and local bluesers at Westerly’s Knickerbocker. Frolicking around Mystic feels more like a tourist trap than ever before, with practical shops and doctor’s offices replaced by an oversupply of eateries. However, at least there’s live music at various taverns there now as well as at Sneakers (in Groton). Walking around New London reminds me that Sailfest is right around the corner (if people are brave enough to gather in numbers). Let’s hope that town feels like its old arty self again with various acts like 3-Pack, Guno and Fatal Film jamming at 66 Golden and Oasis pubs. I personally look forward to hearing Burnouts from Outer Space and am still hoping for a Brazen Hussy reunion (no matter how improbable). Take a break from the murder news and political gridlock on CNN, take a deep breath and a sip of beer (or lemonade) and enjoy this summer of music fast approaching: Summer 2021! We all deserve it . . and not a minute too soon.



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15 Dos Amigos 5-8pm	18 	20 6pm Mood Swings
22 5-8pm Ricky Miller & Brian	25 NEVER A COVER	27
29 Dan Watson 5-8pm	Sat. July 3rd 6pm Kala Farnham John Van Ness	



BAND DATES

BOSSE BRIGGS DUO

1 - Tavern on The Hill, W. Greenwich, RI 7:30pm
13 - Citizens Club, Bradford, RI 2pm
20 - Lil Rhody, Hopkinton, RI

BRAIDEN SUNSHINE

3,24 - Harp & Dragon, Norwich, CT 6pm
4 - The Manhattan, Southington, CT 6pm
5 - Lyme Tavern, Old Lyme, CT 7pm

THE CARTELLS

11,27 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3-6pm
18 - Washington Park, Groton, CT 6:30-9pm
21,28 - Fresh Salt, Old Saybrook, CT 6-9pm

DOS AMIGOS

15 - Angies Pizza, Mystic, CT 5-8pm

Dr. G & THE BELIEVERS

5 - Filomena's, Waterford, CT 7-10

EIGHT TO THE BAR

4 - WDS Museum, Wethersfield, CT 5-8pm
5 - Water's Edge, Westbrook, CT 6-10
13 - The Farm, Marlborough, CT 4-7
18 - Town Hall Bandstand, Brookfield, CT 6:30-9

F & BLUES BAND

6 - Brown Derby, Uncasville, CT 3-5
26 - Brick & Basil, Norwich, CT 5-8

GLAUCOMA SUSPECT

24 - Esker Point, Groton, CT 6-8pm
26 - River Jam Fest, Mystic, CT 3pm

KEN SERIO JAZZ TRIO

20 - The Stand, Branford, CT

NICK BOSSE

3 - Rocks21, Mystic, CT 6:30pm
4 - Windjammer, Misquamicut, RI 5pm
5 - Nordic Lodge, Charlestown, RI 4pm
10 - Filomena's, Waterford, CT 6pm
11 - The Haversham, Westerly, RI 9pm
16 - Farmers Market, Ledyard, CT 5pm
17 - Shunock River Brewery, N. Stonington, CT 6pm
18 - Richmond Smoke, Richmond, RI 8pm

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23 - Mystic Pizza II, Mystic, CT 7pm

NICK BOSSE & THE NORTHERN ROOTS

12 - Rathskeller, Charlestown, RI 8pm
25 - Phoenix, Pawcatuck, CT 7:30pm
26 - Rocks21, Mystic, CT 3:30pm

THE NIGHT SHAKERS

4 - Capt. Scott's, New London, CT 4-7pm
19 - Mooring, Guilford, CT 1-4pm

RAMBLIN' DAN STEVENS

5 - Joe's Filling Station, Berlin, CT 7pm
8,15,22,29 - First Congregational Church, Old Lyme, CT 6pm
13 - Shunock River Brewery, N. Stonington, CT 4:30
19 - Gil Boro Studio, Old Lyme, CT 6-8pm
21 - Lyme Street, Old Lyme, CT 5pm
23 - Town Green, Old Saybrook, CT 6:30pm
24 - Olive Oyl's, Essex, CT 6pm

REBEL REBEL

5 - Charlie Bravos, Putnam, CT 9:30-1:30
18 - Charlie Bravos, Putnam, CT 7:30-10:30

SHAME DAN SCANDAL

9 - Fisherman, Groton, CT 7-10pm
19 - Grey Sail Brewery, Westerly RI 1-6pm

TMI

4 - Phoenix, Pawcatuck, CT
11 - Pier 27, Mystic, CT
19 - Harp & Dragon, Mystic, CT
24 - Andrea, Misquamicut, RI

WILD NIGHTS

3 - Filomenas, Waterford, CT
5 - Strawberry Park, Preston, CT
12 - Phoenix, Pawcatuck, CT
25 - Sunset Ribs, Waterford, CT
26 - Rooftop 120, Glastonbury, CT
27 - Pie Hops, Norwich, CT

WOOLY MAMMOTH

13 - Museum of Art, Mystic, CT
18 - Mystic Shipyard, Mystic CT 6-9pm
21 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 5-7pm,
26 - Mystic Shipyard, Mystic, CT 8pm

