

Sound Waves

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Volume 35
Issue 5
May 2025

An
Interview
with

SISTER SPARROW & the Dirty Birds

Plus

- John Primer
- Matt Lesch
- The Remains
- Shari Puerto
- Fran Drew & the Lucky Strikes
- Charlie Musselwhite
- The Slambovian Circus of Dreams

Reviews

- The Bridge
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Music Notes	Pg. 6
Gramma's Attic	Pg. 8
Local Beat.....	Pg. 10
Band Dates	Pg. 12
Cover Story.....	Pg. 14
Bar Fly Journals ...	Pg. 18
Dining Out	Pg. 22
Hearing Aid.....	Pg. 26
Stan Back	Pg. 29
Classified.....	Pg. 30

Cover/Story Photo by
Mel Barlow

MAILBAG

Dear Readers,

We're facing some challenging times with rising costs due to tariffs introduced by President Trump. Everyday essentials like groceries and household items are becoming more expensive. Now, more than ever, it's important to support local businesses and come together as a community to navigate these difficulties.

One great way to lift your spirits is by enjoying live music! Our area is buzzing with events this month, and you'll find plenty of options in this issue to brighten your mood. Music has a way of bringing joy and connection.

Sound Waves has been a free publication for 35 years, thanks to your support and our advertisers. Keep showing your love and let them know you found their ad here!

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Sound

Waves

May 2025

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 5

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SOUND WAVES is a
monthly publication

Send all inquires,
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subscription request to

SOUND WAVES
MAGAZINE

P.O. Box 710

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SOUND WAVES 3



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2:00pm John Batdorf

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6:00pm Caswell & The Peel N' Eats

Sunday



Jason Acy 2:30pm

12:00 pm The United Theatre Presents



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MAY 10 - PATIO - LINCOLN'S STONER BEACH BAND 1PM
MAY 10 - PATIO - DANIEL GREAVES 5PM
MAY 11 - MOTHER'S DAY WITH BRIAN CABRAL 1PM
MAY 16 - PATIO - TRAVIS HYLL 1PM
MAY 16 - DJ CASWELL 9PM
MAY 17 - PATIO - WAYFARING STRANGERS 1PM
MAY 17 - BAND - WHISKEY RHODE 9PM
MAY 18 - PATIO - JOHN SAGE 1PM
MAY 23 - PATIO - BRIAN CABRAL 1PM
MAY 23 - BAND - NEVER ENUFF 9PM
MAY 24 - PATIO - DANIEL REED 1PM
MAY 24 - BAND - AQUANETT 9PM
MAY 25 - PATIO - BAIRD SOULS 1PM
MAY 25 - PATIO - DJ MIKE LAND 5PM
MAY 25 - DJ CASWELL 9PM
MAY 26 - PATIO - CHRIS COFONI 1PM
MAY 27 - PATIO - JUSTIN POMFRET 1PM
MAY 30 - BAND - TBD
MAY 31 - PATIO - JOHN MAZE 1PM
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MUSIC NOTES

“All That Remains”

By Mark T. Gould

A band with three guys from Connecticut once opened a concert for the Beatles.

As far-fetched as that sounds, it actually happened to the Boston-based Remains in 1966, and a new PBS documentary marks that amazing adventure as well as the reformation of the band many years later.

If you don't know the Remains, well, you should.

The band consisted of guitarist Barry Tashian (from Westport), keyboardist Bill Briggs (also from Westport), drummer Chip Damiani (from Wolcott), and bassist Vern Miller (the lone non-Nutmegger from Livingston, New Jersey).



Lost Band,” directed by the multiple award-winning Michael Stich, which pares down a project that originally premiered at the Boston Film Festival, then was shown at the Nashville Film



They were so well thought of that, in 2007, former Rolling Stone music editor Mark Kemp wrote in Paste Magazine that, if this relatively unknown group from hadn't broken up in 1966, “we might today be calling them—and not the Stones—the World's Greatest Rock 'n' Roll Band. As it is, The Remains most certainly are America's greatest lost band.”

Wow.

That quote became the inspiration for the documentary, “America's

6 SOUND WAVES

molding this project into its finished form, it was a true labor of love for producer Fred Cantor, still another guy from Westport.

“I became an instant Remains fan as a junior high student in the fall of 1966 when I first heard their new album,” he told me. “Barry and Bill grew up in my hometown, so the record department of the local department store on Main Street, Klein's, was promoting their album even though The Remains didn't have a Top 40 hit at that point. Cantor produced “All Good Things,” a 2004 stage musical about the band, which Stich had seen and suggested that a film adaptation of the show should be done.

“I proposed to Michael: ‘what if we captured The Remains playing in LA and San Francisco—the last two stops of the '66 Beatles tour—and we financed it ourselves?’” he recalled. “Michael put together a budget, but unfortunately it was too high for me. And then I thought: what if we filmed only in LA? And, with Michael and his crew based there, that turned out to be far more manageable.”

Enter PBS.

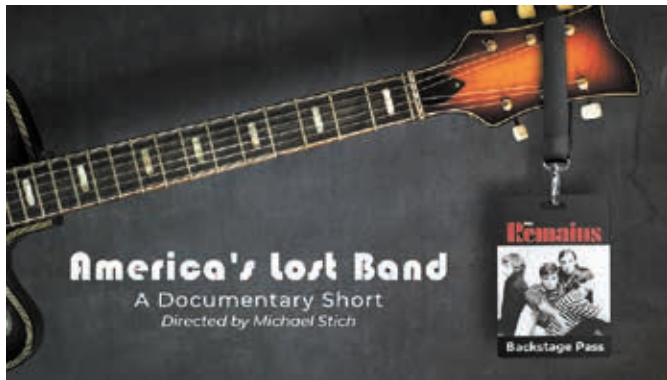
“I had such a positive experience with CPTV in connection with the half-hour broadcast of “It's A Hollywood Life!” another documentary short I produced,” he told me.

“And that got me to thinking about how we could zero in on the second part of “America's Lost Band”—focusing on The Remains' return to LA 40 years after the Beatles tour—and turn that into a half-hour broadcast that would stand on its own merits.

“I tossed out a rough sketch of how I thought it could be done—starting with the rehearsal at the Mint—to Michael. He immediately and enthusiastically embraced the concept and then so skillfully came up with a new edited storyline. We agreed that certain sequences and visuals had to be reconfigured, in part, to make it work—and Michael executed it so seamlessly,” Cantor said.

“Michael's filmmaking skills are truly remarkable,” he added. “I wasn't sur-

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prised by that because I had observed the preparation he put into daytime TV's 'The Bold and The Beautiful, (which Stich has directed for over 30 years).'

"But a key thing here was Michael's passion for and knowledge of music. I hope that comes through loud and clear in the way he filmed and edited the performance scenes both at the rehearsal and at the band's sets at Amoeba Music and the club gig."

Another Connecticut connection to the project is the inclusion of legendary music critic, disk jockey and writ-

er Fran Fried, who attended the gigs at Cantor's request, and whose unbridled joy at watching the Remains reunion is a cornerstone of the film.

"It was an intimate mini-concert of sorts, and I was more than glad to be there," she

told me. "I had moved to Fresno at the time, and It was a reminder of home.

"It was fun to watch these four guys, then in their 50s, working out songs the way they did back in their 20s – the chemistry, the camaraderie, the brotherhood that survived the long years apart."

