

Sound Waves

Volume 33
Issue 7
July 2023

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An
Interview
with

**DONNY
OSMOND**

Plus

- Ken Serio
- Will James
- Lady Adrena
- Season Ammons
- Mike Bailey & Ron Gletherow

Tribute to:
George Winston



**A Southern New England
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BLUE MONDAY

2023 CONCERT SERIES



July 10th
VERONICA LEWIS



July 17th
SUGAR RAY & THE BLUETONES

Intermission: Maggie Welch
SHS Student Act

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Blue Monday Concerts are free, family friendly events held outdoors at the Mystic River Park. Concerts have the generous support of sponsors (individuals, businesses and foundations) which allows Blue Monday to fund music education in our local schools, and provide food assistance to the neediest in our community. Blue Monday is part of the Stonington Education Fund, a 501(c)3 non-profit that seeks to promote excellence in Stonington's Public Schools through effective use of private donations and grants. All concert attendees are also welcome to bring a jar of peanut butter or any other non-perishable canned good to the show for donation to the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center food pantry.

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MUSIC ON THE PATIO ~ 1pm

Mon 10th - **NATHANIEL HINTZ**
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 Wed 12th - **JOHN MAZE**
 Thurs 13th - **BOAT CAKE**
 DJ MIKE LAND 8pm
 80'S DANCE PARTY
 Mon 17th - **NATHANIEL HINTZ**
 Tues 18th - **JUSTIN POMFRET**
 Wed 19th - **JOHN SAGE**
 Thurs 20th - **BOAT CAKE**
 DJ MIKE LAND 8pm
 TAYLOR SWIFT DANCE PARTY
 Mon 24th - **NATHANIEL HINTZ**
 Tues 25th - **JUSTIN POMFRET**
 Wed 26th - **PETER WEREMAY**
 Thurs 27th - **BOAT CAKE**
 DJ MIKE LAND 8pm
 OLDIES NIGHT
 Mon 31st - **NATHANIEL HINTZ**
 Tues Aug. 1st - **JUSTIN POMFRET**
 Wed Aug. 2nd - **MIKE WENDLOSKI**
 Thurs Aug. 3rd - **BOAT CAKE**
 DJ MIKE LAND 8pm
 DANCE PARTY

FRI	SAT	SUN
7 Daniel Reed 1pm Total Eclipse of The 80's 9pm	8 Brian Cabral 1pm John Debellis 6pm Never Enuff 9pm	9 Mark Flynn 1pm
14 Matt Walker 1pm SPF4 5pm DJ Caswell & DJ Mike Land 9pm	15 DJ Caswell 1pm Otan Vargas 9pm	16 Alyssa Hammand & Nick Wrobel 1pm
21 Mike Wedlowski 1pm Weird Science 9pm	22 Daniel Greaves 1pm 6pm Traveling Wanna B's Brat Pack 9pm	23 Nick Bosse 1pm DJ Mike Land 5pm
28 Mark Flynn 1pm DJ Caswell 9pm	29 Brian Cabral 1pm Wicked Peach 9pm	30 Phil Smith 1pm Caswell & The Peel-N-Eat Band 9pm

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MAILBAG

Dear Readers,

Summer is here! Music, outdoor festivals, town fairs. There is something going on everyday in our area. And most of it is free! So check out this month's issue. There's something for everyone!

Sound Waves Magazine has been publishing for 33 years! It has remained a free publication. This is possible because of the advertisers. So help support us by telling them that you saw their ad here in the magazine! It does make a difference.

This month we had an interview with music icon Donny Osmond. Last time we interviewed him, it turned out to be our most popular issue ever. We had folks from all over the world asking for copies!

Till Next Month

David Pottie ~ Publisher

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Ali Kaufman
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Sound Waves

July 2023

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 7

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UPCOMING GARDE EVENTS!

KICKING OFF SAILFEST WEEKEND!

An Evening with **THEY MIGHT BE GIANTS** DOORS OPEN AT 6PM

FRIDAY, 07.07.23 | 7 PM

No opener! Doors open at 6pm. A band doesn't tour for 35 years if the people don't come back for more. Brooklyn originals They Might Be Giants is a beloved perpetual motion machine. **Co-sponsor WSHU NPR**



**SAILFEST
2023**
**SATURDAY, 07.08.23
& SUNDAY 07.09.23**

NEW LONDON 2023

Sailfest is Southeastern Connecticut's premiere summertime event. The two-day festival consists of a major fireworks display, amusement rides, free entertainment, Tall Ships, and over 200 vendors lining the streets of downtown New London.

Sean Nelson's New London Big Band **THE LOST MUSIC OF HARRY JAMES,** FEATURING WAYNE BERGERON

THURSDAY, 08.10.23 | 7:30 PM

Sean Nelson's New London Big Band returns to the Garde stage to perform recently discovered, unrecorded music of Harry James and his Orchestra, written for him by Thad Jones.

AMOS LEE

THURSDAY, 08.17.23 | 7:30 PM

With one foot in the real world and the other in a charmed dimension of his own making, Amos Lee creates the rare kind of music that's emotionally raw yet touched with a certain magical quality.

CROCE PLAYS CROCE

THURSDAY, 09.14.23 | 7:30 PM

A.J. Croce performs Croce Plays Croce, a special night of music featuring a complete set of classics by his late father Jim Croce, some of his own tunes, and songs that influenced both him and his father. **Sponsored by: Nutmeg Building & Remodeling**

BRUCE HORNSBY & THE NOISEMAKERS

THURSDAY, 09.21.23 | 7:30 PM

Bruce Hornsby & The Noisemakers will celebrate 25 years of Spirit Trail, bringing the album's anniversary tour to the Garde this fall! Each ticket will include a copy of the Spirit Trail: 25th Anniversary Edition 3-CD box set. Hornsby first rose to national prominence with The Way It Is, his 1986 Grammy-winning debut album with The Range. The title track became the most-played song on American radio in 1987 while Tupac Shakur's timeless song "Changes" builds on "The Way It Is" and set the stage for many subsequent versions of the track.

ERIC D'ALESSANDRO

FRIDAY, 09.22.23 | 8 PM

Long before he was old enough to enter a comedy club, native New Yorker Eric D'Alessandro was creating and honing his act online. He next conquered social media, gathering 349,000 followers on Instagram and 590,000 on TikTok. He brings his collection of characters, celebrity impressions and parody songs to the Garde.

KURT VILE AND THE VIOLATORS

WITH SPECIAL GUEST: JOANNA STERNBERG

SATURDAY, 09.23.23 | 8 PM

Philadelphia psych-pop master Kurt Vile will play the Garde stage with his band The Violators. Kurt Vile combines poetic lyric with guitar genius. This great modern American songwriter exudes a wholesome and easy charm.

THE MOTH: TRUE STORIES TOLD LIVE

FRIDAY, 09.29.23 | 8 PM

The Moth is true stories, told live and without notes. The Moth celebrates the ability of stories to honor both the diversity and commonality of human experience, and to satisfy a vital human need for connection. It seeks to present recognized storytellers among established and emerging writers, performers and artists and to encourage storytelling among communities whose stories often go unheard. **Sponsored by: WSHU-NPR**

MANHATTAN SHORT FILM FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, 10.01.23 | 3 PM

MANHATTAN SHORT is the only film festival of its kind where you are the judge with audiences around the world during a one-week period choosing the Best Short Film and Best Actor awards. These are movies you can only see on the giant screen!

STEVE HACKETT – GENESIS REVISITED

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FRIDAY, 10.13.23 | 8 PM

Steve Hackett brings Foxtrot at Fifty to North America for a string of eagerly awaited dates following the huge selling UK 2022 tour.

BORED TEACHERS COMEDY TOUR

SATURDAY 10.28.23 | 8 PM

Bored Teachers presents the 2023 'We Can't Make This Stuff Up' Comedy Tour featuring the funniest teacher-comedians in the world!

LEWIS BLACK: OFF THE RAILS

SUNDAY, 11.19.23 | 7 PM

Known as the King of Rant, Lewis Black uses his trademark style of comedic yelling and finger pointing to expose the absurdities of life. His comedic brilliance makes people laugh at life's hypocrisies and the insanity he sees in the world.

An Intimate Evening with

DAVID FOSTER & KATHARINE MCPHEE

THURSDAY, 05.16.24 | 7:30 PM

LIVE ON STAGE! 16-time Grammy award-winning musician, composer, and producer DAVID FOSTER and acclaimed singer, television, and Broadway star, KATHARINE MCPHEE are joining forces and bringing their show on the road.

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MUSIC NOTES

“Not Enough Moss”

By Mark T. Gould

The upside-down cover photo of the late Tina Turner was the last straw.

It all started for me in 1971, when I was just starting my musical journey. I don't recall how it happened, but somebody told me about a new, irreverent but pertinent music magazine out of San Francisco.

I rode my bike down to Kretzer's in Mystic, found its tabloid style, black-ink type peeking out at me from behind some more established (and establishment) publications on the news rack.

If I remember right, James Taylor was on the cover. I paid the 25 cents sale price, folded it under my arm, and drove home.

It was called Rolling Stone, and, after subscribing later that year (thanks, Mom and Dad), I've been renewing for the last, wow, 52 years. And, as an aside, I still have my well-worn first issue from '71.

No more.

Why?

A curmudgeonly combination of age, intolerance, and indifference.

Yawn.

In its earliest incarnation, Rolling Stone was consistently on the cutting edge. Advertisements featuring risqué album covers (the best example being Jimi Hendrix' original “Electric Ladyland”) and odd, yet vital stories about the plethora of artists we were all becoming exposed to in the new, adventurous music scene.

And, a free roach clip with each subscription.

At least that's what they told me.....

Rolling Stone was the brainchild of publisher/owner Jann Wenner and San Francisco-based music critic and columnist Ralph J. Gleason. Wenner borrowed \$7,500 from his family to start the magazine, and the rest is history.

