

Sound Waves

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Volume 33
Issue 10
October 2023

Plus

- Ian Anderson
- The Toneshifters
- lespecial
- Season Ammons
- Billy Eric
- Jim Carpenter
& Southern Fiction
- The Carleans
- Doug Deming
& The Jewel Tones

Tribute to:
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MAILBAG

Dear Readers,

I guess it's inevitable, some of the great musicians are passing away. But this past month hit home. Mike Crandall was a fanatastic Harp player that was loved by anyone who got to see him. But to me Mike was a friend, who always had a smile and made you feel at home. You will be missed my friend.

We want to sent out a congratulations to Dan Curland of Mystic Disc. Dan is celebrating 40 years of being THE record store in our area. Be sure to stop by and say hi. If you have never been to his store then check it out. It's an icon in the area.

So October is here. Where did the summer go! But check out the magazine, there is plenty to do and be sure you tell the advertisers you saw their ad withing these pages!

Till Next Month

David Pottie, Publisher
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Sad loss to Blues community A Tribute to Mike Crandall

By Sue Menhart

New England has lost a local blues legend. Blues harmonica artist Mike Crandall fell ill during a performance at the American Legion in Montville, Connecticut on Sunday, Sept. 17, 2023 and later passed away at Hartford Hospital on Monday, Sept. 18, 2023. An excerpt from his obituary published on legacy.com reads:

"Mike and his band received many accolades, including winning the CT Blues Challenge three times, as well as Blues challenges in both Boston, and New Hampshire. He and his band were two-time finalists in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, placing third and tenth out of hundreds of musical acts from around the world. Mike gave everything he had to everything he did and everyone he loved. He passed away doing what he enjoyed most in this world - performing. He lived life authentically, genuinely and with no regrets." . Many tributes found on social media include:

"We are deeply saddened to hear about the passing of our dear friend Mike Crandall. The Mike Crandall Band played an amazing set at the Bucks County Blues Festival this year. Mike was a staple on the Blues music scene and he will be missed by many. Sending love & healing to his family and loved ones during this difficult time." - Bucks County Blues Festival

"Michael Crandall was an exceptional person, more charisma than any of us could compile as a team. He was a man of much knowledge and wisdom and had no problem sharing the wealth. I'm honored to call him a friend and so glad we stayed so close over the years even after we stopped working together due to me choosing a different career. Until we see one another again my friend, fly high and make that harmonica blast up there in the heavens." - Mark Dodd

"Very sad to hear the passing of Mike Michael Crandall. We met when he played on the field at a New Britain Rock Cats baseball game. Have been friends ever since. Rest In Paradise brother." - Marty Ayott

"I am utterly devastated to report the passing of one of my best friends in this world, Michael Crandall. April, 1993 in Middletown, CT was where we met, at the blues jam held at the Middlesex Rotisserie. Mike was one of the best harp players and singers in the New England blues scene, he made several CDs and always maintained an excellent band. In the past few years, I had sat in many times and will always be grateful for that. He was also an accomplished billiards player, and I had been to his house quite a few times during the pandemic to shoot pool and have a tasty meal he had prepared. One of the funniest guys I ever knew, a real quick wit. He had a lot of entertaining stories around the astounding amount of concerts he had attended over the years. I used to talk to him every week. He was very kind and generous to me and I will never forget him." - Andrew Grzybowski

"So sad to hear of the passing of Mike Michael Crandall. A true Blues master in our community. What a loss to the Blues community and the music community as a whole. This is such sad news to wake up to. My heart goes out to all that



knew, loved, and were lucky enough to have played with him." - Dot Scholz-Ames

And some few personal reflections:

"I hadn't known Mike very long and we were at a gig he was doing at Lake Tavern. We had gone with friends and I recall the place having a good crowd. We had only seen him play 1 or 2 times and Mike and the boys were on. We got up to dance with our friends Mark & Judy. Our friend Mark had had a few pregame cocktails and at some point he did a spin move and his shoe stuck. Well, he took several big steps backwards and slid right under the PA speaker stand. He took out the stand and the speaker landed right on his chest! I remember the boys in the band and Mike watching this. Mike never missed a note and the band followed him like nothing ever happened. He was a pro. He took his music very seriously and took great pride in delivering a good set, a good gig. That never changed. I know I'm biased but I honestly think he was the best harmonica player I ever saw. His 1st CD is one of my Top 10 favorite CD's or albums I own. I was fortunate to get a VIP ride whenever I went to a gig with him. I'm a novice guitar player and he even let me sit in if I asked (which was only a few times). Mike loved music. He was music. No matter what we did together, the music was playing in the background. Anyone who knew him had their life enhanced by music. I was fortunate to see him sit in with Ronnie Earl at Chan's. His mentor was Sugar Ray and I saw him play with him a few times. I was fortunate to see him play with so many other great New England musicians. We saw countless great concerts together. My friendship with Mike was a music story looking back on it." - Daniel James

"In the early 2000s Ryan Hartt & The Blue Hearts and the Mike Crandall Band often competed against each other in the Connecticut Blues Society Blues Challenge. Mike beat us once or twice and one year we finally beat the Mike Crandall

MUSIC NOTES

“A Pirate Looks at Jimmy”

By Mark T. Gould

It would seem we would have had a lot in common.

He loved Florida. I love Florida.

He loved the Caribbean. I love the Caribbean.

He loved shorts and tee shirts. I love shorts and tee shirts.

He was a writer. I pretend to be a writer.

He and I both knew it was five o'clock somewhere.

He was worth a reported \$350 million dollars.

I am worth...er, OK, maybe we don't have that in common.

Nonetheless, he, of course, was the entrepreneurial troubadour Jimmy Buffett.

I, despite our commonalities, was not a fan.

Net worth aside, here's why I never got on the Parrot Train.

“Margaritaville.”

Overplayed to the tune of “Hotel California,” “Stairway to Heaven,” and a nauseating bunch of others.

Every time it's on the radio, I change the station.

Every time.

So much so that I ignored the rest of his career and catalog.

So, when Buffett passed away last month at the age of 76, my editor and friend, Dave Pottie, listened to me struggle via text.

“That song drives me nuts,” I told him.

“Go listen to his other stuff,” he said.

Dave's smart and has forgotten more about music than I will ever know, so I took his advice.

And, bless my flip flops, it kinda changed my mind.

I found some great songs, even greater songwriting, and even a few cool surprises.

I started at the beginning, with his first few, almost obscure, albums from the very early 70s, before, let's face it, he be-

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came JIMMY BUFFETT!!.

“Down to Earth” and “High Cumberland Jubilee,” released, weirdly enough, on Andy Williams’ Barnaby Records label, could stack up with classic Willie Nelson recordings, both in musicianship and songwriting. Chock full of steel and acoustic guitars, the records are both earnest and, well, down to Earth.

The so-called Buffett “Key West vibe” commenced with his next group of recordings, starting with “White Sport Coat,” “3/4 Time,” and, of course, “A1A.”

This is where I started to get a bit queasy, because I thought we were coming dangerously close to flippin’ the flop in Margaritaville.

Plus, I don't use salt.

But, Dave said listen, so I listened.

The first of many classic Buffett tracks is here, of course and embarrassingly, “Why Don't We Get Drunk,” on which he is credited with playing “maracas and beer cans,” meaning it was getting dangerously close to “stepping on a pop top” time.

Yes, you could call me “Parrot Paranoïd.”

But, I kept listening, really enjoying are “He Went to Paris,” and “Railroad Lady,” in which, surprise number one, he co-wrote with the immortal Jerry Jeff Walker.

“Living and Dying” has “Come Mon-

day,” which, surprise number two, is a song I've long loved and never knew Buffett wrote, while “A1A” has “Door Number Three,” another one of my favorites, which, surprise number three, he co-wrote with the equally immortal Steve Goodman.

Of course, I didn't know that Buffett co-wrote “Margaritaville” with George Strait and Alan Jackson, either.

Call me “Parrot Ignorant.”

“A1A” also contains the elegant and elegiac “A Pirate Looks at Forty,” which just might be the anthem for anyone who reaches a certain age and looks back wistfully at a tattered past.

Of course, a certain song reared its head when I cued up “Changes In Attitude.” But, thankfully, I didn't let it change my born-again Buffett attitude, although surprise number four showed up when I realized that he co-wrote “Banana Republics,” another great tune, with Goodman.

And, Buffett's cover of Jesse Winchester's “Biloxi” just might be better than the original.

So, it looked like Dave's magic was taking hold. Some great songs, and, although I was in Connecticut, I swear I could see Key West in the distance.

So, I forged on.

I moved into the 80s (a frightening thought for any musical genre), and I found, surprise number five, still more collaborations with Goodman, including an unreleased version of “Elvis Imitators,” one of my favorite Goodman songs.

And, I have to admit that anyone who titles an album “Floridays” will always be on my contact list.

Thus, I stumbled into his 90s.

“Everybody's Got a Cousin in Miami.” Great, funny stuff. The truthful “Math Suks.” And, of course, the obligatory Christmas album.

This Buffett century started me off with “Tonight I Just Need My Guitar,” another anthem that my many musician friends can certainly understand.

And, of course, “It's Five O'Clock Somewhere.”

So, I completed his entire catalog. And, like it said, it changed my mind about Jimmy Buffett.

Under the oily spell of “Margaritaville,” I always thought Buffett was a bit of a corny phony. Man, listening to this

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stuff, I found out how wrong I was.

There is a more than a bit of what has been described as "island escapism" to his music, but, when you think about it, that's kinda what the islands are all about, isn't it?