Cantor concurs, adding "I hope something else that comes through loud and clear here is how likable each of these guys are and what a wonderful relationship they all have with each other.

"The Remains are the antithesis of some rock bands where egos and/

or jealousy are part of the landscape. Equally important to how the film comes off is how all four were instantly comfortable with the cameras rolling.

"There is still an audience, in my opinion, because the music is fantastic."



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GRAMMA'S ATTIC REVUE

"A Slambovian Circus of Love"

By Gramma

The first time that I heard of this band, it was known as Gandalf Murphy and the Slambovian Circus of Dreams, (shortened to The Slambovian Circus of Dreams since 2010) and they were singing the theme song to Dancing Alice's Show on WCNI. I loved them! After some time, we connected and Tink Lloyd and I did some promo work together for a show that they were going to be doing out at the Katherine Hepburn Cultural Arts Center; other wise known as "The Kate". She sent me their Christmas Album which is in my collection as one of my favorite holiday spins to this day... right up there with my Jethro Tull Christmas Album (yes, they have one, check it out). We had not spoken since then until about a month ago. I had wanted to do an interview with this crazy unique sound machine of a band, but the time just never seemed right. This time not only did the universe say it was right but connected us just as all kinds of good things were getting ready to pop for The Slambovian Circus of Dreams!

So as Maria says in the Sound of Music, "Lets start at the very beginning, a very good place to start," Tink was born in Northern Virginia in a rather unique little town called Falls Church. It seems funny now just because of who I know Tink to be, but this was a very "Hippie Town " and Tink is absolutely what I would put in the positive league of a perfect hippie.

Joiah Longo grew up in the hillbilly outskirts of Philadelphia . The home that he came from was a home full of the music of the Irish. Joiah's dad took his guitar and went from bar to bar, place to place doing what he felt the need to do... use his music to Spread

8 SOUND WAVES



Peace! Joiah has followed in his dad's footsteps and is one of the most peace lovin' people that I have ever encountered.

I met Joiah in NYC the day I returned to NYC from Scotland , where I had been performing - we were both in bands at the time and he was just finishing a rehearsal. We later formed a band called The Ancestors and played the NYC clubs back in the day - from



CBGB's to Carnegie Hall with an orchestra! It seems like the universe was particularly invested in the Circus coming to life because when Tink and Joiah met that night the rest became Americanafolkpunkrockandroll love story history.

It is easy to see how the vibe of this

band got its roots and although this was originally an art school the music has gone worldwide to become a favorite of some of the most famous peacemakers of all time such as Arlo Guthrie and Donovan who brought Joiah into a photo with them just because they dug the bands vibe.

The original name of the band/art school was put together at first to deter record labels that had taken a special notice of this bad as had other musically minded people around the country . The Circus evolved from an earlier group featuring Longo, Lloyd and McEwen called the Ancestors, a progressive rock group that worked in big studios, played big cities, were courted by major labels, and written up in The New York Times. But the trio ran away from all that in the mid-1990s. The Circus did not want to sign with a record label. They had been working in a production studio in New York City and really wanted to produce their music under their own label. As labels started to bug them their name was getting a lot of attention also .they were being invited to festivals and gigs all over the world opening for bands such as The Zombies and the Animals.

As their popularity grew, they felt like it would be a good thing to get out of the city and there it is where our little state of Connecticut gets lucky, for they chose to come to make their home and raise their 5 children in our state. Joiah is the songwriter of the band, as lyricist and tunesmith, the main elements of the songs - writing of the music.. He invites the rest of the band to add to the vibe and bring to life the magic that is ...Circus of Dreams. He says that the songs come to him from the things that are going on around him. Those are the stories and the melody lines. He then invites the rest of the band to add to the vibe and bring to life the magic that is ...Circus of Dreams. They feel as if it is complete magic when a bunch of people get together to bring creation to life.

This band has been called the best band since the Beatles and in fact they feel as if they are the afterbirth of Sar-

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gent Peppers Hearts Club Band with their rootsy vibe and immersive atmosphere we like to call “The Slambovian Soup Vibe”. The facts are simple , The more you empty yourself of you the more the universe can fill you and this band is absolutely the premier example of this.

QUOTES: (MORE ON SLAMBOVIACOM PAGE)

"Top albums of 2022" – Rock’n’Reel Magazine, UK

"Great songs and a whole lotta heart" – Meg Griffin, Sirius diSorDer, SiriusXM

"Simply one of the finest American bands" – All Music

"The best band since the Beatles" – Jim Pons: bassist Frank Zappa, The Turtles, John Lennon

If you want to get to know more about “The Slambovian Circus of Dreams.” You can find them at:

www.slambovia.com

www.facebook.com/slamboviancircusofdreams

www.instagram.com/slambovia

www.soundcloud.com/slambovia

www.youtube.com/slambovia

www.twitter.com/slambovia

May Shows

May 17 - Fairfield Hills Music Festival 2025 CT

May 30 - The Rex Theatre - Manchester, NH

May 31 - Stone Church - Brattleboro, VT



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9 Mindset 8-11	10 Wicked Peach 8-11	11 Ramblin' Dan Stevens 4-7
16 Bootleg Harmony 8-11	17 Candy-O 8-11	18 Steve Walason 4-7
23 Rob Glassman Band 8-11	24 Wild Nights 8-11	25 Beyond 1969 8-11
30 TBA Call for info	31 TBA Call for info	1 Mystic Dead 4-7

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LOCAL BEAT

"Folk Jazz and Reggae Show at Scottish Dave's Pub in Clinton"

By Andrew Kerbs

I had the pleasure of seeing a multitude of folk and jazz singers graced the rustic little stage at Scottish Dave (and Lorraine's) Pub in Clinton, CT. The World Central Kitchen ran the event which funded much needed humanitarian relief for war-torn places like Ukraine and the Gaza strip.

Ahren Niles opened the show by playing traditional Irish bagpipes he learned how to play 8 years ago. Similarly folky was the talented Elana Zabari who sang 2-3 chord songs with soulful singing and unique themes and techniques. Her themes and technique were original and included lyrics about fireflies and strumming accents on the offbeat. Most impressive were her playing and singing on the famous Beatles cover "I Wanna Hold Your Hand" and "Stand By Me."

Niles and Zabari weren't the only traditional player that afternoon as Cliff Haslam played classic sea shanty songs of old. . perfect historical lore of the CT shore. Cliff has been playing a 12-string guitar for 50 years including time jamming with the Jovial Crew band at the Griswald Inn of Essex. He played a nice summer song called "Wild Mountain Time" and song "Golden Golden" about "treading lightly" during love relationships.

Jim Harper and Sarah Owens got their start years ago at a coffee house with their granddaughter and added a bluesy and jazz feel to their folk music. They played Ukrainian battle tunes like "Loving the Ground" and the Pandemic song "The World's a Mess Now Give It a Rest." Their cover of the Beatles "Let It Be" was most original with Jim singing



low pitched lyrics.

Guno Leeftang made a surprise appearance under the name Golden Star, performing old classics like "I Am," "Alejandro" (about Lady Gaga), and "Moulding" (a song about trees bearing fruit). The man's singing has always been dynamic and eloquent with my bassplaying complimenting his guitar songs that combine folk and reggae/ska influences.