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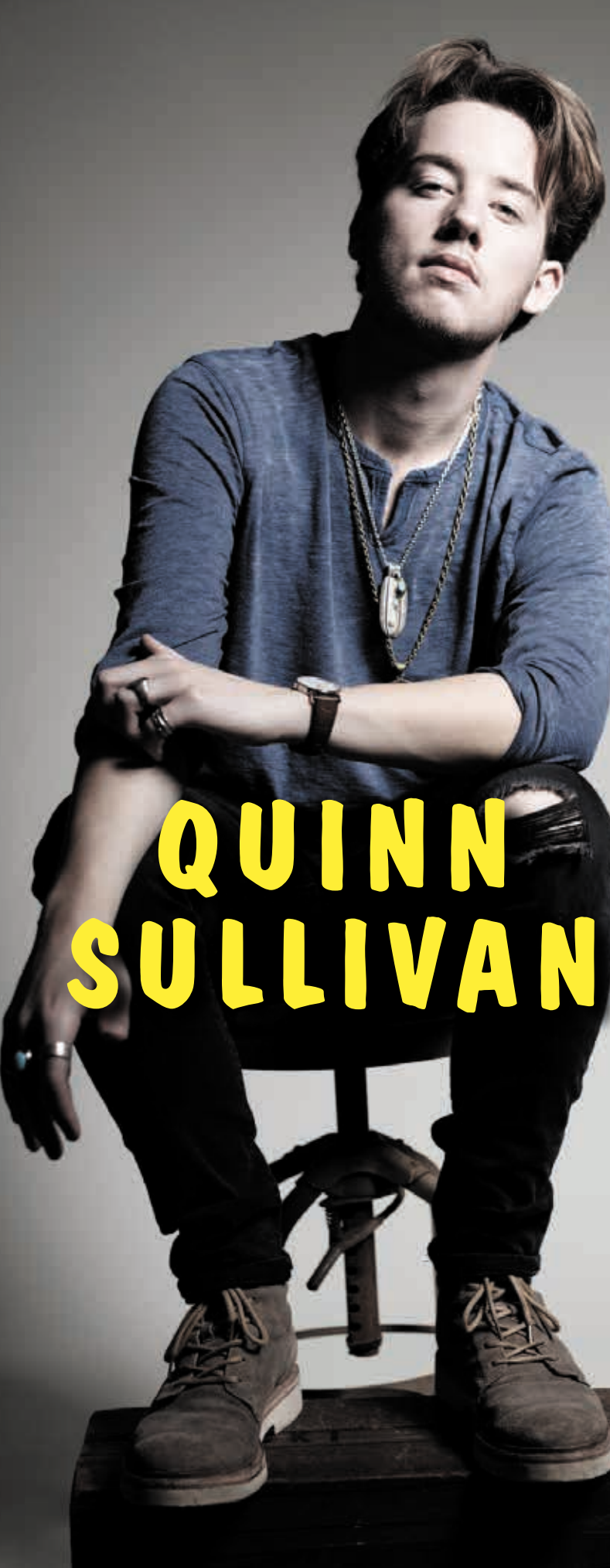
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QUINN SULLIVAN

By Tom Matthew

Quinn Sullivan has been blessed with the kind of opportunities most musicians could only dream of: performing on national TV at the age of 6, taken under the wing of Buddy Guy at the age of 9, sharing the stage with musical icons such as B.B. King and Carlos Santana, and performing at historic venues all over the world while still a teenager.

Quinn is hardworking and humble with innate talent that's obvious to anyone with ears to listen. On June 4 he will release his fourth studio album entitled "Wide Awake" that showcases his ever evolving sound as a singer / songwriter as well as his blazing skills on the electric guitar. It was my pleasure to spend some time chatting with my fellow native of the South Shore in Massachusetts, and find out what it's like to be a child star who has been treated as a peer by some of the most legendary names in blues and rock.

TM: I understand you started playing guitar at the age of 3. That's an instrument that isn't the easiest for a small child to play. What motivated you to learn the guitar at such a young age?

QS: My parents were really the ones who got me into music. I have a very musical family. My dad's a drummer and my mom also loves music as well. I was filled up with music growing up. One Christmas they got me a First Act acoustic guitar, my third Christmas, and there was just something about it - I'm not really sure what it was. I loved music so much growing up. They basically just played me records by The Beatles, The Allman Brothers Band, The Grateful Dead, that kind of stuff. So I was absorbed in that.

So from that one Christmas I just kind of ran with it. I just loved everything about the instrument. I was always fascinated with watching people on a stage whether it was a DVD of somebody playing or whatever. Somebody playing guitar just always fascinated me on the stage, it was just something that for me I had to have.

So it was immediately an interest from the start. I played around my house for a good year. When I was around five I got a little bit more serious with it and started to take lessons and get more involved in it and it progressed over the years.

TM: Have you learned any other instruments along the way?

QS: I have. I play a tiny bit of piano and I play some drums and bass. I can play mandolin, ukulele. Any kind of six-string based instrument I can learn pretty quickly.

TM: Are you versed in music theory?

QS: I'm not, not really. Everything that I've been taught, everything that I've learned along the way has been by ear. When I was starting to take lessons with my guitar instructors they never really shoved the theory things down my throat - it was kind of loose learning. It was never about reading this thing and playing it, it was more like I could hear something and just play it back.

TM: Jimi Hendrix was the same way, so you're in good company.

