



Xperience

RADIORADIOX.COM
LISTEN LIVE!

February 2024
Vol. 6, Issue 2

22 Justin Willman

His show, "Magic for Humans" is on Netflix.

3 Roxy Petrucci

The only original member of Vixen covers what's new.

26 FourPlay String Quartet

Lara Goodridge of the Quartet talks about their collaboration with author Neil Gaiman.

FREE



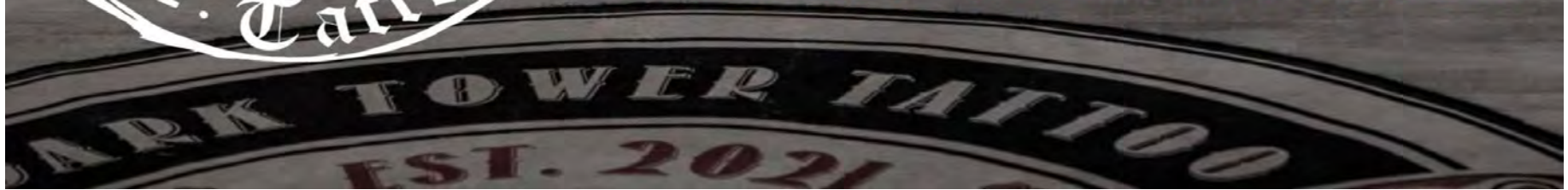
A R T M U S I C C U L T U R E

Walk-ins
Piercings
Jewelry
Merch

518-203-7730



Open 11am-6pm daily
www.darktowertattoo.com





RRX: What I thought was cool was when you hit me up, I was watching your latest video that you put out not even just a few months ago “Red.”

RP: Yeah, we had a blast making that too.

RRX: Now, the coolest part I think for me is... I know a lot of heritage bands from that era are doing tours but you don't really see a lot of them putting out new music, but you still are. And that's pretty amazing.

RP: Well, you know what? We were just ready to do something new and to get Lorraine Lewis's voice onto something. She's got a great voice and a great stage presence. We were talking about doing a single. We were writing as a band and Fred Coury had the song “Red” and said, you know... I think this would be perfect for you girls. We gave it a listen and we said, oh, hell yeah!

Obviously, we don't have Janet, Jan or Share. But I think the spirit of Vixen is still in there. You know? I wanna keep true to the Vixen sound as much as possible. I think Britt Lightning is doing a great job on guitar, she adds her own

little flavor in there. But she does a great capturing Jan's essence on all the songs. Because it's important to keep that Vixen sound, we were all about the big choruses and the hooky riffs and I think “Red” has that.

RRX: I couldn't agree with you more. It sure does. That's phenomenal. It's so funny to me, just growing up as a kid in the eighties in the MTV era, when it really mattered. I say, within the last year I got to talk to a few of my early crushes from when I was growing up, I interviewed Tiffany...

RP: Very cool.

RRX: And now I've got you on the phone. So, yeah, you were definitely a heart-throb to many of us back in the day.

RP: That's awesome. I love hearing that. Well, you know? I'm still trying, I'm still out there banging away. I mean, I don't have any intention of quitting, not until I can't play anymore. Which, who knows? I don't know. But I think that's what's keeping me in shape is playing drums.

RRX: Sure. Absolutely. You're owning it. And I think you've got decades left

to rock out.

RP: Oh, I love that. Yeah, I'm going with that, Decades! I know we'll bring it, it will be 1980 again.

RRX: Yes!

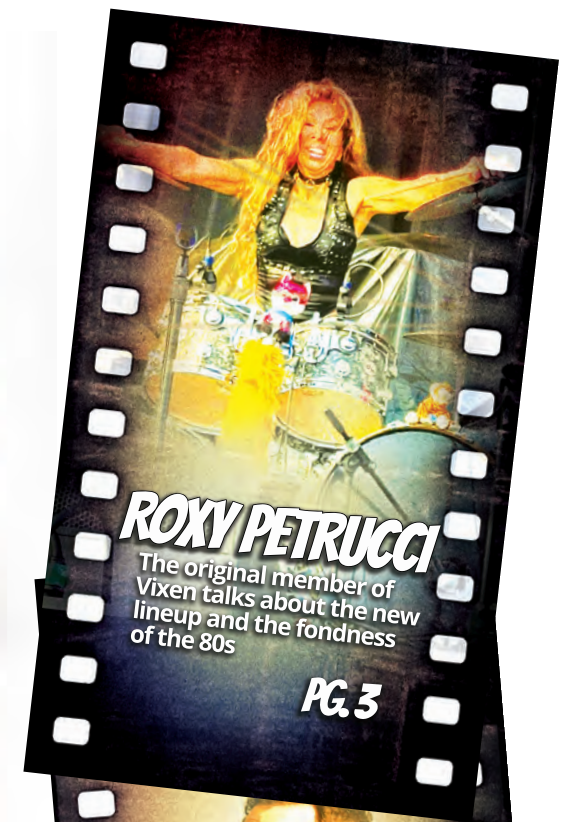
RP: Maybe I'll do my hair up real high.

RRX: So... what are people to expect from a Vixen show in 2024?

RP: Oh, you're in for a treat! If you're watching our videos you're gonna see these girls are all over the stage. There's so much energy now with Julia Lage on bass. Julia and Britt, they're the younger ones in the band and they brought a certain energy that keeps us on our toes. They bring new life and we're having a lot of fun with each other. Everybody gets along great. We're all eighties girls at heart.

We are genuinely enjoying ourselves, loving the music, loving the fans and Lorraine actually includes the fans in a few of our songs; you will be singing with us!

RRX: Cool. Yeah, another thing is that the eighties really have been making





Art Fredette
Publisher

Rob Smittix
Associate Editor
Advertising Design

Liam Sweeny
Editor
Creative Director

Dick Beach
Staff Geek

Team Members

Ed Conway
John Brierly
Kathy Conway
OP Callaghan
Peggy Smulsky
Stephanie J. Bartik
Timothy Reidy
Mike Patrick
Vito Ciccarella
Tim McDonough
Jim Barrett
John Brierly
Joe Barna
Jordan Lanegan
Mike Stampalia
Wiz Hoffa
Seth Casale
Jessie Whitney
Josh Reedy
Sonny Speed

Contact

70 Remsen Street
Cohoes, NY 12047
(518) 326-1673

info@radiatoradiox.com

Published by Imperial Broadcasting
in conjunction with
Radiatoradiox.com.



Roxy Petrucci. Photo provided.

CONTENTS

- 3** ♡ **ROXY PETRUCCI DRUMMER FOR VIXEN**
- 8** ♡ **VEGAS NACY PRECIOUS SOULS**
- 12** ♡ **LUCID STREET AREA BAND**
- 16** ♡ **MIKE GROSSHANDLER NEW PROJECT**
- 22** ♡ **JUSTIN WILLMAN MAGICIAN**
- 26** ♡ **FOURPLAY QUARTET COLLAB WITH NEIL GAIMAN**
- 32** ♡ **STRAIGHT JACKET LOCAL HARDCORE**
- 36** ♡ **P. GUTTER ALBANY RAP**
- 38** ♡ **ANGELINA VALENTE SINGER/SONGWRITER**
- 42** ♡ **HOLLYW8D MORE MUSIC, LESS VIOLENCE**

a comeback right now. I know it's normal, things do kind of cycle back but the eighties are big. I wish acid washed jeans would make a come back.

