

radio
radio



perience

www.radioradiox.com

LISTEN ONLINE!

November 2021
Vol. 3, Issue 11

IAN CARLTON

Rocky Velvet, the Swinging Palms,
and wherever the road takes him.

22

MIKE SKILL

A cofounder of The Romantics talks
history and technology.

26

CHUCK MCDERMOTT

A life forged through deep veins of
country and Americana reflects.

24

FREE

A R T M U S I C C U L T U R E

thelocal217.com

THE
LOCAL 217
TAPROOM & KITCHEN

12 1/2 DELAWARE AVE
ALBANY, NY 12210
518 462-0050

McCaddy's Pub
TROY, NEW YORK

mcaddyspub.com

452 BROADWAY TROY, NY 12180 518 326-3994

SUSIES

susiespub.com

8 DELAWARE AVE ALBANY, NY 12210 518 449-2988

Indoor & Outdoor Seating Available At All Locations
Full Menus Available Gift Certificates Available



The Sound of Sleaze

With a new EP, The Erotics wring out some great riffs and even greater hooks.

BY NEOPTOLEMUS

The Erotics. Photo provided.

WHAT DO Conan O'Brien, The Simpsons, and Mike Trash have in common? Apparently, a band name. The Erotics are Albany's home-grown answer to The Andrews Sisters. They're not only prettier, but they play rock and roll like nobody's business. Clever, irreverent lyrics growled over classic rock riffs, their songs are all orgasm and no foreplay. Just when you're really starting to groove to the music, the song is over. But don't worry; another naughty bit will be right up. Just try not to overdose on the fun.

Mike Trash, the group's imperator, sat down for an interview with RadioRadioX. You can visit Mike and the boys at <https://www.facebook.com/>

theerotics

RRX: You just dropped an EP. Can you tell us about it?

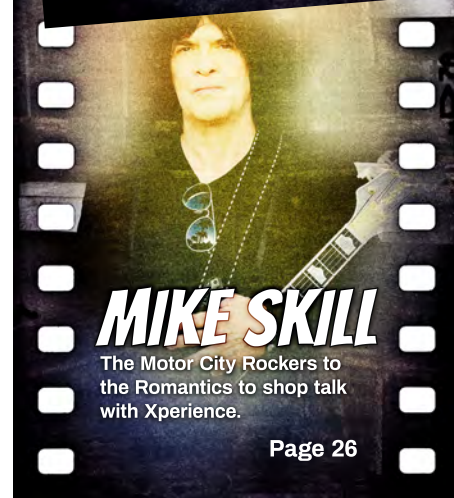
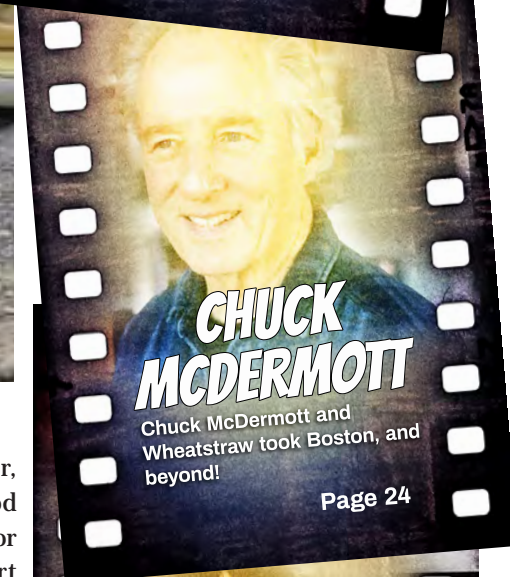
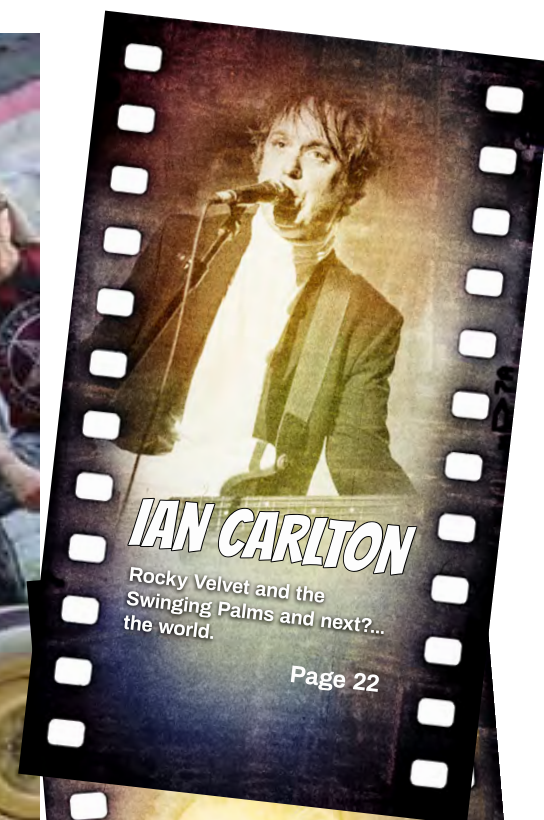
MT: Yes, it's called *Ride It To Death*, produced again by Don Fury, who we've been working with since 2010. It's just five solid tunes. We didn't want to release a full length, since we just released a 14 track album last year called *Let's Kill Rock N Roll*.

But we still wanted to put something new out. We like to put something new out all the time, whether it's a full album, EP, or just a single. Some of our record buying "purists" are pissed and won't buy it because it's not a full length. Oh well ... can't please everyone. We're happy with it.

RRX: Who's in the band?

MT: Johnny Riott, our drummer, has been with us since 2004. God bless him for putting up with me for that long! He also does a lot of the art on our albums, and puts together the CD layouts. Our guitar player, Doug Reynolds, has been with us since 2016. He's a great player and also teaches guitar (shameless plug), and he's lots of fun on the road partying. Bass player Tony Culligan has been with us since November 2018 — a great addition to the band. He's a solid bass player, locks right in with Johnny on the rhythm. His nickname is "Spicoli" cuz of his

Continued on Page 5...





Art Fredette
Publisher

Liam Sweeny
Editor-In-Chief
Creative Director

Kit Haynes
Associate Editor

Dick Beach
Staff Geek

Contributors

Rob Smittix

Josh Reedy

Amy Modesti

Stephanie Bartik

Phil Sawyer Jr.

Sassy Auburn

Jeff Spauling

Melody Morris

Vito Ciccarelli

Ed Conway

Dan Rosen

Vegas Nancy

Contact

29 Saratoga Avenue,
Waterford, NY 12188
(518) 326-1673

info@radiator.io.com

Published by Imperial Broadcasting
in conjunction with
Radiator.io.com.



The Erotics. Photo provided.

CONTENTS

3 ♡ **THE EROTICS** NEW EP OUT FOR ROCK AND ROLLERS

8 ♡ **PESHY KRUGER** RAP BATTLE COMING UP

14 ♡ **NICOLE ALKURABI** WILDLIFE ARTIST AND MORE

18 ♡ **S.A. COSBY** SOUTHERN CRIME WRITER

22 ♡ **IAN CARLTON** ROCKY VELVET AND THE SWINGING PALMS

24 ♡ **CHUCK MCDERMOTT** COUNTRY AND AMERICANA LEGEND

26 ♡ **MIKE SKILL** COFOUNDER OF THE ROMANTICS

40 ♡ **MELANIE CHIRIGNAN** CLASSICAL FLUTIST

Image of Jimmy Barrett on the front cover courtesy of Stephanie Bartik,

Continued from Page 3.

fondness for marijuana.

RRX: Why Mike "Trash"? Why not Mike Rock, or Mike L. Angelo?

MT: Well, back in my old band, we all had fake names, and for whatever reason, I chose Trash. It's been a keeper ever since.

RRX: Where does The Erotics band name come from?

MT: Funny you should ask! Back in late 1995 when I was toying with the idea of forming this band, I was watching *The Simpsons Halloween Special*, and in the last scene, Homer was in a weird alternate dimension and walked into a bakery called Erotic Cakes. I thought it would make a cool band name, but ultimately it got shorted to just The Erotics. [Erotics Cakes, founded circa 1995, is still a Boston institution:

<http://bostonmassachusettseroticbakerycakes.com>]

RRX: I guess you can't have your cake and rock it, too. You have some serious chops as a musician -- you play wicked guitar, and you sing well. The lyrics to your songs are impressive -- lots of clever hooks. Do you write all The Erotics songs?

MT: Yes, I write pretty much everything. I usually record rough versions to send to the rest of the band, then they add their flair to it.

RRX: Are you Albany born and bred? Where did you go to school?

MT: Well, born in Glens Falls, but Albany bred. Basically, my mom went into labor while visiting my grandmother, so my birth certificate says Glens Falls. I went to Catholic School in Albany up to 7th grade. My parents got fed up with the nuns always calling to complain about my behavior. It was just kids-being-kids stuff. But the way they flipped out, you'd think I crucified Christ. So it was off to public school right up until senior year, haha!

RRX: What genre would you say describes The Erotics songs -- punk,

metal, or just plain old rock and roll?

MT: Well, our music is a blend of sleaze, punk, and classic rock. It gives us an interesting sound. Ironically, we're too punk for the hard rock crowd, and too hard rock for the punk crowd! I prefer to think that our music is just plain old rock 'n roll.

RRX: The Erotics music seems to be all about the fun of rock and roll. That right?

MT: Yes, absolutely! ALL about the fun.

RRX: What music did you listen to as a youth? Who did you want to become musically?

MT: The first cool record I ever got was Alice Cooper Goes to Hell, back in 1977, second grade. After that, the usual suspects most kids listened to in the 70s and 80s: Kiss, Aerosmith, AC/DC, and Motley Crue. But also punk bands like Dead Boys, Ramones, and Misfits. You can hear these influences in our songs.

RRX: When did you start to perform musically?

MT: Started in 7th grade. I got a guitar for Christmas. But I didn't start playing live until high school, playing battle of the bands stuff.

RRX: What is your musical guilty pleasure and what currently is on your music radar?

MT: Van Hagar is my guilty pleasure. DLR [David Lee Roth] purists scoff at that, haha, but of course there's nothing like those first six Van Halen albums either. Lately, I've been listening to 1969-77 era Alice [Cooper]. For some reason, I've been drawn to that lately. Also, the soundtrack to the 1986 movie, *Trick or Treat*, by Fastway. I saw that in the theater 35 years ago! Every year around this time I revisit the film as well as the sound track. And 1980s non-makeup KISS.

RRX: Anything you want to say to your fans?

MT: Buy the new album and get drunk!



BE BOLD
 LIVE PASSIONATELY
 GET DIRTY

GIFT CERTIFICATES
 AVAILABLE

SLIDIN' DIRTY

9 FIRST STREET TROY, NY WWW.SLIDINDIRTY.COM



TOBACCO
 ISLAND
 CIGARS · VAPE · CBD
 & LOUNGE

Cohoes' only true smoke shop

169 Remsen Street Cohoes NY 12047 518-390-1906



anden
GROW-OPTIMIZED DEHUMIDIFIERS

introducing
VLGR TECHNOLOGY
PERFECT PERIOD

A710

Anden Commercial Dehumidifiers are designed specifically for the grow industry! With capacities from 70-700 pints per day, there is a moisture control solution for you! Hobbyists to Large Scale Commercial Grow Facilities.


PROTECT YOUR GROW!

CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE!
518-272-5922 CALL OR TEXT



anden

Bova Beauty Bar



Cuts-Color-Styling-Hair Extensions
Brazilian Blowouts-Skincare-Massage
Eyelash Extensions-Booth Rental Available

For Appointments Call: 518-892-8542
or contact Taryn Bebo: 518-881-7749
Danielle Deyo: 518-542-9969
For Massage Call Leah Silva: 518-961-3789

426 River Street Troy

ELBOTOGO.COM

The ELBO TO GO
Pub Food On The Run



LATHAM **2 LOCATIONS**

518-250-5087
HOURS: MON-SAT 11:00AM-10PM
SUN NOON-8PM **TAKE OUT & DELIVERY**

644 New Loudon Rd, Latham

ALBANY

518-257-7300
HOURS: MON-SAT 11:30AM-10PM
PICK-UP ONLY

170 Delaware Ave Albany, NY

THE HANGAR

"TROY NEW YORK'S HIDDEN VENUE"

ON THE HUDSON
(518) 272-9740 THEHANGARONTHEHUDSON.COM
675 RIVER ST TROY, NY 12180

- 11/6- **Gringo Starr** and his All-Star Band - 8pm
- 11/11- Field Day with **After The Fall**, **Mike Erg**, **Radar** and **Male Patterns** - 7pm
- 11/12- **Super 400** 25th Anniversary show - 7:30
- 11/20- **Sam Evian** - 8pm
- 11/21- **Jam For Josh Two** - 3pm
- 12/3 - **The Figgs** - 8pm
- 12/4- **Bill Kirchin's** Honky Tonk Holiday Show



CHECK OUR FACEBOOK FOR DAILY SPECIALS TAKE-OUT OR EAT-IN
OUTDOOR COVERED SEATING WED-SUN 2PM-8PM
600 RIVER STREET TROY, NY 12180 (518) 272-9740

SECURITIES AND ADVISORY SERVICES OFFERED THROUGH LPL FINANCIAL, A REGISTERED ADVISOR MEMBER FINRA/SIPC



Empire Financial Advisors
Building Your Independence

- RETIREMENT PLANNING
- 401(K) ROLLOVER SERVICES
- TRADITIONAL IRAS
- ROTH IRAS
- 403(B) ACCOUNTS
- 529 COLLEGE SAVINGS PLANS

Daniel Fumarola
LPL Financial Advisor
(518) 608-1103 (Office)
(518) 779-6150 (Cell)
daniel@empirefa.com

SERVING ALL OF YOUR INVESTMENT AND INSURANCE NEEDS



“Whiskey Pickle is a whisk(e)y centric bar in Downtown Troy, NY. Featuring local and international spirits, creative and classic cocktails, regional craft beer, and small bites. Come get a Pickle Club or a round of pickleback shots!”