Bernadette Golden was up next and performed a great jazz rendition of Magic by Sting and the Police, Imagine by John Lennon and Shower the People by James Taylor. "These are the Good Old Days" by Albert Hammond was another favorite.

Hugh Birdsall of Reducers fame made an appearance, performing the jazzy-sounding "Feelin Kinda Maybe About You" and "Feel Good" which was a nicer song than the heavy stuff he used to play. His small set was not without an edge however as he did play one of my favorite Reducers songs: "Yeah yeah (Alright Cmon)." He also played a song about crime and drug addiction called "Summertime."

Finally, Post-Traumatic Jazz Disorder went on-stage, echoing not just jazz influences but also sounds similar to John Lennon and even indie-rock. The drummer's snappy snare and walking bass kept the pulse going on "Monk and

Mose" as the pianist played arpeggios overlayed with squawky sax lines. The bassist also played 2-note grooves underneath a piano and sax duet, sounding like Stereolab inn what singer Lorraine described as a rollercoaster ride. This band has an interesting history as their sax player is a former lawyer, their keyboardist a Yale virologist and Lorraine a former masseuse who has been a musician since childhood.

Fans of jazz and folk music should enjoy any of these bands, particularly as they improve upon covers previously performed by famous artists. Keep your eyes open for further concerts from them soon.

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BAND DATES

BIG LUX

2 - Medici Lounge, Providence, RI 8:30-11:30pm
4,11 - Waterstreet, E. Greenwich, RI 11am-2pm
9 - Ocean Mist, Matunuck, RI 9-12
16 - Groton Bowling, Groton, CT 6-10pm
23 - Richmond smoke, Richmond, RI 8-11pm
31 - Paddy's, Westerly, RI 2-5pm

THE CARTELLS

3 - Milestone, Mystic, CT 9pm
4 - Maugle Sierra, Ledyard, CT 3-6pm
16 - Tuskers, New London, CT 7:30-10:30pm
18 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 5-8pm
25 - Wolf Den, Montville, CT 7-8:30pm
31 - Bill's Seafood, Westbrook, CT 7-10pm

CHESTNUT MARE

9 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm

CHRIS COFONI

4 - Comix Roadhouse, Uncasville, CT 4:30-7:30pm
16 - Ridge Vineyard, Preston, CT 5-8pm
18 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 8-10pm
26 - Windjammer, Westerly, RI 5-8pm

CHRISTOPHER JOHN

1 - Square Peg, Glastonbury, CT 6:30-8:30
2 - Little Pub, Old Saybrook, CT 7-10
3 - Arrogoni Winery, Portland, CT 1:30-5:30
3 - Harp and Dragon, Norwich, CT 8-11
9 - Glendale Grill, Easthampton, MA 6-10
11 - Murphy's, Manchester, CT 4:30-8
14 - Murphy's, Manchester, CT 6-9:30
17 - The Dublin, E. Hampton, CT 6:30-9:30
23 - Arrogoni Winery, Portland, CT 5:30-8:30
22,24 - Rosy Tomorrow's, Danbury, CT 6-9
25 - Pizza Garden, Kent, CT 1-3
26 - The Dublin, E. Hampton, CT 2-6
28 - Taino Prime, Meriden, CT 7-9
30 - Murphy's, Manchester, CT 5-8
31 - Shipwreck Tavern, Killingworth, CT 7-10

DARIK & THE FUNBAGS

4 - Toads Place, New Haven, CT 2-8p
9 - Rocking Horse, Vernon, CT 8:30p
10 - Woodbury Brewing, Woodbury, CT 8p
24 - Sonny's, Somers, CT 8p
30 - Wolf Den, Montville, CT 8p

12 SOUND WAVES

DR. G & THE BELIEVERS

9 - VFW, Jewett City, CT 7-10
23 - La Luna, New London, CT 6-9,

DIVA & THE PLAYBOYS

3 - Lansdowne Pub, Boston, MA
4 - Ocean Mist, Matunuck, RI
16 - MGM Casino, Springfield, MA
17 - Celebrate New Britain, CT
30 - Rocking Horse, Vernon, CT
31 - Comix Roadhouse, Uncasville, CT

Dr. G & THE BELIEVERS

4 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 5-8
9 - VFW, Jewett City, CT 7-10
23 - La Luna, New London, CT 6-9

F & BLUES BAND

9 - Sneekers Cafe, Groton, CT 8-11
24 - Milestone, Mystic, CT 9-12
26 - Parade, Norwich, CT Noon

FRANKLIN BROTHERS

3 - The Social, New London, CT 7:30 pm

GLAUCOMA SUSPECT

4 - The Andrea, Misquamicut, RI 3-7pm
8 - Nation Aquarium, Baltimore, MD
17 - The Social, New London, CT 8pm

GRAY HALLBERG

4 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 7-9pm

JAY DEMPSEY BAND

2 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7pm
23 - Sneekers, Groton, CT 7:30pm

NICK BOSSE

2 - Knickerbocker, Westerly, RI 8pm
4 - Triple Raven, N. Grosvenor Dale, CT 2pm
9 - Tamarack Lodge, Voluntown, CT 7pm
11 - Shunock Brewery, N. Stonington, CT 4:30pm
24 - Tamarack Lodge, Voluntown, CT 1pm
30 - Rathskeller, Charlestown, RI 8pm

OCTANE

23 - Bleachers, Bristol, CT 9p

RAMBLIN' DAN STEVENS

1 - 2nd Home Lounge, Winsted, CT 6:30pm
2 - Shakedown Street Eats, Bethel, CT 6:30pm
3 - The Social, New London, CT 7pm
6,12,13,27 - Nightingale's, Old Lyme, CT 6pm
8 - Nod Hill Brewery, Ridgefield, CT 6:30pm
9 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 9pm
11 - The Barn, Groton, CT 4-7pm
15 - My Place, Newtown, CT 8pm
26 - Parade, , Old Lyme, CT 10-11am
29 - Thirsty Pig, Portland, ME
31 - Gritty McDuff's, Auburn, ME

RED LIGHT

3 - Montana Nights, Newington, CT 8pm
16 - Country Club, Clinton, CT 6pm
17 - Music Lady, Moosup, CT 9pm
23 - Filomena's, Waterford, CT 6pm
24 - Odetahh Campground, Bozrah, CT 7:30pm
30 - Blu on the Water, E. Greenwich, RI 8:30pm

RIVERGODS

3 - Thames River Gallery, New London, CT 12-3pm
23 - Steak Loft, Mystic, CT 7-10pm
25 - Seaport, Mystic, CT 2-4pm
31 - All Souls, New London, CT 6-9pm

RON MURRAY

11 Ocean House, Watch Hill, RI 9am
23 Gooseneck Vineyard, N. Kingstown RI 4pm

SHAME DAN SCANDAL

29 - Brick & Basil, Norwich, CT 6-9pm

STATIC & RUST

2 - Reliance Health, Norwich, CT 5-8pm
9 - Ganymead, Manchester, CT 6-9pm

SECOND CHANCE ACOUSTIC

9 - Ferry Park, Rocky Hill, CT 4-5pm
11 - Ridge Vineyard, Preston, CT 1-4pm
15 - Bride Brook, Niantic, CT 2-3pm