RP: Pull them out of the closet, I'm sure you still have a pair.

RRX: Yeah, yeah, I don't know if I could fit into those anymore, being I am a grandfather now.

RP: Oh, the tighter the better. Back then anyway.

RRX: That's right. Yeah, speaking of being a grandfather, my son and his wife are actually at the hospital right now, she might be having this baby today!

RP: Oh my God. Congratulations.

RRX: Thank you. Yeah. Gonna be a grandfather times two now.

RP: Oh, my God! A hip grandfather. It's like the coolest thing ever!

RRX: My grandson (RJ) now is almost two years old. I bring him into the radio station here all the time and I let

him co-host with me.

RP: What's his favorite music?

RRX: I got him into Bob Marley type stuff. He's, half, Haitian. But honestly, I'm not very familiar with Haitian music, so I figured I'd just bring him into some Caribbean music.

RP: That's awesome music is universal. Everybody loves music.

RRX: I also know that his mom (my daughter) doesn't really have the best taste in music, so I'm trying to make sure he gets a little bit of it in his life.

RP: Well, you're doing a good job then, you bring him to the radio station. That's awesome.

RRX: I also look at these kids now and the music that's being put out there. I mean, Taylor Swift is like the New Beatles.

RP: The biggest thing on the planet, right?

RRX: She is. But then we have this great, successful up and coming musician from this area, Moriah Formica

who is kind of doing like an eighties style kind of thing since a very early age.

RP: Oh yes I've seen her, she's a great singer! She actually posted a video singing "Edge of a Broken Heart." Interesting that you say that because when we tour and do meet and greets after our shows... we'll meet people, sign autographs and all that good stuff. There's a lot of younger girls and boys, not just people my age and it runs the gamut. People bringing their kids that love eighties rock. These younger kids are into it, their parents are turning them on to it. Just introduce this music to them, there's something about it, they listen to it and go, wow! That's cool, I like it. How could you not? I mean, these choruses, those eighties choruses, they're so addictive. You know? You can't help but sing it?

RRX: And dance!

RP: And head bang! It's about the groove. So I'm not surprised that Moriah has kind of got that eighties thing

going because it seems like they're gravitating towards that right now.

I love the idea of that. I think that's great. A lot of girls and guys say that Vixen has an influence on them, which is great! They're young kids. So, we love hearing about it, that just makes it all more worthwhile.

RRX: Is there anything else you would like your fans to know?

RP: Just come check us out on social media, when we come to your town, come see us play. You're gonna have a great time, we'll definitely include you into our show. It's gonna feel like one big party as David Lee Roth once said "it's one big party and you're all invited." We love our fans.

RRX: I really appreciate your time.

RP: It was great talking with you and congratulations on the grand baby!

PS: As soon as we hung up, I got the call that my granddaughter Iris was born!



ALBANY ROCK PIT
 LESSONS & PERFORMANCE
 albanyrockpit.com
 (518) 608-5883
 9 Norman Drive Albany, NY

Free Jam Fridays- open to school age kids for FREE
Every first Friday of the month 6-8pm

NOW ENROLLING FOR ADULT PERFORMANCE 18+ SESSIONS: **TUESDAY EVENINGS 8-10pm**

"Pursue you dreams in music"

Here at the Albany Rock Pit we offer four different age groups for lessons and performance. Each program teaches team building and community through live performance.
 (We begin accepting mini rockers at age 5)

If you always wanted to be in a band here's a chance to play!

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



The Big Burger Deal
Mon, Tue & Wed

Gift Certificates
Available

Open
7 Days

Brunch
Sat-Sun
10am-3pm

NIGHTHAWKS

100% Locally Sourced Farm to Table

Call for reservations or go online

461 Broadway Troy, NY 12180 (518) 272-1000
Take Out & Delivery www.nighthawkstroy.com

"Get Clean While Going Green!"

Reduce waste refill store
offering eco conscious personal
care and household products



Matt's Refillery
SMALL CHANGES CREATE BIG IMPACT

Tuesday-Friday 10am-6pm
Saturday 9am-6pm

Instagram: @ Matts Refillery
facebook.com/mattsrefillery (518) 953-0107
199 River Street Troy, NY 12180

7 OLD STONEBREAK RD.
SUITE #3
MALTA, NY 12020 (315) 663-8846



**LIFE'S GREAT
HOT TUB COMPANY**

**The Most AFFORDABLE
HOT TUBS & SWIM SPAS IN THE ENTIRE
NORTHEAST**

LIFESGREATSPAS.COM

jo's

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

Joint

a high-standing
establishment.

Food
Drinks
Live Music
Football

Trivia Tuesdays - 7pm / Bar Bingo Wednesdays - 7pm



221 4th Street Troy, NY (518) 326-2042

**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




**COLLAR CITY
TATTOO**

631 RIVER ST. TROY, NY
518.326.3797

CAFFÉ LENA

RECHARGE

With Live Music

NIGHTLY CONCERTS | IN-PERSON & ONLINE
47 Phila St. Saratoga Springs | www.caffelena.org | 518-583-0022

"TROY NEW YORK'S HIDDEN VENUE"

THE HANGAR

TROY, NY ON THE HUDSON

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

February 25 - RECORD RELEASE SHOW!
Brule County Bad Boys

3/14: PETER CASE -8pm
Triple Grammy-nominated
singer-songwriter
of The Nerves and The Plimsouls

Olde Judge Mansion

BED AND BREAKFAST

oldejudgetmansion.com
To book your room, please phone
(518) 331-3945

Discounted Long-Term/Temporary Stays
Free Off-Street Parking
Breakfast Included
Courtesy Wifi & TV
Private or Shared Bathrooms
3300 Sixth Avenue Troy, NY 12180

Flexible Rates / Uncompromised Quality
Now Booking for 2024

Award Winning NY Rockstar Photographer Stephanie J. Bartik
Published in Guitar World Magazine

NY ROCKSTAR PHOTOGRAPHER **Live Event Photography**

Band Photoshoots
Stephanie J. Bartik

Call: 518-722-FOTO Proud Sponsor of The Extreme Music Awards!
Email: steph@nyrockstarphotographer.com
Website: www.nyrockstarphotographer.com

Ale House

Troy, NY

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



RRX: So, yeah, I've been meaning to talk to you about this and I think now is the perfect time. You started an organization, Precious Souls. Tell us about it.

VN:. Yeah. Since my twenties, I just really had this overwhelming urge to try and do something for abused kids, sick kids... that kind of thing. When it really hit me was once I had my son. I had my own child and realized just how precious he was. That's when it really kicked into gear. But with me and my over active brain, I always have 100 things up there. Like this is a great idea. Do this, do that, do this. I get scattered, you know? My wife really helped hone this in and say, look, let's get this started. So, yeah, precious souls was born.

RRX: That's awesome. I mean,

who wouldn't wanna get behind a cause like this? It seems to be the one to get behind. And all the donations and everything are always gonna go towards it. Right? I mean, you don't know what you're getting with charities.

VN: 100% And that's the thing with me... I wanna be absolutely 100% transparent. I'm working on getting a brick and mortar spot for these kids so that they can come in and maybe learn an instrument from a musician or learn a sport from an athlete, maybe offer therapy, you know? That kind of thing. And really, when I was a kid, teen centers were a big thing.

RRX: Sure. I was just thinking that.