407 Fulton St,
Troy, NY 12180
Tues - Sat | 4pm - 11pm
(518) 212-7729

Peshy Kruger: Rap Battle Warrior

Rap battles and hip hop have evolved over the years. So has Peshy Kruger.

Peshy Kruger. Photo provided.

BY ROB SMITTIX

On Friday November 12th at The Madison Theatre in Albany #25to-LIFEEE and Peshy Kruger present #LIFEEE Behind Bars 2. For those that aren't fluent in Rap music lingo, bars means musical bars. The event is a rap battle that will entertain the masses and there will be times the punchlines will make you spit your drink out all over the floor. Today I am speaking with the man himself. Ladies and gentlemen, I bring you Mr. Peshy Kruger.

RRX: I've been a fan for quite a while. I'm from the South End (Albany), I believe you are too.

PK: Yeah definitely. We're from the same hood bro.

RRX: I enjoyed my time growing up there. It's a character-building

neighborhood.

PK: Definitely.

RRX: You have a rap battle coming up "LIFEEE Behind Bars 2."

PK: This event that's taking place I tried to get my birthday but I couldn't, so I got the night going into my birthday. The event takes place November 12th and we're going to be there at midnight so...

RRX: It will be your birthday, nice! I brought up being from the same hood, from the same area because I really find I love listening to local rap music more than any other rap music out there.

PK: There's not too many of you guys though. I'm starting to garnish the attention but what I had to do to get the attention man. I've been rapping probably since I was eight.

RRX: You and me both.

PK: I started taking it really seriously when I was in high school. At Albany High we had the courtyard and that's where all the rappers would come together. You know what a cypher is?

RRX: I do.

PK: And that eventually comes to, we've got a lot of nice dudes on this cypher, let's have a battle. And battling back then was different from what the culture is now. Spitting some rhyme that you have rehearsed, not on a track but you had them down and had a couple of punchlines. Now it's a whole art. People are crafting and getting real good with it. Definitely has evolved.

RRX: Hip hop has always been a competitive sport. Like you said you were rapping since you were young. Me too. I was the kid with the turntables in the neighborhood.

PK: A turntable in the hood was like gold.

RRX: Oh yeah those were the days man, we used to hit Music Shack on Central Ave for the records and if you wanted a great mix you had to purchase two of the same record every time.

PK: How about the tissue on top of the tape?

RRX: Oh, my God yeah to re-record over it. Now me being an older cat a lot of the newer stuff that the kids are putting out, just doesn't do it for me.

PK: I'm not gonna lie, I pride myself with adapting to mad different flows, it almost hurts my brain to dumb it down. I enjoy being lyrical and have somebody else spin it back like oh damn, I hear something different every time. You know what I mean?

RRX: I feel like a lot of what's coming out now is from a generation that never knew the world without an internet or social media. They all sound

alike to me; they're all talking about the same thing. It's an oversaturated market. That's what I like about what you're doing man because you do have some of the newer beat style and choruses, but your flow is very similar to us old cats.

PK: Yeah, I do that on purpose too. It's almost like a breath of fresh air when you're rapping how I am rapping. Before it was almost the opposite. Everybody feels like they've got to adapt to the new sound and I'm doing my own thing pretty much and it's cutting through.

RRX: There's so much talent here. I mean your brother (Eighty Gee) is one of them.

PK: That's my older brother by the way. We started at the same time. When I said I started at eight, he was nine. He's one of the few that can adapt that new flow but actually can sing something too. That's why he cuts through, it's actually lyrical, you feel me?

RRX: It is, he pulls it off very well. Now this is the second Life Behind Bars battle and the first one I believe was also at the Madison Theater. Correct?

PK: We made it hot now. I see everybody at the Madison Theater but I ain't mad at it.

RRX: It's good to see a venue that supports it. As you know it's tough to get Hip hop into venues.

PK: I had to win their trust to be perfectly honest with you. I'd be lying if I said there isn't a dark cloud around Hip Hop because so many shows were shut down with violence. We make sure none of that happens. We have metal detectors and I've got my own security. Battle rap is so diverse for fans, we have moms coming out, you know what I mean?

RRX: Well, I'm not taking no sides, but I see my guy Rich Millz is there.

PK: Yeah, Millz man, I definitely had to put Millz on. He was battling

when I was battling.

RRX: I had a friend that got pretty far in Battle rap and it got ugly sometimes, I mean you could tell they were stalking each other's Facebook pages. I'm like oh man leave his little sister out of it.

PK: The gloves are off. The more you show it's hurting you... you gotta act like none of it fazes you bro.

RRX: I call it boxing with microphones.

PK: It's not even boxing, it's UFC, because with boxing the ref is going to come in the middle when he hits the floor. In the UFC when you hit the floor, they're still punching you bro.

RRX: Well, I know at the end of a match it's nice to hit the gloves together or shake hands something like that.

PK: That's the awesome thing about it. There's respect. Back in the day when we were rapping at each other in the courtyard and you say somebody's mom's name, it's liable to be a riot (laughs). With the growth of the sport and the growth of sportsmanship, it's more of a salute, like, "yeah you're nice". They understand why you have to go after that battling. That's the beauty of it.

RRX: So, I know this is just the beginning.

PK: The sky's the limit. That's why we have to make sure we've got a good reputation and remain incident free. Nothing is unattainable, just gotta stay positive, stick to the plan and not try to take any shortcuts. Put the work in and I feel like we're doing that. We're doing what we're supposed to and I'm doing it at the right time where my music is in order, it's lined up, I've got a lot of eyes on me. I've got a lot of content building because of my music. Busta Rhymes even hit me up, you know what I mean?

RRX: And he didn't have to do that. That's amazing.



The Lone Bellow

TROY SAVINGS BANK MUSIC HALL UPCOMING SHOWS

Chanticleer
OCT 21, 7:30 PM

Postmodern Jukebox
OCT 28, 7:30 PM

THE WORLD FAMOUS
Glenn Miller Orchestra
OCT 30, 3 PM

**Yonder Mountain
String Band**
NOV 6, 8 PM

The Wailin' Jennys
NOV 9, 7:30 PM

AN EVENING WITH
C.S. Lewis
STARRING BRITISH ACTOR,
DAVID PAYNE
NOV 14, 3 PM

Pat Metheny
SIDE-EYE
WITH JAMES FRANCIES &
JOE DYSON
FRI, NOV 19, 8 PM

JONATHAN ANTOINE'S
ChristmasLand Live!
FRI, DEC 3, 7:30 PM

32 Second Street, Troy, NY 12180

Box Office: 518-273-0038 TROYMUSICBALL.ORG



PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST ON COVID-19 PROTOCOLS



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS HOLIDAY SHOPPING



We offer pickup or delivery within a 5 mile radius of our location

Nyx *A Scratch Baking Co.*
Thoughtfully Sourced
Local Scratch Bakery

@nyxbaking

nyxbaking.com
518-229-1386 nyxbaking@gmail.com
203 Sheridan Ave Albany



Rocky's MUSIC STUDIO

564 Bloomingrove Drive, Rensselaer, NY 12144
rockysmusicstudio.com ~ (518) 429-6380
Lessons - Accessories- Clinics
Holiday Gift Cards On Sale Now!

ROMANATION **Unique & Antique** JEWELERS

Your Full Service Jeweler Fine Contemporary Jewelry
Diamonds & Precious Gemstones
Bulova, Citizen & Wittnauer Watches
Antique & Estate Jewelry

48 3rd St Troy, NY 12180
518-272-0643 www.romanationjewelers.com

RIVER STREET
BEAT SHOP

197 River Street
Troy, NY | (518) 272-0433

LIKE US ON  BUY, SELL, TRADE - CD'S, LPS, & MEMORBILIA



Instruments & Amplifiers

PARKWAY MUSIC
1777 ROUTE 9 CLIFTON PARK NY
383-0300
www.parkwaymusic.com

LESSONS LESSONS

**BE SURE TO PICK UP A
GIFT CERTIFICATE
FOR THE MUSIC
LOVER IN YOUR LIFE!**



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS HOLIDAY SHOPPING



sawtooth

JEWELRY STUDIO

studio instruction * custom design * expert repair

sawtoothjewelry.com

195 RIVER STREET, TROY



**Lighthouse
Liquors**
Fine Wines and Liquors
(518) 235-4702
7 Northern Dr. Troy, NY 12182

Artcentric Marketplace



Unique Gifts for the Holidays.
Furniture & Art for your home.
Affordable Style with Vintage Flair.

Follow us on Instagram & Facebook  

266 River Street in Historic Downtown Troy 518-691-0007

The nourishing power of coffee & community.

Coffee
Tea
Smoothies



Pies
Cakes
Pastries

212 River Street • Troy • New York • 12180 • (518) 221-4625
www.seasonscafeandteahouse.com

RIVER ROCKS JEWELRY & BEAD SHOP

209-211 RIVER STREET
TROY, NY 12180
(518) 273-4532

Accessories
Gifts

Hours
Tues-Fri 11-6 Sat 11-5
Sun & Mon, by Appointment.

Let us Rock Your Holidays!
Crystals and gemstones in all forms, and supplies to create with.
Handmade jewelry and custom designs
Unique gifts and accessories

 www.riverrocksitroy.com


COLLAR CITY TATTOO

631 RIVER ST. TROY, NY
518.326.3797

jo's **221 4th st Troy, NY**
(518) 326-2042

Joint

a high-standing establishment.

FOOD - DRINKS - FUN - OUTDOOR PATIO
LIVE MUSIC -NFL SUNDAY TICKET

Tues- Sat: Open at 4pm
Sunday Open at Noon

Like us on Facebook  

THE RUSTIC BARN



150 SPEIGLETOWN RD, TROY, NEW YORK 12182 • (518) 235-5858

WE ARE OPEN!

Open Mic Every Thursday @ 6pm
THE BARN IS BACK! WE ARE OPEN FOR DINE-IN, TAKEOUT, AND DELIERY! WE ARE SERVING WITH INSIDE & OUTDOOR PATIO SEATING, OFFERING THE COLD DRINKS AND AMAZING FOOD YOU LOVE!

VISIT US ON FACEBOOK FOR UPCOMING EVENTS & ENTERTAINMENT

VISIT US AT WWW.RUSTICBARNPUB.COM FOR A COMPLETE EVENTS LISTING!






THE BULL AND BEE: MEADERY & TASTING ROOM

Proudly serving New York produced and sourced products and alcoholic beverages
10+ Meads, we offer tastings, by the glass or the bottle

HOURS
Tues-Thurs: 12pm-8pm
Fri-Sat: 12pm-9pm
Sun: 12pm-5pm

WEEKLY EVENTS
TUESDAY - Board Game Night : 4pm-8pm
WEDNESDAY - Industry & Guest Bartender Night : 4pm-8pm
THURSDAY - Movie Night : 6pm
FRIDAY - Happy Hour \$1-Off Beers & Ciders : 4pm-Close
SATURDAY - Bottle Day - Discounts On All Bottle Sales : 12pm-Close
SUNDAY - Cook-Out Day - Food Off The Grill : 12pm-Close

140 Hamilton Street, Albany
518.312.1053
www.TheBullandBee.com

 TheBullAndBee
 @TheBullAndBee
 @TheBullAndBee

NITE MOVES

GENTLEMEN'S CLUB

677 New Loudon Rd Latham, NY 12110

MONDAY 2PM - 2AM
TUESDAY 2PM - 2AM
WEDNESDAY 2PM - 2AM
THURSDAY 2PM - 2AM
FRIDAY 2PM - 4AM
SATURDAY 8PM - 4AM
SUNDAY 8PM - 2AM

fully nude Admission fee No phones

Over 30 girls each month!!!

Upstate NY's only upscale full nude gentlemen's club

**COHOES
MUSIC HALL**
MANAGED BY PLAYHOUSE STAGE COMPANY

JOIN US FOR SHOWS IN THE SPINDLE CITY AT
**THE CAPITAL REGION'S MOST
INTIMATE & HISTORIC VENUE**



WWW.THECOHOESMUSICHALL.ORG

Spreading Wings to Fly

Artist Nicole Alkurabi brings the world inside the beauty of moments easy to miss.



BY LIAM SWEENY

Photo provided.

Looking at art, there maybe two camps. There may be more, but we'll look at two. One is using a visual medium to relay some grand idea. This can be so varied as to really dodge a specific classification. This is the statement "art is what you want it to be." The other kind of art looks at the reality of the world and brings it to a fixed medium. This is the still life, or the Dutch Masters. This is about the technique and the mastery of light and shadow.

Nicole Alkurabi is in the second camp of art. Her work with animal life

is transformative, and it would be impossible, from any distance, to believe her a painter and not a wildlife photographer. And she's agreed to sit down with us and answer a few questions.

RRX: Your artistic talent is incredible. What I've seen of your work, just the level of living detail captures animal life in pretty much three dimensions. When you started painting, was it animals and "still life," or was it something more abstract? Also, was painting your first love, or was it sketch, or something else?

NA: Paint has always been my

preference. When I first began painting I had a strong interest in realism which met my love of animals, but it was never a straight line. I did paint animals, but I painted everything that caught my attention just trying to solve the difficult question of "what interests me?" I bounced through many different techniques just trying to find something that felt like home. It took more than a decade, but I've finally found it.

RRX: When you start to paint, I imagine you're not calling a raven up from scratch. There are models, maybe images that you use to bring them to a

canvas. My guess is that with your ability, you could bring just about any image to life, but is there anything in particular you look for in an image that you end up using?