QS: Alright, that's very good to know! (laughing)

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TM: There's a popular video of you on the Ellen DeGeneres show at 6 years old. It's fun to see someone so young up there rocking out in front of millions of people across the world. What was it like for you getting on a big stage at such an early time in your life?

QS: It was really interesting. I certainly owe a lot to that show for putting me on the map. I was just doing things locally around my area at that age. I wasn't really travelling much and doing anything outside of local stuff. We reached out to them and sent them some videos of me playing. They reached out to us right away and said "Hey, we're really interested. Do you want to play on the show?". I was ecstatic. It was this crazy, crazy thing that happened kind of spur of the moment, like "Wow, this is so interesting!"

So we flew out to California, me and my dad. It was a whirlwind experience to be on her show and to be on national TV for the first time at such a young age. It really was a lot of things happening at once. I didn't have too much time to really think about it.

She was super nice. She gave me a guitar. It was really one of those truly amazing experiences that I'll never forget for the rest of my life. I definitely was kind of a local superstar after that. I remember coming back to school the following week and everyone was like "Oh my god!", it was really cool. It's one of those experiences you'll just never forget.

TM: It wasn't a cheap guitar either. I'm sure a lot of adults would have loved to get a Gibson ES335 as a gift.

QS: Yeah, I'm sure! It was hard because the first few years I had the guitar it was always too big for me and I was so small. Finally at around 12 or 13 I started to grow into it a little bit more. Everybody asks, "Do you still have that guitar?". I do, I've actually had it signed by B.B. King and Buddy Guy, which is pretty amazing.

TM: That's fabulous. You must have had a lot of support from your parents to do so much playing and travelling at a young age. What was it like to have them fill that support role for you? Did they have the time? Did they have to rearrange their lives for that?

QS: They definitely were always supportive. They were quick in supporting me from the start. My dad has sort of been my partner in crime for as long as I can remember. My mom works everyday and my dad worked as well too. It was something that didn't really distract anybody which is kind of organic. Things didn't really start picking up until I was around 9 or 10 when I met Buddy Guy and started touring with him and playing some shows with him. That's when things were starting to get busy.

But I had a normal childhood growing up. I had normal friends, I went to regular public schools, graduated high school. I did all of that while still doing my music thing. For a while I lived kind of a double life. I would go to school and it would just be normal. It wouldn't be anything crazy. But then I would go on tour and play shows with Buddy or play shows on my own, go on TV, be in the studio recording. It was a double life but I never let it get in the way of my personal life. I think all of us did a good job of keeping that separate so they didn't clash with each other.

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4:30 - 5:15 PM Dave Howard & the High Rollers
5:15 - 6:00 PM Toni Lynn Washington
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TM: You've had the opportunity to play at all sorts of venues around the country and in different parts of the world. What are some of the more memorable places that you've had the opportunity to play?

QS: One that comes to mind right away is the Montreux Jazz Festival. I've gotten to play that festival three times and every time we get to go there it's always amazing. The people are always so friendly and the music is always good. There's a bunch of different types of music happening at that festival. It's a world renown jazz fest. But it's really a music festival in that it has all kinds of different genres of music and such. It's one of the most beautiful places to me on Earth. It's always a pleasure to play that festival.

Another venue that comes to mind for me is Red Rocks out in Colorado. Every time you walk into that place it's just a complete crazy experience. Not only is it 9,000 people but it's an area that's a completely gorgeous place.

I've gotten to do the Hollywood Bowl a couple of times. Obviously the Hollywood Bowl is one of those legendary places that every cool person or every cool band has played there over time. That's always a place that comes to mind.

I've also gotten to play Madison Square Garden for the Crossroads guitar festival with Buddy. That was probably the coolest thing I've ever gotten to do in my career. It was just one of those things - you can't really explain it in words how cool that was.

I've touched a lot of ground over the years. At times I look back at it, when I have time to and I'm like, "Wow, that feels like just yesterday", and time just sort of flies. But I try to stay in the moment with everything I'm doing. I'm always just kind of focused on what's next and all of that.

TM: Your new album "Wide Awake" is developing along more of a singer / songwriter direction. Tell us about the evolution of your sound and where it's headed.

QS: I've always been influenced by The Beatles. They way they were always able to reinvent themselves on every album they made. All my favorite artists do that. When you look at more contemporary people like John Mayer, Ed Sheeran or James Bay, Hozier - these guys are all really great guitar players who also do really great writing as well.

So as I've gotten older, now that I've gotten into my early twenties I've kind of been more into the songs. Not necessarily alienating the guitar, because that's always going to be one of the most important parts of who I am, with my guitar playing. But on this project I wanted to kind of become more than just the guitarist. You know what I mean? Because I started to write songs and started getting more into the songwriting part of things and trying to find my own voice within that. I've been able to do that with this album which I'm so happy about. It's the best example of who I am right now as an artist.

TM: Do you have other genres that interest you? Jazz? Country? Heavy metal?

QS: I love jazz. I'm a huge jazz fan, that's actually been a more recent discovery for me. I grew up listening to jazz, but I've had some people recommend some different things to me. I love Herbie Hancock, Bill Evans, John Coltrane and

Miles. All of that stuff is super influential. They kind of set the tone of how great music could be. I always look to those guys for that.