3 HOURS LATER

31 - Sneekers, Groton, CT 8-11pm

VITA ROSE TAYTRO

11,25 - Velvet Mill, Stonington, CT 11am-2pm
15,29 - Buon Appetito, N. Stonington, CT 6:30-8:30pm
24 - Bonnie Rigg CClub, Becket, MA 6-8pm
26 - VFW, Mystic, CT 3pm
30 - Montowese Quinipiac, North Haven, CT 2pm

WAYFARING STRANGERS

17 - Windjammer, Westerly, RI 1-5pm
17 - Breachway Grill, Charlestown, RI 7-10pm
25 - KOA, N Stonington, CT 2-5pm

WOOLY MAMMOTH

24 - Seaport, Mystic, CT 2pm
25 - The Barn, Groton, CT 4-7pm

WOOLITE

7 - Dive Bar, Mystic, CT 8-11pm
30 - Daniel Packer, Mystic, CT 9:30pm

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A Conversation with

Sister Sparrow

By Ali Kaufman

It is fitting that Arleigh Kincheloe aka, Sister Sparrow, graces our May Sound Waves cover, it's not just because she and her Dirty Birds have some terrific tour dates to share. Like Spring in New England this dynamic artist can take you for a ride on a melody that is ethereal as gossamer wings and the next minute throw down a song that feels like a sudden storm rolling in. Arleigh is well known for her gigantic vocals, don't let her petite package fool you. Their performance at Rhythm & Roots Festival last Labor Day Weekend was a perfect example of their ability to connect with their audiences and share their undeniable energy. Having first seen this band live back in 2017 at the Westport Blues, Brews & BBQ Festival, I can attest to the fact that as they evolve they just keep getting better. No surprise I was excited to have the chance to speak with Arleigh about how this all began for her and where she and the band are headed now.

I started our conversation by going back to the beginning and asked if there was a moment in time that Arleigh knew music would become her life's path. That is how I learned she grew up in a very tiny town in the Catskills, surrounded by a musical family, "Growing up my parents always had a band going, they would take me to their gigs and around 8 years old they let me jump up on stage and sing with my Mom, my Dad is a drummer, still to this day, some 30 years later he has a band. I remember walking outside, just singing to myself and cognizant of the thought, oh, this is what I'm supposed to do.". It sounded to me that voice was Arleigh's first instrument, "Yes for sure, I dabbled with different things when I was coming up in school. Piano lessons that I didn't stick with when I was really young, then I started playing the flute and continued through High school. Also a bit of Saxophone but when I was a senior I went back to playing the piano and that's really when I started thinking about and actually writing my first songs at about 17 or 18."

Family is central to our conversation as Arleigh shared memories of what would eventually shape the band. All four of the Kincheloe children have creative talent with her eldest sister becoming an actress, writer and comedian. Her middle sister is great with hand percussion and her brother Jackson Kincheloe, the sibling she has been playing music with since the beginning. Jackson is a multi instrumental artist that found a particular gift in playing the Harmonica and Lap Steel Guitar. I loved the way Arleigh described the house parties where she would sit at the piano and play for hours while everyone sang, "It was like a hootenanny pretty much every weekend!". That was the garden that grew the band's core consisting of Arleigh, Jackson, and a cousin, Brian Graham playing baritone and tenor saxophones. Brian was also the member with connections in NYC from the music schools he had attended, which proved to be very helpful

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in breaking onto the scene. Filling out the band was a whole cast of home-grown characters that brought the total to nine when they took the stage for the first time the night before Thanksgiving 2008 on the Lower East Side of Manhattan at Rockwood Music Hall.

The band hit the road in classic rock n' roll style, one of the member's had a "shaggin' wagon" named Little Bear, if it wasn't too far to the gig all nine piled in. Mom's tiny hatchback was employed for caravanning to further bookings. Arleigh spoke fondly of this time in their lives, "It was a rugged time, but we were in our 20's and didn't care. We wanted to get out there and we had the drive. It was really hard for a lot of years, doing upwards of 250 shows a year, so when you take into account travel days, you're pretty much gone the whole year." Arleigh went on to say, "We just slugged it out and all felt really passionate about the project, which, looking back on it, I think, man, those guys all took a big leap of faith with me because it is all my music. I mean, of course we workshopped stuff as a band but really I've always been the songwriter. It's really nice to think back on how much they sort of believed in me and the project, because otherwise nobody would put themselves through that." The band kept this up for years as they circled around the United States, "I think we hit almost every state, besides Hawaii but we did go to Alaska once. Those years on the road weren't glamorous but we certainly had a lot of fun!" Arleigh added.

The band released their self-titled debut album in November 2010, just two years after that first show. Pound of Dirt followed up in 2012, The EP titled Fight dropped in 2013 with 4 songs before another full length in 2015, The Weather Below was released. Fowl Play was the last album the band created under the full band's name, hitting the streets in March 2016. Sister Sparrow and the Dirty Birds were evolving, Arleigh's personal life was shifting as well, marrying Dennis Tierney in 2017 and starting a family. The band continued to play coveted bookings like the perennial favorite Jamcruise, which sounds wonderful until you find yourself pregnant and nauseated on the high seas. In keeping with Arleigh's work ethic, she and the band kept their commitments for the dates they had booked before taking time off to figure out this new role of being a Mother to her first son.

Sister Sparrow's return was not a full band project like the others, of this foray into new territory she said, "We started cooking up 'Gold' with a different structure, it was me, my brother Jackson and producer, co-writer Carter Matschullat. I was so lucky it was really convenient that I just had to go a little farther up from where we were living in Brooklyn to reach DØØM Studio." Once the highly anticipated Gold was released in October of 2018 the decision was made to go back on the road and kick it up to support the album. Off they went with their first son in tow for a major US tour that

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included a sold out show supporting Nathaniel Ratecliff and the Night Sweats, numerous festivals and a return to Levon Helm Studios.

Arleigh lovingly credits her husband for his support in making it possible to travel with a child and continue the tour throughout a second pregnancy. "I had a whole lot of fun performing pregnant even though it was hard. I loved knowing that my child was with me on stage for all these concerts." Arleigh shared. The couple's second child, another Son, was born at the end of 2019, which coincided with the world shutting down just a few months later for Covid. Arleigh shared her thoughts on this transformative time, "The silver lining of the whole lockdown was having time to be with our 4 month old and not have to travel with 2 young children. It also gave me a lot of time to think, I questioned whether I was going to go back to doing it because it felt so much harder with two that are only 2 years apart....and they are boys, if you know, you know." she added with mischief in her voice. About a year or so into the pandemic, inspiration began to seep in, "I started writing again and working on songs", Arleigh elaborated, "I had a burst of creativity over the span of a year or so, I guess that was the impetus for getting back out there. My agent asked if I wanted to talk about playing out again as things were starting to open up, so we did. Jackson and I went out with our bass player Josh Myers, we played a few gigs as 'Arly Rose' because it really wasn't Sister Sparrow, we played some of my new songs with a few older ones. It



was fun but when we got a couple of gigs with the full band again, I was reminded of the chemistry that we all have together on stage and the great time we have. That was the point where we decided to get the band back together and start doing this again."