NA: When I first start brewing something up it actually begins with a color pallet in my head. Sometimes, I'll see flashes of color combinations in my head and I'll think about the color pallet until I can visualize a painting coming to life. From there, I start to see an animal and a moment, a fleeting moment to be exact, where you are either connecting with the animal or it is

about to leave you. With this version in my head I search the internet for reference photos to work off of. I typically use 3-5 images of an animal in a similar pose to what I have in mind. It can be maddening if the painting doesn't align with my vision perfectly, but I keep working until it feels right.

RRX: When I think of painting, I personally think of abstract work. Very heavy on being interpreted, very subjective. And abstract is more focused on relaying an idea than getting details right. But all art is abstract, all art is subjective. What, if you've thought about it; what "idea" do you try to impart into your work? Is there a greater concept?

NA: I have a great love of abstract expressionism and the freedom it gives you. In agreement, all artwork is subjective and should make you feel something. Maybe stare a little longer than you usually would, think about a feeling that perhaps never crossed your worried mind. To me, my work showcases the beauty of a moment that has nothing of note. A raccoon catching the weight of your gaze or a raven about to take flight. Think of how many of these unnoteworthy moments you miss in a single day. Those thoughts inspire me.

RRX: So your work isn't just lighting, even if you were painting lightning; it is a process. And I'm sure many people have asked you what your process is. And far be it from us to follow the crowd, but it is a worthy question. So let me put a wrinkle on that. At what point during your process do you realize that there's no going back?

NA: My work weighs heavily on discipline, understanding, and problem solving. There is this undefined stage where the painting is not exactly good, but not quite bad either. During those moments I struggle with every mark, wondering if that was the one mark that has brought it down to being poorly executed. It's probably at that point I realize there is no going back,

we're going to work it out no matter how long it takes.

RRX: We like to take a peek under the engine here when it comes to the mechanics of the art. We realize that most people never get a look under the wonder of what they see in the finished product. So, if I were a young dabbler in paint, what particular art supply should I absolutely not go cheap on?

NA: Don't buy the cheap canvases. Rage against this shortcut. Buy the wood, saws, unprimed canvas, gesso, and staple gun and build a real stretcher. Your canvas makes a difference and frankly there is a certain amount of dignity in it.

RRX: One of the things about producing such great work is that people want it hanging from their mantles. So selling your work is at times an artist's bane and at other times, an artist's bread. How does that happen? Is it primarily through social media? Do you have work in a gallery? How do people reach you.

NA: I do exhibit a couple of times a year and I am lucky enough to have people reach out to me on social media for commissions. I've always referred to my work as a passion that pays for itself and for that I am eternally grateful. It's on the to-do list to launch an official website and one day I'll convince myself to take the leap.

RRX: This is where you answer the question that I did not ask. Any favorite subjects? Funny questions people have asked (aside from me)? Educate, enlighten, emote – the floor is yours.

NA: My favorite question would be for my advice to people just beginning to paint. My response is to stay curious and be okay with nonconformity. Study other artists and watch tutorials, even if you don't follow them. Don't let the imposter syndrome keep you from starting your next piece, there is always more to learn but the joy is the journey.



THATCHER ST PUB (518) 463-9214

16 Thatcher St.
Albany, NY 12207

Open at 11am

Happy Hour
Monday - Friday
3pm - 8pm

Updated Menu
Kitchen Always Open

2 Pool Tables
& Darts Available

Takeout and Doordash Available

Outside Seating Available



THE SCOREBOARD 518

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK!

NEW SPECIALS

Mon - Fri
Happy Hour 3-5pm

Thursday Bucket Day
5 for \$15 Domestic Bottles, 5 for \$20 Imported Bottles

2 for 1 Well Drinks & Domestic Beer

f 29 - 124TH STREET, TROY





 Odds, Sweet Things, And
 Dead Ends
 


PRESENTS

VINTAGE
 Sweets
 MUSIC
 Taxidermy
 Original art


 Oddities
 VINYL
 Jewelry
 And More!

THE 1ST ANNUAL
PUNK ROCK
FLEA MARKET!!!

Sunday, December 5th, 2021
 12pm - 6pm

At Empire live, 93 Pearl street, Albany NY
Upstatepunkrockfleamarket@gmail.com




Paulys Hotel
 Albany's Oldest Tavern SINCE 1862
 337 CENTRAL AVE ALBANY, NY 12206
 PAULYS-HOTEL.COM [518] 426-0828

November 2021

11/5- **HARD LUCK SOULS, ANACORTEZ, UNDER THE DEN, TAKE OVER - 8PM**

11/11- **VETERAN'S DAY BLUES BASH BENEFIT HOSTED BY BERKSTAR, FEATURING DAVID BROWN (GUITARIST FOR BILLY JOEL) AND EMMANUEL CASABLANCA (ERIC GALE, AND ALISHA KEYS) -8PM**

11/13- **HOUSE OF SATURN**

11/19- **GOVERNOR, BATTLE AXXX, ZOMBIE GUILIANI -8PM**

11/20- **UNDER THE DEN -8PM**

11/26- **THE EROTICS, BLASE' DEBRIS, IKE'S WASTED WORLD, SOUND TRACK, BROTHER T -8PM**

11/27- **SPRINGSTEEN TRIBUTE FROM CANADA LAST OF THE DUKE STREET KINGS -8PM**

12/4- **FIGHT CANCER BENEFIT WITH HARMONY ROCKS, MIKE AND THE MONSTERS AND MORE!!!**

... THE FLEA ...
MARKET
is calling
and
I MUST GO

shop
Goldie's

Goldie's at COHOES MARKETPLACE
DOWNTOWN COHOES
103 Remsen Street

**Vintage Furniture
Collectibles Pyrex**

Open
Every Weekend

Saturday
10am - 5pm

& Sundays
10am-4pm

All New Treasures !!
Come see What's New and Trending !!

FREE DELIVERY!
On Orders Over \$10

33 Caroline Street
Just off Broadway
SARATOGA SPRINGS
(518) 584-3632
Sun-Thurs: 10am-12am
Fri-Sat: 10am-4am

654 Rt. 9
D'Andreas North
GANSEVOORT
(518) 584-3632
Open Every Day
11am-9pm



A Slice of Italy

Large Delivery Area
Catering Available

Order Online:
www.Mealeo.com
www.GrubHub.com
www.DandreasPizza.com

 Find us on: **facebook**

The best dining and drinking experience on Remsen Street

165 REMSEN ST	241 REMSEN ST	220 REMSEN ST
 <p>donnie magoo's burgers & steaks</p>	 <p>SPINDLES ON REMSEN WINE BAR</p>	 <p>AZZOLINO'S Italian Food</p>
(518) 203-6244	(518) 237-3816	(518) 326-1731

New York Talks to Southern Crime

NY Times Bestselling Author S.A. Cosby brings a fresh perspective to a time honored genre.

S.A. Cosby. Photo by Amanda Voisard.

BY LIAM SWEENEY

Crime fiction can be misunderstood. It can be seen as just a lowly word-smith letting his most depraved fantasies loose on the pages. This is rarely the case. Crime fiction is a mirror that crime fiction writers hold in front of the world. “Crime” is simply defined as the breaking of law, stealing is stealing. But a loaf of bread in an inner-city convenience store and a bottle of perfume in a high-end boutique tell two different stories.

Shawn Cosby is a Southern crime fiction writer from Virginia. His books tell a story of a South that is trying, or not trying, to bury its past. And

sometimes it has to use a woodchipper. Shawn is also a friend of the paper. Let’s welcome him.

I sit down with Shawn and we talk the perfect crime.

RRX: Your latest book is called *Razorblade Tears*. It deals with two fathers whose sons were gay, married, and murdered. It takes place in Virginia, so it would fall under the descriptor of Southern Crime/Mystery. If you’re so inclined, tell us a little bit about the story and the main characters, Ike Randolph and Buddy Lee Jenkins?

SA: Sure. Ike and Buddy Lee are both men of a certain age who have

both been incarcerated and who both are distant from their gay sons who happen to be married. When those sons are killed these two men of violence embark on a path of vengeance.

RRX: Crime is as old as time, to the extent that the first wristwatch was probably stolen from the inventor’s workbench. But crime has flavors, or at least the telling of it does, and especially how we see it. Southern Crime feels different to me that crime up here in the Northeast. Do you think there’s anything to that other than just “regional pride?”

SA: Well, I definitely think the

geographic and cultural differences in the South help to differentiate crime down here from in crime in the Northeast. For instance, the proximity of victims to perpetrator is something unique to small towns...there is an interconnectedness that makes crime in the South unique.

RRX: It’s hard to talk about the genre of mystery or especially crime fiction without talking about what is loosely called “noir.” Where as crime fiction, anyone can understand, noir has as many definitions as there are people who write and read it. How do you define noir, and how do you see it as

it relates to your work?

SA: I think noir is bad people doing bad things for what they think are the right reasons.

RRX: Some congratulations are in order. *Razorblade Tears* recently hit the New York Times Bestseller's list for fiction hardcover. And this is even more amazing because you started out on the independent fiction circuit. These aren't always two worlds that intersect. When you got the news, can you paint us the scene? How did you celebrate?

SA: I was sitting in my recliner writing on my lap desk when my editor told me we had hit the NYT's best seller list. I was dumbfounded. When you come from where I come from things like that seem so far out of reach....so to celebrate I cracked open a jar of my grandfather's moonshine I keep for special occasions. It seemed quite apropos.

RRX: Before hitting the NYT List

with *Razorblade Tears*, your second book, *Blacktop Wasteland*, was tearing it up. You had Stephen King singing your praises. That's basically like Jimi Hendrix saying, "me and Stevie Ray just watched your set." How do you write the next book knowing Stephen King's got you on his to be read pile?

SA: You take a deep breath and say "Time to get back to work"because as my mama said.. the shine comes off of new pennies quick

RRX: You've had a public fondness for the crime/mystery convention Bouchercon. And a lot of people, yourself included, chose to cancel this year, because of concerns over Delta. In the end it was canceled. Bouchercon is a huge part of the writing community, can you tell people why? And where do you see cons going in the age of pandemics?

SA: For me Bouchercon was the place where I was welcomed into the writing community. It was the place

where I met my heroes and they didn't disappoint. I think for new writers cons are the best places sell yourself. Because this is hard to hear but talent is cheap, but connecting with an agent or an publisher often comes down to the personal experience. I think you will see cons adjust to the new normal. Holding cons in states with high vaccination rates and requirements like masking and proof of vaccination, all these things can help cons survive.

RRX: Black voices are starting to come up in American crime fiction, yours being one, but there are others. I know that anyone can Google "Black writers" and find a few big-name writers, but we're sort of indie here, and since you have indie roots, can you give us three Black indie writers we need to read, and why?

SA: I would love to

Kellye Garrett is one of the best true mystery writers in the business. Her plots are so ingenious, her

characters are so complex and compelling and she has such a unique sense of humor even when her books get incredibly dark. If you consider yourself a true fan of mystery you need to be reading her.

Nikki Dolson is one of the Masters of what I call "suburban noir" Her characters are desperate downtrodden and determined. No one can deconstruct the interior lives of working class Black people like Nikki. Read her work if you like Megan Abbot but want something a little bit grittier

Chris Chambers is a brilliant author who uses crime fiction to dismantle the infrastructure of systemic racism, class warfare and political chicanery. He is a unafraid to take chances both with his narrative and his characters.

Tugboat Tavern



Italian · Seafood · Award Winning Wings
Family Owned · Casual Dining

159 Bridge Ave. · Cohoes, NY 12047
 (518) 233-1085 · www.TugboatTavern.com



HUNGRY & THIRSTY?

We've got you covered!



Hours:
Wednesday - Saturday
 4:00 - 10:00
Sundays
 4:00 - 9:00



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS HOLIDAY SHOPPING



Happy hour 4-6 pm Weekdays

OPEN
Mon-Sat: 11am
Sun: Noon

PAM'S PUB

*Serving Full Menu
Best Wings In Town*

*Take Out Available
Give US A Call*

Plaza 8
Clifton Park, NY
518-373-4947
1536 Crescent Road Ste. 8

CBD Products Available



77 4TH STREET TROY, NY
648 NEW LOUDON RD LATHAM, NY
UNCLESAMSHEALTHFOOD.com



An ANCIENT SOLUTION
INTRODUCING, THE PERFECT BLEND OF BLACK SEED AND OREGANO OIL TO BOOST YOUR IMMUNE SYSTEM, MAINTAIN HEALTHY CHOLESTEROL, BODY WEIGHT & BLOOD SUGAR

77 Ontario Street Cohoes, NY

Island Spirits

WINE & LIQUORS

(518) 727-5508

Large selection of wine, spirits and minis!

**HOURS: MON- SAT- 10AM-9PM
SUNDAY- NOON- 9PM**

YOUR ONLY CHOICE IN COHOES FOR WINE AND SPIRITS

ILLUSIVE

Minutes from Downtown Albany

INDUSTRY NIGHT
EVERY MONDAY, 4PM-CLOSE
BOGO DOMESTIC BOTTLES & CANS, \$4 WELL DRINKS
10% OFF FOOD FOR SERVERS, BARTENDERS, COOKS & DISHWASHERS

PATIO IS OPEN!
COCKTAILS & GROWLERS TO-GO!

TIKTOK: ILLUSIVE.REST.BAR
INSTAGRAM: ILLUSIVE.RESTAURANT.BAR
www.facebook.com/illusiverestaurantandbar

3 FERRY STREET, RENSSELAER, NY | 518•977•3602 | WWW.ILLUSIVES.COM



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS HOLIDAY SHOPPING



twilight
vintage clothing

Mon-Fri: 1pm-6pm
Sat: Noon-5pm

518-441-7858

44 4th Street Downtown Troy, NY 12180

T&J

271 RIVER STREET
TROY, NY 12180
518-272-2660
WWW.TANDJSOAP.COM

HANDCRAFTED SOAP

LOCAL ARTISANAL SOAPS,
CANDLES, GIFTS, AND MORE.