I'm not a big country or metal guy, I don't listen to that stuff that much. I like older country music like Johnny Cash and Willie Nelson. I've got tons of respect for those guys. But I don't listen to too much modern country. I don't listen to death metal or anything like that. I'm kind of more into jazz and blues and rock and a lot of soul music, R&B music. I'm really heavily influenced by that sound. Psychedelic rock as well. Indie / alternative I love too. I love mostly everything. I try to listen to everything and find ways to be inspired. That's what you have to do as a musician, always be hip to what's going on now in music.

TM: What are some of your other hobbies? Do you get to spend a lot of time doing other things or does music take up all your free time?

QS: Lately it has because of this new album and what we're doing now, but I live in New Bedford, Massachusetts, so I'm right up the street from the beach. I love going to the beach in the summer. I like photography, and it may sound kind of funny but I genuinely love to travel. That's one of my favorite parts of what I do with this music thing is I can travel, see different parts and experience different cultures. That's always been a huge interest. I'm a big movie guy, I love mob shows and movies, and I love that crime stuff, comedies and stuff. I do sort of normal things, but music is definitely - if I'm not playing, then I'm listening to music. That's kind of where I'm at.

TM: Tell us how you approach songwriting. Is it something you have a method for or does inspiration just strike randomly?

QS: There really isn't a method to the magic. Sometimes it doesn't happen and sometimes it does. And you never know when it's going to happen until it's happening. I've seen different interviews with artists talk about it, and it always seems to be the same answer. I've never heard anyone say "Yes, there's a method to what I'm doing". It's all about what's inspiring at the moment and you can't pinpoint when it's going to happen. It's very spur of the moment. A lot of the times, like on this new album, a lot of the songs came from short takes I had on my phone when I would just record myself singing a melody, playing a guitar part or whatever, a guitar melody. Through that we were able to write a lot of these songs together. The producer of the record, Oliver Leiber, we wrote these songs together. It's a lot of spur of the moment stuff, but when you're in a good space with it, it tends to work out. It's kind of cool.

TM: It's evident in watching some of your videos that you're a fan of the Fender Strat. Is that your main guitar or do you have other models you like to play?

QS: I'm a fan of all kinds of different guitars. The Strat has been a guitar that I've just always favored over the other ones, just because of the versatility of it. All of my favorite players play the Strat. I see Clapton playing a Strat or Jimi playing a Strat, Buddy Guy playing a Strat - I've always been influenced

by that sound. It's what I pick up and consider to be my main guitar.

I love Paul Reed Smith and Gibson and different companies like that, but Fender instruments are my go-to and I consider them home as far as my guitars go. You can't go wrong with a Strat. You can play any kind of music on a Strat. There's really no restrictions on that guitar.

TM: What's a piece of advice you could give to other young musicians who aspire to success in the music business?

QS: Man, that's a great question. I think honestly, one piece of advice I can give, and I say this a lot, is always do what you're doing for the right reasons. Never do something because someone tells you that you have to do something. I think that music is something that's natural, something that is based on inspiration and if you're not seeking the inspiration it's not necessarily going to come quickly to you if you seek it out. You have to always be listening to different styles of music.

If you're a guitar player I would suggest listening to vocalists, listening to horn players and different things like that, because it's all about opening your mind to endless possibilities. Music to me is full of endless area, you can go anywhere with it. If I was talking to someone younger especially or someone that wants to pick up music as a profession, that's the kind of thing I would say - always keep your ears open and listen to as much music as possible.

TM: I appreciate you taking the time to speak with us today!

QS: Cool man, thanks a lot!



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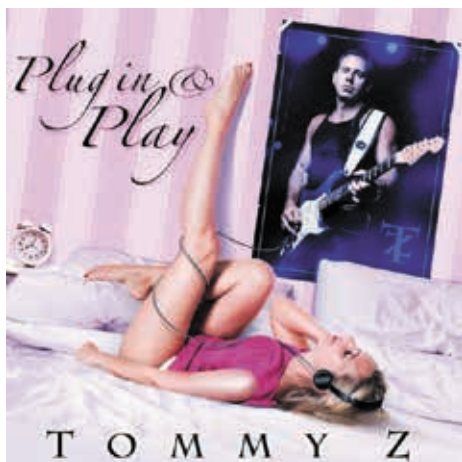
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HEARING AID



Tommy Z "Plug & Play"

South Blossom Records

Tommy Z is a contemporary blues/rock artist and radio host from Buffalo, NY who has been described as a "blues treasure" (Jim Santella, Buffalo News), and "one of WNY's best kept secrets" (Sarah French, Blues Matters Magazine). He is a guitar-driven, electric blues-based stylist onstage, but in the studio composes a variety of music. He has performed, written, recorded and/or co-billed with some of the world's top artists in the blues/rock genre including: B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Tom Hambridge, Johnny Winter, The Fabulous Thunderbirds, and Jimmie Vaughan to name a few. As I was researching Tommy's bio I see a couple years back he also played with my buddy Mike Zito. I never met Mike but over the years I've reviewed so many of his projects and bands he produced it's like we're ol' buddies. Getting back to Tommy, he has videos posted on YouTube and his playing reminds me of the late great Stevie Ray Vaughan... I was hooked, love Stevie. You would swear that "SRV" is still with us and to no surprise since Tommy collaborated with his brother Jimmie Vaughan on various projects.