Buffett shrewdly turned that vibe into a vast commercial enterprise, resulting in his financial windfall.

Sell out?

Maybe. Maybe not.

Damn good songwriter and businessman?

You bet.

So, thanks to Dave, I will grudgingly admit to really liking many of Jimmy Buffett's songs, along with his attitude, if not altitude.

Just, for the love of God, don't call me a Parrothead.

And, I will probably still change the station whenever "Margaritaville" comes on.



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Jim Messina of Buffalo Springfield, Poco and Loggins & Messina to play United Theatre in Westerly

By Sue Menhart

Sometimes starting a band in high school just works out. You learn what you want to do, what you don't want to do, and possibly, what you are capable of. Sometimes, six decades later, there is no denying you made the right decision in starting that band. Case in point: Jim Messina of Buffalo Springfield, Poco, and Loggins & Messina fame. There is a tangled and interwoven web of music history detailing Messina's journey chronicled here on his web site, but his current project, just him as a solo artist, is his current focus. Lucky for us, he'll bring his small band to an intimate venue, right down the road. On Nov. 11, the United Theatre in Westerly, Rhode Island will host Messina, promising an up close and personal experience, bringing all those decades and experiences together, for a fun, wild ride.

In late September 2023, I spoke with the soft-spoken, humble, talented musician, songwriter and producer via Zoom from his Franklin, Tennessee studio, to talk about the here and now.

Q: You are performing in Westerly, Rhode Island on Nov. 11 at the United Theatre. Do you only play at smaller venues?

A: I'm playing venues that are anywhere from 500-800 seats, small performing arts centers, until I can sell some more records. Have to be able to put butts in the seats, so to speak.

Q: Are you with a record label now?

A: I'm not with a label. I loved Warner, good people. I ran into a period when even CDs were not selling anymore. There's no delivery system anymore. You can just say, "Pandora play this..." The problem is it has taken the artist out of the loop in terms of selling product and earning income. It appears to me that ASCAP and BMI have been pushed out of the process in terms of digital performances... it is stifling anyone who has had a long-term career. Today, artists that have made a lot of records, and have an audience, I'm not so sure the audiences in their 50s, 60s and 70s are all that plugged into digital music. No matter what [musical] level you're at, you still have to be able to travel, stay at hotels, eat, get on stage. Whether you have one person or a crew of ten, it's difficult. Nobody said it would be easy or free.

Q: So, you are self-financing as a solo artist?

A: Yes. Even when I promote my own records, it isn't as effective as having a really good record label behind you. I've learned over the years that the labels were really doing a great job getting material out, selling, I can't do that. I can bring CDs to a show, but I can't run CDs all over the country and get them into record stores. There's no market for them anymore.

Q: But people do buy vinyl, there's a resurgence.

A: Yeah, but they are more expensive to make. Instead of bringing a steak you are bringing the whole cow. I do have a vinyl record out, In the Groove, that's why I called it "in the groove." I invited Rusty Young [of Poco] to come in and join me as a featured artist, and there were so many stories and laughing and talking, we couldn't get it all on there, even on a double album. So, I created an "all access card," it looked like

an American Express card with a thumb drive so I could put all of the album on there, I could put lyrics, photos, and we would sell that. But when Covid hit, the prices to make these things went way up, so we stopped manufacturing them for a while. Maybe the prices will come down and we can produce those again.

Q: Kenny Loggins recently played at the Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Connecticut with a total seat capacity of 10,000. How does that make you feel?

A: My objective when I first started working with Kenny was to be his producer. I turned down other artists, because I was looking for somebody who I felt could get what I experienced while being with Poco: selling records and getting airplay. But we were too rock for country and too country for rock. When I left Poco I went to CBS to become a producer. I met several artists, but Kenny was the only one who loved to sing different styles of music. He was signed as a singer-songwriter. If they needed an Elton John song, he could sing like Elton John and make a demo. The fact that he loved what he did so much, I felt that he would be one person, if I could get enough diverse material in front of him, he could have a shot at being a success. Getting Clive Davis to let me sit in with him so I could introduce my audience to him was part of the process. The whole idea when you're producing an artist is to make them successful. I believe I was successful in doing that job. I'm happy for his success. It made me a successful producer, it's something I can talk about and be proud of. As a [solo] artist I just continue to work and do what I do. I've become a better player, a better singer and the reviews I get are always very good, people enjoy the shows. We work hard to put on a good show.

Q: What can we expect on Nov. 11?

A: I have a new band, Jack Bruno who used to be with Tina Turner and Joe Cocker and a new sax player, Steve Nieves, who was with me in 2005 and 2009 with the Loggins and Messina reunion tours. I've got a great keyboard player, James Frasier. I traded out the violist for the keyboard player because I'm starting to do more of my own solo work and I always had keyboards even in L&M. I have a young bass player, my son's age, he's 32, he sings all the high parts, and he's a hell of a bass player [Ben King.] The whole band is a fun and exciting group of people. They've been off for a couple of months. We did some rehearsals the other day to get ready and they're all eager and excited to get back out on the road. My gig is real stable for everybody. They all like each other and have fun and hang out.

Q: Do you have a tour bus?

A: No. I work with three vehicles. A cargo van that carries all the stuff, a vehicle for the band, and a vehicle for myself. The crew is usually there at noon. I usually stay after for a meet and greet. This is actually less expensive than a bus. Nowadays buses are so expensive to lease. You could spend \$3,000 a day. And many places don't have a place to park them. And in some cases, you can't get under a bridge. In some cases,

you have to ask the city in advance to park the bus on the street. So, we do smaller vehicles. We can just buzz in and park, do what we need to do, and get out. It's a lot less hassle.

Q: What's next after this tour?

A: Another one, he laughs.

Link: <https://www.jimmessina.com>

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GRAMMA'S ATTIC REVUE

"Ian Anderson"

By Gramma

Unlike most of the interviews/articles that I have done, this one feels different. The people that I have written about in the past were mostly local and I had recently seen them perform live in a local setting. Not so with the iconic Ian Anderson. I have not seen the band Jethro Tull live since I was in High School and only 17 years old. However, I have followed their path and own 8 of their vinyl and 2 CDs. I own the newest CD called ROKFLOTE and THE JETHRO TULL CHRISTMAS ALBUM (which by the way is my favorite holiday album of all time). To have the opportunity to speak live with this intelligent if not a wee bit stoic man was a privilege and an honor that will go down as a memory in my archives of incredible interviews for the rest of my lifetime. This article, I hope will give honor and credence to this musician that has brought so much unique and entrancing music to the world.

Ian Anderson was born on August 10, 1947 in Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland, and went to primary school in Edinburgh. After his Grammar school education, he moved on to Art school thinking that he wanted to become an artist in the arena of fine arts. It was while he was studying visual arts that he realized that if he followed that path that he probably would not become famous until after he died, this is the way with most of the painters, sculptors, and other visual artists that we know of. Ian wanted to be famous while he was around to enjoy his fame, so he turned to music. He stated that as art students, he and many of his peers went to art school to become artists and left school as musicians. Ian says that like most of his generation he started his musical journey wanting to be a guitar player. And that is what he did in 1966-67 in the general construct of the blues which you hear in abundance in the first studio album of 1968 called THIS WAS. Although this album only went to #62 on the US music chart it did hit #10 on the British Charts. As Ian listened to the other guitar players of his

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generation including but not limited to Jimmie Page and Eric Clapton, he realized that he was at least two years behind them in the mastery of this instrument and that if he wanted to make a name in the business, he would need to find something else to play. That is just what he did, walking into the music



store to trade in his guitar, he saw this bright shiny instrument hanging up on the wall. He bought his first flute not knowing how to play it. He invested \$30 in the flute and the same amount in a Shure Brothers microphone, thinking that maybe he could learn to play it and maybe it would add something of interest to his musical career. After about eight months he was able to play a few notes on the flute and two weeks later he was playing it on stage at the

Marquee Club. The rest, as they say, is rock history.

Before I get into the music history of both Ian and the band Jethro Tull let me give you some brief history. Ian is married to his beautiful bride of 43 years Shona. Shona is his biggest fan and is an active director of their music and other companies that they are invested in. They have two children, James, and Gael, three grandchildren, three cats, two dogs and some chickens. He owns and provides employment to about 400 people with his Salmon farms with also involves a smoking and processing factory in Highlands of Scotland. Ian has two honorary degrees; A doctorate in Literature from Heriot Watt University in Edinburg and a Doctorate in Literature from Dundee University awarded in 2011. He also received the Ivor Award for International Achievement in Music and the New Years Honours List 2008, and MBE for services to music. Ian is not into fast cars, nor has he ever taken a driving test, although he does own a couple of off-road motorcycles. Some of the things that he likes to collect are Sporting guns, mechanical watches, fountain pens and vintage cameras. He enjoys growing hot chili peppers and is invested in the conservation of the 26 species of small wildcats of the world. You can learn more about that and many other facts of interest on the website www.jethrotull.com.