Port of Call
Consignments

 **FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK!**

Waterford's Vintage and Collectibles
One-Stop Shop

Vinyl records, nautical pieces, collectibles, fishing lures,
man cave items, advertising and so much more.

ALWAYS buying and selling!

57 BROAD STREET, WATERFORD, NY 12188 • (518) 874-1643

Last Vestige

MUSIC SHOP
MORE RECORDS!
RECORDS!
RECORDS!

EST. 1989

RECORDS

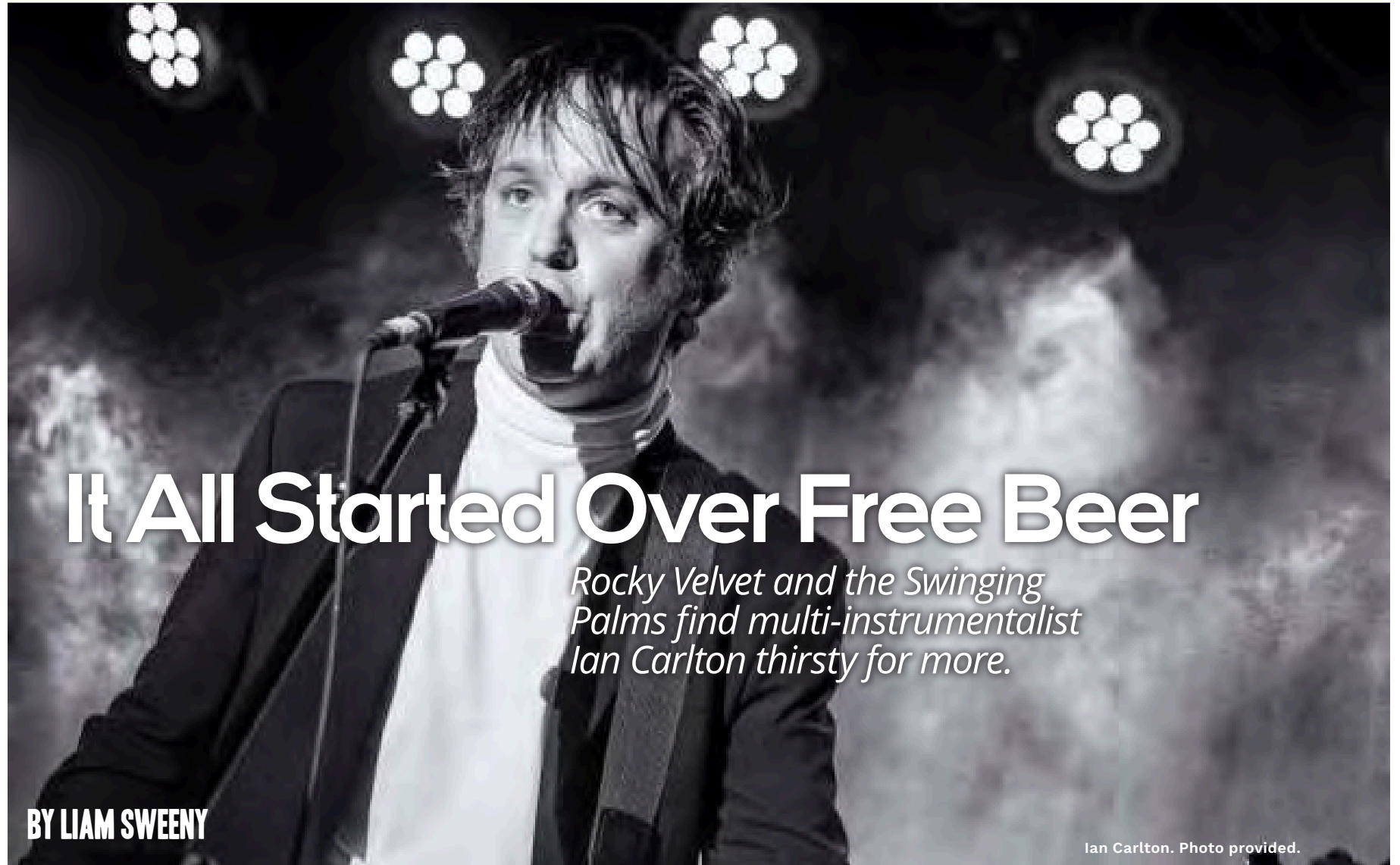
BUY • SELL • TRADE
VINYL RECORDS
CDS • TAPES • DVDS

ROCK • JAZZ • FOLK
COUNTRY • BLUES
SOUL • R'N'B • PUNK
POP • METAL & MORE!

SUPER TUESDAYS!
EVERY TUESDAY BUY 1
GET ONE 1/2 OFF
EQUAL OR LESSER VALUE

LARGE COLLECTIONS BOUGHT
HOUSE CALLS BY APPOINTMENT

OPEN 11AM-7PM MON-SAT NOON-5PM SUN
173 QUAIL ST ALBANY NY 518-432-7736



It All Started Over Free Beer

Rocky Velvet and the Swinging Palms find multi-instrumentalist Ian Carlton thirsty for more.

BY LIAM SWEENEY

Ian Carlton. Photo provided.

Music is an alter ego. Even when you use your own name and wear your own face, when you go up on that stage, you become somebody else. You become a performer. No matter how absolutely zen you are, you shift your mindset into that of the best musician you can be. And that persona belongs to the crowd.

Ian Carlton has an actual alter ego, Ritz Carlton. As the singer and guitar player for Rocky Velvet, among other bands, he's had the pleasure of assuming that persona for decades.

I sit with Ian and we discuss ergonomic phone booths.

RRX: Your name is Ian Carlton. But your name is also Ritz Carlton.

Secret identity, perhaps? Witness protection? On the run from a rogue guitar maker that wants to string you up? In seriousness, how did Ritz Carlton come about, and what are the key differences between Ritz and Ian?

IC: Ritz Carlton? Never met him, but he sounds like a real wanker. He comes off like one of those guys who brags about eating paella in Valencia, Spain, having red silk panties thrown at him on stage in Atlanta, GA, or wearing custom tailored tuxedos from the now out of business Rodino's in Troy, NY. Best of luck to him, but that stuff is not my cup of tea. You should probably ask him for his own separate interview.

RRX: You're in Rocky Velvet, which you've described as "Cropseyville's Rock 'n' Roll Degenerates." But that name had a ton of respect and staying power in this area. What do you think is a point where a band of "degenerates" actually gets the respect of its peers, and does the descriptor change at all at that point?

IC: The original goal of the band was to get free beer for playing the Ale House in Troy, the QE2 in Albany, or any place in between. When we started it was being in the right place at the right time with a moderate amount of musicianship, at least for my part. Our connection to Johnny Rabb through Graham and his dad, the "Rockin'

Professor" John Tichy, opened the door and away we went. We played and played and played until we actually became fairly competent, and really hit our stride around 2008. Playing consistently across the Midwest and East Coast, we had a good album recorded and actually functioned as a respected band! Naturally we broke up. I still appreciate a free beer or two at a gig, and I sure as hell want to play at the Ale House again. It's cliché, but as much as things change they stay the same.

RRX: You're in Rocky Velvet and the Swinging Palms, and probably a few projects I'm missing. And if Ritz Carlton is more a project than an alter

ego, there's that. How do you keep your hand in as much stuff as you do? Are you doing these projects with some of the same people, or do you just not sleep? What's the trick?

IC: This area is flush with talent, and I feel truly fortunate to be surrounded by it. Most of the projects I am involved with do utilize the same rotating cast of characters, but the goal is to keep each one unique and exciting. Every band, and every gig, has its own purpose and goals. I definitely do not say yes to everything that comes my way, but I like having multiple projects and personalities in the mix.

RRX: I've seen you play guitar, and I've seen you play stand-up bass. And I love stand-up bass. I think it should be in every band that has bass in it's sound. I know I'll never see that, but one can dream. When you play, guitar or stand-up bass, you gotta move. How do you dance with either instrument without losing focus?

IC: Ask anyone that knows me and they will affirm that I am easily the worst dancer in the room, no matter what room I am in. I think my playing is at its best when I am not concentrating, not focused, and totally checked out, thinking about something else, like what I'm going to eat later. That said, I do like to get people in the crowd excited. With or without an instrument I enjoy taking my "Elaine Benes" style moves to the people.

RRX: We're getting things back in full swing now that the restrictions are being lifted. We hated to ask people how they were adjusting, say, this time last year, but we love asking it now. How has it been, gearing up, going out, playing, after such a long hiatus?

IC: It feels great to get out and play again in front of live audiences! The trickiest part so far has been finding and reorganizing all of the gear. My basement is a mess with chords, amps, and guitars etc. It seems like all of the

sudden, gigs are back and everyone is crazy busy. Having everything shut down has obviously been a huge drag professionally and financially, but it also gave me the opportunity to spend a ton of time with my wife and kids. Despite how hard it has been, part of me will always cherish it.

RRX: You play with Graham Tichy a lot. Or enough. In Rocky Velvet, elsewhere. We covered Graham in a previous issue, and it's always a good time to let two musicians connect over pages (and in this case years.) What is the secret of your jibing, as musicians, and as friends? And if you have any stories, do share.

IC: Honestly, I feel so lucky to have met Graham when I was in 7th grade. He is constantly learning and improving, and he can't help pushing and teaching the people around him. It was never, "Do you want to learn to play the Beatles, or would you like to learn some Hawaiian music?" It's always

been a kind of trial by fire, "Play this and if you don't know it, put in some time and learn it." His focus and determination has been a clear motivator for me as a musician. Aside from that he is a great guy and we have always had fun together. You should see what he's done with his lawn! So lush and green!

RRX: This is where you answer the question I didn't ask. Favorite degenerate pool hall? Surf or turf? Educate, enlighten, emote – the floor is yours.

IC: Go see Battleaxxx, and have your face melted. Go see the Lustre Kings and dance with a stranger. Go to the Hangar and tell Brian and Troy I said hi. Go to Indian Ladder Farms and visit Simon. Rewatch anything featuring Danny Devito. Vote Dolly Parton for President. Stop checking Facebook. Have another cup of coffee. Call your mother. Eat your vegetables. Take a deep breath and a nap when you can.



Ian Carlton. Photo provided.

East Coast Country Royalty

Country and Americana singer/songwriter Chuck McDermott brings us back to scenes we can only dream of today.

BY LIAM SWEENEY

Chuck McDermott. Photo provided.

There something in music that's greater than three chords and 4/4 time. Okay, so even within music there's something better than that. But what I mean is that, what comes from voices and instruments really summons a thing, a spirit, if you will, and those who take up their voices and those instruments conjure up a magical space we collectively refer to as a scene.

Chuck McDermott, a country and Americana performer, known notably for his influential country group Chuck McDermott and Wheatstraw and his time with legendary singer/songwriter John Stewart.

We sit down with Chuck to wade through the creative ephemera.

RRX: Your most recent album, correct me if I'm wrong, is *38 Degrees and Raining*. It's got such a full sound. The fiction writer in me just put the album in my soundtrack set list, and the interview writer in me has to ask how long this actually took you to put together? Take us inside this album.

CM: We went into the studio in the very early days of January 2020. Leading up to that, for the three months prior, drummer and producer Marco Giovino and I collaborated about what songs to select for recording, and then above and beyond that, getting down

into changing keys, changing tempos, changing chord structures, changing lyrics in some cases. But we gathered in the studio with Marco on drums, a wonderful Boston-area guitarist, a bass player and myself, and over the course of two days, we cut nine basic tracks. Then we began the process of doing selective overdubs of background vocals and other instrumentation.

That came to a screeching halt by about March 8th, when the Covid crisis was obvious and the lockdown had begun. And that fundamentally altered the course of the record. So over the next couple of months, we found ways to collaborate at a distance from each other. I started doing some guitar work

and some vocal work from home, Marco farmed out track to other musician to get their contributions. Down in Nashville and the case of the piano player we worked with from London. Then the more completed tracks began to come together. Some were going to require a sufficient amount of work that we just set them aside. So that re-focused us on a shorter list of songs that would actually end up on the record. During this period of time, I also wrote a new song, called "Here's the Thing About America" that we assembled, again, at a distance from each other. In a way, it's created an emotional centerpiece for the album itself.

RRX: You started out, maybe not

completely, not in a more noteworthy sense, with Chuck McDermott and Wheatstraw out of the Boston area. Critical praise from on high; you all were big, for a long time, about ten years. Being a country band in Boston, did you have any challenges breaking out at first? What was it like?

CM: There was good news and bad news associated with being a country band from Boston. And we weren't just a country band from Boston; we were a bunch of long-haired rock-and-roller college dropouts as a country band. The good news was, the Boston area, and the neighborhood itself, was very fertile ground for performing bands. There were many, many nightclubs in the Boston area, live music five- or even seven nights a week. There is a huge college-aged crowd in the greater Boston area, and again, one throughout New England. All of those schools and related venues had an appetite for live music. So we could work a lot. That was the good news. And that led to some significant regional popularity. At the heart of it all, we were touring from Toronto to New Orleans, playing better and better venues, and being an opening act for many of the national country acts coming through the region, and things like that.