Tommy Z wrote, arranged, and played in all eleven tracks of his most recent 2021 album "Plug & Play". It was recorded at Sound Stage Studios in Nashville as well as GCR Studios in Buffalo, NY. As much as I love "SRV" I was happily surprised to see Tommy dipping his toe in the waters of several different genres to create this project. You'll find rock, blues and even some great jazz guitar. Also note that it took the talents of close to 20 people from sound engineers to musicians to put this album together.

14 SOUND WAVES

Each contributing with their own "special sauce" to the mix and the culmination truly made magic. So, let's get right to it.

On the first track "Pumpin'" Tommy Z breaks out of the gate with this great swinging blues tune. Although Tommy Z is known for his guitar playing and vocals, this rendition is purely instrumental and everyone comes together perfectly. From the lead & rhythm guitar to the keyboard and the driving back beat of the drummer, this tune will get you moving and keep you there. The track "My Alarm Clock" is another upbeat tune with Tommy Z on vocals with heavy reverb giving a 60's vibe. I can see ladies in gogo boots dancing the Watusi to this one. In "Please Come Back To Me" Tommy definitely channels Buddy Guy & BB King in this sultry, down & dirty blues song where he showcases his slow blues guitar playing. On the surface the title track "Plug & Play" is one your standard southern rock renditions but if you look under the hood you find a sound very reminiscent of Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Gimme Three Steps". Want to take a trip with me to "Naw Leans"? Tommy takes us there with his track "Dyd" where he gives a nod to Louisiana blues. Again the vocals on this track has a reverb effect that adds to the vintage vibe, I love it. The track "Fur Elitist" opens with a riff that immediately put a smile on my face because I knew I was in for a treat with great wah-wah leads backed with strong bass and drums. It all takes me back to early classic rock sound. On "Sticky Lips" Tommy slips into a different genre all together. This is where he gets his "jazz-on" bringing jazz guitar greats such as Jim Hall and Kenny Burrell to mind. The keyboard and drums meld beautifully with the walking bass lines to set the mood and just when you think this is as good as it gets the keyboard chimes in with tasty licks and then Tommy Z guitar leads takes everyone by surprise with pure jazz guitar perfection. This album is destined to go down as one of the great ones so don't hesitate. I strongly recommend this album with double thumbs up. You can find "Plug & Play" as well as all the other Tommy Z albums on [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

See You Next Time – Adrian Webb



Marilyn McCoo & Billy Davis Jr. "Blackbird"

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In the tumultuous, divided, yet hopeful closing days of the 1960's, a song released by The 5th Dimension sought to usher in a time of peace and understanding with The Age Of Aquarius. It was a statement which caught the attention of millions, taken quite literally by many who either celebrated its birth or unfulfilled promise. Among the stars of The 5th Dimension were Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr., who married in 1969 and went on to have a successful string of duets during the 1970's.

Now fifty years on, and thirty years after their last studio recording, McCoo and Davis's marriage and voices are as strong as ever, the release of their new album, *Blackbird*, a renewed call for justice and peace for all people. The album features the couple's interpretations of the iconic works of John Lennon and Paul McCartney, and was undertaken with the encouragement of one-time supermodel and now, record mogul, Kathy Ireland. On the album's cover are names of victims from the past to present of America's unjust and divisive history, a remembrance that frames the title song's hopeful message.

Musically, this album is a masterful work, blending slow funk and soul with roots blues and the occasional up tempo. The couple generously shares some lead vocal spots with Yancey and Natalie Hanna Mendoza, and take great care to acknowledge every contributor to the music and album production. And yet, it is the vocals of Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr. which make this album special, the slow soul of Davis over a simple arrangement on *Got To Get You Into My Life*, or McCoo's opening verses of *The Fool On The Hill* giving life to a distant, lonely character. *Blackbird*, written by a young Paul McCartney in response to the Little Rock Nine's courageous

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defiance of school segregation, is given a slow, gospel tone, leading into a full, Sunday church chorus. One of the best tracks is Marilyn McCoo's slow, emotive rendition of Long And Winding Road: the couple opens Lennon's Just Like Starting Over with a touching duet before tenderly trading verses. In all there are ten songs by Lennon and McCartney, given a unique, fitting, and exquisitely 60's sound by the still polished, ever hopeful Marilyn McCoo and Billy Davis Jr.

More info may be found at iamablackbird.com.

- Jon Persson



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CANCER CLAIMS BELOVED VETERAN HITMAKER B.J. THOMAS

By Rex Rutkoski

It seems almost humorous today to consider the possibility.

But there actually was a time in B.J. Thomas's life when he wondered if he would ever have a hit record.

Then, again, he was only 15 when that question came to mind.

Flash-forward to 2010 and Thomas, who died a few days ago, May 29, of complications of stage four lung cancer, was looking back on an ongoing career of which many musicians could only dream.

Since his first hit, his heartfelt interpretation of Hank Williams Sr.'s "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry," a million seller in 1967, he went on to sell over 70 million records.

In that period he earned numerous Top 40 pop hits, 10 Top 40 country hits, two platinum and 11 gold records, and chart-toppers on the pop, country, Gospel and adult contemporary charts.