VN: They worked wonders and it's like, I don't know what happened. They

all fizzled out and social media took over. That seems to be everyone's therapist, which is not a great idea.

RRX: No, clearly not. You're right. I look at the little town my Mom lives in (Ravena). I got transferred out there after dealing with the tough Albany schools. But that's another story. When I went to Ravena, there's nothing in the town. They had a bowling alley, which can be a place for kids to go. But they also had a teen center. They had a place for us kids to go. Ravena right now, has no bowling alley. They've got no teen center. What are kids to do in a little boring ass town like that? But find themselves in some trouble.

VN: Correct. 100%, especially if they don't feel any love at home. This goes deeper than a parent blatantly abusing the child. There are the

parents these days working two jobs, two parents working two jobs. It's like, well, go home and make your own dinner or babysit yourself. I've been reading stats every day here and I'm getting myself crazy. It's parents are going straight to murdering their Children. If you look at the stories these days.

RRX: Oh my God. I just don't get it. And honestly, I mean, I'm one of those people, if there's a big story about child abuse or neglect or something like that in the news, especially locally when it really hits home in the community; I'll be the first to admit, I'm the one that I doesn't wanna hear it. I won't read it. I won't look at it. I turn the news off because it hurts. It's depressing and it's disgusting. I know it's out there I'm well aware. But yeah, I try to avoid it. I don't know if that's the right thing to

do, but I just try to tune it out.

VN: Well, I think that's the idea behind Precious Souls too. Stop ignoring, looking away or diverting. We're gonna bring it to light and together as a community. With guys like you, I mean, I could make a list right now of people that have just... I get goosebumps thinking about how much support I have. It's absolutely amazing.

RRX: Well, this is all pretty fresh, right?

VN: Just getting the ball rolling. Obviously to do it right, you've gotta have a 501C3 for taxes and a non profit. So each day I just learn a little more and I reach out to other nonprofits that are successful, especially in this particular field. I don't want this to fail and I don't see how it could fail because everyone's just so supportive.

I started this by taking some sneakers and getting them autographed from bands and that was the coolest. Getting support from the music scene all over the country when I get these things signed up. These musicians are like, whatever else we can do just let us know.

So, the music side of it goes hand in hand, a lot of them started into music because they didn't have anything at home, et cetera.

RRX: Sure.

VN: Those connections. That's putting me a step ahead,

RRX: I mean you're known in the community. I knew who you were before we knew each other because of the music.

VN: I've always been out there again with my over active brain. I'm always out there doing something and it never was for attention. I have a passion, you know? I'm a passionate person and boy, now as I'm older and I'm more focused. This nonprofit is really something music game. These are international acts, these are well known bands.

I'm excited about.

RRX: Just circling back to the autographed sneakers So our readers understand. I've seen pictures of Converse and then you would go to a show or something or you'd meet up with somebody, how'd that work? And who did you get autographs from so far?

VN: So far, I've got sneakers from Pantera. Obviously it's sad that it's not the original line up but it's Phil and Rex and the other two guys that did some artwork on there. I have sneakers from Murphy's Law., Agnostic Front, Ginger, Coal Chamber who's reunited, Non point...

RRX: In this moment, I think right?

VN: Yes, they're friends. I got a guitar signed from them and sneakers.

RRX: Wow! These are big dogs in the music world, these are international acts, these are well known bands!

VN: I'd love to have maiden shoes and the biggest of the big, you know? And not just in the heavy side of things. Everybody, anyone that's in the music scene or movie scene.

RRX: Why not? And when you get these shoes autographed or a little artwork on a guitar then what happens?

VN: So the thing is to set up as an eBay store and we'll auction these off. Obviously that money goes directly into the charity.

RRX: . I mean, how could any sane, rational person not get behind this?

VN: Yeah, that's how I feel, in the beginning I was like... especially coming from a band that's toured and stuff before, where I just would be like, oh, I don't wanna bother them. They just got off stage. But... then my wife said, do you realize what your cause is for? If you go up to one of these performers how could they say no? Local bands are coming and they're donating their merch too. So props to the local community as well.

<https://www.facebook.com/precioussoulsusa>



KEEP CALM AND HIRE A MARKETING CONSULTANT

518-**kiR-ated**  www.kirated.co



NEW YORK
STATE OF
OPPORTUNITY

Certified
Women-Owned
Business Enterprise



R B RUSTIC BARN PUB

ONE OF THE AREA'S BEST OPEN MICs EVERY THURSDAY - 6pm

Calendar

- 2/1: Open Mic Night 8pm
- 2/2: Dead Man's Waltz 8pm
- 2/3: The Hawthornes 8pm
- 2/8: Open Mic Night 8pm
- 2/9: Tame The Rooster 8pm
- 2/10: Mix Tape Revival 8pm
- 2/11: Super Bowl Sunday Party
- 2/15: pen Mic Night 8pm
- 2/16: Brian Kane & The Beginning 8pm
- 2/17: Playin' with Fire Band 8pm
- 2/18: Bluegrass Jam (moved to 3rd Sun. this month)
- 2/22: Open Mic Night 8pm
- 2/23: Arukah!! 8pm
- 2/24: Harmonic Duo 7pm
- 2/29: Leap Day Open Mic Celebration!!

OPEN FOR DINE-IN, TAKE OUT AND DELIVERY
rusticbarnpub.com
150 SPEIGLETOWN RD TROY, NY 12182 (518) 235-5858



**Port of Call
Consignments**

f 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



**Sound
House
Records**

New & Used Vinyl, CDs, Cassettes
Buy • Sell • Trade
52 King St. Troy, NY 518.621.3496

byeibrewing.com




**BYE-i
Brewing**

<EST. 2019>
Thurs: 4pm-10pm
Fri: 4pm-11pm
Sat: Noon-11pm
Sun: Noon-6pm

"Good People, Great Times, Amazing Beer."
122 Remsen Street Cohoes, NY (518) 244-3924

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



**16 Beers and
Cider on Tap**

**Award Winning
Burgers and
2016
Wing Wars
Winner**



SCAN FOR MY DIGITAL
BUSINESS CARD!



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



Forty*One
SPORTS BAR & GRILLE

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



PRISM
GLASSWORKS
WWW.PGWGALLERY.COM

Capital districts premier glass gallery and studio!

Bongs, Hand Pipes, Goblets, Sculptural art, Ornaments, Custom orders, Bong Repair, Glassblowing Lessons...

Want to try your hand at glassblowing????
Sign up here:

Prism Glassworks
225 4th st. Troy N.Y.
www.pgwgallery.com



2010 Auto SALES .com
PRE-OWNED CARS & TRUCKS

We have a wide selection of pre-owned cars, trucks, SUVs and minivans!



(518) 238-0263 343 2nd Ave Troy, NY 12182
We Have Inventory!!!

Nyx all good things
518-472-0769
A Scratch Baking Co.

Cakes - Catering - Custom Orders

290 Lark St. Albany, NY 12210 nyxbaking.com

  @nyxbaking  nyxbaking@gmail.com

ohcornarepas.com

Oh Corn!
arepas

(518) 326-0199
429 River Street Troy, NY

Authentic Venezuelan Food

Open: Tue-Sun
Closed: Monday,
Call or check online
for updated hours

ORDER ONLINE
DINE IN - TAKE OUT - DELIVERY

Order Catering for large groups and business meetings at
www.ohcornarepas.com



follow us on instagram @ohcornarepas



RRX: I always ask my guests if they have anything they want to say at the end, but let's try it up front. What's on Lucid Street's mind in the present? I'll give you the floor.