And that let us get a foothold into an emerging country scene in New York City, in Manhattan, which centered around a now-legendary bar called the Lone Star Café. And we were able to get the A&R people, the record company people in New York in to see our band and the enthusiasm that we could generate, and the crowd, and they would be excited by that, and promised to bring their Nashville counterparts, and to see us the next time we were in town, and nothing came through on that promise. But inevitably, the Nashville reps just couldn't get their heads around signing a band like ours. Again, we were Yankees, we looked like hippies, and

Charlie Daniels wasn't even welcome in Nashville at this time because he had a raggedy long haired band with him. And Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings left town, and went back to Texas. And there was a real cultural dividing line in Nashville, and we could never get through that.

RRX: You spent another ten years playing with legendary singer and songwriter John Stewart. John, and you yourself, made major contributions to folk and Americana music during that time, and when you had first encounter John, he had already made significant contributions. What was John like as a musician? As a friend?

CM: One of the most rewarding experiences I've had in my life is the friendship I shared with John and his mentorship, that I enjoyed from the time we met until the time he died. On the music side, John was a prolific, inspired songwriter. He was a living example of the fact that, if you want to write your best work, get whatever the best that's within you, you have to remain intensely focused on sons, songwriting, themes, all that goes into creating a song. John was one of those "true artists," meaning that he might write a couple songs in a given day. And then he'd never find his car keys. His brain worked in its own unique way, but it produced a body of songwriting that stands up against anybody's.

On the personal side, where John could be incredibly funny, onstage, for instance, and have wonderful interactions with the audience as a performer, he was, in fact, an introvert. He was more comfortable in a very small group, or a one-on-one with somebody, or in fact being alone. And that would, at times, create a challenge for him as a touring musician because your fans want to spend time with you and things like that, but it was just more exhausting for him than it might be for

someone else. And he's not alone amongst the famous musicians that I've been around. They can be really excellent at their craft, but at the same time, they might be quite private people.

But he and I, for some reason, developed a very trusting friendship, and I miss him so deeply because he was a fascinating person to talk to. He became a godfather to my daughter, and we just shared a lot of time together.

RRX: I listened to an interview you did with our own champ Rob Smittix, and you mentioned the Lone Star Café in New York, where you performed for people like Andy Warhol, Kurt Vonnegut, and, one one occasion, Johnny Cash and June Carter. Can you describe that atmosphere, and, of course, meeting Johnny and June?

CM: The Lone Star was a magical place. Before it became a music venue, it had been a Schrafft's restaurant, and it was laid out in a very long, rectangular footprint. And there was an upper balcony that- you never would've designed a music club and put it in that footprint. But that's what this became. And, like often happens with music venues, everything that was wrong about it ended up being what was right about it, in that there would be a row of people. The band was about four feet from the bar. So people entering had to walk in front of the little bandstand and down into the seating area, or have a seat at the bar, if there was one, which there usually wasn't come showtime, but despite all of that, it just became, for a number of years, kind of the place to go in New York.

There was always a great crowd. We often played Thursday through Sunday, we'd stay through Saturday, something like that; you'd get down there and set up, and be there for several nights. And the club drew its own crowd, and we started growing our own crowd on top of that, which was nice. And then New York being New

York, you never knew who was going to wander in. And people did wander in. We'd be setting up in the afternoon and it'd be Doc Pomus, singer-songwriter. Sitting there alone, kind of holding court. You could sit down and talk to the man. By showtime there would be Dennis Hopper. I remember getting into a very animated conversation with Robert Duvall, as to who is the greatest living American male country singer, Merle Haggard or Waylon Jennings. He was voting Haggard, I was voting Jennings. We declared it a toss up.

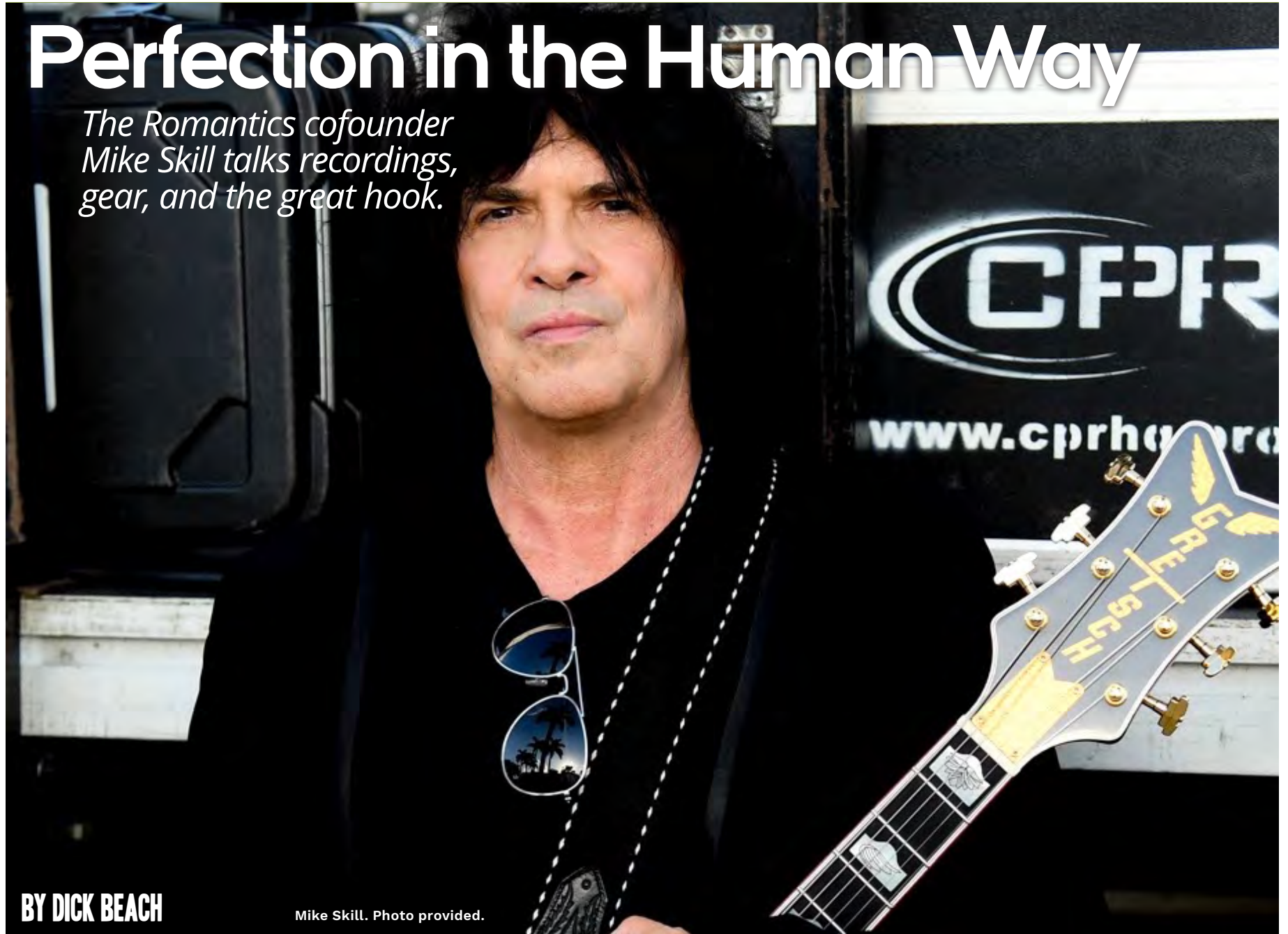
The Saturday Night Live crew, the original cast; Gilda Radner, Belushi, Ackroyd, Chevy Chase, they'd come down after their show on Saturday night and be ready to have fun. Literary figures; Kurt Vonnegut was not an infrequent guest. Andy Warhol was there a couple of times we played the venue.

Meeting Johnny Cash, that was a special thing. It's like meeting Abe Lincoln or something. He's a big man, he carries a highly dignified gravitas. He and June and Carline Carter Cash were seated at a table on the upper balcony, right at the edge of the balcony, right down on us. And I didn't really notice them at first, When we finished our set, my manager came over and said, "Johnny and June Cash are here. Come upstairs and meet them." I followed him up, and we approached their table, and Cash stands up and turns around and literally it was like meeting somebody from Mount Rushmore.

I told him what a pleasure it was to meet him, and then to his wife and daughter, and then he said, "You all sound really wonderful tonight, son." I thanked him for expressing that, and for coming, and after that, I didn't know what to do. I still get goosebumps when I relive that moment. And they stuck around for the rest of the second set, about two more hours, which I decided to take as a compliment, and that was that.

Perfection in the Human Way

The Romantics cofounder Mike Skill talks recordings, gear, and the great hook.



BY DICK BEACH

Mike Skill. Photo provided.

RRX: Mike Skill is one of the founders of The Romantics and has a brand new record coming out called “Skill... Mike Skill”

Mike: That’s right. I felt it was time to actually get my name out there and display what I’ve got. A lot of people call me “Skill” anyway.

RRX: And everybody calls me “Beach” so it’s okay.

MS: Or hey dummy!

RRX: (Laughs) I’d like to kind of

start at the very beginning of when you were doing music. As I understand it you had a band originally in Detroit called High Tide.

MS: Yeah, when I was about 16 years old.

RRX: Is there one thing about doing a gig at CBGB’s when you were a younger musician that really stuck out and made an impression.

MS: You probably know as well I do, CBGB’S was hailed high at the time

in magazines, *Rock Scene* magazine and a few other magazines coming out of New York. It was building up as a legendary place because poets were going there. So, we stuck it out and a lot of bands would do this... we continued to write and write and develop ourselves as writers. We were along those lines of that Detroit music energy. Like MC5, early, early Bob Segar when he was writing protest songs and The Stooges were one of our favorite bands.

RRX: I’ve got a big word on my notepad and it says hook. I’ve listened to Romantics records and I’ve run through your “Skill” at least a half a dozen times here and it’s like... you really do have a thing for how a hook works. Where did that come from?

MS: It’s leaving yourself open to the creative side. You have to really open yourself up and tighten yourself down from getting stuck. You don’t want to get stuck and notate from this

note to that note. It's really just from inside but it's also coming from hearing The Everly Brothers when I was a young kid, hearing Buddy Holly and getting into Motown too. When they went into a hook, the hooks that start the song are usually relative to the hooks that they sing in a song. When you leave a show, you want people to leave singing your songs to make it simple.

RRX: Let's get to sound and touch on Pearl Sound Studios. That appears to me to be one of the touchstones for people who really love recording what they do.

MS: Yeah exactly, that's profound. Yeah, that studio's been going on, he's been working in that studio since 13 years old. I grew up in Detroit, ten years old. My mom and dad wanted to get out of Buffalo because of all of the snow, they were probably 35 or 40 years old.

RRX: What about that studio is so... is it the room? Is it the people behind the console. What has changed? Has the sound changed in the studio since there is more digital than 2 inch tape?

MS: Well, you can use it all now but it's going to cost you plenty. Tapes are going to run you three, four, five hundred dollars, somewhere in that area. You're going to run two sets of tapes and have two sets of backup tapes. You're going to end up buying three to four rolls of tape. These days digital is getting so close and so good and if you take the time to do it properly, you'll have a great sound on digital. In my opinion, if you're so precise in watching your grid, using a click track all of the time and you're perfecting songs so perfectly, it's going to sound cold. No mistakes, you want to keep the human feel. If there's some form of... I don't want to say mistakes but...

RRX: Mistake is not the word I'd use.

MS: The human factor in it. You

don't want to take it out and make it so cold and tight that it's rigid.

RRX: It's like buying an Asian rug. When rugs are made, the artisans know they can do it perfectly but they always make certain that they have at least some kind of imperfection.

MS: Incredible.

RRX: I've seen in a number of photographs where you're playing a Fender, maybe a Gretsch, a Rickenbacker but the one thing behind it that you have made a pretty big thing out of is all that Vox gear.

MS: Yeah, the AC30 is one of the best amps other than Bassman, other than the Marshall 50 watt amp, the Marshall plexi panel amp. You use a Vox amp for the rhythm because you want that chime.. They're all tube amps. When I start, I'll layer with a Vox but I might bring a Marshall in there and I might use a high watt in there to embellish it. But yeah, the Vox is a big part of the sound

RRX: I'm going to ask a personal question before we get a little bit more into "Skill." You posted on Facebook the proudest thing I have seen anyone say about their garden.

MS: (Laughs)

RRX: I ask this because, let's face it, the last year and a half sucked rocks. So, was gardening something you've always done because you always liked it or during the pandemic did you and the family say "hey, let's have a victory garden?"

MS: Well, my dad was a really good cook, Italian cook, great food and we always had a garden when I was a kid. We just enjoy growing great tomatoes and making good spaghetti and pasta. Good sauce, fresh jalapenos for our salsa. Yeah so, it's something that we've always done.

RRX: This also goes back to the first Romantics record. Who the hell is Carrie? I will apologize if it happens to be a soft spot but... I'm like wait a minute. Wasn't there a "Tell it to Carrie" on

the first record and now there is "Carrie Got Married?"

MS: Right and I have another one that's gonna be hooked to that so...

RRX: It's a trilogy!

MS: I don't want to get too much into it but I've got another one that seems like it's going to fit into it.

RRX: I still do want to know who Carrie is....

MS: When we first started out Wally and this other guy were in a band called The Mutants were working at a magazine. They would go collect all of the magazines in the press stands and bring them back and then rip the covers off and then and then they get recycled or bought or they'd sell them. They had a lot of girly magazines, right? Not sure which one but a girly magazine had "Letters to Carrie" so it was one of those kind of things.

RRX: I look forward to the day that the third song is put together and what you do is turn it into the Carrie Suite.

MS: There you go. Well, yeah looks like it's gonna fit, I'm hoping it's gonna fit. I'm not necessarily going to use the title with Carrie but...

RRX: You never know. The other thing that jumped off the vinyl for me was "67' Riot."

MS: Ah, yeah.