He received the record industry's most prestigious honor, the Grammy Award, five times, as well as two Dove awards, which is the Gospel industry's Grammy. A "MOST PLAYED" ARTIST

The Grammy Hall of Fame inductee's lengthy chart history led to him being named one of Billboard's Top 50 Most Played Artists over the past 50 years.

He gave the songwriting team of Burt Bacharach and Hal David their first million-seller with "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head," which he sang

for the classic motion picture, "Butch Cassidy & the Sundance Kid," starring Robert Redford and Paul Newman.

It won an Academy Award and Thomas sang it on the 1970 Oscars' telecast.

Sales quickly exceeded two million copies and it has remained one of the most enduring pop hits of all time, reoccurring in such films as "Forrest Gump," "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle," "Clerks II" and "Spider-Man 2," as well as multiple TV shows over the years.

By 1968, his gold records, in addition to "Raindrops," included "The Eyes of a New York Woman," "Hooked on a Feeling" and "It's Only Love."

One of his Grammys came for "(Hey Won't You Play) Another Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song."

EMBRACED BY TV

Television also embraced his music. Thomas sang "As Long As We Got Each Other" as the theme song for the ABC sitcom "Growing Pains," which aired from 1985 to 1992.

In 1984, he became the 60th member of the legendary Grand Ole Opry, the same year in which he released the Top 10 country single, "The Whole World's in Love When You're Lonely," and he got together with Ray Charles for the Top 15 "Rock and Roll Shoes" on Charles' Friendship album.

"I am kind of surprised how long

I've been around," Thomas said in a 2010 interview from his native Texas. He turned 68 in August of that year. "There are plenty of things left I always wanted to do in my career. I'm still in great health and I have a lot of energy."

His primary musical focus at the time was taking the repertoire from his storied career to live stages.

HE KNEW HIS AUDIENCE

His audience? "People who love that Old School music from the '60s and '70s. They kind of want to hear it now more than they ever did. They kind of realize how good it is," he said. "It's the greatest era of music of all time across the globe. It was just the heyday of music."

He believed his own music resonated for people because of the emotion he invested in it. "Most of what I record I really do believe and feel is real for me. People connect with that emotion. It's not just phoning it in. People can feel that if you don't believe what you are singing," Thomas explained.

He sought songs that were relatable to him. "If I believe it and can make it true to myself, I can take a song and make it my song by the time I am through with it."

He admitted there had been songs he recorded that he did not really care for, "but we all thought they could be a hit." "If I can hear a song and can definitely put my heart and soul into the lyrics, that's what makes a song your own," he said.

EARNING NEW FANS

He enjoyed introducing his music to new people, as he did in 2010 when he paid his first visit to the historic Rochester Opera House in Rochester, N.H., which drew from various parts of New England.

Thomas was looking forward to performing at the venue. "I love the old theaters. There is a kind of movement across the country of refurbishing and keeping the old theaters around," he said.

At such venues, he even saw young people, turned on to his music by their parents, in the seats when he looked out over audiences.

"I don't think today's music is any worse than our generation's," he said.

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"Ours was a time when music was not as angry or deep or had axes to grind. People were singing love songs and feel good songs and blues songs. There is a lot of angst in current music that we didn't have in our time. There was more innocence and naivety to our music."

On the other hand, Thomas believed that it was much harder to break into the music business than when he did. "It kind of relates to the money," he said. "It takes a half million dollars or more to introduce a new artist today and put out a record. And a record company gives an artist less time today to get their stuff together."

He acknowledged that there were now more ways for a musician to reach people these days than when he was starting, such as through You Tube, Face Book and various social media.

"But can you reach the millions of people at one time that way that we used to reach? There is something about getting music out to the mainstream Top 40. I'm not sure all the other opportunities equal out today."

A FIRM COMMITMENT

He was certain of his commitment to music. "It's a burning desire," Thomas assured. "I wouldn't have any peace of mind or happiness if I didn't do it. I'm proud to say I have a great marriage of 41 years. I'm a husband, a father and a grandfather and those are the essential, important things in life. But music is still a burning desire."

Thomas did not really consider himself a pioneer in music. "If I was it would be in being able to do other genres of music, not limiting myself to one style of music," he explained. "The beauty of music is there's a good song and a bad song; other than that they are just songs (and they don't have to be categorized)."

MULTI-GENRE ARTIST

He does not think that working in so many genres had led to any identity problems for him with fans – perhaps within the music business, he concedes, but not the fans. "Country people think I'm country. Pop people think I'm pop. Gospel people think I'm Gospel. They all just like a good song."

Thomas: "The only thing you can do is

be a product of what you hear growing up around your parents and friends. I was a product of the Top 40 radio days. Back in our day everything was on the same radio station. I was lucky to be part of that. It was not just keyed into one particular genre."

Because of that, he adds, whenever he became a musician he just wanted to perform a good song. "I didn't care if it was country, Gospel or pop," he said. "It was whatever came from my roots that I considered good."

That philosophy carved him a career that, many decades down the road, showed no signs of stopping.