Cait: "Opening for Vixen on 1/19! We're so thankful to everyone involved, especially John Myers with Entertainment One Presents for picking us for this show! I'm also currently preparing my vocal harmonies for the album!"

Nolan: "To get the album out"

Deb: "The Vixen show; my first real show with Lucid Street!"

Mike: "Album release show...tbd"

Phil: "Not one specific thing; just thinking about all the logistics of the next 6 months"

RRX: You started as a rock band in

the COVID "era." Which wasn't easy. I mean the music

scene was in a coma, yet bands came up in it too. Says something about music. Were you able to practice face to face and do shows? Did you do them anyway?

LS: So we weren't exactly a COVID "era" band, we were just post COVID when things started to open up again. We started meeting each other at open mics in May of 2021 and had booked our first show in July 2021 at the Heritage in Colonie, while still operating under the name Thunderbird. We ended up changing it to Lucid Street in November 2021 as things started to get more serious, but yes! We always were practicing face to face and doing shows,

since the music scene had started to reopen Spring 2021. We were all definitely itching to get out and make music with people, so we crossed paths at the perfect time. We like to say that we emerged and started making a name for ourselves at an opportune time. Venues were starting to look for bands again, but a lot of bands hadn't started gigging yet, so we were able to sneak our way in.

RRX: Your first album is coming out this Spring. Do you have any plans for the day it drops? Are you stoked for it? Was it smooth sailing getting it together or any headwinds?

LS: Yes it is! No solid release date plans yet, but it will definitely be late Spring! We are all very excited about it!

It's currently 3/5 of the way recorded, but should be finished being recorded in the next month or so. So far it's been pretty smooth sailing! Our audio engineers (Nick Relation & Peter Jones) are absolutely amazing, so we've had a great time.

RRX: You have had line-up changes, and I love the fact that bands can sort of outlive the people who started them. Do you think bands on their own can have a "spirit" so-to-speak, that transcends the members of the band?

CT: This is a really interesting question! So I (Cait) definitely think that bands can have their own spirits, but the line up we have is definitely the line up we need. Phil and I are the only original members of Lucid Street left,

but I think we both agree that we currently have the line up the band has always needed. Each of our current members are exclusively the only grouping we've had that shares the same goals and ambitions for Lucid Street as an entity, thus sometimes you need to go through a couple changes to find the correct grouping of people.

RRX: Cait, you play violin in the band. I play guitar and I think of Jimi Hendrix and Stevie Ray Vaughan when I'm playing. Who are you thinking about musically when you're practicing, or jamming – who's the Jimi Hendrix of violin? Or is it just Jimi Hendrix?

CT: Yes I do! So, I'm a classically trained violinist and have been playing for 18 years now (I started when I was 4)! Translating that over to the music we play and to our originals has definitely been really interesting for me, and took a good year before I was fully comfortable playing at Lucid Street shows. As a violinist, my favorite music to play is from the romantic period, so Charles Auguste de Bériot (my favorite composer) is definitely my biggest influence, but I am also very influenced by Antonin Dvořák, Vittorio Monti, Niccolò Paganini, and Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. I also have to give credit to my amazing violin instructor Anna Durand, because much of my style and flare as a violinist comes from her.

RRX: Lucid Street is a cover band. Or at least you play covers, and probably originals. Obviously, you're working on the album. So here's a question, how do you carve out your own identity as a band when sounding like another band is expected?

CT: So, we don't consider ourselves a cover band, we consider ourselves a hybrid band, meaning that at most shows we play originals and covers. We have done exclusively original show cases, but we are also able to do a show of only covers if the venue that books us requests it. We have 42 minutes of

original music, thus can fill up a full slot of originals (and we're still writing things for album 2 right now!!), and have learned & performed over 250 covers since forming in 2021! Much of our identity is formed around our influences, hence why we cover so much Queen, Rush, Led Zeppelin, Heart (etc), but we've branched out a lot in the last year, and cover six different genres regularly. We also like to make our own versions of songs that sound nothing like the original, such as our covers of "Toxic" or "Let it Go", so that we can perform music our audiences enjoy while still making it our own.

RRX: Cait, you have great influences in singing, Freddie Mercury, Mariah Carey, Whitney Houston, and others. Why are they your influences? What binds them? What is it about them that drives you when you sing?

CT: Thank you! I definitely have to add Ronnie James Dio to that list; I'd say the four of them (Freddie, Mariah, Whitney & Ronnie) influence me the most. As a singer I have always been drawn to the music that is the most difficult to sing, and that other vocalists shy away from, because I love a challenge. Queen is my favorite band of all time, so Freddie is certainly the one I hold to the highest regard. His showmanship, writing, and outlook on life inspires me in everything I do. Mariah's music is certainly the hardest to sing, but I feel like I've learned the most from her by listening to the way she articulates while singing. Whitney's power awes me each time I hear her sing, and she's the first vocalist that inspired me to try singing something that was not musical theater. Finally, with Ronnie, I feel like my origin, path and goals as a rock singer have operated somewhat synonymously to his. Furthermore, his passion while singing and lyrics were truly what motivated me to form my own rock band, so I have to give a lot of credit to the mighty Dio.



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



**J&P's
 BAR & LOUNGE**
 COHOES, NY

- *FULL BAR
- *COCKTAILS
- *FOREIGN & DOMESTIC BEER
- *FRIENDLY STAFF
- *RELAXING ATMOSPHERE

(518) 326-2062
169 REMSEN ST. COHOES, NY



**CAPITAL
DISTRICT
DIGITAL**

1-833-932-7361

capitalwebseo.com

COMBINING CREATIVE IDEAS

WITH VAST EXPERIENCE

IN SEARCH TECHNOLOGIES.

Capital District Digital is a digital marketing agency.

Services include responsive web design, SEO, sales & marketing automation, social media marketing, content writing & more!

Thank you for voting **MUDDY'S TAVERN**
as one of the **Best Dive Bars** in the Capital Region



Along with....



Runner up for Best of the Best
Lunch - Wings - Burger

OUR CUSTOMERS ARE #1 IN OUR EYES!
THANK YOU ALL WHO VOTED!

Feb 23rd
North Allen Duo
7pm

live MUSIC
No Covers

Entertainment Saturday nights from 8pm to midnight with...

The Karaoke Masters

Indoor Cornhole— Certain Sundays at 1:30pm

Dart Leagues- Steel Tip and Electronic- starting in October. Sign up at Muddy's

Singles Mingle Events Football on all TV's



ON SITE PLAY/WAGER










40 Lincoln Ave. Watervliet, NY 12189 518.273.9892 www.muddys-tavern.com

(518) 463-9214 FACEBOOK.COM/THATCHERSTPUB

THATCHER ST PUB

2 POOL TABLES & DARTS AVAILABLE TAKEOUT & DOORDASH AVAILABLE

HAPPY HOUR DAILY 3PM-8PM

NEW INTERACTIVE DART BOARD AND NEW SOUND SYSTEM!!!

HOURS:
TUESDAY-THURSDAY: 11AM-11PM
FRIDAY: 11AM-2AM
SATURDAY: 4PM-2AM
KITCHEN: OPEN LATE

f @

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK AND INSTAGRAM

16 THATCHER ST. ALBANY, NY 12207

Last Vestige

MUSIC SHOP EST. 1989

MORE RECORDS!
RECORDS!
RECORDS!