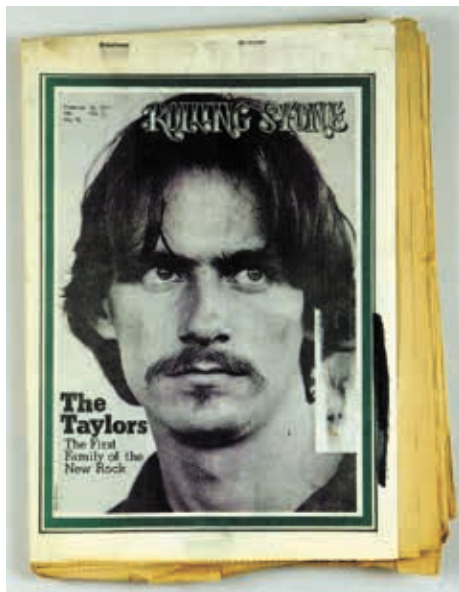
In the first issue, released on November 9, 1967, and featuring John Lennon

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on the cover, Wenner explained Rolling Stone's philosophy:

“You're probably wondering what we're trying to do. It's hard to say: sort of a magazine and sort of a newspaper. The name of it is Rolling Stone which comes from an old saying, ‘A rolling stone gathers no moss.’ Muddy Waters used the name for a song he wrote. The



Rolling Stones took their name from Muddy's song. ‘Like a Rolling Stone’ was the title of Bob Dylan's first rock and roll record. We have begun a new publication reflecting what we see are the changes in rock and roll and the changes related to rock and roll.”

And, for a fairly long time, Wenner and Rolling Stone followed that conviction.

In a few short years, Rolling Stone began to make an editorial mark with its political coverage, led by “gonzo” journalist Hunter S. Thompson. The Good Doctor first published his most famous work, “Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas,” within the pages of the magazine, where he remained a contributing editor until his death in 2005.

In a nod to their legacy, both Thompson's and Gleason's name remain on the magazine's masthead to this day.

Rolling Stone also launched the careers of investigative reporters like Joe Klein, Joe Eszterhaus, P.J. O'Rourke, and, most importantly, Tom Wolfe, whose coverage of the Apollo 17 lunar mission later provided the impetus for his classic book “The Right Stuff.”

Reading Rolling Stone in those days was pretty heady stuff for a young guy like me who was started to see, experience, understand, and question the world, as well as my place on it.

At its zenith, the magazine was like a series of political novels based in fact. Articles often ran 25,000 to 30,000 words, over multiple issues, a virtual impossibility today, when it seems that most people have the attention span of a gnat.

The January 21, 1970, issue covered the Rolling Stones' Altamont free concert, and the stabbing death of Meredith Hunter by a Hell's Angel at the venue, an article that won a Specialized Journalism award for Rolling Stone at the National Magazine Awards.

Later that year, Rolling Stone published a marathon feature on mass murderer Charles Manson, which included an exclusive interview of him while he was awaiting trial. The piece won the magazine its first National Magazine Award.

Four years later, they published exclusives on the Patty Hearst abduction odyssey, and the Karen Silkwood nuclear power story.

And, oh yeah, there was the music coverage.

Rolling Stone's music writers and editors at the time read like a Hall of Fame roster, including Ben Fong Torres, Lester Bangs, Paul Nelson, Cameron Crowe (who, before “Almost Famous” made him, uh, famous, wrote an All-

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"The books, engrossing spy thrillers, masterfully interweave past and present with the story of "Sonny" who idealistically joins up in 1944." - By Stacy Trevenon; Half Moon Bay Review.

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.

Author Kenneth Pottie






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Photo by Jake Egbert

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man Brothers cover story at the ripe age of 16), Dave Marsh, David Fricke, Kurt Loder, and many, many others.

So, as Rolling Stone expanded my political mind, it also nurtured my musical one.

Of course, though, all good things must come to an end. Not surprisingly, as the times were a-changing, so was Rolling Stone, and not for the good.

In the 80s, Wenner, having moved the editorial offices from San Francisco to New York, turned the magazine's focus more to entertainment than politics and music, at the same time changing the magazine's format to a glossy, large-format layout, presumably to look better on the newsstand, and refocused its image on celebrities, films, and pop culture.

Not surprisingly, given those times, the changes resulted in huge increases in advertising revenue and pages. Within another decade, Rolling Stone pretty much jettisoned its core coverage to appeal to a younger audience that was interested in television, popular films, and the newer genre of hip hop and rap.

Frankly, it seemed to me that Wenner, and his magazine, were emphasizing style over substance, but it was hard to argue with its financial success.

My knee-jerk reaction to that, at the time, and probably still today, is that I crave substance, and sophomore efforts at style that take away from that bores me to tears.

Weirdly, though, with all the changes, Rolling Stone's readership went down.

Maybe it was all of us baby boomers headed to the door.

Reacting thereto, Wenner brought back pioneering political coverage led by the super-charged Matt Taibbi. The music coverage got a much needed jolt from Rob Sheffield, and, even more importantly, the magazine started in-depth coverage of the environment, led by the investigative reporting of Jeff Goodell, years before the phrase "climate change" was uttered by anybody.

And, even with the thrust toward younger readers, Wenner always seem to make sure that there was one article or review in each issue about an artist from the halcyon days of the Sixties counterculture.

Even to my jaded, older eyes, it seemed the old Rolling Stone was trying in

some ways to come back to me.

I was wrong.

In September 2016, Wenner sold a 49 percent share of the magazine to a company from Singapore. One year later, he sold the remaining 51 percent to Penske Media.

Penske? Oil, race cars, Mercedes dealerships (honest admission: we've bought one of those cars from them), I get, but publishing?

I cringed, and I am still cringing.

Three years later, the nightmare was complete, as Penske bought the other 49 percent from the folks in Singapore.

The magazine then went from a bi-weekly to a monthly, and the wait wasn't worth it. What used to be required reading that might take hours usually would take me about 15 minutes, if that, from cover to cover.

Others complained that Rolling Stone was becoming the house organ of the Democratic Party, years before CNN and MSNBC. To me, it had always skewed a bit left, and the current posture wasn't much different, even if the times were, and never really bothered me.

Today's Rolling Stone usually garners a reaction of "who's that?" and "what's that?" from me as I skim its pages. Getting older, but hopefully remaining semi-hip, I have a similar reaction to the Academy Awards and Emmy nominations, too.

I guess I am old and in the way, but I still love good music and intelligent, probing political discussion and argument.

And, that ain't Rolling Stone anymore.

Which leads me to the upside-down cover photo of Tina Turner.

I somewhat reluctantly pulled the

most recent issue out of my mailbox, it's gloss literally sticking to my hands.

Eight stories were highlighted on the cover. I didn't recognize a topic, never mind a person.

As had occurred for years, I had no idea who the person was on the cover.

Then, I made the mistake of turning over the magazine.

On the back, upside down, was a stunning picture of the glamorous, glorious and, as she said, rough Tina Turner, whose strength and voice, ironically, had straddled the entire history of the Rolling Stone era.

Next to the picture was a small acknowledgment of her recent passing at the age of 84.

No article. Nothing else.

The tragic death of one of the icons of our musical time, and all she gets is an upside-down picture on the back page of the magazine that used to chronicle her, and our, times?

So, that was it. I will not be renewing after 55 years.

For me, Rolling Stone's influence ended long ago.

For me, the whole magazine is upside down.

For me, it has lost its moss.

Sadly, I'm done.



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26 SHOT DOWN 2pm	27 NINE STYLE 2pm	28 BJ & BRIANNA 2pm	29 POP DADDY 2pm DJ FELIX 8-12	30 POP DISASTER 2pm
2 DJ DONNY D 2pm	3 TBA 8pm	4 TBA 2pm	5 SAVAGE BROTHERS 2pm DJ FELIX 8-12	6 THE ZOO 2pm

GRAMMA'S ATTIC REVUE

“Mike Bailey & Ron Gletherow The Crossing of Two Talents ”

By Gramma

You have heard of star-crossed lovers, but have you ever heard of across-the-pond-crossed musicians? That is the story that I am about to tell you. The story all started across the ocean in Old London and much earlier than that in Scotland. This is a story of the two journeys that were traveled to bring this very talented duo together.

Ron Gletherow was born across the pond in the city of Old London. He is the very younger brother of 4 older sisters, being born 18 years after the youngest of them. He started playing guitar when he was twelve and one of his favorite musicians was Jim Croce. As he learned to play, he would copy Jim's songs and his voice. It was 1971, two years before Jim's fateful crash in 1973 and Ron was enthralled with Jim's music. Ron kept playing his guitar and learning those songs and in 1998 he was one of the 50,000 people that tried out for a British television show called Stars in Their Eyes. Ron was one of the 60 people chosen to appear on this show and he performed songs by Jim Croce. The premise of this show was that you had to sound like the artist that you were performing as. Ron laughed as he told me that there was no way that he looked like Jim but because he learned Croce's songs, he sang them the same way and therefore lost his British accent when sang those songs. Although Ron did not win this contest, he did do well enough to be invited to cross over the Atlantic to attend a convention that was being held to commemorate the 25th year since Jim's untimely death.

It was at this convention that Ron met Margaret Cafarelli. She just happened to be one of the organizers of the convention. Their love for Jim Croce

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brought them together and the rest is love “Timed In A Bottle”, a love story that continues to this day, they wed in 2000.

Ron wanted his very shy wife to perform onstage with him. It wasn't until Meg saw a beautiful white guitar that she fell in love with that Ron was able to convince her to do this. You see, he told her that he would buy her the guitar if she would get up and play with him in public. At that time, they were friendly with Paul Williams. Meg had a cassette tape of him and Jim Croce sitting around a kitchen table talking and writing songs together, she asked Paul if he wanted it and the three of them became fast friends. When Paul heard the story about the white guitar, he named the duo Maggie's Guitar. Maggie's Guitar played as a duo until 2003.

(Quick side story...several years later Ron sold that guitar which was, in 2016 to appear on the TV show The Voice with the buyer... Braiden Sunshine. He still owns and plays that guitar on a regular basis.)

In 2004 Ron went to a local gathering put on by Shoreline Acoustic Music. This organization was cofounded by Sherri Stidfole, Steve Fagin, and a guy by the name of Mike Bailey. Ron asked Steve to join the duo and shortly thereafter also asked Mike to join them. This

band released their first album in 2008 and was one of the first interviews that I ever had on WCNI. That album was a mixture of originals and covers including one of Croce's songs. All the following three albums put out by Maggie's Guitar have been originals written by both Mike Bailey and Ron Gletherow. They wrote their own songs and then brought them to practice and playing the songs as a band.