Thomas was born Billy Joe Thomas in rural Hugo, Okla., moving to Houston, Texas with his family, where he grew up absorbing a variety of musical influences from the traditional country of Ernest Tubb and Hank Williams Sr. to the soulful sounds of Jackie Wilson and Little Richard, whose "Miss Ann" was the first single B.J. ever bought. He began singing in church as a child and in his teens joined the Houston-based band the Triumphs.

His publicist said this quote from his

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website exemplifies Thomas' humble attitude and appreciation for life:

"All I am is just another guy. I've been very lucky," he shared. "I've had a wonderful life, I've been a husband and a father who cherishes his children and now I'm a grandfather, and I'm motivated like all these teachers and preachers and mothers and fathers to help my kids grow up with character and self-respect. I hope that doesn't sound too grandiose, but that's what it comes down to. It's what I've tried to do with my music and with the majority of my life."

(Rex Rutkoski is a veteran freelance music writer, and former rock radio talk show host, whose interviews are published regionally, nationally and internationally. Based in the Pittsburgh suburbs of Freeport, Pa., he has written for Sound Waves for many years. He can be reached at rexrutkoski@gmail.com)





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Ken is the award winning author of The Code Name Series of books. The series is based on his father's experiences behind enemy lines in World War II. He has won awards in the Readers' Favorite contest, The NABE Pinnacle Awards in Military Fiction, and Hollywood, Paris, and New York Book Festivals.

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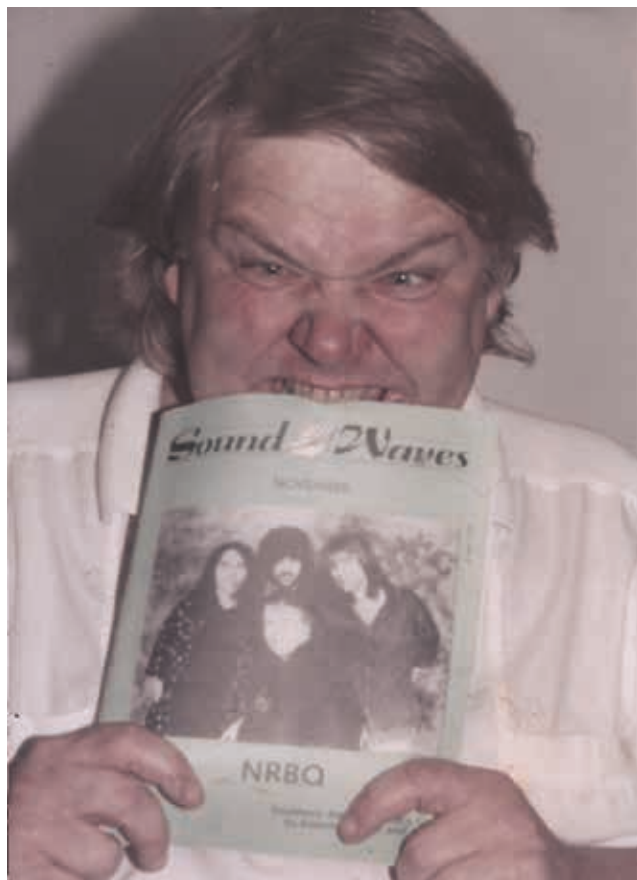
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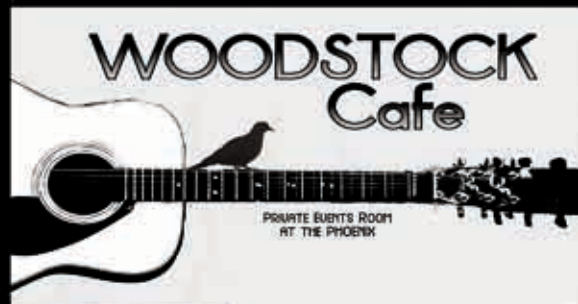


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SOUND WAVES 21

COOKING WITH THE BLUES



First off, Thank You to everyone that reached out to Jack's family during our time of transitioning without him physically with us. It's been a rough and challenging month, and I can't believe we have to go on with life without him. Jack, I Love You, and I Miss You, yet I know you are suffer-ing no more. I feel your presence with me, and I am Thankful. Writing about Jack in the past tense does not come easy, so forgive my grammatical errors as I want to go from the heart. I am comforted by the quote, "The body is a just vehicle transporting your soul." I know Jack is well with God.

Pastor Jack Madry, Rachel, Luci, and so many others have said, "to know Jack was to love Jack," and he is truly loved. Thank you, Jackie, for blessing us with your goodwill, smarts, pas-sion for cooking, love of music, creative videography, and ability to communicate with Every-one! While he could do circles around any chef, Jack also marveled at home cooks who loved throwing down in the kitchen. He loved hearing about people's favorite meals, and he loved to learn about U.S. regional and interna-

tional cuisines. Jack was an encourager, he modeled a strong work ethic, and we shared the love of being lifelong learners. My most admired trait of Jack was how he treated people, especially people that didn't do anything for him, with dignity. This is what people across the World can see, his Gospel friendships. Me, a self-proclaimed min-imalist, and Jack, a striver to live simple, made a near-perfect team, and united, we sought peace in our lives while edifying

each other.