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



Mike Grosshandler

His new song, "About Time" brings forth new grooves from old works,

BY LIAM SWEENEY

Mike Grosshandler. Photo provided.

RRX: You have a new single coming out as a solo project. Is this a departure from your band The Velmas, or in addition to

MG: I do – I'm super excited to be releasing new music again! This song, "About Time", is more of an evolution - a blend of what I've done with The Velmas with some more recent musical influences. For example, playing some heavier rock with Above The Flood inspired me to bring some of that feel to this song and give it more intensity

and energy. It was originally going to be in standard tuning in E, but I took it down a full step and did it in drop D tuning instead and reimagined some of the guitar parts and the arrangement. I like where I landed with it!

RRX: What inspired you to branch out into a solo endeavor? Do you see this as a new avenue for you, or has solo work been in your wheelhouse since before being in a band?

MG: It's not a new avenue really, more like getting back on the road

after a break. I've always felt driven to write and record music. I do love to create with a band for sure. But back in '03 and '04, between Velmas releases, I put out a couple acoustic solo albums (Scales and Wrote Myself). Then I did a full-on "rock" solo album in 2012 (Blue Skies Black). I had songs ready to go, and doing it myself was the easiest path to getting them out!

Since then, life has gotten more complicated. Being a dad and working full time makes it harder to find time

to work on my music. So, at this point, even releasing a single song is a big accomplishment for me!

RRX: Tell us a little bit about the song. If three persons/places/things were to meet in an alleyway to describe your song, what would those three things be?

MG: Great question! If I had to choose three things to describe "About Time," they could be... a well-worn journal, a tall, knotted tree, and a 90s-era Lollapalooza ticket stub. The

diary represents the personal and emotional journey in the lyrics and the process of finishing this song. The tree symbolizes growth and resilience in the face of adversity and change, and the ticket stub reflects the 90s alternative rock influences in the song. It's a nod to the raw energy and spirit of that era. This song evokes those feelings, but blends in something new and uniquely mine.

RRX: For people who know you by your work with The Velmas, will they recognize the style? If not, do you see The Velmas fans coming over to this as well?

MG: Yeah, they could certainly find something that resonates with them. It's got a similar spirit and energy to some Velmas songs, but it also brings some new dimensions. I plan to keep creating and exploring, so I hope they stay on this musical journey with me as my story unfolds. I have a lot more new music in the works!

RRX: When you're doing solo work, what's your flavor? Seat of the pants jammy kind of idea getting, or measured calculated composition. If it's both, which one would you fall back on if you couldn't have the other?

MG: I'll usually start strumming an acoustic guitar, trying out ideas, noodling and singing nonsense until something catches my ear. But then I switch modes to more deliberate composition for sure. I try to figure out what I've got – is this a verse? a chorus or bridge? By then I'll usually bust out my phone to record something to make sure I don't forget the idea! I try to be more methodical once I start recording a demo of a new idea. But if I had to rely on just one... that's a tough question. I think I need both, really. The "pulling an idea out of the ether" part is where the inspiration comes from, but I still want to make a cohesive song in the end.

RRX: Where do you see your solo work going? It's hard to get out there,

get heard. What tricks do you have in your pocket, aside from letting me bend your ear? How do you bring listeners to new work these days?

MG: Outlets like Radioradiox and Xperience Monthly who help take my signal and amplify it are an absolute blessing. It is hard to get heard over the noise. There are so many things vying for people's attention today... social media, news, movies, sports, and of course tons of new music! We're constantly bombarded with new content, and it feels more challenging than ever to capture and hold someone's attention.

Despite all that, I believe in the power of music and its ability to connect with people on a deep, emotional level. So, I'll continue to create and share my music, hoping it will resonate with someone. Making authentic connections is crucial – and I try to do that with social media, playing out live, and having my music on multiple digital platforms. But really, word-of-mouth from fans is the best way to spread the word!

RRX: This is where you answer the question I didn't ask. Comments, remarks; educate, enlighten, emote – the floor is yours.

MG: Well first of all, thank you so much, Liam, and Xperience Monthly, for listening and supporting local music! While there are many things in life that bring me joy and fulfillment, I don't really feel complete unless I'm making music in some form, be it recording, writing, or performing. I want my music to be part of the world's soundtrack. I believe the only way to achieve a sort of immortality is through music. I'd appreciate any help in spreading the word about my music, so please tell a friend? Your support means the world to artists like me – thank you! www.mikegrosshandler.com



PATRICK'S Pub

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

Feb 11 Super Bowl
Feb 18- Boland School of Irish Dance 6-8
Roll the Dice Wing Night, every Tuesday 6-10
Music Bingo, every Wednesday 7-9

Takeout
Patrick's pub Gift certificates make great gifts

Great Beer List and Large Selection of Spirits

Tuesday Night Wing Night!

Gift Certificates Available
Kitchen open until 10:30pm



RADIORADIOX
XPERIENCE MONTHLY
www.radioradiox.com

RADIORADIOX.COM

Music longest Music

XPERIENCE MONTHLY

info@radioradiox.com

Putnam Place

SARATOGA SPRINGS NEW YORK

FRI 1/26 **MYSTIC BOWIE'S TALKING DREAMS** A REGGAE-INFUSED TRIBUTE TO TALKING HEADS + *The Big Takeover*

FRI 2/2 **LIONDUB & CLUBKILLA** WITH SPECIAL GUEST **METRIC MAN**

SAT 2/3 *Cliffside Push* | **A PHISH EXPERIENCE**

FRI 2/9 *DT Siric* + **DJ KING BULLY**

SAT 2/10 **CHOWDERFEST FT: DJ ERIC C**

SAT 2/10 **THE WHEEL** | **LIVE DEAD & BEYOND**

SAT 2/17 **DAVE EAST**

FRI 3/1 **MIDNIGHT NORTH**

FRI 3/8 **BEN SILVER + SM INK ^{B2B} CAUZEE**

FRI 3/15 **COOL COOL COOL** WITH SPECIAL GUEST **SOPHIE/T/FUNK**
FEATURING FORMER MEMBERS OF TURKUAZ

SAT 3/16 **PINK TALKING FISH**

FRI 3/22 **dōpapod. + STRANGE MACHINES**

MONDAYS: FAMILY TREE (7:00PM)
WEDNESDAYS: GAME NIGHT & KARAOKE w/ ERIC C (9:00PM)
63A PUTNAM STREET | SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY
TICKETS & MORE INFO AT: WWW.PUTNAMPLACE.COM

**Open Monday - Wednesday 12pm - 9pm, Thursday 12pm - 10pm
Fridays & Saturdays 12pm - 12am**

Friday and Saturday- Live Music 6-9pm, karaoke 9:30-Midnight

2839 US-9, Ballston Spa, NY (518) 886-8695
thegalley.ordermyeats.online

THE GALLEY




99% OF OUR MENU AVAILABLE GLUTEN FREE

- Take out available
- Live entertainment weekly
- Outdoor seating



BAR AND GRILL

**Bar Bites specials available
12-4pm Monday through Friday**
We will also be offering a \$6 craft beer, and \$3 domestic option from 12-4pm.