The band that came to be known as Jethro Tull (A name given to them by a booker in the agency that they were working with at the time) was the culmination of two blues-based UK local bands: The John Evan Band and McGregor's Engine. The band first performed at London's famous Marquee Club in February of 1968, which was well known as a jazz club in the sixties and is also known for giving start to both the Who and the Rolling Stones. The band has never broken up although there was a false rumor in 1973 following a bad review in a paper called Melody Maker. The band never knew about their so called "Break-up" until they read about it in said paper... They were furious!!!! They have now been performing worldwide with about 100-plus concerts a year celebrating a full catalogue of albums including: 23 studio albums, one being the aforementioned Christmas

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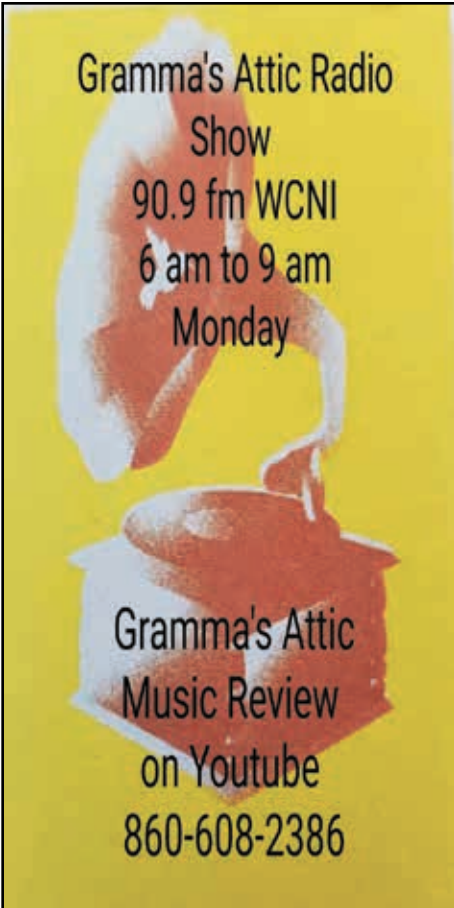
album, 7 live albums, 5 compilations, and Ian himself has 7 albums listed to his credit as solo albums. In case you were not counting, that is a total of 42 recordings in the past seven decades. The band has released two recordings in the last two years which seems to be a task well done considering the pandemic and the restricted travel that has been a reality since 2020. The album *The Zealot Gene* was released in 2022 and the newest release *ROKFLOTE* has just been released in April 21, 2023.

When this CD first arrived in my mailbox, I was excited to be able to listen to it alone with no interruptions. I listened to their song *Ginnungagap* which is formulated around the god Ymir, a primeval being born from venom that came from the icy-cold river Elivagar, living in the grassless void of Ginnungagap. You can enjoy the video on YouTube. I was anxious to hear the whole album and see where the band had taken this concept of exploring the roles and personalities of old Norse paganism. Being of Norwegian descent myself and knowing much about the celebrated gods of old, I was interested

to see where the intellect of Mr. Anderson would take it. This album also looks at and explores the RokFlote- rock flute which has made the well-known sound of Jethro Tull what it is today.

The iconic sound of Jethro Tull came through almost from the very beginning. The first song on the new album starts off with spoken word and brings you into the feel of the album and the way it is going to proceed from there. There is no other band that can come at you with this sound. It is unique in its formation and in the way that it follows the path it has been on for the past 7 decades. Maybe that is why this tour is called just that-*The Seven Decades*. Ian wrote all the songs and says that he is not invested in religion, so this album is not about the religion of paganism but rather the personalities of the gods that are sung about and the diversities that are celebrated. This album on the surface is easy and engaging to listen to. If you are a Tull fan, you will not be disappointed at what you are expecting to hear. However, it is rich in the history that it presents and the stories that are

Continued Page 25



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6 - Ice House, Fairhaven, MA 8pm
7 - Ocean Mist, S. Kingstown, RI 8pm
8,22 - Bell in Hand Tavern, Boston, MA 3pm
28 - Boomerang Roadhouse, W. Warwick, RI 8pm
29 - Pier 52, Fall River, MA 11am

BRAIDEN SUNSHINE

5 - Rustic Inn, East Lyme, CT 6-9pm
6,27 - The Manhattan, Southington, CT 7-10pm
13 - Lighthouse Inn, New London, CT 6-9pm

THE CARTELLS

5 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7-9:30pm
6 - Tusker's, New London, CT 7:30-10:30pm
8,22 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3-6pm
14 - Marriott, Mystic, CT 5:30-9:30pm
18 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 7:30-10pm
27 - Lighthouse, New London, CT 6-10pm

CHRISTOPHER JOHN

5 - Rocks 21, Mystic, CT 5-8
6 - Friar Tucks, Mystic, CT 9:30-12:30
7 - Yarde Tavern, S. Hadley, MA 6-9
8 - Arrigoni Winery, Portland, CT 1:30-5:30
9 - Pizza Garden, Kent, CT 2-5
12,27 - Village Pizza, Preston, CT 8-11
13 - Bidwell Tavern, Coventry, CT 8-11
14 - Old State House, Hartford, CT 8am-2pm
14 - Rosy Tomorrows, Danbury, CT 6:30-9:30
15 - The Dublin, E. Hampton, CT 4-7
19 - Carmines, E. Hartford, CT 5-8
20 - Spicy Green Bean, Glastonbury, CT 6-9
21 - Michaels, Coventry, CT 9:30-12:30
22 - Thimble Island Brewery, Branford, CT 2-5
26 - Stumble Inne, Old Lyme, CT 7-10
28 - Glendale Grill, Easthampton, MA 6-10

CHRIS COFONI

20 - Evie's, Westerly, RI 7-10pm

DARIK & THE FUNBAGS

7 - Woodbury Brewing, Woodbury, CT 8:30pm
20 - Jameson Pub, Watertown, CT 9:30pm
21 - Sheas, Manchester, CT 9pm
28 - Chicago Sams, Cromwell, CT 8:30pm

DIVA & THE PLAYBOYS

7 - Nash Bar & Stage, Boston, MA
8 - Tippy Seagull, Fall River, MA

12 SOUND WAVES

13 - Elicit Brewing, Manchester, CT
20 - Woodbury Brewery, Woodbury, CT
21 - Rooftop 120, Glastonbury, CT
28 - Comix Roadhouse, Uncasville, CT

FAKE EXPERIENCE TRIO

3 - Angie's, Mystic, CT 5-8

THE FAKE EXPERIENCE

13 - Grey Sail Brewing, Westerly, RI 6-9pm

F & BLUES BAND

6 - Black Eyed Sally's, Hartford, CT 8-11
7 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT 8-11
20 - La Luna, New London, CT 6-9
28 - Senior Center, Montville, CT 10am-2pm

HOPE ROAD

21 - Ocean Mist, Matunuck, RI

JAMES HARRIS

4,11,16,18,25,28 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 9pm
6 - Gino's Pizza, Mystic, CT 8pm
7 - Village Pizza, Preston, CT 8pm
12,26 - Dean's Mill Farm, Stonington, CT 5:30pm
15 - High Street, Westerly, RI 4pm
22 - Ridge Vineyard, Preston, CT 8pm
27 - Rocks 21, Mystic, CT 4pm
28 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3pm
29 - Steakloft, Mystic, CT 5pm

LARA HERSCOVITCH

20 - Friday Night Folk, New London, CT
28 - Solarfest, Rutland, VT

MYSTIC PROPHETS

5 - Shunock Brewery, N. Stonington, CT 5:30-8:30pm
7 - KOA Campground, N. Stonington, CT 2-5pm
7 - Haversham, Westerly, RI 9-12am

NICK BOSSE

6 - Alaina's, Richmond, RI 7-10pm
13 - Dan's Place, W. Greenwich, RI 8-11pm
14 - Erik's Church, Windham, ME 8-11pm
19 - Shunock Brewery, N. Stonington, CT 6-9pm
20 - Tamarack Lodge, Voluntown, CT 6:30-9:30pm

RAMBLIN' DAN STEVENS

3,10,17,24,31 - Nightingale's, Old Lyme, CT 6pm
5 - Essex House, Island Pond, VT
6 - Shelburne Vineyard, Shelburne, VT
7 - Stowe Village Inn, Stowe, VT
8 - High Nine Brewing, Deep River, CT 3pm
13 - Gritty McDuff's, Auburn, ME
14 - Fisherman's Wharf, Boothbay Harbor, ME
15 - Liberal Cup, Hallowell, ME
17 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 9pm
20 - Caius Farm Brewery, Branford, CT 7pm
21 - My Place, Newtown, CT 8:30pm
22 - Shunock Brewery, N. Stonington, CT 4:30pm
27 - Home Range Winery, Canaan, NY 5pm
28 - Harry's Hardware, Cabot, VT
29 - Roux Cajun Eatery, Simsbury, CT 11am-1pm

RED LIGHT

6 - Comix, Uncasville, CT
20 - VFW, Jewett City, CT 7-10pm
21 - Harp & Dragon, Norwich, CT 9pm
28 - Music Lady, Plainfield, CT 9pm

RICKIE LOUISE MILLER

4 - Chew & Brew, Jewett City, CT 7pm
12 - Blue Duck, New London, CT 6pm
13 - Gino's, Mystic, CT 7pm
18 - Sneekers, Groton, CT 7pm
19 - Rocks 21, Mystic, CT 6pm
20 - Lighthouse Inn, New London, CT 6pm
28 - Strange Brew, Norwich, CT 9pm

SHAME DAN SCANDAL

26 - The Tap Room, Westerly, RI 8pm

THE SOUL FACTORY

28 - Hard Rock Cafe, Foxwoods, CT 8-11pm

SUNDAY GRAVY

6 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm

THE SUBLIMINALS

6,20,27 - Port of Call, Mystic, CT 8p
13 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 8p
13 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 9:30p
21 - Tuskers, New London, CT 7:30p

TSC ACOUSTIC

6 - Farmers Market, Bozrah, CT 4-7pm
12 - Farmers Market, Niantic, CT 3-6pm

VITA ROSE

26 - Shunock Brewery, N. Stonington, CT 5:30-9

WOOLY MAMMOTH

14 - Seaport Museum, Mystic, CT 7-8pm
21 - Apple Festival, Mystic, CT 11am-2pm

WOOLITE

13 - Angie's Pizza, Mystic, CT 6pm
21 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 10pm