Let me say something to the young readers - we all have gifts; discover yours and use them to help others. Jack knew no stranger. We all know he dressed in his comfortable attire, had friends from jail to Yale, and didn't mind driving hoopties. It's all about a person's character; look at how Jack touched so many people - by being himself. He mastered the ability to speak and listen to people authentically. You don't have to be anybody else but yourself. Do remember to love yourself, pray and meditate...Jack did all three.

To all you "seasoned" ones - Jack re-invented himself. He went and learned video production at age 50, and he produced his show on Cable Access. Jack kept at it when no one was watching. Jack had an artistic eye, and he followed his dream of creating cooking videos. It was his own. He didn't want the Food Network or the big-time screen because Jack didn't prefer a scripted, glossy makeover of what he wasn't. With his camera on the ready, he enjoyed making these videos we all now know and

love abundantly. Jack became even more skilled, editing and up-loading his work for YouTube. He wasn't afraid to share his knowledge. He did free consultation work, didn't hold recipes as secrets, and most importantly, Jack was not a know-it-all. He loved his family, friends, and pets, and he always encouraged us to reach out to a friend, a loved one, or someone we don't know and figure out how to make them smile. As we age gracefully, let's take a cue from Jack.

I know Jack is smiling now as I'm writing this, and I'm so proud to say Daddy Jack's foundation has started, and I look forward to supporting the organization. Please continue to watch the channels, and if you are looking up a recipe, there is a chance Jack may have his version of it for you with over 1,000 recipes up on YouTube. Even though the videos are hard for me to watch right now, I enjoy listening to the 'Live Music' playlist on "Cooking with the Blues" - I turn it up, hit play, and walk away.

In the future, we look forward to posting some throwbacks and new videos in Jack's honor. Here is the full obituary that Rachel and Luci wrote with pure adoration for their Dad - <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/new-london-ct/john-chaplin-10189388> I Love You Both, and I am Forever Grateful for Our Family.

Thank you, Dave Pottie (as Jack referred to as Our Peerless Leader), for your friendship. Jack loved writing for Sound Waves Magazine. He always spoke highly of your dedication and your publication's longevity; it's a Classic!

Written by
~ LaKisha

P.S.
See you all on July 11th!

There will be a celebration of life for Jack "Daddy Jack" on Sunday, July 11 at 12 p.m. at the Groton Elks Lodge & Marina.

JACK CHAPLIN

“DADDY JACK”

Sound Waves’ writer and columnist writer of “Cooking with the Blues” Jack Chaplin passed away last month. He was a good friend and a big supporter of this publication. Every month I looked forward to reading his column. His personal touch always made it interesting.

The only way I can seem to write this tribute is to share some personal memories. Memories that show what kind of person he was. I hope others will do the same on our Facebook page and at his celebration of life July 11th.

The first time I met Jack was when a friend, Dan Stevens said you have to check out this new Restaurant in town called Chaplins. The food is great, and the owner/chef is classic. He comes out and joins me with a cheese grater! Well of course I had to check this out. And sure enough the food was fantastic and then here comes Jack with his cheese grater.



Dan later introduced us, and Jack and I hit it off immediately. From that point on a friendship was made. Not to soon after that, Jack approached me and asked if he could write a food column for me. Without hesitation I said “Of course!”

Jack called me the day before he became ill and was rushed to the hospital. He talked how he was looking forward to



seeing everything open again. He talked about getting “the boys” together and going out to dinner at Mananas again. He loved their food and admired how the owner Justin was able to create good authentic Mexican

food. “Just like in Texas” he would say. We all had a great time that visit. I think we stayed almost 3 hours, eating great food and drinking fine tequila.

Jack also talked about the “Blue Mondays” in Mystic that he so much enjoyed. And jokingly said he will “step up his game” this year. You see, every year I would get there early and set up a space for Jack and Lakisha and I. Plus a few extra seats for whoever wanted to stop by. I would always prepare some good food for all to enjoy. The first time I did a bunch of dishes and left room for Jack’s contributions. I figured we would eat good that nice sunny day, listening to some great blues music. So Jack shows up and he brought a bucket of Popeye’s chicken! I never let him forget that.

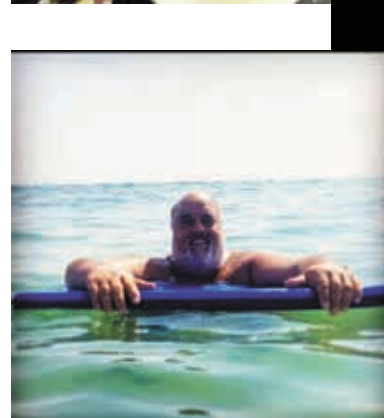
Jack had a big heart, he would always help someone out if he could. He always cared about others and how they were doing. I remember one day when I was delivering the magazine. I stopped into Daddy Jack’s to give him his copies and then would talk with Jack in the kitchen. Usually sitting on

his “chair” in the corner next to the stove. He was prepping for that night’s dinner crowd. Jack asked if I was hungry and wanted something to eat. I told him don’t worry, get what you need to get done. He said nonsense, and in a matter of minutes made me a bowl of Pasta Bolognese! Jack was an amazing chef. When you get a moment, check out any of his YouTube videos.

There is so much more to Jack Chaplin that it would fill this magazine. He led an interesting life, raised two beautiful daughters and was big supporter of live music.

Love you and miss you my friend

David Pottie
Publisher



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