Weekday Specials

Monday - 10 wings \$10
Tuesday - 3 tacos for \$10
Wednesday - \$2 off all burgers
Thursday - \$2 off all quesadillas
Friday - \$10 hand breaded fish fries

* Ask about Sunday Brunch, our daily specials & entertainment
Monday Wing night, Tuesday Trivia & Tacos, Wednesday Burgerday
Thursday Quesadilla day, Open Mic & Kids Eat FREE, Friday/Saturday live music & karaoke.
FISH FRYDAY, FREE BURGER BIRTHDAYS, LOBSTER SATURDAY



Hours

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

Kitchen Hours

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

Trivia every Tuesday 7-9pm

2/1: Code Groove 9pm
2/6: Coll's Cookin Pop Up 5:30-8:30pm
2/8: Caity Gallagher 7-9pm
2/10: Brass Machine 10pm \$10 cover **Mardis Gras Party!!!**
2/13: Burrito Burrito Pop Up 4-9pm
2/16: Funk Night 10pm \$10 cover
2/26: Silver Arrow Band Showcase 8pm
2/29: Code Groove 9pm Leap Year Party

Nerd Beer and Dope Food, for Reals

518-694-0670 LOSTANDFOUNDAALBANY.COM

942 Broadway Albany, NY 12207



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

sandwiches, soups, salads & more



156 4th Street Troy, NY
WEDNESDAY - SATURDAY 12pm to 7pm
www.eatmallos.com

"Troy's New Home For Live Music!"

twistedfiddler.com

Sun - Thu: 12:00 PM - 12:00 AM
Fri - Sat: 12:00 PM - 1:00 AM
Kitchen Noon till 10:00 PM



LIVE MUSIC 5 Nights a Week!
Sunday and Monday Football Specials
Happy Hour Mon - Fri 4-6 pm

New Menu - Burgers, Sandwiches and More
Great Beer and Spirit Selection

9 1st Street Troy, New York



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



JON RUDNITSKY
FEBRUARY 9 @ 7:30PM



BEST FRIENDS GIRL
THE #1 CARS EXPERIENCE
FEBRUARY 10 @ 7:30PM



DAVID BRIGHTON'S SPACE ODDITY
FEBRUARY 17 @ 7:30PM



BEATLEMANIA NOW
FEBRUARY 22 @ 7:30PM



CRYSTAL SHIP: A TRIBUTE TO THE DOORS
FEBRUARY 23 @ 7:30PM



PARROTS OF THE CARIBBEAN
A SALUTE TO JIMMY BUFFETT
MARCH 1 @ 7:30PM



KISS ARMY
MARCH 2 @ 7:30PM



QUEEN FLASH
A TRIBUTE TO QUEEN AND FREDDIE MERCURY
MARCH 14 @ 7:30PM



CHATHAM RABBITS
MARCH 21 @ 7:30PM

WWW.THECOHOESMUSICHALL.ORG

El Dorado BAR

121 4TH ST TROY NY 12180
518-874-1026

HOURS

MON - WED 4PM - 2AM
THURS - SAT 4PM - 4AM

HAPPY HOUR EVERY DAY 4-8PM

MONDAY: \$1 WINGS

TUESDAY: TRIVIA @ 7PM

WEDNESDAY: MUG NIGHT! \$1 OFF APPS

THURSDAY: BURGER & BEER \$15

FRIDAY: KARAOKE 10PM - 12AM

DANCE PARTY GOES LATE!

LIVE MUSIC

DETROIT PIZZA - WINGS

BOOK YOUR PARTY WITH US!



ELDORADO BAR



ELDORADO_BAR_TROY

Justin Willman

**NEW
2024
DATES**

1/25 LADY LAKE, FL

2/2 COLUMBUS, OH

2/3 TYSONS, VA

2/16 TUCSON, AZ

2/17 SANTA ROSA, CA

2/18 SACRAMENTO, CA

2/19 VANCOUVER, BC

BY LIAM SWEENEY

*Look for his
Netflix show,
“Magic for
Humans.”*

4/4 OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

4/6 DENVER, CO

4/12 MONTCLAIR, NJ

4/13 HUNTINGTON, NY

4/19 CHICAGO, IL

4/20 ROYAL OAK, MI



Justin Willman. Photo provided.

Magic is maybe the third oldest profession, behind you know what and sous chef. We have been astounding each other since the lost rituals of Gobeckli Tepe (look that up, it's wild.) There's this pressing need we have to escape the explainable, the shackles of common logic.

Magician and comedian Justin Willman is a jailbreaker. Magician, comedian, and he has a show on Netflix called Magic for Humans.

We reached out to Justin with a basketful of white rabbits.

RRX: You have a show on Netflix called Magic for Humans. I freakin' love it. You're just doing all this insane

mind-blowing sh*t in public with real people just slack-jawed. Cool part is that you can imagine those people going home with what might be a life-changing experience. What was your favorite reaction so far? Anyone try to fight you?

JW: It's so hard, because whenever you introduce a camera into the scenario, peoples' behavior changes, as you can imagine. So it's one thing if I'm doing magic for people just in real life, and I'm just a dude, and crazy stuff happens. But as soon as there's a camera, let alone three, and an audio boom operator, most people get just a little self-conscious, and you have to

nurture them a little bit, warm them up and make them forget about the cameras. But in terms of reactions, kids forget about the cameras the quickest. Don't know what it is, but kids are a delight to watch, because they forget about the camera, they're very in the moment, and they truly get whisked away in the wonder of whatever trick it is you're doing, and react in a beautiful, raw, authentic way.

The first bit in the first ep of Magic for Humans is “the marshmallow test” with these kids where we recreated the Stanford Marshmallow Experiment, where, if they could go fifteen minutes without eating one marshmallow, they

could get a second marshmallow, and of course, what happened was, when I was gone, their marshmallow, which they were patiently waiting for, disappeared. And we clocked their reaction and of course blamed them for eating the marshmallow, which they didn't in the first place. And the reactions – it was such a simple trick, a vanishing marshmallow. But with kids and their settings, in that particular setting, it just took on a whole new beauty in that you get to watch a range of emotions without the filter of knowing you're being filmed. Which was beautiful. And I think that's kind of, in a sense, what magic is all about, which is reminding

us of the innocence of childhood, where our imaginations run wild, untethered by “how did you do that?” You know, that question.

Anything is possible, and that’s kind of a beautiful thing. I got my start performing for kids, Magic for Humans is a lot of magic for kids; it’s not a kid’s show, it’s an all-ages show. But man, there’s nothing better than watching a kid grapple with a distorted reality as a result of a magic trick.

RRX: I imagine one cool, and not-so-cool aspect of public magic is that there’s no separation between you and the audience. So you can’t control the pedestrian magic of a dog coming up and peeing on your leg in the middle of a trick. When you shoot, has there ever been any “magic” that mystified you yourself? Any high-speed golf-cart chases fly by?

JW: We were filming “The Invisible Man” bit, where I convince a guy he’s invisible in a park with a whole crowd of people who are in on it. We started in that morning, we did it with one guy and then we waited, we waited patiently for someone else to fall into our trap, and that was that guy Jonathan, who was our hero, “Invisible Man.” And then we were like, that was so great, can’t wait to do it again after lunch. But we did not get to do it again after lunch because some crazy, axe-wielding gentleman roamed into the park, disrupting our shoot, I think, you know, he was the wizard of this domain. There were clearly some other variables at play. But we got out of that guy’s way, he did hack one of our cameras with an axe. Unfortunately, it was not rolling at the moment, so you’ll just have to believe me. But we called it a day at that point. So that was an unforeseen variable, but luckily, we got it. We got the bit. We didn’t need to shoot it again. Potentially, that guy was doing us a favor. You never know.