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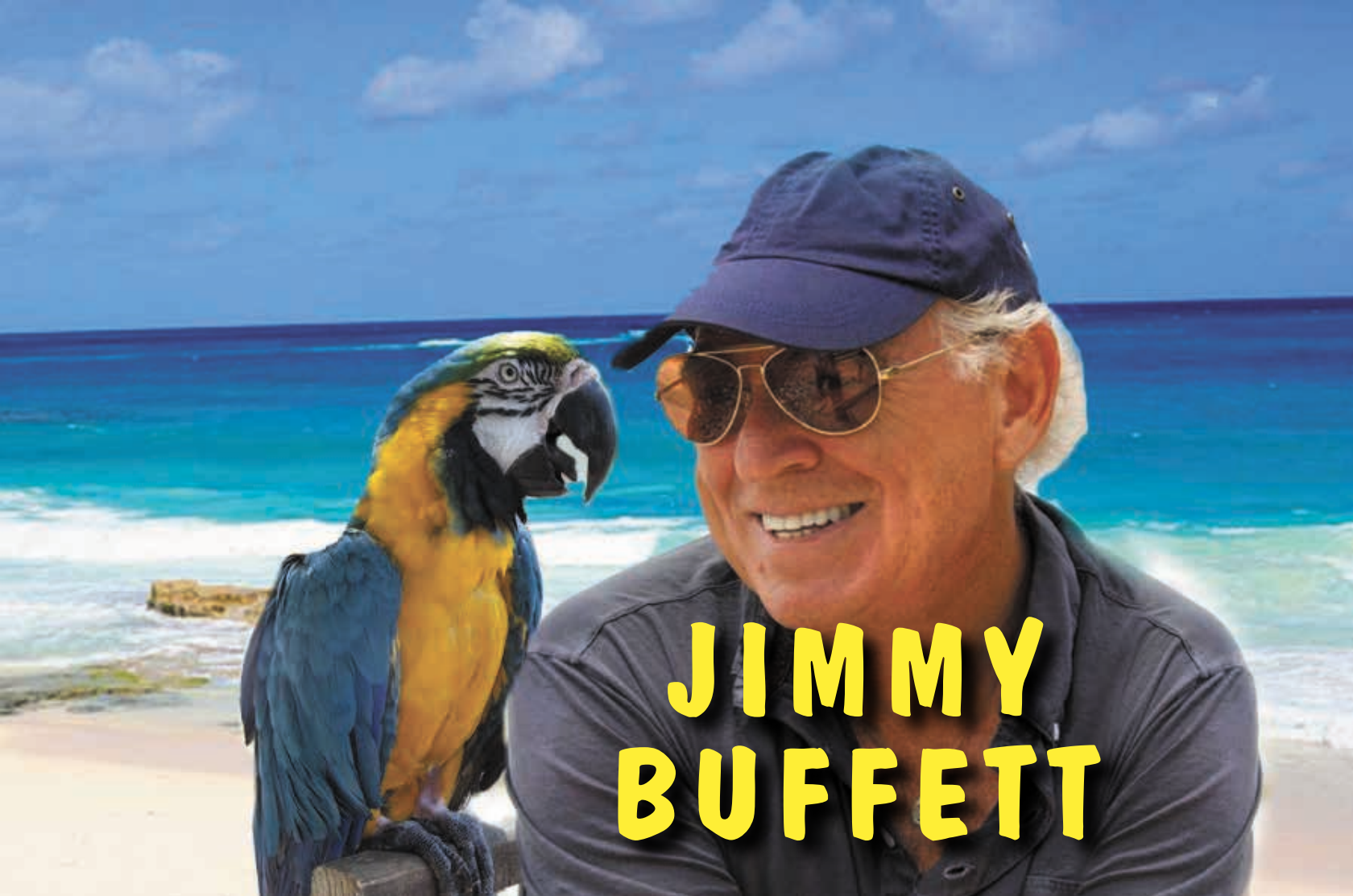
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SOUND WAVES 13



By Rex Rutkoski

Jimmy Buffett, who died Sept. 1, 2023 at 76, was no proverbial Johnny One Note.

He lived a full life packed with a stunning array of interests that he pursued with passion, setting an example for others of how a life well lived can be achieved.

The breadth and depth of his efforts will live on forever.

He was a musician who delivered much happiness to thousands of fans dubbed “Parrot Heads” with a style that embraced folk, country and Caribbean and which mirrored his extensive travels worldwide. “Margaritaville,” “Come Monday,” and “It’s Five O’Clock Somewhere,” “Cheeseburger in Paradise” and “Fins” are just some examples.

His songs of reflection, such as “A Pirate Looks at 40,” “He Went to Paris” and “Death of an Unpopular Poet” touched hearts.

He also was a very successful author, said to be one of the few writers to who had number one best-sellers on the fiction and non-fiction lists of the New York Times Book Review.

He had a third career as an entrepreneur, building a diversified lifestyle brand business, including Margaritaville hotels, restaurants, and retirement communities, along with side-lines such as Land Shark beer. Buffett’s branding and business acumen made him one of the most financially successful musicians of all time.

His widespread interests also included being a pilot and

sailor, activities also reflected in his songs

He had been fighting Merkel Cell Skin Cancer for four years while still performing.

His family suggests that those wishing to honor him might consider donations be made to Jimmy Buffett’s Foundation Singing for Change, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Dana Farber Cancer Institute or MD Anderson Cancer Center.

Rex Rutkoski’s reflections next center around a 1983 interview he had with Jimmy Buffett:

JIMMY BUFFETT: “THAT’S MY PURPOSE ON THE PLANET: ENTERTAINMENT.”

Come aboard our musical time machine please.

It’s 1983.

I’m 36 and I’m asking Jimmy Buffett, the 37-year old musician who looks at life with a twinkle in his eye, how the public perceives him, and he laughs.

“They probably think I party like crazy and lay in the sun all day and drink margaritas. If I did that, I would have been dead 10 years ago.”

He says while that may be a colorful image (perhaps spawned by years living in the pirate town of Key West), “I work pretty hard.”

This self-appointed spokesman for the “bald-spot generation” knows how to work pretty hard at having fun on stage

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too, as his fans -- his "Parrot Heads" -- can attest.

As Buffett speaks, he is in his native Alabama writing the second draft of "Margaritaville," a comedy film to be based on the spirit of and characters in his major hit, "Wasting Away Again in Margaritaville."

He also has just released a new album, "One Particular Harbor," which he calls the best of his career and which, for the first time, he co-produced.

To promote that LP, he is preparing a music video and a national concert tour.

AN ONGOING PROJECT

He also continues work on an ongoing project, authoring a book of short stories.

Environmentally active, Buffett has been associated with such organizations as the Save Humanity Commission

Buffett does not believe his approach to his art has changed over the years.

His direction, he explains, is to "look at life with a sense of humor and optimism and try to relate funny stories and talk to people who can't experience them, but can at least listen and drift away for a few minutes."

He adds, "It's just that I try to live my life as simply as I can and not take all this stuff seriously. In 20 years, we'll just be oldies to play on the radio. I'm just having a good time doing it and am blessed (to have a following)."

To him, a good song is one that "sounds nice and makes me feel good." "I've always liked good writers. I don't care if they are jazz or country or rock'n'roll."

PROPS TO GRANDAD

He attributes his often humorous perspective on life to "probably my grandfather who was a sailing captain." An avid reader, Buffett says books also have been an influence. Mark Twain is one of his favorite authors and, he recalls, "Treasure Island" "hooked" him on stories of island life.

As a writer, he says, he enjoys "picking things up that everyone knows are there but just lets pass by." "You just subtly remind them. You're just basically a sponge picking things up and just squeezing them back into the bucket."

While he can bring a smile to a listener's face with such numbers as "Let's Get Drunk and..." and "Let's Make a Deal (My Whole World Lies Behind Door Number Three)," Buffett also can strike an emotional chord with a beautiful love song like "Come Monday."

A former college journalism major and reviewer for Billboard Magazine, Buffett says that the bulk of his songwriting largely has been autobiographical and that "if any song is autobiographical, 'We are the People Our Parents Warned Us About' (on the new album) would be it."

The inspiration to write, he says, "comes and goes in spurts, (but the goal is) don't panic when you get in a dry spell. He implies that it is not necessarily more satisfying to record his own material, as opposed to interpreting another songwriter's work. "I like both," he says. With another writer's song, he explains, "I always choose something I feel comfortable with or wish I had written."

In the main, he feels that critics have been fair to him over his career. "I've never been raked over the coals, except by a few people," he says. "I was always fair as a critic. If you had

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the nerve to get up and do it, you started with a plus in my book. If you fell over drunk (he laughs) I would give a bad mark.”

A SONG BY WHICH TO BE REMEMBERED

Were he asked to select one of his songs so that future generations would know who Jimmy Buffett was and what he was all about, the musician says he would choose, “Death of an Unpopular Poet,” from his critically-acclaimed 1973 “A White Sports Coat and a Pink Crustacean” album.

With some bittersweet humor, he makes commentary in that song about how society sometimes treats its artists: “He was just a poet who lived before his time.”

After two ill-fated albums in the early ‘70s for Barnaby Records, Buffett’s ABC Records debut with the “White Sport Coat” album found the artist being hailed by critics as “the most brilliant lyricist to emerge in the decade of Dylan and Kristofferson,” a “crazy blend of Croce and Cash” and “a salt water hillbilly.”