RRX: We don't do politics, we don't do that. But I listened to it and a part of me wanted to ask first how did those riots affect you because that's a really powerful song and then secondly because I know people who have been in the movement and I recall the riots in Watts and everything else. How do you feel that song pulls forward to 2021?

MS: It's reflecting that not much has changed but actually the answer in that song... it tells you right in the song, you've got to dream your dreams and come together, got to get together. To me politics is in all art, even if you go back to Rembrandt. When you go back to all the French artists and all of that, they're drawing a person that's a

working class person that's on the farm, making their own living. In the street you'll see it, they show the working class, that's a political statement right there. Anyway, the song isn't necessarily good or bad... It's actually fueling what happened when I was 12 years old. When you had tanks, when you had Jeeps in the street with machine guns on them, when you had helicopters in the air. This is a white middle class neighborhood and right next door is a black neighborhood.

RRX: That's a really powerful statement.

MS: It's about coming together. So, let's say it this way, from then to now, it's getting better but not much has changed.

RRX: The last thing I do for an interview, and it's kind of a standard with me, I ask every artist, every person if you have a statement to make to the world, maybe those last words, the last thing you want people to remember about you or think about for the rest of the world. What would it be?

MS: Well, it's probably the same thing that we do naturally with my son, show them the arts, take the time to listen to the arts. I mean listen to what you're seeing in the arts and music and books, reading and poetry and the stuff around you, nature. I think that the most important thing that can bring us together is taking the time to hear the hum of the world and the music and the artists around you. That's the thing that keeps the musical cord, keeps the soul cord going in the world, on Earth, on the planet and the universe. Just taking the time to sit and listen to yourself and the things around you. I think that's what it is and we grow together from that.

RRX: Thus endeth the official interview



NYS Inspections, Computer Diagnostics,
 Brakes/Tires, Steering, Suspension, Lube,Oil
 and Filter, Differential Services and MORE!

A Mechanic You Can TRUST!

122 Ontario Street Cohoes

518-237-8170

PUTNAM PLACE

— BEATS IN THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN —

63a Putnam Street

Saratoga Springs, NY

Upcoming Shows

- | | |
|--|--|
| 10/28 - Seize Atlantis, Cait Devin, Terralite, Elis | 11/13 - Super 400 & Sly Fox & The Hustlers |
| 10/29 - The BrokenHearted (Tom Petty Tribute) | 11/19 - Blue Star Radiation |
| 10/30 - Start Making Sense (Talking Heads Tribute) | 11/24 - Let's Be Dead |
| 11/4 - Grammy-Award Winning Rebirth Brass Band w/ Hartley's Encore | 11/27 - David Gutter, MIRK, Angels on the Fourth |
| 11/5 - Dean Ford & The Beautiful Ones (A Tribute 2 Prince) | 12/2 - Moon Hooch w/ Consider the Source |
| 11/6 - Dogs In A Pile w/ Baked Shrimp | 12/3 - Haley Moley, Bendt, Erie |
| | 12/4 - The Wheel |
| | 12/17 - The Samples |

Mondays: Family Tree Jam Session

w/ Steve Candlen, Lori Friday, Kenny Holman, Chris Carey & Chad Ploss

For more info visit us at: www.putnamplace.com or call: (518) 886-9585

Fur-Ever Friends

INDOOR / OUTDOOR PLAY AREA

FUN!!

NO CAGING

NAIL TRIMMING

TRAINING CLASSES



GROOMING

FRIENDLY STAFF

DAYCARE CAMERAS

FUN!!

Doggie Daycare

Kenneling, Bathing & More



GIVE US A LIKE!

[FACEBOOK.COM/FUREVERFRIENDSDOGGIEDAYCARE](https://www.facebook.com/fureverfriendsdoggiedaycare)

FUREVERFRIENDSDOGGIEDAYCARE@GMAIL.COM

OUR TEAM OF TRAINED STAFF TAKE
 PRIDE IN PROVIDING AN
 INTERACTIVE, HANDS ON DAYCARE.
 WE OFFER LIVE WEBCAMS TO WATCH
 YOUR FUR-BABIES AS THEY PLAY.

FUR-EVERFRIENDSDOGGIEDAYCARE.COM

518-203-6211

151 SARATOGA ST, COHOES, NY



JAM for JOSH



Sunday,
November 22nd, 3-8pm

The Hangar · 675 River St. Troy

Soul Sky, Chris Busone Band,
Super 400, Soul Serenade
with special guests

Join us to remember Josh, enjoy some music and raise money for the Cholangiocarcinoma Cancer Foundation.

- 50/50 Raffle -

\$20 Min. Suggested Donation

To enter the venue, you will be required to show proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 along with a matching photo ID. No Exceptions.

If you can't attend, please consider making a donation to the foundation in Josh Bloomfield's name at <https://cholangiocarcinoma.org>



Jam for Josh 2 – Nov 22nd

Jam for Josh 2 – Nov 22nd



HUDSON RIVER MUSIC HALL
STRAND THEATRE
HUDSON FALLS, N.Y.
mystrandtheater.org (518) 832-3484
210 Main St. Hudson Falls, NY



THE TRUE AC/DC EXPERIENCE
BACK IN BLACK
A Tribute to Steely Dan
ROYAL SCAM
A Tribute to Steely Dan



11/1 LOBBY CONCERT: **THE LAZY SUNS** 7PM FREE
11/2 OPEN MIC 7PM
11/5 **BACK IN BLACK - AC/DC TRIBUTE** 8PM
11/6 **THE OLDIES SHOW** 7PM
11/7 **THE LINDA RONSTADT EXPERIENCE**
FEATURING AMERICAN IDOL FINALIST **TRISH MCINTOSH** 3PM
11/8 LOBBY CONCERT: **JAQUELIN MIGNOT** 7PM FREE
11/10 OPEN MIC 7PM
11/11 **LAKE GEORGE COMMUNITY BAND PATRIOTIC CONCERT** 7PM
11/12 **JIM GAUDET AND THE RAILROAD BOYS** 7:30PM
11/13 **MANTICORE - A TRIBUTE TO EMERSON, LAKE AND PALMER** 7:30PM
11/14 **WALTER TROUT - RESCHEDULED FROM 10/12** 3PM
11/15 **ALAN DUNHAM AND LIZ WINGE** 7PM
11/17 OPEN MIC 7PM
11/19 **BEE GEES SONGS - BEE GEES TRIBUTE** 7:30PM
11/20 **THE ROYAL SCAM - STEELY DAN TRIBUTE** 7:30PM
11/21 **GIOACCHINO LONGOBARDI, CLASSICAL PIANO** 3PM
11/22 LOBBY CONCERT: **KELLY AND SON** 7PM FREE
11/24 **THE PAT NOLAN MEMORIAL JAM** 7PM
11/26 **THE BROKENHEARTED - TOM PETTY TRIBUTE** 8PM
11/27 **THE STRAND THEATRE THANKSGIVING SPECTACULAR**
FEATURING **THE STRAND HOUSE BAND AND FRIENDS** 8PM
11/29 LOBBY CONCERT: **ROGER KAYE** 7PM FREE



Now Showing
Love
Soul X
to the
Capital Region
www.radioradiox.com



The **S. SAXON Co.**
Fine **Jewels**
1471 Rt.9 Ste.106
Halfmoon, NY 12065 (518) 630-5243 **BRAHMIN**



ssaxonfinejewels.com

leather handbags USA made



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS HOLIDAY SHOPPING



Beautique Salon

Hair and Makeup Services!
Open and Booking Appointments
Safe & Sanitary Atmosphere
Full and Part-time Booth Rentals Available
Gift Certificates Available

Come See Us!

(518) 383-3333

Crescent Commons
1471 Route 9, Clifton Park, NY 12065

Birch Baked **Gluten Free Bakery and Restaurant**

BIRCH BAKED
GLUTEN FREE

Gluten free baked goods
for your holidays and beyond

BIRCHBAKEDGF@GMAIL.COM
518-906-7229
203 RIVER ST. TROY

RAVENSWOOD
Restaurant & Pub

"You're always at home at The Wood"

ravenswoodpub.com

1021 Route 146 Clifton Park, NY 12065 (518) 371-8771

COLLAR CITY MUSHROOMS
TROY, N.Y.

Fresh Gourmet Mushrooms
Harvested Daily.
Salts, Seasonings, Teas
Mushroom Grow Supplies
and More!

Come Right In!
333 Second Ave
Troy, NY 12182
www.collarcitymushrooms.com
Facebook: Collar City Mushrooms
Instagram: collar_city_mushrooms

Inside the Mind of a College Newspaper Editor



BY NOLAN CLEARY

Nolan Cleary is the Editor-in-Chief for The Hudsonian at Hudson Valley Community College. He is interning at The Xperience.

There's a decent amount of pressure when it comes to running a newspaper. That pressure is extremely high when that newspaper has existed for 60 years.

Part of the responsibility for me as an Editor-in-Chief is to expand upon what made The Hudsonian work to begin with, while introducing new things to expand the legacy of the paper beyond the next 60 years.

One of the biggest challenges we face as an organization is change to the status. Before COVID-19, The Hudsonian ran on campus. Our staff worked in our office, and everyone showed up to our meetings in person.

That all changed after the COVID-19 pandemic began. New challenges to how we work meant we were blindsided. Our meetings turned into Zoom calls. Interest in our club dropped. For the beginning of the pandemic, we were severely understaffed.

Just because the world stops

however, doesn't mean the news does, so we were forced to resort to new ways of working. Articles became available only on our website for a time. For over a year, print copies of our paper were completely suspended.

As a vaccine for the virus became available, and as life started to go back to normal, print papers returned, and production has started to return to normal. We're working in person again. Our staff is almost completely full, and there's now more interest in our paper once again.

For many however, the experience of being in person still isn't as it used to be before the pandemic. Many students are still working remotely. Mask requirements remain in place for our college even despite a requirement that all students get vaccinated to be on campus for classes.

The newsroom is not as busy as it once was. The implication is clear; while this pandemic may be going away, it won't erase many of the changes to our everyday lives that it brought.

To counter this, we still must adapt a more digital environment which

seems to have become more popular since COVID-19 began. One popular outlet among listeners and readers of all ages is the podcast.

It seems today like everyone has one. For The Hudsonian, the idea of the podcast always seemed like a no brainer. For years, previous students and staff developed the idea of a podcast, an outlet inspired by popular hosts like Joe Rogan. The question was never if, but when. For years, the idea was continually kicked to the curb. Always entertained, but never brought to fruition.

In the Summer of 2020, when the pandemic continued to keep our everyday readers indoors, the time seemed right for a podcast to finally lift off the ground.

Finally, the decision was made, and a podcast was green lit. The Hud. is the official podcast for The Hudsonian. The podcast's goal is to more intimately capture the news and ideas of students on and off campus.

I started The Hud. last year, finally pulling the long drawn out idea off the ground. Since then, more students

have handled the series, like Samantha Simmons, a student whose interest in podcast sparked from her hosting The Hud. for a semester.

Sean Tedeschi, a marine who returned for college, also co-hosted the podcast for a time. Throughout that time, a number of prominent guests, like former HUD Secretary Mike Espy, have guest starred on the podcast. Today, Lomie Blum hosts the podcast.

"I definitely really enjoy working for the podcast. It kind of gives me some more freedom in some ways to talk to who I want to because, and I'm coming up with ideas for interviews and stuff like that. It's also a really cool way to explore different staff and students, and stuff going on on-campus," Lomie said.

For many students, their experience at the paper varies. Lomie told me her experience at The Hudsonian has been a positive one. "It's definitely given me the road map on how to write articles and interview people and format. Especially being the News Editor last semester. I felt really immersed in the process. It was very educational," Lo-

mie said.

Lomie previously went to school in New York City but moved to the Capital Region after COVID began. Lomie long had an interest in journalism. In high school she took a magazine class. When she was in high school, her great-grandmother was a reporter for the Indianapolis Star.

"I was definitely exposed to journalism growing up and being a punk kid growing up writing articles about the music scene growing for myself, but I only started working for an organized, traditional newspaper when I joined The Hudsonian," Lomie said.

Lomie said she joined The Hudsonian to gain more experiences and connections at Hudson Valley Community College.

"I joined The Hudsonian really to meet people and because I wanted to become a better writer, and I think its definitely done both of those things. I've met some great people on the team,

and my writing skills have definitely sharpened, my interviewing skills have definitely sharpened,"

Samee Mahmud copy edits every article for The Hudsonian. Her job involves proofreading grammar and spelling for the paper. Samee told me this is one of the first employment opportunities she had.

"It's been really good, really eye opening. I think this was my first job experience before working retail. It's been really good because it's given me some experience on how to talk to strangers, and it's good. When you apply for a position you can tell people 'oh, I know how to interview people,'" Samee said.

Samee said that The Hudsonian requires a system of students working together in order for the paper to be successful. "For school projects, like projects you have in class, you might have a partner, but it might be like one person does one thing. There might be some

imbalance there whereas there's a whole system. So, there are the Editors, and then there's the Copy Editor, then Layout, then Web. We really have to work with each other, and it's a lot easier, because there's a big staff," Samee said.

Our staff includes members of all ages, from younger students in high school, to older students who are returning from past semesters. Rachel Bornn, the advisor from The Hudsonian, has served in the position for well over 15 years.

The Hudsonian has also received a number of awards, placing third in a category of two-year college papers as recently as 2020. Hundreds of papers competed in the contest.

Throughout our many years of publication, many different guests have been featured in our paper. Congressman Lee Zeldin and Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard were interviewed for our paper, as was President Barack Obama,

future First Lady Jill Biden and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer among others.

Our paper also has a prominent list of alumnus. ABC news reporter John Gray is one of them, having previously served as Editor-in-Chief in the 1980s. Randy Hammond was another. Having handled the sports section during his time as a college student, Hammond now works as a correspondent for Spectrum News.