By the time that they recorded the last album titled CROSSING, the band had once again turned into a duo now consisting of Mike and Ron. Ron told Mike that the title cut on this album was awesome with Mike's reply that it was a true story. It was Margaret that said the story would be a great stage musical. So, the lightbulb went off and the Musical Stage production of CROSSING was born.

Mike wrote the story by himself. The main character was George Morrison who was a multi-great grandfather to Mike. The story grew from him and how the family ended up crossing the Atlantic and coming to America ending up in Norwich. If you are interested in finding out more about this story you can go to www.crossingamusicjourney.com. It is a great story of love found and lost and the adventure that one family experienced in getting to America.

The music in CROSSING is written half and half by both Mike and Ron. Mike wrote the play and the lyrics; Ron did all the orchestration. This play was first performed at The Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center in Old Saybrook. I remember that night and the thrill I felt watching people that I knew putting on a show that was a true historical event. A couple of the players that were in that production were John Lamar, Braiden Sunshine, and Galen Donovan. In the new production you will see such talented people as Gretta Loesel, Mike Johnson, Sam Bailey, Emily Roy, Roger Long and Geoff Kaufman. The production has been rewritten with some new music added including the first song that Mike and Ron wrote completely together. There are nineteen songs in this production now each one a tale within itself that build to truly make this a story desiring to be told to the masses.

www.swaves.com

And so, the journey continues from across the pond in Old London and Scotland to the USA where Jim Croce, Paul Williams, and Maggie's guitar and the aforementioned players are now turning this stage production into a movie project.

Mike and Ron both feel as if this project is the best work that they have ever done and are excited to be able to share it with the world.

You can find more information of Maggie's Guitar on Facebook or www.maggiesguitar.com there is also an audio play written by Ron called Evacuees at www.evacuees.co.uk.

I hope that you have all started your summer off with a splash. Enjoy all the events that are going on in the area Music, sports, art shows, fairs, and festivals. I will see you out there. Until next month stay safe and have a great summer!!!!





A CHORUS LINE



A CHORUS LINE

A CHORUS LINE

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BAND DATES

BARSTOOL DIPLOMATS

9 - Green, Lebanon, CT 2-4
22 - Music Fest, Scotland, CT 6-7

BIG LUX

6,13,20,27 - Spring House, Block Island, RI 5:30-8:30pm
8 - Sail Fest, New London, CT 7pm
12,26 - Ice House Sports Bar, Fairhaven, MA
14 - Needle & Thread, Providence, RI
16 - Pier 52, Fall River, MA brunch
21 - On the Waterfront, New London, CT 7pm
22 - Patio on Main, E. Greenwich, RI 7pm
25 - Futures League All Star Game, NY
30 - Bell in Hand Tavern, Boston, MA

BRAIDEN SUNSHINE

7 - Green, Norwich, CT 6-8pm
8 - Woodfellas, New London, CT 5-7:30pm
29 - Lighthouse Inn, New London, CT 6-9pm

THE CARTELLS

7 - Rocks 21, Mystic, CT 7-10pm
8 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7-10pm
15 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3-6pm
15 - Tuskers, New London, CT 7:30-10:30pm
20 - Senior Center, Lyme, CT 5-8pm
23 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 5-8pm
26 - Wadsworth Mansion, Middletown, CT 6:30-8:30pm
27 - Casa Mia, Rocky Hill, CT 6-9pm

CASWELL COOKE & THE PEEL N' EAT YACHT ROCK BAND

10 - Town Beach, Westerly, RI 6pm
30 - Windjammer, Misquamicut, RI 7-10pm

CHRISTOPHER JOHN

4 - Lake Pemaquid Campground, Damariscotta, ME 7-10
6 - Rocks 21, Mystic, CT 5-8
7 - Chatham Creamery, E. Hampton, CT 5-8
8 - Cedar Island Marina, Clinton, CT 1-5
8 - Stumble Inne, Old Lyme, CT 7-10
9 - The Dublin, E. Hampton, CT 3-6
13,21 - Village Pizza, Preston, CT 8-11
14 - Bills Seafood, Westbrook, CT 4-6
15 - Yarde Tavern, S. Hadley, MA 6-9
16 - Fort Hill Brewery, Easthampton, MA 3:30-5:30
20 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT 6-9
22 - Rosy Tomorrows, Danbury, CT 6:30-9:30

12 SOUND WAVES

23 - Sheas, Manchester, CT 4:30-8
27 - 110 Grill, Southington, CT 5-8
28 - Cassidy Hill Vineyard, Coventry, CT 6-8
29 - Kent Pizza Garden, Kent, CT 5-8
30 - Thimble Island Brewery, Branford, CT 2-5

CHRIS COFONI

8 - Back 40, N. Kingston, RI 8-11pm
28 - Union & Main, E. Greenwich, RI 7-10pm

DARIK & THE FUNBAGS

8 - Fair, Enfield, CT 4:30p
16 - Stonebridge, Milford, CT 6pm
22,23 - Ballards, Block Island, RI

DON'T TELL LISA

6 - Senior Center, Old Lyme, CT 7-9pm
8 - Rooftop 120, Glastonbury, CT 8-11pm
19 - Rock the Docks, Norwich, CT 6-8pm
21 - Chicago Sams, Cromwell, CT 8-11pm
23 - Filomena's, Waterford, CT 6-9pm

Dr. G & THE BELIEVERS

7 - Sneekers, Groton, CT 8-11pm
9,14 - Water's Edge, Westbrook, CT 6-10pm

EIGHT TO THE BAR

7 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 8-11pm

FAKE EXPERIENCE TRIO

21 - Tin Peddler, N. Stonington, CT 6-8pm
28 - Angie's, Mystic, CT 7-10pm

THE FAKE EXPERIENCE

7 - Stonington Vineyards, Stonington, CT 6-9
24 - Town Beach, Westerly, RI 6:30-8:30

F & BLUES BAND

23 - Wolf Den, Uncasville, CT 7-8:30
28 - Washington Park, Groton, CT 6-9

GAETANO PATALANO

16 - German Club, Mystic, CT 6-9

GLAUCOMA SUSPECT

29 - The Shamlot, Westerly, RI 6pm

HOPE ROAD

6 - Esker Point, Groton, CT 6pm
7 - Drive-In, Misquamicut, RI 6:30pm
22 - Narragansett Café, Jamestown, RI

JAMES HARRIS

5,12,19,22,26 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 9pm
6,27 - Dean's Mill Farm, Stonington, CT 5pm
9 - Maugle Sierra Vineyard, Ledyard, CT 3pm
21 - Rocks 21, Mystic, CT 4pm
21 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT 8pm
23 - Shunock River Brewery, N. Stonington, CT 5:30pm
25 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 6pm
28 - Ridge Vineyard, Preston, CT 8pm

MUNSELL BROTHERS

8,29 - Tuskers, New London, CT

MYSTIC PROPHETS

11 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 8:30-10:30pm
16 - Thirsty Beaver, Westerly, RI 7pm
20 - Shunock River, N. Stonington, CT 5:30-8:30pm

NICK BOSSE

14 - Fair, N. Stonington, CT 7 & 9pm
23 - Windjammer, Westerly, RI 1-4pm
27 - Surf Cantina, Westerly, CT 8-11pm
29 - Fair, Lebanon, CT 5-8pm

RAMBLIN' DAN STEVENS

5 - Town Green, Old Saybrook, CT 6:30
6 - Pa's Place, Guilford, CT 5-7
7 - Coastline Brewing Co., Westbrook, CT 6
8 - Dexter's, E. Hampton, CT 7
9 - Winchester Cafe, Portland, CT 4
10,18 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 9
11,25 - Nightingale's, Old Lyme, CT 6
12 - Dragonfly, Bethel, CT 5:30
13 - Hops On The Hill, S. Glastonbury, CT 4:30
14 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7
15 - Blackledge Country Club, Hebron, CT 6
16 - Notch8, Bethel, CT noon
19 - Bent Nails Bistro, Montpelier, VT 7
23 - Fort Hill Brewery, Easthampton, MA 5
29 - Tunnel Bar, Northampton, MA 6
30 - Forty Thieves, Groton, CT 6

RED LIGHT

7 - Owen Bell Park, Killingly, CT 6:30pm
8 - City Dock, New London, CT
12 - Park, Plainfield, CT 6:30-8pm
14 - Paddy's, Westerly, RI 9:30pm
15 - JC Savings, Griswold, CT 5-7:30pm
21 - Blu on the Water, E. Greenwich, RI 9:30pm
22 - Strawberry Park, Preston, CT 7-10pm
23 - Harp & Dragon, Norwich, CT
28 - Wachusett Brewing, Westminster, MA 7-10pm

RICKIE LOUISE MILLER

5 - Chew & Brew, Jewett City, CT 7pm
6 - Blue Duck, New London, CT 6pm
11 - Angie's, Mystic, CT 5pm
14 - Norwichtown Green, Norwich, CT 6pm
16,27 - Pizzetta, Mystic, CT 6pm
20 - Rocks 21, Mystic, CT 5:30pm
23 - Paradise Hills Winery, Wallingford, CT 2pm
30 - Stony Creek Brewery, Branford, CT 2pm

THE SOUL FACTORY

8 - The Social, New London, CT 9:30-11:55pm
8 - Parade Stage, New London, CT 12-1pm
15 - River Park, Sprague, CT 5-9:15pm

SUBLIMINALS

7,21 - Port of Call, Mystic, CT 8p
14 - Tusker's, New London, CT 7:30p
27 - Stomping Ground, Putnam, CT 8p
28 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 9:30p

SUNDAY GRAVY

14 - Stonington Vineyard, Stonington, CT 6pm
28 - Filomena's, Waterford, CT 6pm

TSC ACOUSTIC

8 - Farmers Market, Waterford, CT 11am- 1pm
15 - Celebrate E. Lyme, Niantic, CT 3-4:30pm
16 - Hot 11 Yoga Studio, Rocky Hill, CT 4:30-5:30pm
19 - Farmers Market, Rocky Hill, CT 4-7pm
20 - Farmers Market, Niantic, CT, 3-6 PM
23 - Farmers Market, Colchester, CT 10am-1pm
25 - Farmers Market, Montville, CT 4-7pm
29 - Bobby V's, Windsor Locks, CT 7-10pm