Novelist Tom McGuane, in the liner notes to “White Sport Coat,” wrote, “What Jimmy Buffett knows is that our personal musical history lies at the curious hinterland where Hank Williams and Xavier Cugat meet with somewhat less animosity than the theoreticians would have us believe.”

FAME to a DEGREE

“The Great Filling Station Hold-up” from “White Sports

Coat” received a lot of radio airplay. On the album, Buffett sang about not wanting “the thing that brings confusion, where people recognize you on a plane.” While he says that “I don’t mind fame at all,” he is quick to disavow wanting the type of fame that surrounds a superstar.

Buffett describes his film, “Margaritaville,” as “a coconut rock’n’roll musical comedy, a ‘Fantasy Island’ with ‘a little intelligence, a fantasy escape.’” Being produced by Oscar winner Michael Nesmith, it could be in movie theaters by late next summer.

He still loves the road and speaks with warmth of “the intimacy and fanaticism” of a Buffett audience. “It’s truly an enjoyment to write music and perform it for people who appreciate it,” he says. “It’s there purely for entertainment. To me, that’s my purpose on the planet: entertainment.”

Buffett says he chose to be involved in production of his new album because, “after four or five albums I didn’t want to get stale. I was looking for more freshness. I want to go out and take a chance again.”

In a 1974 interview, Buffett observed, “By the time I’m 30, I expect to be pretty much in control of where I am.”

Now, at the age of 37, does he feel he is indeed in control?”

Buffett: “Yes, I’m having a good time, things are going well and I control basically my own destiny.”

...Until, decades later, Sept, 1, 2023, health sadly took ultimate control.



“He taught a lot of people about the poetry in just living,” said his friend Kenny Chesney.

May Jimmy rest forever in well-deserved peace in his own particular safe harbor.

(Rex Rutkoski, based in the Pittsburgh suburbs of Freeport, Pa., is a veteran freelance writer for regional, national and international publications. He can be reached at rexrutkoski@gmail.com)



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SOUND WAVES 17

THE DREAM WEAVER LEAVES TOMORROW BEHIND

By Rex Rutkoski

Gary Wright strolled through the outfield at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh, child in hand, signing autographs and chatting.

The musician seemed quite at ease, carrying a copy of the book "The Organic Traveler" under his arm. Perhaps it was a recommendation of his friend, George Harrison.

It was, after all, the Beatle's London where New Jersey native Wright re-located, eventually helping to give birth to the British blues-rock band Spooky Tooth.

Harrison proved a significant influence on Wright, introducing him to Eastern mysticism, including yoga and meditation.

Wright would go on to frequently work on projects with Harrison, one of which was 1970's historic triple album, "All Things Must Pass," on which Wright played keyboards.

It was the summer of 1976 when Wright was killing time that early August afternoon on the baseball field, waiting for his call to the stage in front of a then Pittsburgh stadium concert record crowd of 48,852, headlined by the Beach Boys, and preceded by him and Peter Frampton.

Wright warmed-up the audience with a well-received 55-minute set. Except for drums and two female vocalists he had an all-keyboard band.

The former medical school attendee and student of psychology drew extensively from his popular "Dream Weaver" album, which included the popular title track and the intriguing "Love is Alive."

As he performed "Dream Weaver's" spacy title track, hundreds of red, white and blue balloons rose from the stage to the delight of fans.

This spiritual musician offered these now famous lines: "I've just closed my eyes again/Climbed aboard the dream weaver train/Driver take away my worries of today/And leave tomorrow behind."

The future was bright for the singer-songwriter, who died Sept. 4 at 80, after battling complications of Parkinson's disease and Lewy body dementia.

Between the book ends of his life, he made significant contributions, among which was helping instill a modern approach to the sound of pop-rock with his pioneering use of synthesizers.

Keyboard instruments, including a Minimoog synthesizer, rather than guitars, ruled on his stage. He played a strap-on keyboard christened the "keytar."

It's suggested this was an early introduction to what would become the synth-pop boom of the early '80s.

Besides his efforts with Harrison, he also was a session keyboardist for such musicians as Harry Nilsson, B.B. King and Jerry Lee Lewis. He continued to make solo albums too.

"When I write songs, I always try to make them 'catchy' so that people will remember them. They'll be more embedded in people's consciousness," he once explained.

As a youngster he made an appearance on the seminal sci-

ence fiction TV series "Captain Video and His Video Rangers" and later was offered a role in the 1954 Broadway musical "Fanny," which starred Florence Henderson.

Gary Wright, it seems, had a full and most fulfilling life.

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



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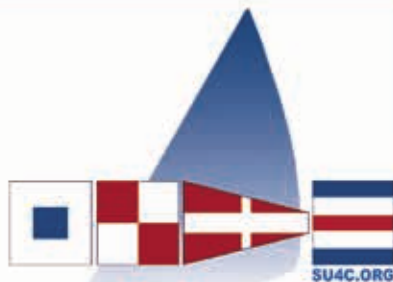
Sound Waves was 1st published in August of 1990. Since then we have kept at least 20 issues of each month and now we are putting them up on Ebay. These magazine have never been circulated.

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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BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn

Hello my sweet Bar Flies..rain, rain go away! Seriously! How much more?? But I am superexcited, Rain or Shine to dress up in my flashy SWIFTIE GEAR and head out to the UNITED THEATER to sing and dance at the TAYLOR SWIFT ERAS TOUR MOVIE! YAY!! Got my Swiftie Bracelet on! Keep ya in the loop!

Dementia seeping in, I spent a morning last month texting my step sister SUNNI JORDAN, who had made the drive up from the Carolina's to join her classmates for the STONINGTON HIGH/BROADWAY SCHOOL RE-UNION last month!

So, thru all the texts asking her the names of everyone I forgot hers!! SUNNI JORDAN! What a dope I am! She was there! Oopsie! And so was CHRISTINE MITCHELL PERKINS. It was quite the morning and so nice to see



everyone!

And oopsie again, while I was working And performing a Wedding Ceremony at the 1661 HOUSE on Block Island I missed AL DROUIN'S Birthday Party at the Castle! Happy Birthday! Next Year, big boy!

Headed over to the WESTERLY YACHT CLUB for LARRY GAVITT'S MEMORIAL CAR SHOW, but first there was a breakfast stop at ESPINOZA'S in Groton. The I pulled into the YACHT CLUB to see a huge crowd

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including LISA REID and DEB MCGUGAN, who pregamed with me at the BRIDGE.

Did I mention "Huge Crowd"? I was so happy to see my sweet friend STEVE D'AMICO and his wife SUE, as well as LARRY'S entire family. RICK BROWN, JON LALLO, CAROL and STILES, MACEY and TROY, the ALGIERE'S, TONY MELLO, 1/2 of Westerly. :)

Finally got my ass over to the BARN in Groton! I can be quite lame;) But NICK BOSSE did not disappoint! I met the Girls: NANCY, SALON BETSY and DEB MCGUGAN. And whoot! EDITOR DAVE POTTIE made an appearance!

NICK led with a raucous rendition of FOLSOM PRISON BLUES. GRAMPA JOE was in the House and got me out on the dance floor with some mind-blowing dance moves on my part! Well,



maybe not quite that good. But GRAMPA JOE made me look like a profesh! Perhaps we should all just be happy I didn't trip over my own two feet.



The show was great, at one point the FUSION singer was onstage singing a soulful duet with BOSSE and I guess after I made my exit (with crazy boot wearing BETSY chasing me out) he did another duet with RACHEL JOHN-SON!

Great night, great food. The BARN was Rockin', food was deelysh(try the buffalo/teriyaki wing combo basket!) Music was phenomenal and the staff was super on top of things! Hi KEVIN!! And CREW! Thank you for having us!

Romper Stomper time, Baby! Happy Birthday to my sweet son NICK, ROB PETTINI, PAUL FURMAN, GERI HALPERIN-MORAN, NEAL VITULLO, DAMIEN CARSON, JOE BOMSTER, JIM "BUFFY" CHRISTINA, JEN FLAHERTY WHIPPLE, DAWN DINWOODIE, ALICIA O'NEILL, TOM BELL, ERIC TOOTELL, SUE MITCHELL, ALENE WHIPPLE, LOU GACCIONE, RICHARD ELVIN, ED CULLEN, ED HABEREK, RHONDA RUSSELL DEMPSEY, JOHN MAXSON, MELISSA BOGART, CHELLE MESSINA, JOEL REID, ERNIE RICH-

ARD, CECE and the Twins, LEVEN and JAMES!

Lovely ANN BUONOCORE invited me to a premier at MYSTIC LUXURY THEATERS "TRUE NATURE OF ALL BEING". Written by her friend LISA GIORDANO, it's the story of mercury poisoning in a small Japanese fishing

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town in the 70's, sparking the global environmental movement. Sounds like it's certain to get people talking! Unfortunately, I will be at the BIG E!

Some premier parties coming up including RYAN'S 40TH @ VENICE and SAMANTHA STOREY'S 19th ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY at the PAWCATUCK VFW!! My costume is great! Wait and see! And LINA'S BIRTHDAY BASH with NEVER ENUFF at the CALABRESE! GEEZ LOUISE!

So, I'm heading out to pick up my Shark Plate!! Id like to take a moment to Thank DANA NEUGENT for being a Rock Star Photographer! Check out his pix online! True beauty on the music scene and so much more!