Getting back out there is no small feat with a large band like this. Half the musicians live in Portland Maine while Arleigh and the rest of the band are now in the Hudson Valley. That on top of scheduling these artists that are in demand is not for the faint of heart but they are putting dates on the calendar. Personally, I think this makes their engagements even more special, catch them when you can! The band is also moving forward with new music and currently in the finishing touches stage of a new release. This is what Arleigh had to say about that, "we recorded in Marlborough, NY with the whole band, took a week and then paused the record to play Levon Helm's Studio. That was fun being able to capitalize on all being in the same place, then back to the album which is a mixture of new material as well as songs that were written long ago but never made it to an album. Every album is a product of a different process, with this one I was trying to get some sort of classic soul vibes going on, so I am hoping that is what we've achieved." I don't doubt for a second that modern soul is what the new project will deliver. As far as a release date, "I would love for it to come out as soon as possible, We're almost there but mixing and mastering take time, I also need to get all my little background vocals on there and the sparkly finishing touches.". Then there is the cover art and packaging to consider, I wondered how involved Arleigh was in that process, this was her response, "Typically I throw out some ideas and try to rely on the people around me that have a better sense of the visual arts. My brother Jackson's wife, Mel Barlow, is extremely talented, she's an incredible photographer and all around artist so I am kind of leaning on her. She had done a couple of our T-shirt designs too." Look for new T-shirt designs at their May run of gigs and while you are there say hello to Arleigh and the band. This is a group that relishes connecting with their fans, "we usually hang out at the mech table after the show, I love that experience, going out and talking to the people that came to the show, it is part of the whole package for me and typically the boys with mosey on out and do the same." Arleigh confirmed.

As we wrapped up our conversation, I touched on the turbulent times we are living in and how creatives have historically been a segment of the population that offers a respite while also being an outlet for expressing their views on current affairs, "What I've tried to do over the last couple of months is remember what kind of change or what kind of energy I can put out into the world that will make any kind of difference, even if it is just one person I am reaching. You know, even in my darkest moments, when I feel like I don't want to do anything, I try to remember, Okay, there's a reason I do music, hopefully we can make one person happy or feel something,

16 SOUND WAVES

even if in is not happiness, you might just be helping them to process some other emotion and that is what I am focusing on." The thoughts Arleigh shared resonate with me and perhaps you too. Maybe we can all take a deep breath and try to use whatever gifts we've been blessed with to make the world just a little bit better. Of course I would also highly recommend catching one of the upcoming dates for Sister Sparrow and the Dirty Birds so we can feel ALL the feelings together!!!

Here are some dates in our area;

May 8 The Met Pawtucket, RI themetri.com

May 9 Park City Music Hall Bridgeport, CT parkcitymusic-hall.com

May 10 Infinity Hall Hartford, CT Infinityhall.com

For music, information, tour dates, and links check out Sistersparrow.com

@sistersparrowdb on Instagram and Sister Sparrow on Facebook

Thank you for checking out Sound Waves! You can find me at Morning Mojo on Instagram and Facebook.



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SOUND WAVES 17

BAR FLY JOURNALS

By Stephanie Shawn

Hello my sweet Bar Flies! So happy! Spring is here! Finally some sunshine. And with that we are holding our semi-annual SIP AND SHOP at CO-CO'S SALON! It will be held on June 7 at noon and will feature local crafters and artisans, including our local honey connection BEE HAVEN, delectable jams from VICKI CHAPMAN ESTY, lots of jewelry, plants, Chocolates by PAM, JOJO and NANCY RICHMOND with assorted vintage and estate sale pieces, TAMI-ANN'S Clothing and adorable accessories including Find the Pearl! skincare, sea glass, CBD items etc etc. Call me or the Salon if you would like to reserve a spot! 860.599.1230

So as I was saying in our last Journal, headed up to FOXWOODS RESORT AND CASINO recently with the other two Musketeers ELIZABETH MITCHELL CIPRIANO and ARTHUR WEYANT to celebrate our mutual March 10 Birthdays (oh, what a Birthday Month March was) anyhow.. we headed up.

BETS and I decided to arrive early and do a systematic search and recovery to find ARTHUR. We figured if we start at one end of the Casino, slipping through the slots, meandering around the various table games, bellying up to the Bars we would eventually locate our prey.

But Nay nay. No sightings of our prey. No surprise outcomes. We eventually gave up and called. ARTHUR was literally right next to us, in the very last corner we had somehow skipped over, as he blended with the background, playing his favorite machine MOLTEN LAVA or some freakin thing (sorry Not a very good gambler ;(

Anyways we had a blast! We ate at CEDAR's with MIKE as our bartender/server and discovering we knew him. Our espresso martinis, short rib risot-



to, and oysters were delicious! We then followed ARTHUR to his other favorite spot at FOXWOODS (another remote corner) where he played Black Jack while my sister and I tried our hand at Video Poker.



Well, what did we discover here? We realized we also knew that Bartender! Imagine? BARBARA LINCOLN'S son MICHAEL GAGNON? I believe. Sorry, I'm just a tad mentally diminished! Anyways, he as awesome! Taught us

how to play properly. And he was also a great bartender, entertaining us while ARTHUR made his millions at a table. But guess what? We also won! Thank you, FOXWOODS!



TRASHION FASHION at the UNITED THEATER! What a fun event in which ordinary items which would be headed to the landfill (think plastic cups, forks, bottles along with so many other trashy pieces) and turns what would have been trash into a piece of fashion SAMANTHA STOREY and TINA MARIE TURANO were two of this years crafty participants (remember the year I wore a mini skirt and crop top made of SOUNDWAVES MAGAZINES??) Always an ingenious means to rid the world of a bit of the trash we create.

Went to Martini Monday with BUMBLE LINA and WENDY CARR re-



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cently and enjoyed a white chocolate raspberry Martini created by DANI! Too Die For! BUMBLE LINA ordered the Charcuterie board and I can't even begin to explain how beautiful and delicious that was with a massive array of



meats, cheeses and jams and fruits.



Then we visited ATY in Mystic for chocolate Peanut Butter Martinis and Bon Bons with sweet bartender EMILY! SESAME YUZU, BLUEBERRY BASIL, SALTED CARAMEL and PEACH SAFFRON! Dear Lawd! MEL LEWIS was the celebrity bartender with Salon BETSY TETLOW and a percentage of the proceeds going to the MADONNA PLACE!



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And we just returned from Daytona where the family was blessed to watch my nephew DANNY marry the love of his life CARLY, while their handsome sons WYATT and IAN looked on at PLANTATION OAKS in Ormond Beach. Gorgeous with ancient Oaks and Spanish moss. It was followed by a Rock Star Reception at the IRON HORSE! I can't even tell you how happy we all were for this beautiful family that we all love!

Rompa Stompa for time my Birthday Celebrants! WADE ROBBINS, MIKE GARDNER, BREE TALLMADGE, BRIAN GAUDET, ERNIE LOPES, MARK VEILLEUX, BRAD HALLEN, CARLY HILDERBRAND, TIM BREAUULT, BRIAN BRADLEY, MARY LOPES URSO, GREG PICCOLO, JOANNE HOLLY, CHARLINE DRUMHELLER, AMY FRENCH, BRIAN WATROUS, RONNIE ALLEN, KEVIN MANZELLA, KELLY EITEL, ALEX DUBACK, JESSICA REYNOLDS, TINAMARIE TURANO, MARY SANTOS, ED PUCIO, JUSTIN ADAMSON, GEORGE THOMAS, MIKE HURD, JOHN DUGGAN, KEN SORENSON, KAREN HENSLEY, SHAWN ARSENAULT, BRENDA PECKHAM, DAN CAREB, LUNA ROCHA and ZACH CONSTANTINE. And Happy Mother's Day to our 3 favorite mom's DAWN MERSHON, MICHELE MITCHELL and HEATHER SHERMAN. Happy Mother's Day! I love you all!