WOOLITE

6,13,20,27 - Dive Bar, Mystic, CT 8-11pm

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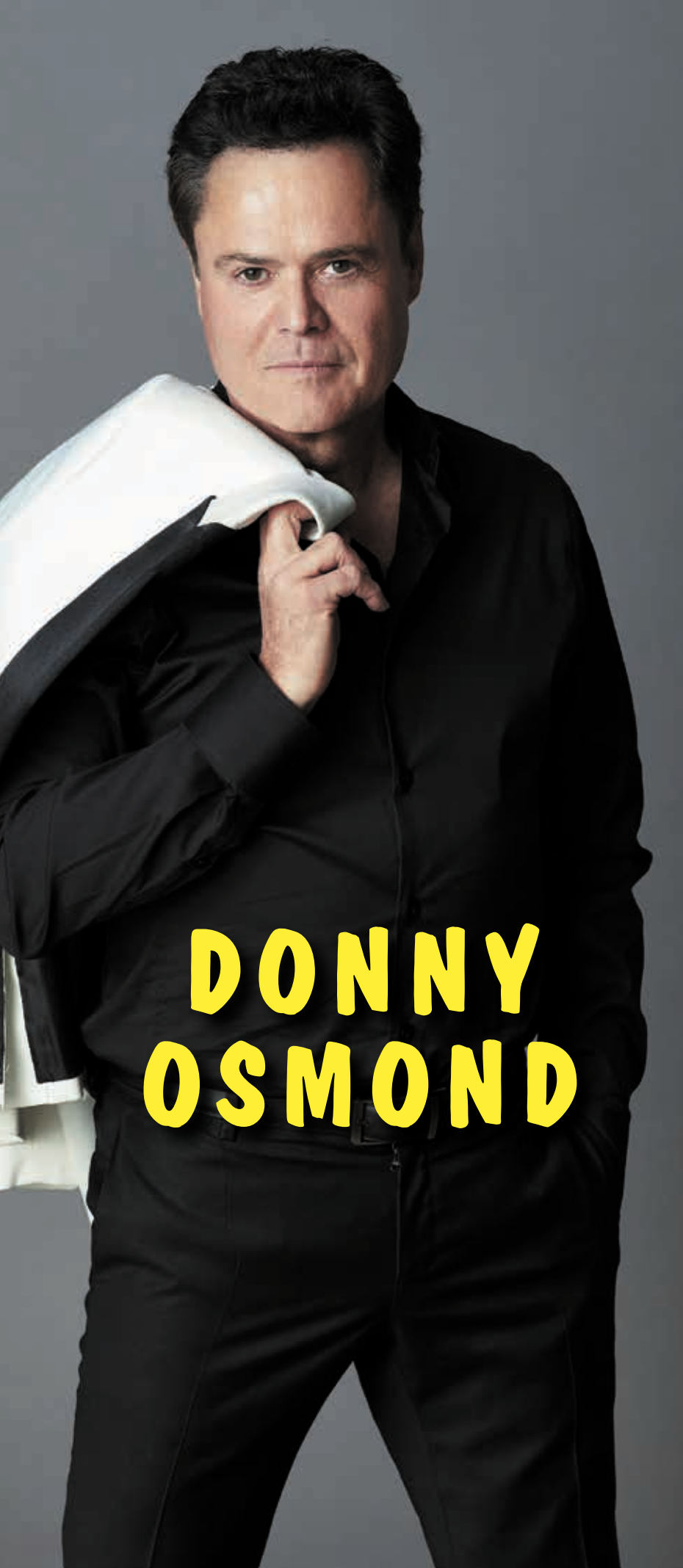
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DONNY OSMOND

By Bill Harriman

"You know I could do this every night. Sing to you until they kill the lights. Every note'll go on and on and on and on," sings Donny Osmond on the aptly titled "On and On," the final track on his excellent new album of original material called "Start Again." Not only did Donny have a hand in writing and producing all twelve songs, but he also played various instruments such as percussion, keyboards, and guitar on several tracks.

The thing about "On and On" that fits Donny so well is that he is sixty-five years old now and he first started singing in front of a live audience sixty years ago. That is not a misprint. He really is a sixty-five-year-old with a sixty-year career.

There's been nothing like Donny Osmond's singularly unique life in show business. He was the five-year-old boy singing on the Andy Williams show who, a decade later with his older brothers Alan, Wayne, Merrill, and Jay became the lead singer of the Osmonds. He was the quintessential teen idol singing "Puppy Love" to all the screaming teenage girls.

By the age of 19 he had, along with his kid sister, his own tv program called The Donny & Marie Show. After a downturn in his recording career, he came back in a strong way in 1988 with the success of "Soldier of Love." He has starred in several Broadway plays, the most significant being his tremendous run as the lead in Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. He's been in movies. He's made countless tv appearances including, for a time, being the host of the game show Pyramid. He had an eleven-year residency in Las Vegas with Marie. He won Dancing with the Stars in 2009. He was a recent runner-up on The Masked Singer. And now he has his own residency in Vegas headlining at Harrah's Las Vegas Showroom where among the awards he has won are Best Production Show, Best Headliner, and Best Family Friendly Show.

By his side during this entire time has been Debbie, his wife of forty-five years and their five sons Christopher, Don Jr., Jeremy, Joshua, and Brandon. There's also a slew of grandchildren.

Also, with his loyal fan base, Donny has a reputation of being accessible, friendly, and appreciative. He genuinely loves people. He has a loud and easy laugh and it's impossible to not take an instant liking to the guy. And, if you look at the cover of this magazine, he still looks great in a tux.

This phone interview took place on May 30th (my 3rd with him). Donny was getting ready for a summer tour that brings him to Connecticut on July 18th when he plays the beautiful Palace Theater in Waterbury and on August 3rd when he returns to the Grand Theater at Foxwoods.

BH – Donny, let me start with the most important question. Is it true that you and Debbie have thir-

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teen grandchildren?

DO - "No..... fourteen! The fourteenth is coming on July 1st. You know, you kind of wish you could start with the grandkids. They're so great. You can spoil them and send them home."

BH - I'm with you on that! Congratulations on the arrival of number 14 and congratulations on the "Start Again" album. I like the hard R&B turn you took on it.

DO - "Well you got to keep reinventing yourself Bill. Being in the business that you are, you have to keep reinventing yourself and coming up with new products. It took me three and a half years to write this album and I wrote over forty songs for it and narrowed it down to the twelve that are on the album. You must keep pushing the envelope, especially nowadays. People get tired quickly. They have the attention of a gnat these days and so you have to keep progressing."

BH - "Who," "Let's All Dance," "A Motional Thing" are some excellent songs.

DO - "Thank you. Well I started seeking out the sounds from the smartest that I absolutely love and that's how I found these specific writers. There's another song there called 'The Way you Are' and it's a very interesting way that I wrote that song. Amy Wadge co-wrote 'Thinking Out Loud' with Ed Sheeran. And she met me just before Covid hit and said, 'I really want to write a song with you.' I said let me come up with a concept and it took me three or four months. But because of Covid, she went back to the U.K. and I'm in Utah. And I came up with this concept and we wrote it over zoom. Maybe four or five times back and forth and boom! It was done."

BH - The song "On and On" sounds like a concert closer.

DO - "And that's exactly what I do. Well, it's the second to last. 'Let's All Dance' is the one that I close the show with."

BH - On your prior record, "Soundtracks of my Life" you covered a dozen classic songs. What was the thought process behind that record? Also, you start the album with Stevie Wonder's "My Cherie Amour" which reminded me of your "This is the Moment" album which started with "Seasons of Love," another song made famous by Stevie Wonder. I'm assuming you're a big fan.

DO - "I wanted to do a bunch of songs that really influenced me. The challenge of that album Bill is the fact that if you don't do it just like the original, now you're tampering with classics. But if you do it like the original, now you're doing karaoke. So where is the fine line that you draw to make it your own yet don't go too far away from the original? So that was the challenge I had there. So anyway, I cut 'My Cherie Amour' because it was the very first 45 I ever bought. I was like 11 years old, and I started cutting and thought wouldn't it be amazing if I could get Stevie to play harmonica on this song? And so, I called him up, we've staying in touch with each other over the years, and he said, 'send me the MP3.' Because he wasn't about to just commit to any song without hearing it. So, ten minutes went by after I sent him the MP3 and he called me back and said 'Donny, send me the masters. I got to be a part of this song. I absolutely love it.' It was a nice endorsement."

BH - Next you cover "Ben" by Michael Jackson. You were always a good friend to him.

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DO - "You know that was my song, right?"

BH - No I didn't

DO - "You don't know the story of 'Ben'?"

BH - No, tell me.

DO - "Check this one out. It was written for me to sing but I was on tour with my brothers, so I wasn't able to get it done. Obviously back then we didn't have the technology we have today where you can record anywhere. They said, 'but we have to finish the movie and there's this little kid named Michael Jackson from the Jackson 5. Let's get him to sing it.' And that became Mike's first number one solo record. So, forty years, almost exactly to the day that he released 'Ben,' I decided to do my song. That's when I decided to do 'Ben.'"

BH - You also cover "Moon River." Is that a nod to Andy Williams and how important he was to those first days of the Osmond Brothers?

DO - "Most definitely. That's the one I took a lot of liberties on with the melody. Because of my relationship with Andy, he was the one who gave me my start in show business. So that one I really, really had some fun with the melodies and the phrasing and things like that. I really took it to places where it was so obscure, a technical version of it."

BH - Changing the subject, I really like the video of you harmonizing with your teenage self to the song "Go Away Little Girl."

DO - "Thank you. That was a tour I did over in the U.K. I jumped at the idea. I said, 'why not.' Because I can do it. And it's a kind of cool little juxtaposition of me singing with myself."

BH - Are you touring with your regular band?

DO - "Oh no, I'm bringing my Vegas show on tour with me. This is the Vegas show that I'm bringing because I realize not everybody can come to Vegas. So, I'm bringing Vegas to them. The dancers, the band, the production, it's a very expensive tour to do. But I wanted to get it done. Because like I said, not everybody can come to Vegas."