As The Hudsonian now celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2021, not only do I look back upon the accomplishments the paper previously added, but I look to the future as well, pondering the next ways to expand the publication past print.



WEBSTORES

ELITE
Apparel, Awards and Promotions

TEAM APPAREL

(518) 244-3677
ELITEAPPAREL77@GMAIL.COM

139 TROY SCHENECTADY RD. WATERVLIET, NY 12189
SCREENPRINTING, EMBROIDERY, TROPHIES, AWARDS,
SIGNS, BANNERS AND PROMOTIONAL ITEMS

SCREENPRINTING, CUSTOM APPAREL, TEAM UNIFORMS, TROPHIES & AWARDS, EMBROIDERY, WEBSTORES



f

Gift Certificates Available

CORCORAN'S
TOWPATH TAVERN

NEW HOURS
Monday through Thursday: Open @ 4pm
Friday: Noon Saturday: 4pm
Live Entertainment

11/2- Election Day Open Mic with Brian Kane 7pm
11/4- Frank Murray
11/11- Maurizio
11/18- Just Nate

Patio Seating - Takeout and Delivery Available.

33 Saratoga Ave, Waterford, NY 12188 • (518) 326 - 2739



SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESS HOLIDAY SHOPPING



A brewery devoted to the art of uniquely crafted beers. We are always proud to offer a wide-ranging beer menu.

90 Congress Street, Troy, NY
www.rareformbrewing.com



Hours
Mon - Sat
11am - 8pm

(518) 235-2323

787 & Dyke Ave, Cohoes, NY 12047

*Dear Santa,
I would love something Irish under the tree this year!*



The Counties of Ireland
"Not your typical Irish Shop!"
77 3rd St - Troy, NY 12180
518-687-0054
www.thecountiesofireland.com



Molly Malones Irish Shop
295 Canada Street
Lake George, NY 12845
518-668-3363
www.mollymalonesirishshop.com



TROY SHIRT CO.
CUSTOM PRINTING AND DESIGN

38 3RD ST
TROY NY



TROY CLOTH & PAPER
HANDCRAFTED ECO-FRIENDLY RETAIL STORE



Need a job? We're hiring! Email jobs@troyshirt.co

TEES HOODIES TOTE BAGS BANNERS KOOZIES
STICKERS MAGNETS POSTERS BUSINESS CARDS
GREETING CARDS WEDDING SIGNAGE & MORE!!

518 620 SHRT
sales@troyshirt.co

PERSONAL. PROFESSIONAL. LOCAL.

**THE EXPERT IN
HOME FINANCING**

**JEFF
DORRANCE**

Loan Officer NMLS# 1427884

C: (518) 414-6221

D: (518) 924-8003

O: (518) 924-8001 x506

JDorrance@premiummortgage.com



SCAN FOR MY DIGITAL
BUSINESS CARD!



935 New Loudon Rd, Suite 3A, Latham, NY 12110
NMLS# 1695490 | Licensed Mortgage Banker NYSDFS



Two Waterford Locations
35B Saratoga Ave 136 Third Street
Hours 6am - 5:30pm

We service children 6 weeks - 12 years

All health guidelines followed and enforced
for your child's safety.

(518) 326-4328 (518) 244-3815

Dark Tower Tattoo

darktowertattoo.com

Shop 518-203-7730 IG/FB @ Dark Tower Tattoo
332 Congress St. Troy, NY 12180

Spindle City Market

302 Ontario Street, Cohoes NY 518-237-8321

LOWEST TOBACCO PRICES IN COHOES!!!!



Rensselaer's Neighborhood Pub

JUNE'S
Restaurant

(518) 436-5863

501 East Street Rensselaer, New York 12144

Observations and Rambling from a Cranky Old Guy

BY JEFF SPAULDING

This is a completely true story. I call it a tale of redemption. It is not meant to teach, preach or reach.

It is simply a story of a long-time friend of mine.

It begins in 1974.

I'm a freshman in college in Ohio studying Broadcasting.

Among my new friends is a skinny, wise-ass punk from Jersey named Gary.

Gary was perfect for being in radio, he had what we called a "ten-pound nut" voice.

Gary was also a major music fan, with a wide variety of interests.

Gary introduced me to Springsteen.

(And this was before he was BRUCE!)

Gary introduced me to The Ramones.

Gary introduced me to Punk.

Gary, however, was not the first to introduce me to drugs, but he was a close second to my friends, the Damn Theater People.

College was my first experiment, by and large pot, although one night at a theater dorm party, we all did a bong laced with angel dust.

That night when I went to my room, I remember my black and white television became color and in 3-D, I also got major chills and became super paranoid.

To my knowledge, that was my only taste of something "harder."

Back to Gary.

Gary was among the first of us to actually get a paying job in radio, the

local AM/FM combo in town.

In 1977, Gary told me of a part time opening there, and with his help, I actually got myself a paying job in radio.

That summer, we roomed together in an apartment complex.

And hello drugs.

For me it was mostly harmless, just bong (angel dust free), but a LOT of them.

On occasion our school chum Ernie stopped by with some REALLY good hash, and not the corned beef variety either.

I think it was 1978 or 1979 when Gary moved to another radio station in the area.

In 1980, there was an opening at THAT station, and with Gary's help, I'm now at radio station number two.

I don't know for sure, but sometime between then and 1982, Gary got a big job in a major market in Ohio.

We kept in touch on occasion, but like everything else we went our separate ways.

Gary was red hot in some big Buckeye radio towns, and in time I made it back home to the Capital District.

Through the college grapevine, I knew of his success, but I knew there was a major monkey on his back that was slowly killing him.

Flashback to those first radio station days.

Every day on his way to work, Gary got a coffee from McDonald's, this is when their stirry things were little, tiny spoons.

Gary used the stirry thing for coffee, then found another use for the little, tiny spoon.

Somewhere in the last 20 odd years, I reconnected to Gary through social media.

Recently, I asked him some questions, in anticipation of writing this, like (1) How long have you been clean, (2) How bad did it get (3) What was your drug of choice (4) What made you stop and (5) Why did you change careers.

The following is in Gary's exact words.

"I've been clean and sober for 34 years.

Still go to a few AA meetings a week.

I bottomed out pretty bad.

Caught forging prescriptions for narcotics.

The felony was reduced to a misdemeanor because I completed a treatment program and aftercare.

I had no idea that I would wind up counseling.

I got out of radio after being sober for a year and took a job as an activity advisor for a rehab program.

One thing led to another, and I wound up back in college to get my

master's degree. Except for the first few months I haven't had a desire to drink or use.

I give all the credit to God and the AA program.

It also helps that I've been married for 24 years with a wonderful family."

Recently, Gary partially retired and is now living the life he probably has always wanted to live.

Again, there is no finger pointing to this story.

But as I write this, I can think of a few people in my inner circle who should use him as an example.

Out of all the people responsible for my broadcasting career, without Gary's help in the early years, I would have made a hell of a Walmart greeter.

Thank you so much my friend.

Be hearing you.

Marra
 Funeral Homes, Inc.
 Paul L. Marra

246 Remsen Street
 Cohoes, NY 12047

(518) 237-0206
 MarraFH@nycap.rr.com

 We support our local community & thank our community for their support! 



Open
Tues - Sun

Brunch
Sat-Sun
10am - 3pm

Gift certificates
available.

NIGHTHAWKS

100% Locally Sourced Farm to Table

Limited Seating Call for Reservations

461 BROADWAY, TROY, NY 12180 ○ (518) 272-1000
TAKE OUT & DELIVERY WWW.NIGHTHAWKSTROY.COM

GRETHEN-CAHRENGER MEMORIALS

"Our Family Serving Your Family" since 1907"

ON PREMISE ENGRAVING
CUSTOM ETCHINGS
MONUMENT CLEANING & REPAIR
CEMETERY LETTERING
BRONZE PLAQUES
CIVIC MEMORIALS

LARGEST DISPLAY IN THE NORTHEAST!

P: 518-235-3312 F: 518-237-0666
www.gcmemorials.com
grethen-cahrenger@verizon.net 

114th St. & 8th Ave., Troy (Lansingburgh), NY 12182



16 Beers and Cider on Tap

Award Winning Burgers and 2016 Wing Wars Winner

Forty*One
SPORTS BAR & GRILLE

41 112th Street, Troy
(518) 235-4141



CALLANAN est. 1883
INDUSTRIES, INC.
A CRH COMPANY

HOT MIX ASPHALT
CRUSHED AGGREGATE
READY MIXED CONCRETE
CONSTRUCTION PAVING SERVICES
ASPHALT EMULSIONS - TACK COAT

8 SOUTHWOODS BLVD.
ALBANY, NY 12211
518-374-2222

Customer Service:

ASPHALT & AGGREGATE 1-800-446-8649
READY MIX CONCRETE 1-888-473-9649

Corporate Office: PO Box 15097, Albany, NY 12212

www.callanan.com
 www.facebook.com/callananindustries



burritosquared.com

wizardburger.com

EAT CLEAN & PROSPER

Meet the guardians of goodness.

**BURRITO
BURRITO**

**WIZARD
BURGER**

Abandon hunger all ye who enter.

DOOF
NAGEV
TAE

The Sound of Life in the Air

Classical flutist Melanie Chirignan speaks of the vibrancy and variation hidden in the classical world.



BY LIAM SWEENEY

Melanie Chirignan. Photo provided.

Classical, in my opinion, is underrated, if you look at how much it has shaped our lives. I'm not talking about the history of classical, and its influence on modern music. No, that's too highbrow a topic for me. I'm talking about cartoons, and the pure amount of classical in them. And they used classical because classical music is the only type of music that could narrate what goes on in a cartoon. A coyote falling off a cliff isn't for

a guitar.

Melanie Chirignan is a classical flutist in the Capital Region. Her repertoire has been heard and performed in some of the most well-renowned halls in the country, and the world. We get a chance to talk to her about her craft.

RRX: Many people take classical instrument lessons when they grow up, few pursue it, and you have. And not only have you beat the odds, you're pretty much one of the people boosting

the odds for others. How do you think you were able to beat the odds and wind up with a classical career?

MC: Wow, thank you for the huge compliment. Well everyone that sticks with music at all has some talent, so that's not it. I treat it like a job because it is, and I persevered and practiced a lot for many, many years. Also, I really love chamber music. Concerts are the highlight of the month, so I make sure to keep scheduling things. When I find

a piece I want to play, I find the players, and create an event. I keep finding pieces I must play, and so it goes on.

RRX: You are a flutist, which for the uninitiated, means you play the flute. You also play piccolo and alto flute. I think many people, including our readers, might be hard-pressed to tell the difference between these based on sound alone. How would you describe the differences in these three instruments?

MC: The piccolo is smaller and requires much more precision than the flute. It's like it has a smaller bullseye, and the tiniest lip movement or change in air speed will be heard. It is an octave higher and can really sing out over an entire orchestra. It's small but mighty. The alto flute is much bigger than the flute. It has a more hollow, mellow sound than the flute. Many people like the alto flute best because they find the more diffuse tone pleasant. I like the flute best because of the bigger dynamic range (it can play louder and softer than alto flute) and I like it's richness, how it has more harmonics in the sound.

RRX: You've played in so many places, including, but certainly not limited to the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History, Albany Pro Musica, Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra, Troy Savings Bank Music Hall, and Proctors. If all the places you've played were in a life boat, it would sink. So describe one that has a special meaning to you.

MC: The Troy Savings Bank Music Hall is so acoustically perfect; it is literally awe-inspiring. The sensation is that the hall supports your sound and helps you play your best. This is why the hall has such an internationally known reputation. For me, I'm so thrilled to have a residency there with my wind quintet Quintocracy, and Jon Elbaum and the staff are so great to work with—those things help make it stand out as outstanding to me too.

RRX: We are used to covering the more rock 'n' roll side of things. And we do so because it's not just a music, it's a story. Insane tours, bar fights, egos left and right. But classical is different. It seems closed off, hermetically sealed from drama. Is it? Are there adventures that go beyond the movements? Is the community just organized differently?

MC: I think for me, I try to take life's drama's and use it to play as musically as possible. I remember after my

first heartbreak, my teacher told me to use those feelings to play, and we came back to Debussy's *Syrinx*. Unlike pop music, classical musicians strive to never play the same phrase exactly the same. We come up with variations constantly, and so I think being attuned to the nuances that are your human emotions helps your musical expression. That being said, there is of course drama. Look at *Mozart in the Jungle!* Luckily I got to be an extra in, and never experienced anything like that. Although we as classical musicians may look like we have it all together, my duo partner once forgot his pants—well his concert pants, he had jeans on.

RRX: The flute and the piccolo are woodwinds. Their drivers are breath. And unlike singing, which is basically simple to do but impossible to master, some feel that woodwinds are just impossible to do. And you're performing for an hour or more sometimes, which makes it harder. Is there a breathing technique that makes it easier?

MC: So you're correct that the flute is a tough instrument for air usage. It wastes the most air out of all the winds because there isn't a mouthpiece to blow into that is sealed. Air gets blown across and there is wasted air, unlike the clarinet, oboe, bassoon, or any brass instrument. However, you learn to be efficient with your embouchure (the shape of your mouth), and with your air. I think if you're used to practicing for a couple of hours a day, then you just get used to the breathing—you're trained for it and have that endurance built up. I think practicing yoga has helped me with body awareness and breathing. Since I'm small, I make sure my cardio game is strong, which also helps my flute playing. I remember my undergrad teacher telling me she started running a few months before having to play the Neilson concerto to build up her lung capacity.

RRX: You teach as an adjunct professor at Saint Rose, and privately. And

you teach all levels, from elementary school to conservatory level students. When I hear "conservatory" I think, are there named levels of learning? What does a conservatory student learn that's different from a student just below that level? Is it just gradual?