DON'T TELL LISA will be playing

at the BROWN DERBY this month as well as at the WOLF DEN. And DARIK AND THE FUNBAGS will also be entertaining the crowds at the MOHEGANSUN'S WOLF DEN! BOB DYLAN TRIBUTE BAND at STRANGE BREW in Norwich, FRANKENPHIL at SPICE CLUB Niantic, DOS AMIGOS at the THIRSTY BEAVER, CANDY-O at the BARN,

Also this month the RIVERGODS will be at the STEAK LOFT (hi JASMINE and IDA!), JONI AND CAT TRIBUTE SHOW at the GARDE ARTS, KRISTINA AND MACE at ANGIE'S PIER 27, KURT, KEN & GUY (kGb), as well as DAN WATSON will be playing DEAN'S MILL FARM, HAMILTON LEITHAUSER will be at the UNITED in Westerly, MUSIC IN THE MEADOWS at CONN COLLEGE and TRAVIS HYLL will be at the KINGDOM OF THE HAWK!

Right now I'm seated with BUMBLE LINA at MILESTONE MYSTIC enjoying Sunday Funday All Day Happy Hour with ROLANDO who just created the most amazing espresso martini ever!! Even though it's not on the Happy Hour Menu (Cosmos are!)

So, on my way to NYC with WILLOW and Oklahoma to visit with family! Yikes! Tornadoes!! I'll let you know how that goes! Shop local, see ya at the Sip & Shop!!

Love you long time, my Flies!



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

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SOUND WAVES 21

DINING OUT

“Wood-fired Bagels, Pizza, and Sandwiches at The Bridge Market & Deli”

By Elizabeth Saede

A steady stream of hungry fans flows through the bright blue Bridge Market and Deli past oversized images of Connecticut's only wood-fired bagels. Irresistible aromas of freshly baked bagels, artisan bread, and wood-fired pizza provide a warm welcome. The frequent sight of work trucks, students, families, and first responders is a testament to quality and a deep connection to the community.



BLTs, chicken Parmesan grinders and other classic flavors are happily crafted with care, but have you tried a Zoe Bear? The decadently delicious combination of tender grilled chicken, fresh basil, savory roasted garlic, Thai peanut sauce with Mozzarella and cheddar cheese plus ranch dressing on homemade foccacia is a masterpiece. The weirdly wonder-

22 SOUND WAVES



ful flavor combo is also available as an easy-to-share pizza.

Imagine a majestic "Fitch Falcon" piled high with tender, rare roast beef, cheddar, red onions, lettuce, tomato, and horseradish mayo on a Kaiser roll or in a wrap. Or perhaps a "Grasso Eagle" grilled chicken with croutons, Romaine lettuce, and Caesar dressing in a spinach wrap will soar as your new favorite. Homemade focaccia rolls elevate any option. Sandwiches are named after local schools, cherished landmarks, and beloved characters. The Fort Hiller wrap has veggie hummus and veggies, while the Midway Oval is packed with Buffalo chicken salad. Don't miss the Cam Cougar chicken cutlet or the Central Avenue corned beef Reuben on rye. All of your favorite cold combos are also available, but try homemade meatball or sausage, pepper, and onion grinders. Or the incomparable Steak Bomb. Burgers, wings, fries, and chicken tenders, too.

Eleven chopped salads are vibrant compositions of crisp greens, colorful vegetables, satisfying proteins, and flavorful dressings. Whether you choose a Pequot cheesesteak, Noanker tuna, or EMS Like it Hot buffalo chicken, these

flavor-packed low-carb salads are deeply satisfying. A small salad is an ample entrée, while the large size is perfect for sharing. The Northeast Academy salad with grilled chicken, mixed greens, red onion, banana peppers, tomatoes, walnuts, dried cranberries, gorgonzola cheese, and light raspberry vinaigrette was delicious with a slice of classic cheese pizza.



The smoky char of the only wood-fired bagels in Connecticut is sensational for a sandwich or with whipped, house-made cream cheese spreads. Christine hand-crafts each bagel daily and loves experimenting with bagel and cream cheese flavors. Breakfast sandwiches are available until 11:00 a.m. during the week and until noon on Saturdays. Dazzle your palate with The Irish McGuire: corned beef, eggs, Swiss cheese, hash browns, and spicy mustard in a wrap. Stop on your way to work, the beach, or the park for a fantastic start to any day.

Wood-fired red and white pizzas share space with combinations you didn't know you needed. Jordan's Maple Bacon pizza was generously covered with crumbled lean bacon and a delectable drizzle of real maple syrup over mozzarella and cheddar. The meaty chew of the bacon was divinely amped up by maple sweetness reminiscent of hot honey. My friend Shana called the Zoe Bear and Maple Bacon pizzas "two of

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 **GREEK NIGHT** 
AT ANGIE'S

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7 | 5-8 PM
RAIN DATE: THURSDAY, MAY 8

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Dining Out Continued

the best pizzas I've had in ages." With such an impressive selection, it isn't unusual to see customers leaving with armfuls of pizzas. Still, wood-fired pizza is best when eaten immediately at one of the many open seats, and single slices of superb cheese or pepperoni are available all day. Fish and chips are served every Friday from 11am-8pm and are also best eaten on site.



What truly elevates The Bridge Market and Deli is warm and genuine hospitality. Mother-daughter duo, Karen and Christine Dole, are creative and passionate about food. They greet regulars by name and offer helpful suggestions to newcomers who may be intrigued by food names. The entire crew's dedication translates into great service and food.

The interior is spacious and colorful with a range of seating options. An inviting play area and giant letter "E" crafted of hand-painted tiles honor Karen's sweet granddaughter, Eliana, who loved the deli and passed away in 2022 after a courageous battle with mitochondrial disease. After losing her daughter, Christine returned to work at the place Eliana loved most and helped make the deli a place where children love to play and eat. Kindness flows generously to and from this family business, and the cheerful interior is a family-friendly spot to savor delicious food and feel a genuine connection to the local community and Eliana.

Karen and Christine are the heart and soul of The Bridge Market, which they opened in 2011. Both grew up in Noank. Karen played softball and participated in shot put, javelin, and discus for Fitch High School. She and Christine are avid sports fans who support fundraising for the Groton Police and local sports teams, including the Fitch Falcons, Grasso Tech High School, and the Mystic Schooners collegiate summer team. The Bridge Market's Mobile Wood Fired Pizza truck is a welcome sight for hungry spectators at occasional summer baseball games. The brightly decorated truck makes pizzas on site and brings salads and sandwiches directly to parties, family reunions, and even weddings. Sandwich platters, breakfast sandwiches, or salads are available for any event.

In a world saturated with generic fast food, The Bridge Mar-

ket and Deli stands out by supporting worthy causes while providing the freshest options. Bagel and sandwich competitions between schools are fun for everyone. So, whether you're a longtime Groton local or just passing through, visit the bright blue and white building with the red sign at 118 Fort Hill Road. Its convenient location and free parking make even a last-minute stop easy, but call ahead or order online to save time. You are welcome to bring adult beverages to enjoy with your meal. If you aren't in a rush, relax and stay a while.