BH - The way this country is divided you might as well paint everyone either blue or red. Do you feel like your music and your shows are a place where people can come together and set aside their differences?

DO - "And that's why I wear purple socks! I had purple before Prince. He stole the color from me! You're absolutely right Bill. When people come to our show it has nothing to do with blue or red. And it shouldn't be. I'm not that kind of an artist. I look at show business as escapism. When people come to a show, at least when they come to my show, it's just about going on a ninety minute or two-hour journey and just escaping the world and enjoying memories. In fact, I put together this rap, kind of like Hamilton, everything is in rhyme. It was originally called six in six. Six decades in six minutes. And I couldn't fit it all in six minutes. That's why it's a ten-minute rap of everything I've done in six decades of show business. And the reason I love that segment of the show is because it shows the breath. And I use that word because somebody told me the other day it shows the breath of your life, of everything you've done. And everybody can relate to certain different things in that rap because they've been through it with me. And it's not polarizing. It's not blue, it's not red. It's just reliving memories of six decades. In fact,

this lady came up to me after a show not long ago. She said 'as I watched that rap', because everything you say in this rap you actually see visually on the screen with pictures and with video. It's almost like data overload. And she said, 'I not only watched your life flash before my eyes. I watched my life flash before my eyes because I lived every one of those moments with you.'"

BH - I know you've written books before, but have you considered starting an autobiography?

DO - "Well, I came out with my autobiography back in the late nineties, and then I did an addendum to it. But no, I have not started penning anything because I'm not done. I still have a lot of stuff I want to accomplish. It's fascinating and fortunate I'm still going sixty years on. Somebody said something to me the other day, it was pretty cool Bill. They said, 'do you realize that you have your own show on the strip of the entertainment capital of the world and you're only using your first name? How many people do that?' And it's so true!"

BH - Even your website.

DO - "Even my website, donny.com. I've been up and down. You've done the research. You know I've been all over the place but I'm really riding a wonderful wave right now. That's why I love this show. It's because it is all inclusive. It's everything I've done in a ninety-minute show."

BH - You're sixty-five years old with a sixty-year career. Have you thought about the fact that if all goes well, you could end up with the longest career in show business history?

DO - "Believe me, I've thought about it. It's highly probable that it could happen, knock on wood. I really take care of myself and I'm very active. I eat very healthy foods. I love what I do. That's the secret. Do you know what's interesting? I was talking to a producer of Entertainment Tonight one time. And he said 'we did a piece on the longest living people on the planet.' What was the common denominator? It wasn't location. They call them blue zones. Once again it has nothing to do with location or with food. Do you know what the common denominator was?

BH - My guess would be just having something to look forward to.

DO - "Laughter. Enjoyment. Having fun. If you can enjoy your life and not take yourself so seriously. Just enjoy your life. That was the common denominator. Now granted, there are those who laugh a lot, and they get cancer or whatever. And genetics can play a big role. However, the common denominator for long, lasting life is laughter and enjoyment. And when I get on stage it's so much fun. Yes, I leave it all on stage. I work my butt off on stage. When you win Dancing with the Stars people expect dancing, so you have got to give them that. I love it when we go into the Moulin experience, we turn the theater into a Moulin experience because I'm Captain Shans in that movie. Everything in between, the Masked Singer, all these kinds of things. Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Coat and it just lights up and I see the different generations. Last Saturday night I had these teenagers in dead center. I thought 'what are they doing at my show?' But when I went into Moulin and all these kinds of things, they lit up because that's what they grew up with.

Other generations, when I did the tribute to Andy Williams, I do a duet with him when I sing 'Moon River.' It's phenomenal the way we do it. The older generation, they love it. When I do the Donny and Marie tribute or even when I mention Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat, certain generations relate to me with different songs that I've done over the six decades. It's really interesting for me as an artist to be able to do that. Yes, I want to have the longest running career. Wouldn't that be cool?"

Yes Donny, that would be very cool. Cooler still is that Donny and Debbie's 14th grandchild has arrived. Christopher and Alta Osmond welcomed a baby boy into their family on June 29th. His name is Dune Tyler Osmond and both mom and baby are doing fine. Would it surprise anyone if in 2044 Dune celebrated his 21st birthday by going to a Donny Osmond concert?





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SOUND WAVES 17

LOCAL BEAT

“All Souls Church Passes the Guitar to House Homeless”

By Andrew Kerbs

It was a nice change of scenery to be away from crowded festivals and acrid bars and into a peaceful church setting with fellow musicians raising social service funds in town this June. The event is also held every year in Westerville and at the old church in Meredith to help raise funds for food pantries and shelters. Hugh Birdsall organized this “Pass the Guitar” fundraiser in New London which starred punky-haired Dot, the MC, managing the stage and supervising the musicians who played cover songs.

There was no shortage of acoustic blues that weekend night at church. I walked into the event to see Hugh Birdsall play the one-chord blues number “Aw Shucks” with him chatting about allusions to money, love and his “Ooowee” rebel yells in the key of C. Elan Zabari was a very impressive singer with a deep, male-like blues voice. David Horst and Charlie Schott played standup bass and acoustic guitar on “Blues Stay Away From Me,” reminding listeners, amidst the refrain of a catchy closing chorus, to “let me be free (instead of haunting me).”

The best part of the show was audience participation as they sonorously called out choruses and hooks to songs. Sue Mead cordially invited the crowd to sing along and even harmonize to her cover in which she sang “Meet me by the fire/moon . . . I’ll be home soon.” Steve Elci and the Parents played “Invisible” by U2 after lauding efforts by the New London Homeless Hospitality Center to alleviate homelessness. It was good to see George Parent again after 10 years of leave from Mitchell College where he taught math (and I psychology) and any U2 fan knows what an integral part audience choral participation is to the enjoyment of their live show. I

18 SOUND WAVES



was unfamiliar with this song even as a U2 fan but it sounded like something that would have been recorded on one of their more strident and sonorous piano-based albums like Atomic Bomb or even as far back as War. Nancy was good at hitting those sky-high Bono notes as she sang “All that you see, all that you know, there’s no them only us” Elci raised his hands like a conductor and egged on the crowd to chant the chorus as the instruments faded and only the audience singing and clapping could be heard (just like a U2 concert)!

Cold Tattoo, featuring Brain Straub and Don Barnes Jr. played a cover of the Allman Brothers’ “Aint Wasting Time No More” with allusions to stars above your head and going downtown to find somebody to love. This cut was off the Eat a Peach Album from way back in the early 70s, just as renounced slide guitarist Duane Allman quit Derek and the Dominos with Eric Clapton (who wasn’t doing that well at the time). Although the Allman Brothers Band would make much great music the rest of that decade, from Brothers and Sister to Enlightened Rogues, this is the last listeners would hear of Duane who died in a motorcycle accident that same decade. By the sound of their slide guitar and hush bluesy voices (not to mention their appearance) you would think the Allmans themselves were on-stage channeling Duane’s spirit!

Geoff Kaufman dedicated his chosen cover song to the late Tom Clark of the Homeless Hospitality Center who asked it to be sung at his memorial. Geoff reminds first time listeners of a bearded old rough and ready sailor of the Sound as he sang and strummed “There But For Fortune” with reference to rain, trains and sleeping wanderers stumbling out of bar doors. Kaufman was not only talented and handsome but had a great sense of humor, tuning his guitar mid-song while trying to keep his singing voice going at the same time. Not exactly a seamless segue (but a funny one).

The fact that show was acoustic and took place inside a church in no way detracted from the technique these players possessed and their fingers skillfully hammered onto the fretboard with left-hand pull-off notes. Frank Critelli played the jangly number “Flows Like a River” while flexing well-executed guitar hammer-ons during a crisp lead acoustic guitar solo. He sang about how It’s a long way home/down the river (so I hope you have a smiley someone in your life). Other artists played songs about clean clothes and showers as their guitarist melodically noodled a pentatonic solo and lamented how justice seemed in short supply.

Vince Tuckwood was the shaven-headed strongman with a strong stage presence (like Geoff Kaufman) but more rough looking. I was half expecting a hard rocking cover but he surprised me with his sensitive minor-key guitar strumming and he sang like a bird! His cover “Time Without Time” featured dexterous pulloffs up and down his acoustic fretboard as he sang about how time should be dead yet keeps coming round again with every breath as the wolves get ever closer to closing in (to death perhaps)? Perhaps this is analogy to financially struggling families waiting for break and echoes Pink Floyd’s hit album Dark Side of the Moon which laments the inevitability of aging and want of more time (and money).

Bernadette Golden, once a smooth-jazz recording artist, hollered out a cover song about love as indigestion or a “public service announcement.” Her voice crept and crooned along like Portishead only to crescendo as she belted out “Love me forever!” towards

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the end of the song.

Other artists used their Irish-sounding accent to cover a Smiths song about a Dutchman in wooden shoes sipping tea and liquor by candlelight as the fog creeps in. Bonnie Jacobson and Joe Gilbert played bright chirpy country song "Look at Us" about finding love again for "who I am," reminding audience listeners that getting older in no ways detracts from her attractive stage presence or the cheer of her music. Other highlights included the famous "Pretty Little Love Song" and "Tell Me a Lie" which, like Vince's cover, featured alternating thumb country plucking in the E and A strings.

Finally, Nick Evento and Charlie Schott (on bass) played "Please Don't Bury Me" about rising into heaven after taking a fall in the kitchen and hoping your family boxes your clothes, sells your organs and passes around your remains.

The simple pleasures of a church acoustic concert used to raise funds for a good cause reminds me how New London, even if it's a small city, keeps calling me back to say hi and enjoy music with old acquaintances where everybody knows everybody.