RRX: Watching you perform, I think the best part is the reaction in

people, because at first what you’re doing is ordinary, and then it’s suddenly a miracle. How do you keep in total character when you know you’re about to do something that’ll trip everybody out?

JW: Your question has captured the essence of a moment which I think is what every magician became a magician for, which is that moment when you know, they don’t realize everything I’ve done up to this point, to make what’s about to happen blow their minds. They don’t even know their minds are about to be blown. You know, when you have led someone down a garden path and you’re about to drop the payoff on them, the bomb, the trick, the punchline, they call it ‘getting bit by the magic bug’ – that is the dragon that all musicians are chasing. And it’s a beautiful feeling. How do you keep your cool? Practice, man. Practice. I mean before the climax happens, you can’t be giddy, jumping up and down like you have a secret that they don’t know, because they’re going to know you’re up to something. You almost have to trick yourself into feeling as ignorant as they are in that moment, for the sake of the reveal. I will say, in practice, the thing that’s going through my head in that moment, whether it’s filming Magic for Humans, or on stage, is making sure that people’s attention is drawn where I want it to so that they actually see the trick. It’s easier on stage; people are watching you. But out in the real world, and they’re kind of within your bubble in terms of social distance, a glance to the side and they’ll miss the trick. And sometimes I’ve had experiences where they did not see the crazy, awesome thing that took place right in front of their eyes. You kind of need to pivot and say, ‘do we need to have that thing happen again?’ and hope they’re not onto us, or scrap it, and do it again for somebody else? Those are some insightful.

942 Broadway Albany, New York

LOST & FOUND
BAR & KITCHEN

Party starts at 4pm
Hurricane and Sazerac Specials
Food Specials
9:30- Live Music
from Brass Machine.

Mardi Gras Party

FEBRUARY

10th

BRASS MACHINE

lostandfoundalbany.com

RIVER STREET **Always Buying Collections**

BEAT SHOP

CDs
Vinyl
Memorabilia

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

LIKE US ON

BUY, SELL, TRADE -CDs, LPs, & MEMORABILIA

Gift Certificates Available

Buy, Sell or Trade

197 River Street Troy, New York (518) 272-0433

ROCK & ODDITIES



The 2024 Rock & Oddities Listen Up Awards



MARCH 24th 2024

Doors 2pm \$15

at PUTNAM PLACE

63A Putnam St. Saratoga Springs, NY

THE CHAOS COLLECTIVE



Premium MORTGAGE CORPORATION



THATCHER ST. PUB



518SCENE.COM



THATFUZZINGROCKSHOW



Ralph Roman's CAPITAL UNDERGROUND



Putnam Place SARATOGA SPRINGS NEW YORK



LIAM SWEENEY BUSINESS DESIGN CONSULTANT



Rocky's MUSIC STUDIO



**Join us for the 10th Anniversary
Saturday, March 9th 2024 6 PM**

SAVE THE DATE



**THE 10TH ANNUAL
DUSTIN MELE
MEMORIAL CONCERT
3/9/24**



**LIVE MUSIC
Full Music Line-Up TBA**

Proceeds benefit American Foundation for Suicide Prevention ; National Alliance on Mental Illness, and Rensselaer County mental health and emergency assistance programs through Catholic Charities CoNSERNS-U program.

Brown's Revolution Hall, 425 River Street Troy, NY



FourPlay String Quartet

BY LIAM SWEENEY

FourPlay String Quartet. Photo provided.

Being a fiction writer in this gig economy, I, like many, admire the work and overall demeanor of author Neil Gaiman. So to find out that he collaborates with FourPlay String Quartet was a treat. And the quartet is by no means second fiddle. (I'll be here all night; tip your waiter)

So I had a chance to chat with Lara Goodridge of the Quartet, and through the transitive property, so do you.

RRX: You recently released a collaborative album called "Signs of Life," and to top that off, put out a very cool pink album. I don't like to ask people what an album is like, because people say "It's really grungy, but it has soft spots," which could be anything. I'll ask this; minus the first song, what song do you think "sells it?"

Ha! Well, I'm kinda pleased to say that when I talk to people who have listened to the album, they all have different favourite pieces. I think that's a great

sign that the album touches people in different ways and that each piece has its own strength. But I'm not really answering your question yet, am I?! Or maybe I just did! If I was going to choose a favourite, I'd say "In Transit". But we all have different favourites!

RRX: Neil Gaiman performs the vocals, and he is a wordsmith known far and wide. So I think his fans are going to put the lyrics together to try to find a bigger story. Is it there? Or is it more disconnected? Is each song a micro of some macro, or are they universes unto their own?

Initially we had come up with the concept of a stage show that was based around the 12 signs of a horoscope, only with our own new set of signs. A few pieces from that concept are on this album, Clock, Möbius Strip, and the 'almost' title track, Signs of a Life. In that sense, they were part of a body of work that tied

together meaningful symbols that touch on themes of the passing of time, the cyclical nature of life, aging and death.

There are also more whimsical moments, like Bloody Sunrise about a love-lorn vampiress, but Neil also tackles such things as miscarriage, freedom of thought and the theory of relativity... well, at least, the man who proved the theory was right, in a very intimate story of Sir Arthur Edington. So, yes, they are universes to themselves, but like everything, they too are connected.

RRX: I like asking about how bands form. I'll never get tired of the 2 a.m. fights at Denny's or Waffle House that end up with a four-piece jamming out in someone's basement. With Neil Gaiman and Fourplay String Quartet, I don't imagine any fights occurred or Waffle Houses visited. But it had to be interesting. Did Neil reach out or did the band?

So, our illustrious manager, Jordan

Verzar and his friend Ben Marshall had come up with a wonderful idea for a festival, bringing together graphic novelists, illustrators and musicians to create new collaborations. They sold the idea to the Sydney Opera House and thus Graphic Festival was born. In that very first year, Jordan reached out to Neil Gaiman, one of his all-time favourite writers, and invited him to perform. He said, 'I have this string quartet who I think you might get along with...' Neil said yes to this crazy idea. He sent us a novella called The Truth is a Cave in the Black Mountains, and FourPlay set about writing music to it. We'd send Neil snippets and themes through email over the course of a few months and we only got to meet Neil the day before a sold out show in the Concert Hall. Neil had invited his friend Eddie Campbell illustrate the story as well, and these were then projected in time with the narration and the music. We

rehearsed the day before the show, and it was a bit nervous and awkward at first, and then, it just wasn't! It all came together really well, and we just got along so well. Neil is just so collaborative. He's very open and nurturing, whilst being clear about what works for him and what doesn't. So, that is how it all began about 14 years ago!

RRX: I'm both a writer and a musician, so I know that sometimes my writing builds the song, sometimes the opposite. I imagine it's similar for you, but with Neil providing vocals, does that bring the writing more to the forefront? How does having a writer for vocalist affect the mix?

Yeah, so that's a great question, and the answer is that each piece came together differently! Some pieces were written, as I mentioned around a theme. So, for example, Signs of a Life was written with FourPlay in a room jamming on an idea, and Neil was in an armchair in the next room listening and writing with

our music swirling around him, writing words on the same theme. Neil might then read some bits to us, and we might then adapt what we were doing to his words. They were the most in-real-time collaborations, like Signs of a Life and Möbius Strip.