118 Fort Hill Rd. Groton Tues.-Fri. 7am-7pm. Fri. 7am-8pm, Sat. 8-noon. 860-333-1692

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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 34 years of the magazine!

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

This is going to take awhile!

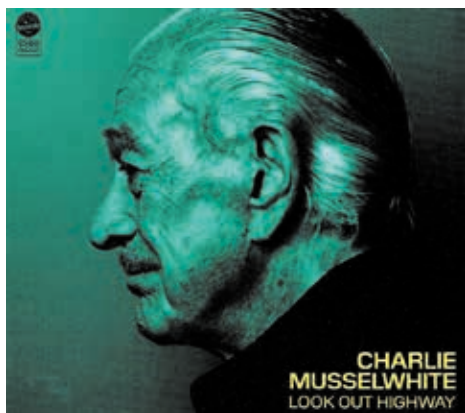
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HEARING AID



Charlie Musselwhite

"Look Out Highway"

Forty Below Records

Charlie Musselwhite raised in Memphis Tennessee, is an American blues harmonica player and bandleader who came to prominence, along with Mike Bloomfield, Paul Butterfield, and Elvin Bishop, as a pivotal figure in helping to revive the Chicago Blues movement of the 1960s. Charlie Musselwhite's six-decade odyssey reads like a bluesman's epic, weaving its way from the heart of Mississippi to the soul of Memphis, and through the electric nights of Chicago. A true living legend! At age 81 Charlie is proof that the blues—like fine bourbon—only gets richer with time. With 20+ albums under his belt, a Grammy in hand, and more than 33 Blues Music Awards lining his path, Musselwhite's voice and musicianship continue to deepen—like the roots of the music he so passionately embodies. The blues may be timeless, but Charlie Musselwhite is the man who keeps it breathing, one note at a time.

His band consists of Charlie Musselwhite – Vocals & Blues Harp, Matt Stubs – Guitar, June Core – Drums, And Randy Bermudes – Bass, all seasoned musicians. Musselwhite's album "Look Out Highway" is his latest body of work containing 11 songs and opens with the title track "Look Out Highway". With its driving beat and great harp playing an excellent example of what the audience can expect. As I continue listening one observation keeps nagging at me and that is how the overall "feel" of this album has the sound of a 1950's recording where the vocals and harp almost "clip"

26 SOUND WAVES

(red-lines) the input gauge on the sound board and the rest of the band is more like background accompaniment. Not exactly the full, balanced sound of today's modern recordings. Either way it gives the album a vintage feel. In the second track "Sad Eyes", Musselwhite for whatever reason almost sounds like his singing is trying to channel Bob Dylan. His story telling on this one is excellent with rich, vibrant lyrics. Moving onto the dirty, bump & grind Bluesy tunes "Storm Warning" along with "Highway 61", and "Blue Lounge" made me think these tracks would be better suited played at a Nevada CatHouse. KitKat Ranch anyone?? The rest of the tracks are pretty much variations of the standard 12 bar blues. Some more lively than others but similar just the same. The main point that no one can take away is Charlie Musselwhite at age 81 like Mick Jagger, Elton John, and Paul McCartney has more energy and creativity than other artists Half their age. Kudos to you Charlie!! If you're looking for that vintage sound traditional Blues I recommend you grab a copy of Charlie Musselwhite's "Look Out Highway". Available on Amazon and FortyBelowRecords.com.

Until Next Time - Adrian Webb



John Primer

"Grown In Mississippi"

Blues House Productions

Grown In Mississippi, the latest release by John Primer, is a statement that starts with the album title and carries through to the closing notes of the last track. Primer is

truly grown in Mississippi, from the rich earth and fertile traditions of place and people, here and gone.

The album opens with an Acapella refrain by Primer on John's Blues Holler, a blues-gospel call from an earlier time, written (along with numerous selections on the album) by Alfonso Primer: with strong emotion Primer recounts a brief biography of his childhood years, often hungry, working a long day in the cotton fields of his sharecropper's home. Those years of living with an extended family in a small shack gave him roots in the earth that have remained strong into his eighth decade.

But it was while playing for tips on Chicago's Maxwell Street that John Primer found his voice, and added it to the rich history that is the Chicago blues. His talent and genuineness led to a role as bandleader in Muddy Waters' band, among others, before striking out on his own in the 1990's.

With this new album, John Primer completes the circle, returning to the Mississippi roots left behind all those many years ago, that kept him bonded to the soil and soul of that hard and hungry time.

The second track continues the opening theme, this time with a lone guitar playing a quick, southern blues on Born In Mississippi, recounting memories of being tired, hungry, with "no shoes on my feet" at the end of a long day in the fields. Across the decades, Primer reaches back to the exhaustion, and the longing for a better life, sounding here amazed more than resentful towards the struggle that has moulded his life.

Blues Before Sunrise aches in slow refrains, telling its tale in sound and emotion that reach beyond words: Down In The Bottom picks up the pace, while maintaining the old ways of the blues. Primer is joined by fourteen fellow blues artists on this album, each adding a layer of the genuine style of the Mississippi blues.

John Primer is known for being the Real Deal when the blues are in play: he and the assemblage of musicians on Grown In Mississippi have delivered on that promise, with precision and a level of authenticity that flows from the deep places of the artist's souls. More info may be found at www.johnprimerblues.com.

- Jon Persson



www.swaves.com



Fran Drew & the Lucky Strikes "Trial By Fire"

Fran Drew has the type of voice that proclaims itself with a brassy attitude that could only rise from the kind of lived experience that her choice of songs pay tribute to. There will be those in her audience who know from whence she speaks, and perhaps feel twinges of their own regrets when they hear her sing. But it's all in fun, when the music hits it's groove, and the good times will roll even as the memories pull at old scars and endless questions.

The album opens with Neighbor Neighbor, a rant about the new neighbor who is always getting in the singer's business: "Neighbor Neighbor don't worry about what goes on in my house!" she sings, as a baritone sax provides a counter voice. The song has an ominous tone of unfinished business headed for a showdown. Breaking Up Someone's Home carries on with the intense feel, this time featuring a pounding rhythm and some solid guitar fills.

Flamin' Maimie brings the sass, with boastful proclamations of "call me Flamin' Maimie, cause I'm the hottest girl in town, when it comes to love I can really mow 'em down." The song has a rolling rhythm that carries over to Etta James' Roll With Me Henry, which features a strong bass run to keep things moving.

Fran Drew and the Lucky Strikes recorded this album at Shakey Buddha Studios in South Windsor, Connecticut, for which they have received a well deserved Best Self Produced CD for 2024 from the Connecticut Blues Society. The album brings new life and energy to this collection of twelve covers, led by Fran Drew's always powerful and assertive vocals. She is joined at various points by ten musicians, who bring intense rhythms and well placed solos to the mix.

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This holds true whether the song is a slow, heartfelt blues number like I Look Good In Bad, with lines like "I was a good girl for too long and it was nearly killing me," to the hard rocking blues of The Hunter. Rock Me Baby adds harmonica to a slow, shuffle beat blues tome.

Fran Drew and the Lucky Strikes have produced a fine, affecting album that delivers musically and emotively, with some good fun to fill out the mood. More info may be found at www.frandrewluckystrikes.com.