*Ciao for now, my flies!
Love you long time!*

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DINING OUT

“Savoring the Flavors of Trattoria Amalfi ”

By Elizabeth Saede

A friend and I enjoyed vibrant appetizers and dinner at the newly-opened Trattoria Amalfi in Olde Mistick Village, with abundant free parking. Amalfi's cheerful exterior beckoned with beautiful landscaping and front patio seating, but we chose an interior rounded banquette. Rich tuna tartare with toasted almond slices, shaved fennel, and orange was impeccably fresh and accented by crunchy salt. We'll try local oysters, clams, salmon carpaccio, and scallop crudo another time.

Four-cheese fonduta and luscious house-made marinara accompanied a tower of focaccia garlic bread sticks from Nana's Mystic, and it was everything we hoped. Our server suggested a triangle of mozzarella-stuffed crispy meatballs topped with freshly grated Parmesan in a shallow bowl of exceptional marinara. I implied I would stab my companion with a fork if a move was made toward the last two meatballs and sauce. Yes, it was that delicious. Clams Casino with pancetta and fresh oregano was a vibrant upgrade to the shoreline classic. The grilled octopus had a long, slow braise before a flavorful, fast sear on a hot grill. The tentacles rested, resplendent, on a base of savory ceci beans, shaved fennel, and buttery Castlevetrano olives. Each small plate was beautifully presented and exceptionally good.



Blood Orangina drinks accompanied our abundant and tasty bites. The blood orange puree, lime juice, and ginger beer are the restaurant's brilliant alcohol-free take on the popular Moscow Mule. Fresh lemonade and house-made Limoncello are dispensed from a tiled, free-standing bar, awash in natural light. The restaurant features an impressive array of primarily Italian white, red, and sparkling wines, along with local IPAs and creative cocktails. Bar bites and drink specials are available Monday – Friday from 3:00-5:00 PM. The delectable focaccia garlic bread from Nana's Mystic and meatballs are featured for a solo stop or a meet-up with friends.

Most of the menu is available from 12:00-4:00 PM, and a pared-down, weekday, two-course lunch special is \$25. Kids under ten can enjoy \$11 pasta, chicken with mashed potatoes, crispy fish, mac and cheese, or a foot-long hot dog while you indulge in lunch or dinner.

The luscious fresh pasta texture and flavor from the house-made pappardelle and its roasted garlic, browned butter, and lemon sauce produced a moan of pleasure. Freshly chopped Italian parsley and seasoned bread crumbs added texture and flavor to the rich sauce and tender ribbon pasta in a bowl of pure decadence. Tender shrimp and seasoned bread crumbs topped the

dish, but the sauce was the star. The pasta and sauce would also be excellent with chicken, which I hope will be a future option.



The mammoth yet tender veal porterhouse was perfectly seared to medium and topped with local Seacoast mushrooms in a thick Marsala sauce. Fresh rosemary and roasted fingerling potatoes rounded out the exceptional dish often devoured. Chef Eudocio Cruz prefers to be called Doz, and his kitchen magicians enhance rather than overwhelm premium ingredients such as local seafood and veal. Their attention to detail and love for their work is a perfect incentive to dine out. Unless you have an Italian nonna, this is the best way to indulge in Italian-inspired delicacies.

Gnocchi Verde with arugula, ziti with ragu, rigatoni alla norma with eggplant with a whole, and grilled lobster are also offered. However, I wonder if pasta can be more delicious than the pappardelle. Meat lovers, try classic N.Y. Strip steak a la pizzaiola with roasted peppers, onions, and potatoes, the hugely popular chicken piccata, or the balsamic grilled chicken. Organic salmon, halibut, sea scallops, grilled colossal shrimp, and other kinds of seafood are also available. Don't skip the thoughtfully prepared sides of asparagus with lemon zest and breadcrumbs, roasted peppers, potato puree, or string beans with garlic and lemon. The splendid simplicity of the house-made spaghetti & marinara is worthy of its own order.

Freshly chopped antipasti salad has chickpeas, provolone, salami, olives, peppers, and tomatoes. Toasted breadcrumbs enhance every bite of roasted garlic Caesar salad. Caprese salad's buffalo mozzarella, tomato, & basil are summer on a plate, while the vibrant Arugula salad balances out the richness of any entrée.



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We moved to a comfortable high-top table in the bar next to a wall of windows for dessert. The slightly sweet caramelized ricotta cheesecake was adorned with Limoncello-soaked blueberries and fresh cream. The lemon crostata's olive oil shortbread and curd arrived garnished with sea salt, toasted almond slices, and fresh berries. Gelato and sorbet from Mystic Drawbridge Ice Cream, classic tiramisu, and a flourless chocolate Nutella cake were available. Still, it was charming to close our quick visit to Italy with traditional flavors and people-watching.



Special thanks to the knowledgeable, enthusiastic staff who enhanced our comfort and enjoyment. Amalfi has a private dining area with a bar to accommodate groups of up to fifty and a total capacity of 200, including the front patio with umbrellas and a covered side patio for leisurely people-watching in Olde Mistick Village. Accessible parking is a prized amenity in Mystic.

Trattoria Amalfi's popular sister restaurants include The Mariner and Via Emilia in downtown Mystic and Bar Emilia in Westerly, RI. Owners Shaun Golan and Jakub Andros have won over locals and visitors alike with their unerring menus and ability to attract and retain the best talent. Their Bar Emilia has re-opened as Bar Pisco, a modern Peruvian kitchen and cocktail bar featuring creative ceviche, seafood, and small plates.

27 Coogan Blvd. Mystic (in Olde Mistick Village near the Aquarium).

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860-440-6770 All menus are online at amalfimystic.com. My video tour of Trattoria Amalfi in Mystic



Elizabeth Saede is a freelance writer and the author of *Lobster Summer* who has published articles and photos in *ThisIsMystic.com*, *Mystic Neighbors* magazine, *The Day*, and elsewhere.





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Reviewed by Alice D. for Readers Favorite

"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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Gramma's Attic Continued

strung together like a perfect lesson in the history of the gods of Norway.

The Jethro Tull band is now on tour in the United States with their The Seven Decades Tour. Ian says that the days of getting on stage and playing a new album in its entirety is a thing of the past. The fans, although many of them do want to hear the new music, are nostalgic and want to hear the music that they were drawn to from past records. The history of Tull is rich in lyrics and musicality. It brings visions of things of old and memories of days when concert tickets were \$7 and everyone at the concert was a friend, and you could just dance to the music as a group. The music that this band brings to the stage is not about being seven decades old but about being a few hours old because that is probably the last time that it was performed on the stage. Each performance brings with it an air of firstness and a sound that historically has become known the world around as that of the talented and remarkable band Jethro Tull. The players that you will see performing on the stage during

this tour are:

- Ian Anderson-Flute, acoustic Guitar, harmonica, and vocals
- David Goodier-Bass guitar
- John O'Hara-Piano, keyboard, and accordion
- Scott Hammond-Drums
- Joe Parrish-James-Guitar

The tour dates can be found at www.jethrotull.com/tour-dates/ and a full website with a wealth of information and interesting tidbits can also be found at www.jethrotull.com. The closest date to this area is on October 29th at the Mohegan Sun Arena. Tickets can be found at Ticketmaster.com although my suggestion is that you seek out other ways to find your tickets.

I hope to see you all at this amazing show, I will be there in full fashion.

Until next month stay safe , stay healthy and get out there and support live music and the Arts.



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HEARING AID



Season Ammons

"Steel Hearts"

Cobalt Blue Records

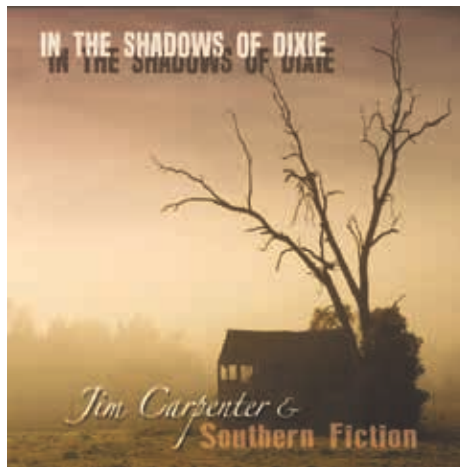
"Steel Hearts" is actually our second Season Ammons CD we reviewed. We at Sound Waves liked her "No Restraint" CD so much that we reached out to Season who graciously sent us her 2019 album "Steel Hearts". ** This intro was taken from my last review: "Season Ammons is a multi genre Texas performer whose 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."

Season's first track "Show Me Your Love" knocks it out of the park. As soon as I heard the rich tones of the Hammond Organ I knew I was in for a treat. And when she comes in with not only her own vocals but adds the back up vocals to give this song a Gospel feel, I was hooked! As the song continues it's very apparent her backup band is made up of quality musicians that complete the "feel", and adds to this great bluesy ballad. The title track "Steel Hearts" is another ballad where Season really shows off her great vocals. What stands out the most to me is how well the sound engineer mixed this track. It has the fullness and rich tones of an orchestra backing her. In "Raining In Memphis" Season's vocals are clearly front and center with an amazing range that shows her star power. In "Feel Alright" Season leaves the bluesy ballad genre for a seductive rock tune. This is not one of my favorite tracks on the album. The heavy

reverb on Season's voice actually takes away from the great nuances of her vocals, and overall sounds like the band is trying too hard as if to say "look at me, I'm a rocker now". "Lovesick" takes us back to her Gospel Blues Ballad style that I have to say is what she does so well!! Yes, I'm lovesick over "Lovesick". Both "Give It Back" with its great guitar licks, and "This Is Goodbye" are soulful, bluesy ballads and by now you may be saying "another Bluesy ballad??" and I say Absolutely. You have to buy the album and listen for yourself to appreciate that this isn't a dance album but a more inspirational one of a woman in a complicated relationship who finally has the courage to say goodbye. It's a very well put together album with great vocals, a seasoned, experience backup band, and the sound engineering is excellent too. You trusted my reviews in the past, so trust me now. If you like gritty, real feelings with a touch of gospel – You will love this album. Available at Amazon.com, and Seasonammons.com.