2023
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JULY 7 – THE HEAVY HITTERS

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Gracie Curran & The High Falutin' Band

By Ali Kaufman



One of my favorite things about interviewing singers is getting to hear their speaking voice. Gracie Curran has a lovely combination of her home town of Boston mixed with a slight southern lilt acquired from her years living in Memphis and now Mississippi. I caught up with Gracie in advance of her headlining the always much anticipated Black-eyed & Blues Fest, brought to us through the combined efforts of Black Eyed Sally's, The Connecticut Blues Society and Greater Hartford Arts Council. This is their 23rd year of hosting the FREE event in Hartford's historic Bushnell Park and it promises to be another fantastic event. On Friday night July 28th, Sally's kicks things off with The Duke Robillard Trio and Alexis P Suter Band on stage in their venue that is known for being the premier blues club in the area. On Saturday July 29th, the music moves to the large outdoor stage just across the street with last year's CT Blues Challenge Winners, Carl Ricci & 706 Union Ave starting the festivities at 2:00pm. Hometown favorite XY Eli Band, then Richiman & Groove Nice and Jeff Pevar Group follow in the lead up to Gracie Curran & The High Falutin' Band at 8pm.

Chances are that if you're already a fan of Gracie's you might have found out about her through a friend, if you are unfamiliar, be sure to not miss the 8:00 time slot, you will be telling your friends all about her the next day. Word of mouth has been the engine that keeps picking up passengers wherever Gracie plays, regarding that she said, "For a band that has had very little hype, I'm so grateful to the people that come to our shows and have shared, also to the DJs that keep playing us. The support has all made a big difference." I was lucky enough to find a copy of the band's 2013 debut album, Proof Of Love, at WCNI 90.9FM where I do a radio program,

I was hard pressed to believe this was a first recording. It is a swinging, sassy, soulful offering that still stands up today and is available on their website. Again Gracie credits her fans and DJs for the support of that album that cracked open the door for what was to come. That was also the album that sold the team putting on The Stafford Springs Blues Festival to sign her to their inaugural festival in 2015 where she blew us away! So did her delightful Mother who had been traveling with the band, they both left Stafford Springs with new fans that day.

Starting out in Boston gave Curran the opportunity to deep dive into a thriving Blues Music scene, "On any given Tuesday night you would go out and catch acts like Roomful of Blues, Duke Robillard, Mike Welch and Toni Lynn Washington. Jamming with these players early on really helped me grow and cemented that this was going to be my life's work". Gracie has been a songwriter and story teller for as long as she can remember and has gravitated to the big beautiful voices of the mighty women of the Blues, leading her to think she was born in the wrong time period. I beg to differ, Gracie was born the same year that Big Mama Thornton passed and I can't help but wonder if their souls might have brushed by each other crossing in the ether. In addition to undeniable stage presence, they both have James Cotton in common as Tom Holland, Cotton's long time guitar player brought Gracie onboard. She relayed that there were many pinch me moments traveling with them and getting to hear stories from back in the day.

Gracie's next pivotal move came when she decided upon the advice of her good friend Victor Wainwright to relocate to Memphis where she spent four years as one of the house bands at the legendary Rum Boogie on Beale Street. I could hear the fondness in her voice as she shared, "Playing on Beale for people that came from all over the world was incredible and a stepping stone to touring. I was floored to get calls to have us come play! It was such a great time, the people the music, I loved living in Memphis". Of her living arrangement at the time she went on to say, "I was living in a house with literally five different bands, Victor Wainwright, Brandon Santini, most of us played Beale and it was like having a bunch of big brothers looking out for me." This living situation was the origination for the second album, Gracie Curran and Friends, recorded in 2016. "We actually had a recording studio set up, right there in the house. Damon Fowler came in from Florida with his band to record and produce. Victor would hear something he liked and would saunter in and throw some keys down, Pat Harrington added guitar. My now husband, a sound engineer who I met on the Blues Cruise in 2015, had just started dating and engineered those sessions, it really felt like a family effort. The whole album came together very organically".

Another family Gracie is proud to be a part of is the Blues Cruise community, of which she is a perennial favorite with guests as well as fellow musicians. This is a business that can take a lot out of you and Gracie shared one way she fills up, she and about 25 fellow musicians do an annual 2 week camping trip in the Smokies, "We all disconnect, no phones, we are there to be together playing music for the sake of enjoying it. Finding the joy is important so you don't lose it in

the grind". Regarding Blues Music in particular, she says, "The honesty of the blues is what really kicks my ass. There is no B.S. there, no where to hide. That's what I love about music and want to carry forward", and she is with her upcoming third album.

"We were off for two years and I spent that time writing and playing constantly. We used that time well and are ready to capture our progress in this new recording. I feel like we sound better than we ever have, I am so proud of this release and it is not even finished yet!" Gracie animatedly shared with me, she went on to say, "I've always taken my songs in different directions depending on what's going on in our lives. We honor our influences but don't want to be constrained by the genre or a specific sound. You write for your feeling, what you are experiencing in the moment and the song just takes on it's own life". Look forward to hearing the first single, slated for a release this Fall, at the Black-Eyed and Blues Fest, with four more songs getting ready to roll out and full album coming in 2024. This album is done with Gracie's Boston band, the guys she started with and the musicians that she will be playing with in Hartford, Geoff Murfitt on Bass, Chris Hersch, guitarist with Girl, Guns & Glory and Say Darling, Owen Eichensehr on Drums and Dave Gross producing this album. Gracie went on to comment about how terrific she feels about recording the new album with the guys she has been on the journey with since 2015, "I have remarkable players in the band, we are in a good place, we've sold out lots of dates from then until now and I'm so grateful, it is a terrific feeling not to be suffering horrible imposter syndrome!" she says with a wink in her voice.

"I want to create a space for my audience that connects with them where they are, share an experience that takes them out of their reality for a bit. That is what we are truly feeling on stage." Gracie said as we began to wrap our chat. Come see for yourself on July 29th! You'll also find some cool merch, T-shirts and first two albums available on USB sticks. Gracie is undoubtedly excited to come back to New England with the band and I for one couldn't second that emotion any harder.

Follow Gracie and The High Falutin Band on all the socials and graciecurran.com

Blackeyedsallys.com

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And me! Morning Mojo on WCNI 90.9FM, Facebook, Instagram and emceeing at this year's festival.



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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn

Hello my Sweet Bar Flies..super busy month! Started off at MITCHFEST 14. Where I rocked and rolled and watched the swingers (I'm super awkward and incapable)! Beautiful emcee ALI KAUFMAN and cool dude BUFFY CHRISTINA kept things moving smoothly while act after act kept wow-ing the crowd, and DANA NEUGENT subtly observed the crowd while quietly snapping some great photos for A TOWN FULL OF BLUES!



Too many famous faces to list but JOE GERRISH and KIMBERLY THEWISSEN-LAABS were a few of the locals mixing with ANSON FUNDERBURGH, CHRISTINE OHLMAN, the CHRISTINA BOYS, as well as PAULA and NANCY, ROBERTO MORBIOLI, TONI LYNN WASHINGTON, MR NICK, DOC CHANONHOUSE, BRIAN DAVID TEMPLETON and too many more to list. What a beautiful day with all proceeds going to HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE OF RHODE ISLAND!

Ended my evening with Editor DAVE and KRIS and KEV SLOCUM at the BAYOU BBQ & GRILL with BRIAN BROTHER! Simply amazing food with



a Cajun Creole twist, in a wonderful spot in New London. Haven't see you in years, Buddy! Deelish! Stop in for some spicy Chipotle shrimp or the Seafood Platter!



So Kevin, the manager at the BARN in Groton recently popped by COCO'S SALON/HANDLEBAR CAFE recently after dropping off a lager and an IPA made especially for the BARN by EAST ROCK BREWERY. Going to try to pop in for the FLOYDIAN TRIP on July 29. Maybe they'll let me be a VIP! I heard it's a thing. Keep you posted!!

Had MEGANS SHOWER in Mystic with CLARE, MARGO and KATE. My New 3 best friends! Can't wait for CLIFFIE and MEGAN'S WEDDING where I will see my 7th grade Bestie PAT LETELLIER! HOLY SHMOLI!

It's been a minute. Put a pin in that one also. Next month!



Popped into the CAPTAIN'S MAN-SION Ribbon Cutting with SONNY and all the beautiful people from the MYSTIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE and July 25, my date JOANNA PAPINEAU, (from OMO Fame in Avondale) and I will be embarking on a Mystic River Cruise aboard the SABINO for a Business After Hours! What a hoot that's going to be! Yay me!!

The CHARLESTOWN RATHSKELLAR TAVERN has some fab shows coming up. JUSTUS on the 9th, STEVE SMITH & THE NAKEDS on the 16th, TAKE IT TO THE BRIDGE on the 23rd. Check their full skedj out online!

An Outdoor music venue, fire pits, corn hole, horseshoes and a damn good full menu, Executive Chef BUTCH BUSH and Bar Manager JILL FONNEMAN are leading the way(check out Cocktail's With Jill)! It's a Can't Miss Spot to Stop in your Travels!

Romper Stomper Time! Who's Rockin' a Birthday? I see BILL HARRIMAN, KEN POTTIE, WENDY ZINNA DONAHUE, KATHY MCCABE, LES HALEY, MELISSA GODDARD, ARC FERRARO, ALLISON BURNS, BRIAN HARRISON, GUI RAMOS, PATTY BURGIE CAPPS, MICHELLE MEDEIROS, LAURIE ELVIN, LINDS ELIZABETH, CLIFFIE STAMM, JORDAN TAMBORR, JEFF WADE, LINDA BROWN, MELISSA FOLEY, SHARON WHITE, TREESH DICARLO, CHEF BRIAN DUFFY, SAM BAZYDLO, BONNIE BAZYDLO, BRIAN TOOF, GERALD BELL, AL WHIPPLE, STEPHEN WHITE. TY REAY, SCOTT

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BANKS, AMES WALL, JANINE MARIE, HOLLY MAIN, GRACE LEWIS, NICOLE CHIARADIO NOISEUX, FRANK WILSON, TIMOTHY EARL, NICK CIPRIANO, SARAH ST PETER, SARAH DORINA, ROBERTO MORBIOLI,

So GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN POKER RUN is happening! It's a way for us all to Celebrate the Lives of so many that we've lost! Bring a picture, a memory, a story or just yourself a smile and maybe a tear. July 30 at Noon! Starting at the HANDLEBAR CAFE and our last stop will be a swing thru the STONINGTON TOWN DOCK with a prayer at the Fisherman's Memorial. Such an iconic Stonington spot for so many of us. Wheels up at 12:45. Poker hands are \$10 a hand.