- Jon Persson



Matt Lesch

"Blues Cut Like Glass"
Blue Lotus Records and
Frank Roszak Promotions

Born in 1997 in St. Louis Missouri, Matt learned the meaning of the blues and where the music came from first hand from local blues legend Big George Brock who was a blues-man and sharecropper out of Grenada, Mississippi. After performing at many national blues festivals across the country with Big George, Matt quickly became a seasoned veteran at an early age. Matt has had his own band since the age of 16 playing all the local blues clubs and festivals in St Louis, Missouri and Illinois and never looked back.

This review highlights his latest efforts "Blues Cut Like Glass". It's a 12 track album where Lesch wrote every song and features his great great guitar playing along with a three piece horn section (luv dem horns!), and an amazing boogie woogie piano player who reminds me of another artist I reviewed, Veronica Lewis. And of course no denying his talented perfection of Bass & Drums keeping everyone in line and in time.

After all the many reviews I've done for

Sound Waves I can only name a handful of standout artists that really made me sit up and take notice and Matt Lesch is one of them. Lesch opens his album with "Feels So Good" which was an excellent choice showing everyone what music gems are to follow. A great feel good, upbeat Blues diddy complete with screaming organ and guitar solos. You couldn't sit still if you wanted to.

In "He's A Bluesman" Lesch slows the pace down to a more traditional Blues style. This one has the blues harp and piano in the spotlight and half way through Lesch joins in on lead guitar. You say you wanna hear some good ol' bluesy sax? You got it! "Big Legged Woman" fits the bill with everything but the kitchen sink thrown in. We have great horns featuring the Sax, more great boogie woogie piano, and with Lesch again on lead guitar and vocals. Love the talent and music arrangement as with the rest of this album... Perfection! With "I'm So Tired" you'll simply find more Lesch on lead guitar with his excellent band. In "She's My Everything" we have a more slowed down version of the standard 12 bar blues that again show cases piano along with Lesch on lead guitar and

Continued Page 28



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SOUND WAVES 27

very entertaining. Want something a little different? "Sitting At The Station" answers your call. It's kind of a rockin somba with a latin flair and definitely reminds me of Carlos Santana's "Black Magic Woman". In "Going Through This World All Alone" again shows the vast diversity of Lesch's song writing talent, very different from the rest of the album. This one reminds me of the opening cinema score of a James Bond Movie. Listen for yourself and tell me what you think. What's next is the long awaited title track, "Blues Cut Like Glass". This one not only has great vocals and horns taking center stage but Lesch's wraps it all up in a soulful, jazzy twist! This track also has amazing guitar playing that harmonizes with piano, and even drums give a stellar performance. Yep, this one may very well be my favorite track of the album!

There are four more tracks of great music that I'll let you explore for yourself when you buy the album. Yes, I definitely give this masterpiece a strong BUY recommendation.

Matt Lesch "Blues Cut Like Glass" is available on Amazon, Apple Music, and MatLesch.com.

Until Next Time, Adrian Webb



Shari Puerto
"Hold On"

Shari Puerto's seventh album, *Hold On*, gives flight to the singer's smooth and melodic vocals, with turns and inflections that add a depth of emotion to her singing. The album, a collection of eight original songs cowritten by Puerto, ranges from uplifting moments to expressions of regret, delivered in clear tones and direct language throughout.

The album opens with the title track, *Hold On*, an energetic, rocking anthem admonishing a special someone to "Hold On,

28 SOUND WAVES

don't let a day pass you by," a seize the day longing with harmony. Where Is All The Great Music Going follows, a lively song with sweet tones and nostalgia for the old songs, in a new world where "some of the music got a bit off track, give the song some heart and soul."

In *The City* has a funk beat, the soundtrack featuring keyboards that draw on a variety of electronic tones, over an insistent bass and percussion beat: the vocals tell their story, answered by a jazz trumpet solo. The effect renders a city scape where night and day interchange with ease. Why Not Me conveys the confused frustration of someone in the flux of an uncertain relationship.

Shari Puerto's previous releases include studio albums, a live album, plus a blues album for children recorded with various artists. She is joined on this latest album by five fellow artists, who provide a wide variety of styles in support of the project. A poignant and notably pretty example is the slow paced *Forever More*, with some nice harmonies in the chorus topped off with an appealing guitar solo. *You're Right, I'm Wrong For You* gets a bit funky again, a stand up, step back from an entanglement ready for the "just be friends" category.

Shari Puerto has produced an enjoyable album, featuring her vocal talents and collaborative songwriting, embellished with some fine musicianship. More info may be found at www.ShariPuerto.com.

- Jon Persson



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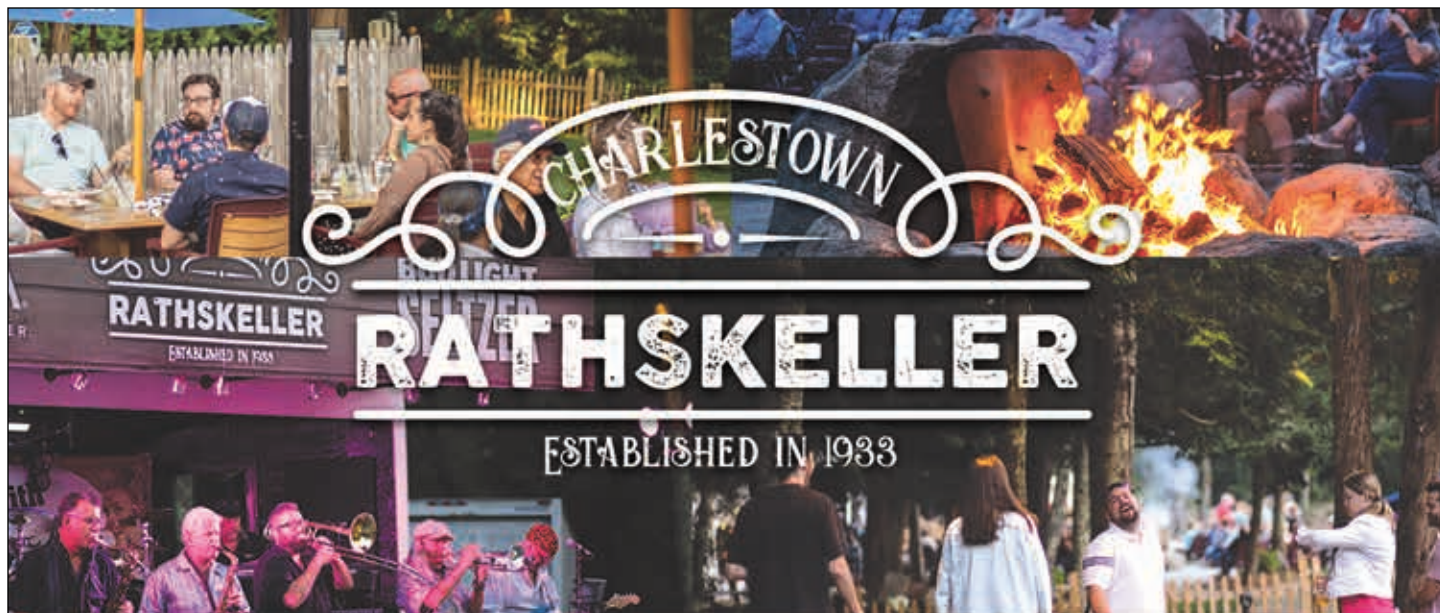


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