Until Next Time – Adrian Webb

On another note, I would like to thank my readers and the staff at Sound Waves Magazine for their much appreciated get well wishes. No worries, I'm on the mend!



Jim Carpenter & Southern Fiction

"In the Shadows of Dixie"

Loco Dare Music

Local Americana artist Jim Carpenter, a songwriter, author, musician, producer and all-around nice guy, can't sit still. In addition to everybody's favorite bands The Hoolios and The Carleans, he's pulled together another band of merry masters of musical

poetry called "Jim Carpenter & Southern Fiction." Their first album *In the Shadows of Dixie* was released in 2022 and I thought it was about time I gave it a listen.

In this latest iteration, Carpenter enlists Sarah Maclean on vocals, Jim Tarbox on electric guitars, Mike Derry on organ and piano, Dave Allen on harmony and bass, and Melvin Corcino on drums. Carpenter plays a papoose, among other instruments.

The album tackles some serious issues, expertly presented by some seriously good musicianship and songwriting, but also brings the fun.

The opener, "Fresh Horses," is upbeat and driving with Carpenter's strong and authoritative vocals and beautiful harmonies on the chorus. Tarbox's electric guitar dominates. Corina Malbaurn of Macleans and Hoolios fame sits in (stands in?) on upright bass on the next tune "Trespassing," a lyrical and poetic song about visiting an old house and asks questions like, "Why did we fall from Grace? I wonder if your ghost still haunts the place." Next, the title track is a lively shuffle with a wall of glorious sound that offers some political commentary with perfect mandolin accompaniment. Not so serious is "She's Driving me to Drink" with its clever pun on words, and effectively a good-ole country bar sing along song. "Love's Mysterious Ways" ponders a love conundrum while "If This Old House Could Talk" is reminiscent of "The Band" with its dynamic, finely crafted delivery, a Top 40 hit if you ask me.

Guest musicians Robbie Turner on pedal steel, John Gardner on drums, Lou Bocciairelli on bass and local legend Bill Light on slide guitar team up for the ballad "The Other Man." You think it's an aching, cheatin' song, but it's more than that, which you should always be on the lookout for in Carpenter's writing.

The area's beloved Sarah Maclean takes the lead on vocals with power and conviction on "Til Death do us Part," while "My Only Son" is an upbeat commentary on religion. "Good in Bed" is a hilarious and glorious duet between Maclean and Carpenter. I've said it before and I'll say it again, when these two sing together it's a downright culmination of Cash and Carter, Plant and Krauss, Prine and Raitt, Jones and Wynette. Period.

"I've Got to Drink This Over" is the perfect country drinkin' song while the closer "Gasoline" is an all-out signature Carpenter-led jam. The album is available at the following links.

Music Purchase Links:

Amazon Music: <https://www.amazon.com/music/player/albums/B0B2KBFRFQ>

Apple Music: <https://music.apple.com/ug/song/in-the-shadows-of-dixie/1621875372>

Spotify: <https://open.spotify.com/album/1iUakgAKJExxWgqp4mLCQ6>

Bandcamp: <https://jimcarpenter.bandcamp.com/album/in-the-shadows-of-dixie>

Other links:

Loco Dare Web Site: <http://www.locodare.com>

Also check out Carpenter's prose in book form over here: <https://www.jameswainecarpenter.com>

- Sue Menhart



The Toneshifters

"Alabama Moon"

Rumble Strip Records

"This cd is dedicated to the memory of Jack "Daddy Jack " Chaplin"; restaurateur, chef, bluesman, and long time columnist for Sound Waves magazine. Track 5 completes the dedication, simply titled Daddy Jack. The devotion states clearly the connection between The Toneshifters and Southeastern Connecticut, as surely as any who patronized New London's Daddy Jack's restaurant and venue for live music.

The Toneshifters first emerged back in 2009, originally a blues band that quickly followed the many styles of music that captured the band member's ears. This has over time become a multi - faceted mix and variety of sounds and genres the band has annointed Swinginrockbluesably music. In practice the music is always energized and entertaining, a theme which their latest album, Alabama Moon, fully embraces.

The first of six original songs, Gotta Believe, is all fast pace and fire, driven by the power bass of Ben Perry, with Tim Stawarz adding rhythm and lead guitar; and, with a nice lyrical twist, "Gotta Believe, Gotta Believe I believe in you". Crying Time carries on with bass runs and harmonica providing the electricity behind the insistent lead vocals.

Alabama Moon, title track to the album, takes a slower tempo, with vocal harmonies and some intricate guitar riffs. Chris Mackay leads the vocals, backed by Sue Mackay (who adds some accordion) plus Stawarz

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and Perry.

Daddy Jack swings and sings of Jack Chaplin's love for his sons, girls, and city, and the people he fed, body and soul, across the years and into the great beyond; culminating with the tribute line "Daddy Jack, he's a real cool cat." The song, complete as a swinging blues song can be, with bass, drums, guitar, and vocals, is a touching tribute given with joy in memory of a joyful man, and so is met with an unavoidable measure of sadness.

More info on the Toneshifters and their latest recording may be found at www.toneshifters.com.

- Jon Persson



LESPECIAL

"Odd Times"

Royal Artist Group

The brand new release by CT based heavy-progressive band lespecial is a real banger. "Odd Times" is stuffed with thick grooves, monster riffs, danceable rhythms and a little bit of futuristic flavor for fun. Despite the heavy vibe, lespecial has been a staple of the jam and festival scene for years, bringing mosh-pits to the hippies and pushing the boundaries of genre in the musical community.

A self-described "power-trio", their lineup is as solid as it gets. Featuring Luke Bemand on bass and synth, he is driving a lot of the force behind their sound. Jonathan Grusauskas on synth, guitar, samplers and percussion brings the top layer, coloring the mix with an intensity that is reminiscent of bands like Radiohead and Tool. Driving the beat behind everything is drummer Rory Dolan, who is hard to keep up with when I try to watch him play. And they all sing, bringing a huge sound to the stage, fooling your ears with the wall of sound that hits you.

The new album is intense, riffy and very colorful. Their past work has been strong, and "Odd Times" provides a cohesive and unified listening experience without get-

ting repetitive. Quite the opposite, each song leaves you wondering what is around the corner and provides lots of contrast between moments of heavy jams and stretches of drawn out, reverb-saturated sections reminiscent of Pink Floyd or old Iron Maiden.

One of my favorite songs on "Odd Times" is the second track "They Live". Riff heavy with strong harmonies and grooves, it's got that old early-eighties Metallica vibe interspersed with moments of dialogue mocking the "human power elite". It finishes strong with a move into some off-center time signatures before slamming home the ending.

They follow up with "Rays", leading in with a trancy synth arpeggio in 5/8 which turns into a similar part on a distorted guitar. Vocals kick in with single tones and a long trail providing an etheric feel. Following that is a long guitar solo with space in the background and an echoey aesthetic. Finally it resolves with tempos from the different instruments drifting slightly towards chaos before resolving for the synchronized finality.

I haven't even had a chance to talk about their other strong tracks on here like the change of pace "Divider", the horror-house of "Stingy Jack" or climate-conscious opener "Lungs of the Planet". If you're into riffs and rhythms with a heavy edge you really need to check out "Odd Times" by lespecial, you will certainly find lots to appreciate here.

- Tom Matthew

Two Ton Music



Billy Eric

"New Amsterdam Orchest"

Deko Records

The New Amsterdam Orkest is an ensemble that goes back 400 years to 1626 when Willem van Linkerkant, who was a local lute player and bandleader, received a letter from friends who sailed to the new Dutch colony, New Amsterdam. It appears that when the Dutch sent colonists, along with tradesmen and soldiers, they failed to send

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some musicians. They had just survived their first year and there was much partying to be had. But they had no music. So they asked Willem if he'd come to New Amsterdam. Willem was perhaps the greatest lute player of his day. He had a small ensemble and they played all over: the Count's banquets; weddings; church concerts and even private gatherings. Willem was intrigued by his friend's description of the new world, so he packed up his lute and his band and they sailed to New Amsterdam. Willem branded the ensemble, The New Amsterdam Orkest.

Fast forward to today BILLY ERIC who is actually the great-great-great-great and furthermore great-grandson of Willem van Linkerkant decided to get the band back together again. Seriously though, since the 400 year old musicians are long gone, Billy Eric surrounds himself with the crem de la crem jazz musicians of today that make up "New Amsterdam Orchest". Billy himself is primarily a bass player. Billy was mostly self-taught on guitar and completely self-taught on bass and piano, but no matter what instrument he plays. On his personal website www.billyericproductions.com you can hear many examples of Billy Eric's musical work.