Bring your motorcycle, your scooter, your car or your truck! Or just show up and hitch a ride! It's a Poker Run with Winner Take All!! So let's do this!

So I'm on my way to my Second Annual BLOCK ISLAND 4TH OF JULY PARADE. Faithful readers will remember my first year's faux pas of Mylar Balloon Hell. Who knew they weren't allowed on Island?? Put it in the Parade info, for God's Sake. Not a mind reader. Anyways. Im going to try not to churn up the waters this year! I'm honoring all Front Line workers and First Responders as Our Greatest American Heroes. Wearing my sexy cop outfit, cuzzzzz Why not? Put a pin in that one also. We'll come back to That One also. Next month!

So Get Out, See a Band, Shop Local! OH! Welcome back ROCK STAR SUE MENHART and KEVIN CLARK.

Ciao for Now, my Sweet, sweet Flies! Love you long time!

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DINING OUT

"Dock and Dine in Noank, Mystic, and Stonington"

By Elizabeth Saede

Fresh ocean air and sunshine create ideal boating conditions in coastal Connecticut as watercraft in all shapes and styles dot waterways. Time on the water, away from screens and pollen, creates enduring memories and wind-blown hair. Tantalizing surf and turf aromas drift from nearby restaurants, but do they have dock space? Here are dock and dine suggestions for Noank, Mystic, and Stonington eateries, where transient docking is free for patrons unless otherwise indicated. All locations are family-friendly, and many are pet-friendly. Skip the traffic and parking challenges: dock and dine like a local.



Abbott's Lobster in the Rough, at the West mouth of the Mystic River, has served steamed, freshly-harvested local lobsters, steamers, stuffed clams, shrimp, chowder, and lobster rolls since 1947. Enjoy fresh seafood, incomparable views, and ocean air at rustic picnic tables. If you crave Lobster and steamers, nothing is fresher or simpler than this iconic gem. BYOB wine or beer. Free car parking and wheelchair access 11-8 each summer day. 117 Pearl St. Noank (Groton), CT. www.Abbottslobster.com. 860-536-7719. DOCKING: 4 slips on a deep channel accommodate

24 SOUND WAVES



boats up to 60 feet. Tip: Order and pay over the phone to facilitate pick-ups.



Costello's Clam Shack, next to Abbott's, specializes in fried clams, scallops & fish, oysters, shrimp, clam cakes, fish tacos, and fries but also steamed lobsters. Enjoy lobster bisque, clam chowders, mac & cheese bites, salads, burgers, and chicken. Two-story deck seating has varying shade and ocean views. BYOB and save room for ice cream or fried dough. www.Costellosclamshack.com. Free parking and wheelchair access 11-8 each summer day. 145 Pearl St. Groton, CT. Order food: 860-572-2779. DOCKING: Hail Noank Shipyard on channel 9 for a space at the gas dock for a sit-down or take-out meal.

Ford's Lobster is a laid-back lobster shack with patio seating and spectac-

ular water views. Delight your taste buds with Clams Casino, soups, specialty salads, lobster BLTs, lobster rolls, baked cod, burgers, steak, or grilled chicken: lobster mac & cheese, lobster Alfredo, lobster risotto, seared scallops, or sesame tuna. Indulge in the Bisque Bomb: ½ pound of freshly lobster meat with lobster bisque in a bread bowl. Open 12-7 Thurs. – Tues. (closed Wed.) with limited parking. Open most of the year and pet-friendly (outside). 15 Riverview Ave. Noank (Groton), CT. www.Fordslobster.com. 860-536-2842. DOCKING: Pull up to the free dock, and restaurant staff will take your order or come in for a meal. \$35 24-hour moorings are also available for sailboats or larger motor yachts. A full bar is available nearby Spicer's Marina.

Kitchen Little at Mystic River Marina is at the East mouth of the Mystic River before passing through the railroad bridge. Look for the red building with a vivid blue awning. Fuel your day with classic eggs or creative breakfasts like Lobster or Crab Benedict in homey digs with patio seats and marina views. Summer lunches are on a huge menu with something for everyone. 7:30 am -1:00 pm Mon, Wed, Thurs. Fri. Open 6:30-1:00 Sat. & Sun. Closed Tues. 36 Quarry Rd. Mystic. Open year-round and pet friendly with a designated pet relief area. www.kitchennlittle.org. Food orders 860-536-2122. DOCKING: Call on marine channel 09 for directions to a slip for boats up to 20 feet. Enter from the North.



Red 36 at Seaport Marine has large, deep water slips and Mystic River views from a raised deck and interior seating. Walls of glass open during nice weather for an inside/outside experience. Enjoy innovative food and drinks in a sleek, comfortable setting with clear views of the bascule and railroad bridges. www.swaves.com

sic seafood, Asian flavors, burgers, flatbread pizza, salads, raw bar, and creative adult beverages. 2 Washington St. Mystic www.Red36.com. Sun. – Thurs. 11:30-9:00, Fri. & Sat. 11:30-9:30. Food orders: 860-536-3604. DOCKING: hail Seaport Marine on channel 09 for free lunch or dinner docking for boats up to 120 feet.

Mystic Seaport Museum has paid daytime docking in downtown Mystic in front of S&P Oyster. Paid overnight docking at the Seaport Museum includes museum admission for all passengers, full bathrooms, and WIFI within an easy walk of downtown Mystic. Casual lunch options are on the Seaport Museum property. www.MysticSeaport.org. DOCKING RESERVATIONS: contact the Mystic Seaport Museum Marina at 860-572-5391 from 9 am-5 pm or on marine channel 71 for boats up to 70 feet. docks@mysticseaport.org

Breakwater is safely tucked into the East side of Stonington Harbor and offers free transient docking for restaurant patron boats up to 60 feet. Enjoy incomparable views of sailboats and regattas, Stonington Harbor, Fishers Island, and spectacular sunsets. Creative fine dining includes vegetarian and vegan options, burgers, classic seafood, fish tacos, salads, and specialty cocktails in a casual setting. www.Breakwater-Stonington.com. 66 Water St. Stonington (Stonington Borough). Food orders: 860-415-8123. DOCKING: claim a spot at the restaurant's long pier; no need to call ahead.

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hours. Mystic River Park in Stonington has a dinghy dock south of the downtown bascule bridge. Tie up behind the fireboat for 15 minutes to pick up a food order or use the park's public restrooms.



Fort Rachel Marina, Mystic Downtown Marina, Mystic River Marina, Seaport Marine, and Mystic Point Marina each offer paid transient docking in downtown Mystic. Noank Shipyard and Noank Village Boatyard advertise transient docking. Don's Dock, Dodson Boatyard, and Coveside Marina offer paid slips in or adjacent to Stonington Harbor. Additional marina slips and moorings are available within biking, longer walking, or rideshare distances. Here is my five-minute boating video tour of these restaurants and their docks: Dock and Dine in Noank Mystic and Stonington.

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JULY 5	PERFECT STORM
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JULY 7	BOB MARLEY TRIBUTE film and concert with "Hope Road" band
JULY 8	HOCUS POCUS (SPONSORED BY SEASIDE SHADOWS)
JULY 9	JAWS
JULY 12	TOP GUN (ORIGINAL)
JULY 13	CADDYSHACK
JULY 14	MAMMA MIA!
JULY 15	GREASE
JULY 16	BACK TO THE FUTURE
JULY 19	40-YEAR-OLD VIRGIN
JULY 20	REMEMBER THE TITANS
JULY 21	GOONIES
JULY 22	INDIANA JONES RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK
JULY 23	MOANA
JULY 26	NEVERENDING STORY
JULY 27	SIXTEEN CANDLES
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GEORGE WINSTON

1949-2023

By Lisa Shasha

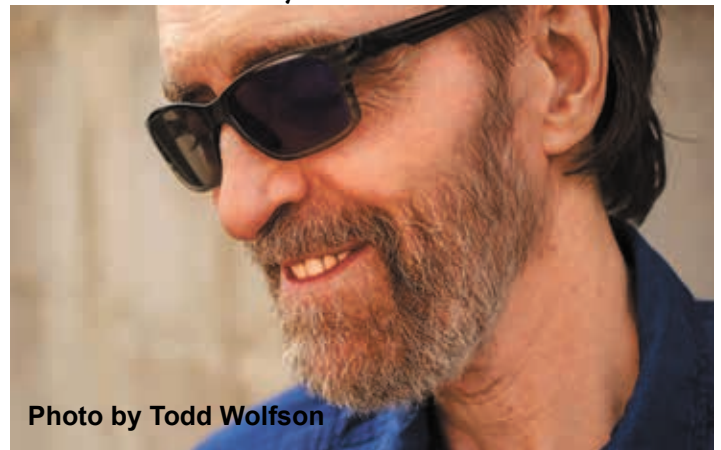


Photo by Todd Wolfson

George Winston was one of the most famous pianists of the late 20th century. He was born in 1949 and died this past June after a battle with cancer.

I became nostalgic when I heard of his passing. In college I would fall asleep listening to my favorite album of his called December and I even tried to play a few measures on the piano in his style.

To me, George Winston is in the same league as Manheim Steamroller and Yanni., Chopin and Danny Wright. He harbored an appreciation of nature and an ear for beauty, playing popular pieces such as "Pachelbel's Canon" and "Jesus Joy of Man's Desire".

Mr. Winston blessed our community years ago by playing a medley of melodies at the Garde Theater in New London.

During his childhood, Winston developed a taste for music of all genres and as a youth was especially inspired by Vince Guaraldi's soundtrack to *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. Winston eventually abandoned piano lessons for the musical stylings and influence of the Doors.

In 1996 he was Grammy award winner in the New age category for his recording dubbed *Forest*. Other renowned albums by George Winston are "Autumn, Winter into Spring, and "Summer."

Winston studied at Stetson University with a major in sociology, but with his focus becoming music he received a doctorate in the arts instead.

Mr. Winston was adored by fans of all ages and backgrounds, bringing "Ode to Joy" to audiences since his first recording in 1972.