MC: A conservatory is different than a liberal arts education in that you're only learning music. My extraordinary high school flute teacher, Michelle LaPorte, convinced me that I should go for a liberal arts education so that I would be a more well-rounded person. The idea is that being well-rounded would be reflected in your artistry as a more engaged, fulfilled listening experience. I think she was right, but I did go to a conservatory for my master's degree to fine-tune my playing.

RRX: This is where you answer the question I didn't ask. Longest breath? Pied piper's type of flute? Educate, enlighten, emote – the floor is yours.

MC: We keep hearing that classical music is dying, but it's not. It's just being re-birthed in different, more creative ways. Groupmuse for instance, is an organization that facilitates people to have BYOB chamber music house concerts. It has launched and is thriving in many cities as well as internationally. Also, I think with more awareness, women composers and black composers that weren't previously published or brought into the classical canon are beginning to. So I think there's some great changes ahead.

If you want to catch some of my performances, find me at MelanieChirignan.org and subscribe to my mailing list.

Melanie Chirignan's website is www.melaniechirignan.org.



Melanie Chirignan. Photo provided.

Flavors of a One Horse Town

BY VEGAS NACY

I grew up in a one horse town. While just about everyone in that town was busy farming in some capacity, I was submerging myself in music. Now, there were no music stores or anything music related in this town, just the radio stations that came in. I would stay up so late to record shows that premiered new bands to cassette and bring my device into school to play for my sixth grade lunch class. Everyone would always look forward to it because they could never stay up late to hear the latest and greatest.

When I was eight I had a bigger record collection than most adults. Music was my life and I loved just about every genre out there. AC/DC, Frank Sinatra, Meatloaf, ELO, Johnny Cash, you get the idea. On the very first night MTV aired, me and a friend stayed up just

over 24 hours to take it all in, and several thousand hours after that. Before this I had no visions of all these bands, and the videos just pushed me overboard! I had to do this for a living! I had to get out of the one horse town in order for that to happen, which I did. Now, I've always loved heavy music and I really love playing it live because it's about the only genre that you can act like a total nut and look great on stage doing it. I guess the point of my story here is that people always just assume I'm a heavy singer and only listen to heavy music and that couldn't be farther from the truth. I just needed to get that off my chest as I sit here reflecting on how much good music I grew up on and how many other different projects I'd like to do. Anyway, thanks for listening



PEAK MUSIC STUDIOS GUITAR & SINGING LESSONS

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN LATHAM



BOOK A FREE VOCAL CONSULTATION

AT PEAKMUSICSTUDIOS.COM

518-786-7963

BECOME THE **SINGER** YOU'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE!

- WORK WITH A **BERKLEE-EDUCATED MASTER CERTIFIED VOICE COACH**
- DEVELOP YOUR SINGING CONFIDENCE
- TAKE THE GUESSWORK OUT OF WHAT TO PRACTICE
- WEEKLY PRACTICE PLANS INCLUDED



COLLARCITYGUITARS.COM



COLLAR CITY GUITARS
199 4TH STREET
TROY, NY

--- BUY --- SELL --- TRADE --- REPAIRS --- CONSIGNMENT SALES ---

VIBES
TANNING SALON
www.vibestanning.com
43 Lower Hudson Ave Green Island, NY 12183
Village Plaza, Green Island
Exit 8 Off I-787
(518) 687-0009

Village Plaza, Green Island

VIBES
TANNING SALON 518.687.0009

One Month -UV Tanning Level 4
\$49.99 + Tax -Spray Tanning Level 2
-Red Light Therapy

www.vibestanning.com Offer Expires 1/31/2022



HEAVEN & EARTH
CRYSTALS, GIFTS, & MORE.

**YOUR PLACE FOR PEACE.
HEALING. & ABUNDANCE**

1505 ROUTE 9
CLIFTON PARK, NY 12065
(518) 350-9922
www.heavenandearthgiftshoppe.com

WHAT YOU'LL FIND AT HEAVEN & EARTH

- Fossils/Minerals
- Raw & tumbled crystals
- Herkimer diamonds
- Items made by local Artisans
- One-of-a-kind jewelry
- Candles & essential oils
- Fair Trade products
- Tea from direct growers
- Reiki and IET Master Instructor
- Intuitive Medium
- Workshops



Family Tree

Celebrating the ties that bind the local music scene



BY AMY MODESTI

FPhoto by Amy Modesti

You got your family that you were born into, and you got your family that you choose. And that second family, you're drawn to through chemistry." – Lori Friday –

Our music community is intertwined, ever grown. Musicians meeting for the first time at music jams, concerts, or music stores grow as branches extending into the sky. Their love of music, performance, and chemistry they feed off each other on and off stage is electric. With the growth of branches come colorful leaves and the

beautiful friendships/partnerships that blossom just from the power of music and common interests.

Chris Carey, Steve Candlen, Lori Friday, Kenny Hohman, and Chad Ploss are the leaves that make up "Family Tree"! Happening every Monday evening at Putnam Place, these fine musicians deliver some of the best jams to Saratoga Springs. Included within that crowd are friends of "Family Tree" who are invited exclusively to perform on stage with them within each seamless set. Event attendees are encouraged to

leave a tip in the bongo drum to keep the love of live music alive.

Monday, August 30, 2021, I made the trek to Putnam Place to speak to my friends about "Family Tree" and how it evolved from its days in Albany, Troy, and now, Saratoga Springs.

RRX: How did you all team up together to form "Family Tree"? How did you become friends & why is it with this combination of people that are involved with "Family Tree"?

SC: The names of the guys that were in the original part of this thing

were George Moscatiello & Ryan Lucas, & then we had a little group that was the "Family Tree" that was also called Fund the Mentals, and that featured Dez, Daniel Hulbert. (This incarnation of Family Tree was active in the early 2000's, with Steve on Drums, Lori on Bass, and Kenny on Guitar, backing up improvisational rap battles at the El Dorado in Troy, NY.)

LF: Steve introduced Kenny & I to one another 26 years ago, which is a funny story for another time! We have played in our band Super 400 for 25

years and have met countless great players along the journey. Kenny is a player & singer with incredible skill, and I have been utterly blessed to play alongside him. Steve is a fantastic musician, both as an amazing drummer & singer/songwriter. I met Chad many years ago, he is always on top of what is happening on stage & as a bass player, I love carving out new feels and grooves with him every week. Both drummers are so much fun to play with because they have supreme feels as well as the willingness to listen and shape their sound around what is happening with the music, moment to moment. I met Chris when he worked at Parkway Music, and always admired his great enthusiasm & musical skill. He is a blast to play with—he is up for anything and brings a lot of depth & joy to the jams. This combination of players covers a vast array of styles & backgrounds. When we got together the first time, the chemistry was fun and there seemed to be a bottomless treasure trove of musical ideas.

RRX: How do you choose the songs for each week?

KH: Text threads, maybe like Chris says, ‘Hey you know, I like this artist, I’d like to sing this song.’

RRX: What’s been your favorite “Family Tree” that you had both here and at the Ale House?

KH: Tonight. Every one we do I feel like, ‘Yeah that one was the most fun,’ and then we do one next week and then I feel like, ‘Ah this one is the most fun,’ I had the most fun myself tonight. There’s so much good stuff going on and any one of us can completely stop playing at any time. And I do it often. I’ll just stop and listen to the band and it’s just fun.

RRX: No. Even just being out in the audience tonight. I’m watching it as you were and just taking it all in, and how you were interacting with George, or how Chris and you were playing the guitar for certain parts.

KH: Yeah?!

RRX: And with everybody just meshing, the transitions among each of the players was seamless tonight.

KH: And Steve comes out of the drums and plays the guitar and sings and Chris can play any of the instruments on stage and sing and everybody sings lead at different times.

LF: That is something. That is the essence of what we are. It’s a shared feeling, a shared thing, and it’s moment to moment.

SC: Hence the name.

KH: Anybody can lead at anytime and everybody supports each other, that’s how it is.

CP: You wanna hear something cool too? When Steve said, ‘How about “Family Tree” for the name?’ I’m like ‘awesome!’ My aunt, who recently passed away, when he mentioned it, had a store near Speculator that was called “The Family Tree”. So, I was like, ‘Yep, that’s it!’

RRX: Awe, that’s cool!

LF: That is really nice.

RRX: And everybody is connected musically and not blood-related within this musical circle that you have going on.

LF: Well, you got your family that you were born in to and you got your family that you choose.

CP: Correct

LF: And that second family, you’re drawn to through chemistry.

SC: An extended family with those few people that have played with us.

KH: And those who have common interests. Yeah.

SC: Dustin Deluke has played keyboards a couple times with us. Who are the other guys that we mentioned?

CC: Chris Kyle.

SC: Frank Daley, Joe Mele.

KH: Tony Perrino, Chuck Lamb, Andrew Lynch, Drew Costa

SC: And the other drummers, Dicky Ogden, Leo Kachidurian.

CC: Mark Foster

KH: Joe Daley of course.

RRX: So “Family Tree” originated in Albany? Then it settled in Troy & now Saratoga?

SC: And now it’s heading for the world.

CC: It literally encompasses the Capital Region. I don’t think there’s a place where we wouldn’t play right? I mean the Ale House is the size of this room so. (The Green room where the interview was held)

RRX: Yeah true.

KH: The Ale House is a magical place. It sounds great cause it’s all wood, its old wood, it just sounds real good in there.

CC: If we do The Hangar, just set the stage up in there.

RRX: Yeah, that’s a great idea!

LF: Yeah, we need to.

SC: And (Putnam Place), they’re very supportive of the band. Extremely. We owe a lot to these guys.

KH: They have the stage, the lights, the PA, and everything already so we don’t have to load it all in every time we play.

CP: Yep

CC: And they commit to us on Mondays which are not a historically slamming night.

SC: That was just because I’m thinking that everyone would be off their gigs.

CC: I’m so glad to do it cause otherwise I am just like, I would be working, just screwing around BBQ Ing or whatever on Monday.

RRX: I love it. Or watching TV at night.

RRX: And the Putnam Place jams are held weekly from 7-10 pm correct? Where can music fans go to check out the photos/videos from the jam on social media?

LF: Weekly from 7-10, yes. Anyone can join the Facebook group “Family Tree”. There are lots of videos on the page, and people can get the information on where we’re playing next.

RRX: Who is invited to sit in at the Family Tree?

LF: The Family Tree is a pro jam. The players that sit in with us are professional musicians in our extended ‘Family’ in Upstate New York. It’s an opportunity for us to make music with people in the community who we normally would not have the chance to play with. So many times, we said, ‘let’s get together and play some tunes’ but it never happens, because we’re all gigging all the time, & life gets in the way. But Family Tree opens that door and we’re able to make that musical connection. In turn, we share that music with the audience. The people who come to listen each week are amazing—so supportive of what we do. They give us loving energy & are a big part of the show!

Some folks have come to The Family Tree, thinking it is an open mic jam. There are lots of great open mics around the Capital District, but this is a different scene. If you aren’t a professional player, we welcome you to come & listen, and enjoy a great night of friends and music. It’s a very inclusive scene & the club is very welcoming and friendly.

CC: I’d love to emphasize Don, Sly, Nick, and Kayla here (at Putnam Place), how good they are to us.

SC: And the Ale House? Brian, Molly, and Booie. And we’re looking forward to the future anyway. This is just the beginning.

RRX: Exactly!

SC: And we would like to thank Amy.

RRX: You’re welcome! Thank you, guys, for having me be a part of “Family Tree”. I love being included in stuff like this because we’re all family.

SC: Yeah, hence the title.



LOST & FOUND
BAR & KITCHEN

Hours
Thurs: 4pm til Midnight
Fri & Sat: 4pm-2am
Sunday: 11am open

Kitchen Hours
Thurs-Sat: 4pm-9pm
Sun: 11am-3pm



11/6- Brass Machine -10pm
11/12- grown and sexy w/ Ty Boogie -10 pm
11/13- The Lousy Sloghters -10 pm
11/19- Code Groove -9pm
11/20-Molly Durnin CD Release Party- 10pm
11/26- Black Friday Bash w/ Maine Event

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Nerd Beer and Dope Food, for Reals

518-694-0670 LOSTANDFOUNDALBANY.COM

942 Broadway Albany, NY 12207



WATERVLIET'S ONLY IRISH PUB!

OPEN

Tues - Wed: 3PM - 10PM
Thurs - Fri: 3PM - 11PM
Sat: 12PM - 11PM

EAT IN/TAKE OUT

606 3RD AVENUE
WATERVLIET, NY
(518) 238-3687

11/18 Guinness Event

11/15 Open Mic with Brian Kane

Takeout

Great Beer List and Large Selection of We have the Spirits **Pat's Open!**

Gift Certificates Available

Kitchen closes at 8:30pm each night

PREMIUM CIGARS

• ROLL YOUR OWN • VAPE • PIPES •



1645 CENTRAL AVE
ALBANY NY 12205
518•690•2222

528 NORTH GREENBUSH RD
RENSSELAER, NY 12144
518•238•3781



f - HabanaPremiumCigarShoppe

@HabanaPremium



Featuring over 28 DOORS designated to cold crafts, ciders, imports and domestics.

Easy bottle return - all brands and no limits with precounts and drop and go service.

35 Saratoga Ave A, Waterford, NY 12188

7 Southside Dr Clifton Park



(518) 933-6688
518donuts.com



Open 7am-7pm Daily

Gluten free, vegetarian and vegan options
always available.

Take out and
Dine in

Quesadillas, tacos, bowls,
soups and more!!!



Delivery through
Grubhub & Mealeo

MUDDADDY
FLATS QUESADILLARY

EAT IN TAKE OUT DELIVERY

49 3rd Street, Troy, NY 12180
(518) 326-0630