As for his latest album "New Amsterdam Orchest", it came out earlier this year and was suppose to be reviewed in July but my heart attack got in the way. No one was more disappointed than me because I was also assigned a couple live Jazz concerts in Essex that I missed. OK, back to Billy Eric's music – by my third listen I was ready to share some thoughts with you, and generally speaking I would best describe the album as a Spyro Gyra style work but jazzier. Firstly, this is not your average jazz trio. Eric pains takingly hunts for just the right musicians for each composition which on average is a 10 piece orchestra, so forgive me for not listing everyone because eleven tracks times ten different musicians... well you get the idea. Instead I want you to really listen to the genius of Bill Eric as on some tracks he'll use synths, on others you can hear French Horns and still other may showcase a killer piano or jazz guitar performance. Today is a rainy, cool autumn New England day and as I write this review I suddenly realized this is the perfect kind of day to listen to this album. It's like a warm cozy blanket playing in the background and wrapping your atmosphere in jazz. Enjoy! Billy Eric's "New Amsterdam Orchest" is available on his website www.billyericproductions.com.

Until Next Time – Adrian Webb



28 SOUND WAVES



The Carleans

"Melodrama"

Loco Dare Music

The Carleans have been a popular ensemble in the Southeastern Connecticut music scene for many years, while nurturing deep roots in an abundant garden of folk-styles of music. These roots have supported a flowering of the band in more recent years, reaching Florida, Nashville, Austin, and more, as audiences connect with the grounded, human stories, set to lively, artistically compelling music.

These stories in verse and rhyme sprout and blossom from the prolific pens of Jim Carpenter and Sarah MacLean. Both add guitar and vocals to the mix, while Sarah's twin sister Rachel MacLean-Sargent brings more vocals and harmonies. Carina Malbourn's electric and stand up bass fill out the band's sound.

The first track, Pushing Chains, opens in a Carolina diner, telling the despairing story of a salesman who travels the hinterlands selling chains to farmers and other hard scrabble enterprises, ending the days searching for a motel with a bar. The piece has a country - folk feel, the vocal reflecting against an ongoing string melody.

Sarah MacLean takes the lead vocal on Road Trip, a southern odyssey sung over guitar and fiddle interplay and instrumental solos. Broke As The Heart Of Havana takes a Latin stroll through the Cuban night, enamored over a local girl who intrigues the moneyless singer. A range of instrumental virtuosity, including musicians sitting in on the recording, is on display.

This far-ranging album, with its variety of styles and subjects across six original songs, was recorded in nearby Niantic, Connecticut, with production by the multi-talented Jim Carpenter. There are advantages to such self contained projects, and hazards as well: happily the advantages have won out, resulting in a production which features the musicians nuances and phrasings that are familiar and awaiting expression, with a light but available touch.

More info on the Carleans and their latest recording may be found at www.the-carleans.com.

- Jon Persson



Doug Deming & The Jewel Tones

"Grooving At Groove Now"

Endless Blues Records

From DougDeming.Com: "Eastside Detroit native Doug Deming, now hailing from Florida's Gulf Coast, has garnered widespread attention for his deft guitar work and memorable songwriting. With a nod to the likes of T-Bone Walker and Charlie Christian, as well as Luther Tucker and Robert Jr. Lockwood, Doug leaves his own mark whether swingin' on the big jazz box, or playing straight up blues on the solid body Fender guitar. Since playing the local Detroit scene beginning in the early 90's, Doug has spent much of the following years touring and recording with top blues artists, including Fabulous Thunderbirds front-man Kim Wilson, legendary Louisiana swamp blues-man Lazy Lester, Texas' Gary Primich, Chicago greats Johnny "Yard Dog" Jones and A.C. Reed, as well as Detroit's own Queen of the Blues, Alberta Adams. Leading his band The Jewel Tones, Doug continues to bring noteworthy traditional and original roots music to his audiences."

Deming has put together an ensemble of like-minded blues, jump'n & jive lover musicians and call themselves "Doug Deming and The Jewel Tones". It's as if they resurrected the Rockabilly sounds of Brian Setzer and They Stray Cats from 40 years ago. In a nut shell all I can say is this high octane, Jump'n Jive album is Red Hot and should come with a warning label for the faint of heart and seat belts, yes, I said seat belts because if you think you can sit still while listening to this high energy, and all around fun album – think again!! Step one, move the living room furniture out of the way. Step two, line up the Martini's. And Step three, call your friends over and let the

www.swaves.com

dancing begin. Another noteworthy feature of this album is that it's recorded from a LIVE concert in Basel Switzerland and it has that live concert feel. Deming takes a momentary departure of his fast paced music and slows things down half way through the album with his love song "Every Night When I Get Home" where you can hear excellent guitar solos and his stellar horn section. Unfortunately the listeners can really hear that "vocals" isn't Deming's strong suit because frequently he sings off key on this one. Another departure from Deming's early 40's jump'n jive themed music is the second to last track titled "An Eye For An Eye" what I like to call the slow, bluesy bump & grind. The overall band is great as usual but it's the Blues Harp that has center stage on this one. What a gritty performance that oozes of raw emotion. The only thing missing is a pole dancer with spinning tassels. The track "Whisper" is the old school style showmanship last performance of the concert where the band is putting its best foot forward and everyone gets an amazing solo. From the pounding beat of the drummer, to the harmonized whale of the guitarist and blues harp to the untamed screaming sounds of the key board. What a great ending to a great album. Spoiler alert – this CD is going on my personal play list. Buy It today!

Doug Deming & The Jewel Tones "Grooving At Groove Now" available on Amazon and DougDeming.Com.

Until Next Time – Adrian Webb



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Mike Crandall Continued

Band and got to go the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. It was exciting because we had such respect for Mike and the guys in his band. They were a little older and had been playing a lot longer than me and most of the guys in my band. However, Mike Crandall being the unstoppable force that he was entered another Blues society's Blues Challenge and won, so he also competed in the International Blues Challenge that year. I think that speaks, partially to Mike's ambition, but it is mostly about his love of playing. He was a big personality and a great harmonica player, but the thing I will remember most about him is his pure joy of playing music. It didn't matter if the crowd was 5 people or 500 people, Mike gave them his all and would always in his own words 'blow the roof off the place!' – Ryan Hartt

Mike Crandall was on the cover of Sound Waves Magazine in September 2008. That issue can be found here.

https://www.swaves.com/Back_Issues/Sept08/Mike%20Crandall%20band.htm

A YouTube video of the Mike Crandall band performing at Barnful of Blues on August 1, 2015 is located here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAMBAG3oL7A>

A Celebration of Life for Mike is planned for Nov. 19 from 1:00pm-6:00pm at the Old Well Tavern in Simsbury, Connecticut where three versions of his band will perform from 2:30pm – 6:00pm.



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FOXTROT AT 50 + HACKETT HIGHLIGHTS

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.

ARRAY OF HOPE: AWAKENING HEARTS

SATURDAY, 10.14.23 | 7:30 PM

Blessed Sacrament Parish in cooperation with the Diocese of Norwich presents ARRAY OF HOPE – An Evening of Faith, Hope and Love A Musical Multimedia Experience concert.

+LIVE+ UNPLUGGED

SUNDAY, 10.15.23 | 7:30 PM

With some of the alt-rock era's biggest hits up their sleeve, you don't want to miss an evening with the multi-Platinum band +LIVE+. +LIVE+ have sold over 22 million albums worldwide.

KOLTON HARRIS FILM PREMIER

BREATHE RITE

PART OF THE MUSIC SHORT FILM SERIES

FRIDAY, 10.27.23 | 7 PM

New London artist Kolton Harris's series of music short films combine storytelling with musical exploration around the themes of equity, justice, humanity and unity. Each film is based off of a song from his EP called 4Freedom. Join us for a screening of the series and the premiere of the last film in the series Breathe Rite.

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!

LET'S SING TAYLOR

A LIVE BAND EXPERIENCE CELEBRATING TAYLOR SWIFT

SATURDAY 11.04.23 | 8 PM

So, let the games begin. Calling all Swifties to sing your hearts out and sport your Taylor-inspired attire. Let's Sing Taylor is headed to the Garde.

Mystic Film Festival presents:

A TREE. A ROCK. A CLOUD

WITH KAREN ALLEN...LIVE!

SUNDAY 11.05.23 | 3 PM

Based on the short story by Carson McCullers. The film is the directorial debut of award-winning NY actor/director Karen Allen. The film will be followed by a talk back with Karen Allen including a question and answer portion, followed by a meet and greet.

EVIL WOMAN: AMERICAN ELO EXPERIENCE

FRIDAY, 11.10.23 | 8 PM

You will be left spellbound by the flawless musicianship and vocals of EVIL WOMAN's 12 musicians as well as the fusion of Beatlesque-Pop and classical arrangements where cellos co-exist with guitars, and where classically tinged rock intersects with pop.

MASTERS OF ILLUSION:

BELIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE

SATURDAY, 11.11.23 | 8 PM

Starring the world's greatest award-winning magicians, this 21st century magic show is unlike anything you have seen before – filled with modern illusions and arts of deception, performed live on stage.

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.

A MAGICAL CIRQUE CHRISTMAS

SUNDAY, 11.26.23 | 4 PM

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SATURDAY, 03.23.24 | 8 PM

Humorist & Best Selling Author
DAVID SEDARIS
WEDNESDAY, 04.03.24 | 7:30 PM

ANOTHER TEQUILA SUNRISE:
A TRIBUTE TO THE EAGLES
SATURDAY, 04.06.24 | 8 PM

INVINCIBLE:
A GLORIOUS TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL JACKSON
SATURDAY, 04.20.24 | 8 PM

An Intimate Evening with
DAVID FOSTER & KATHARINE MCPHEE
THURSDAY, 05.16.24 | 7:30 PM

JOHN CAMERON MITCHELL & AMBER MARTIN IN
CASSETTE ROULETTE
FRIDAY, 05.17.24 | 8 PM

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FRIDAY, 06.28.24 | 8 PM

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