Photo by Todd Wolfson

www.swaves.com

SOUND WAVES MAGAZINE BACK ISSUES

Sound Waves was 1st published in August of 1990. Since then we have kept at least 20 issues of each month and now we are putting them up on Ebay. These magazine have never been circulated.

This means 33 years of the magazine!

The site is up but still needs to be refined, but some issues are there to view. We are only up to 1994.

This is going to take awhile!

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HEARING AID



Season Ammons

"No Restraint"

Cobalt Blue Records

Season Ammons is a multi genre Texas performer whose music is as sultry as her album cover. Over the years, Ammons has earned steady press coverage from national and regional media. Her musical diversity is evident with consistent appearances on various national radio charts including Billboard Triple A, Americana Albums Chart, Roots Music Report's Top R&B Album Chart (#10) and regular Top 40 chart on Texas Regional Radio.

We luckily got our hands on one of her pre-released albums titled "No Restraint" which is her 3rd album and will be available July 21, 2023. The album opens with "Don't Break My Heart" a great sultry, rockin, blues song with excellent lyrics and a beat to match. The guitar solos are equally outstanding however Ammons doesn't give credit to any of her backup band. I carefully read the album promo sheet, I also looked over her website and the only name available is Season Ammons. I can only assume with the lack of any musician credits, Ammons uses studio musicians (hired guns) in the creation of this album. Moving on, another song following the rock-blues genre is the track titled "I Can Get Use To This". The other tracks are mostly love songs and the ones that truly stand out is "I Still Love You", and "Not That Far Away". It shows off Ammons excellent vocal talents, and I could easily see these heart rendered ballads being a good fit as a "007 Bond" movie sound track. Aside from the aforementioned titles I have to say the other songs have a commercial, pop music feel of the late 80's, Janet Jackson & Paula Abdul anyone??

Although maybe outdated at times, to her credit no one can deny that Season Am-

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mons has a rich, multi-textured voice that is expressive and very appealing. And let's talk about that for a moment. My reviews look at every aspect of the album and give my readers an honest picture of the artist's talents (or not) and Ammons is very talented! I really like how she weaves in and out of different genres without effort. I also like how diverse her vocal talents are. I can see her singing any genre and come out smelling like a rose. However, based on this album, whom ever is giving Ammons direction and has the final say how the production is mastered, be it her producer or the sound engineers at Cobalt Blue Records, it's time for a change. The tracks that have that Janet Jackson & Paula Abdul 80's feel are almost comical to a modern listening audience, and aside from that it sounds like the sound engineers are trying to mask her voice with heavy reverb effects especially on the last track "Something You Never Had". Light reverb effect adds a rich fullness to vocals and guitar, But heavy reverb is a production trick used for singers who are less than talented. Does not include Ammons! As I said, maybe time for a change. Season Ammons, "No Restraint" available after July 21 on SeasonAmmons.com and Amazon

Until Next Time – Adrian Webb



Will James

"Sundancer"

Will James is a blues guitarist, singer, and songwriter who embodies the blues style that one might associate with his native England, a style best exemplified and measured by the artistry of Eric Clapton: a clean, precise, melodic sound that is pleasing and at times powerful to behold.

This is in contrast to the often earthy, driven sound of American blues and rock guitarists, each having a solid place in the form, each filling a place to fit the mood of the listener. To this, Will James adds his vocals, replete with raw emotion, bringing to life the words of songs wholly written by the artist.

The first track, Shadowman, starts with a drum intro, rolling into rhythm guitar, organ, and the wide-ranging vocals of Will James, singing "I can't stand my own reflection, never thought of me, Shadow Man." The song features James' voice with only hints of the guitar sounds to come: Where's my Baby is lower-key, the voice sustained, the guitar making brief appearances. The first two tracks somewhat recall the beat and sound of the classic song, Radar Love, with more instrumentation: James is generous about letting his band be out front in the cause of a good song.

This all changes on Still Blue, a slower paced song, with mellowness in the vocals and band, and, featuring a decidedly jazzy take on the blues by Will James on his guitar. The song is marked by melodic backing and solo riffs, creative and yet interplayed with the backing musicians. James and the band dive into some funk-beat songs, moving into the easy-paced Home, soft vocals highlighted by subtle guitar melodies.

Will James and his fine band have produced a unique and original album, musically very satisfying in all its variations, which will allow the listener to stretch a bit in their appreciation for it. More info may be found at www.willjamesmusic.com, or on Facebook at willjamesmusic.

- Jon Persson



Ken Serio

"The Jazz Warriors"

Tripping Tree Music

Once again my editor pulled a rabbit out of a hat by getting the long awaited Ken Serio's latest project "The Jazz Warriors". Yes, it's been out since April but not much hubbub about it which is a pity because (spoiler) **www.swaves.com**

er alert) it's really great. Before getting into the music I want to point out another fun fact about Ken that really impresses me. You will find him performing anywhere from a little jazz club in Rhode Island to touring with his jazz ensemble in Europe and Indonesia, I for one find that totally amazing! Ken I congratulate you and your band-mates for "Living the life" and touring the world. On this album Serio takes you through a myriad of jazz genres such as traditional (what I call) nightclub jazz with great vocals, to more commercial modern jazz that reminded me of Spiro Gyra, to Serio getting back to his roots with the more abstract Jazz Fusion he is known for. There is something here for everyone.

As always, Serio has an excellent ear for talent and this project is no different with seasoned jazz musicians he has worked with before such as Japanese pianist Tomoko Ohno, Greek guitarist Sakis Zachariades, bassist Jedd Chlebowski, flautist & singer Ali Ryerson and vocalist Josi Davis. I am very familiar with most of them, as a matter of fact Sakis Zachariades came out with his own jazz fusion cd a while back which I reviewed as well. Ken Serio is an understated percussionist who rarely comes out with solos thus allowing his ensemble to shine. As for Tomoko Ohno I really like how she is totally aware of the music surrounding her and definitely adds to the composition. In the Latin themed "Pollo Picante" and J.B. she was in a symbiotic union with flautist & singer Ali Ryerson as they feed off each other making beautiful music together. And Greek guitarist Sakis Zachariades is also a perfect blend of adding just enough to a track to make it interesting rather than high-jacking it, truly a formidable guitarist. And bassist Jedd Chlebowski, plays his 5 string bass as a subtle extension of himself. On the surface he may sound like a background musician but this only adds to his professionalism by not letting ego getting in the way. Simply close your eyes while listening to this great album and you will instantly hear Chlebowski's genius bass playing adding a rich layer of bottom-end to all the tracks. As for vocalist Josi Davis, she is no stranger to Serio's other projects with her sultry caramelized smooth vocals as highlighted in "Tell Me In A Loving Way", and "Don't Talk To Me". Everyone shines on this one with Ohno on piano and Zachariades playing great jazz guitar with more of a traditional, smooth jazz guitar tone rather than a gainy electric one. But I must say that flautist & singer Ali Ryerson may be new to me but in usual Serio fashion, he found a performer that is a perfect fit with the other members as if they have been playing together since the beginning.

www.swaves.com

On the track "River Quay" I love how Zachariades has his guitar tone setting on the edge of breakup and capturing that "Santana" sound.

And on "Wing And A Prayer" again Zachariades adds to the track by playing a classical guitar but as the song continues Ohno harmonizes his guitar with her great piano improvisation. "Guy With A Tie" instantly grabbed my attention with Serio's getting back to his famed jazz fusion style reminding me of John McLaughlin and the Mahavishnu Orchestra. Note to Tomoko; We love your playing but the track overall would have sounded much better with keys set in grand piano tones rather than the high pitched, spacey synth tones, and as always, the rare Ken Serio percussion solo was flawless. On another note, I have to say the tracks "Neo", and "Adams Ale" surprised me. They are what you might expect to find in a meditation class, or yoga studio. Definitely more on the cerebral, spiritual spectrum rather than jazz. Maybe these two tracks are a better fit elsewhere? Moving on to the "The Haunting", it's bassist Jedd Chlebowski's turn to be in the spotlight as his magnificent bass improvisation takes center stage and everyone else joins in later. I have to say this Serio album one is among my favorites. I sometimes read other reviewers just to see what they have to say and I whole heartedly agree that this is one of Serio's best work yet. Buy it!! Ken Serio's "The Jazz Warriors" is available on Amazon.com.

Until Next time – Adrian Webb



Lady Adrena
"Recipe For The Blues"
 Sweet Success Records

Lady Adrena's foray into the blues brings with it her long established prowess as a Soul singer, and unleashes all the power of her gospel passions onto the laments and languishing that are the blues. It is, not surprisingly, an enormously effective palette of styles, contrasted though they are be-

tween the gritty downsides of life and the ever hopeful choruses to eternal supplitude: though the two are inextricably linked, hope only present where despair resides, the blues forever the plaintive cry of souls in need of supplicance. Lady Adrena has wrought a soulful portal to the blues.

Right from the opening track, appropriately titled Blues Chose Me, Lady Adrena and her band jump into a many-layered blues sound, with organ, brass, and bass providing a pulsing beat, accentuated with guitar riffs that drift through and accent the song. Over and above all, Lady Adrena's voice carries the song, powerful, relating her life's tale of being drawn to and, ultimately, chosen by the blues. The lyric, like all but the album title track, written by Lady Adrena, suggests a tension between the soul music of her past and the blues of her present. The second track is as smooth as the first is high-powered: the third track enters a new realm: Traveling Woman has a funk beat and some talkin' blues to mix things up.

Good Girl Gone Bad puts the emphasis on a Chicago-style, edgy-rhythmed sound, Adrena's confessional to her slide into the wild side of music, moving into a nice, long blues guitar solo. Lady Adrena's voice moves easily between the strong declarative and a smooth expressiveness that accentuates the sound and songs that make up this album. No Ring No Thing is a fast moving, tightly arranged number that brings spirit and energy to the old question of a man's aversion to commitment. Recipe For The Blues, a classic by Gene Munns, showcases Adrena's blues vocals at their fullest range of expression.

This collection of six songs is as real and authentic as the blues can ever be, one that strains the ability to do justice in words and so deserves a listen, and is clearly a nice addition to any blues collection. It is produced by the boutique label Sweet Success: more info may be found at www.ladyadrenamusic.com.

- Jon Persson



SOUND WAVES 31

BY
LARRY NADOSKY



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