Other pieces, Neil would give us a written piece of his and we would then set about writing music to it. For Song of the Song, we played Neil the groove and the melody, and he said, hey, I've got this poem I wrote that I think might work well with that! When we wrote Clock, we set a metronome to 60 beats per minute like the ticking of a clock, and just started improvising. We wrote that whole piece of music in its entirety as a free improv (and thankfully recorded it). When we played it to Neil, he said, 'I think I will read Shakespeare's Sonnet 12.' And so, as you see, each piece has a slightly different genesis, but with the result a collaboration that is distinct from its previous form.

RRX: Collaboration is a great thing because it takes from two different worlds. From this collaboration, we have Neil Gaiman's fan world combined with FourPlay's music fan world. How do you think these worlds connect?

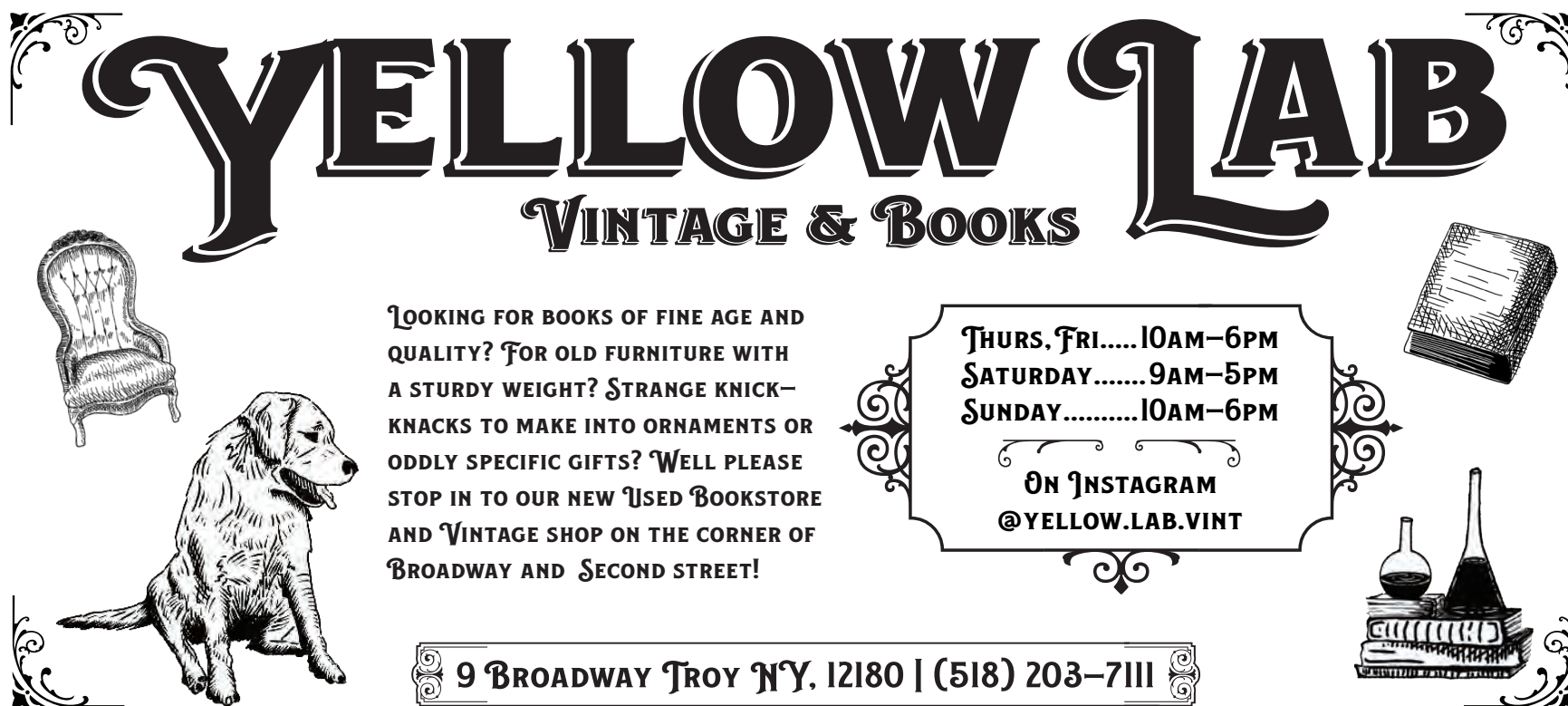
Yeah, isn't collaboration neat? Neil has often collaborated with different illustrators, and with musicians as well. In the case with us, it has certainly been amazing to collaborate with Neil who is so globally renowned. He is. We're not! But the crossover of audiences I think is a perfect fit. Peter and Tim, our cellist and one of the two violists have been huge fans of Neil's for their whole lives. So that brought an extra understanding to the collaboration. There is no doubt a meeting of minds between us all. And so it's no surprise that our two audiences would have a simpatico. Of course we hope that people who are not familiar with us will love what we do with Neil's words, and present this new intertwined thing of words and music. And for our fans, well,

of course they love getting to see us do our thing with the legend that is Neil! For any few out there who don't know Neil's writing well, well this is a wonderful opportunity for them to discover his genius.

RRX: This is where you answer the question I forgot to ask. Remarks? Comments? Educate, enlighten, emote – the floor is yours.

Oh boy! Well...

This has been a really organic collaboration, which started with that first concert in Sydney, and then just casually, and gradually, kept going. Neil would kindly invite us to jump on stage with him when he was in Australia, and we started building a little repertoire and then decided to deliberately carve out more time to write and create. And it just grew over the years – fitting in with Neil's superhuman schedule. They're the best projects, ones that have a life of their own. Projects that are challenging and fun, but totally easeful and natural. This is one such project.



YELLOW LAB

VINTAGE & BOOKS

LOOKING FOR BOOKS OF FINE AGE AND QUALITY? FOR OLD FURNITURE WITH A STURDY WEIGHT? STRANGE KNICK-KNACKS TO MAKE INTO ORNAMENTS OR ODDLY SPECIFIC GIFTS? WELL PLEASE STOP IN TO OUR NEW USED BOOKSTORE AND VINTAGE SHOP ON THE CORNER OF BROADWAY AND SECOND STREET!

THURS. FRI..... 10AM-6PM
SATURDAY..... 9AM-5PM
SUNDAY..... 10AM-6PM

ON INSTAGRAM
@YELLOW.LAB.VINT

9 BROADWAY TROY NY, 12180 | (518) 203-7111



www.e1presents.com

UPCOMING SHOWS

FEB 10 :
8PM

**Ultimate Journey
Experience BY LEGEND**

The Shea Theater - Turners Falls MA

MAR 2 :
7:30PM

KISSTORY
w/ Special Guest - LIVE WIRE 518

Cohoes Music Hall - Cohoes NY

MAR
14-15-16 :
7:30PM

MOLLY HATCHET
3 Nights of Awesome!

The Palace Theatre - Syracuse NY
Strand Theatre - Hudson Falls NY
The Shea Theater - Turners Falls MA

MAR
22-23 :
7:30PM

BACK IN BLACK -
The true AC/DC Experience
22 opening act : Legacy Of The Beast
23 opening act : Sister Christian
The Strand Theatre - Hudson Falls NY
• Come Check Out Brian Johnson's 2009 Harley Davidson on site for viewing!

APR 12 :
7:30PM

LYNCH MOB -
The Final Ride 2024-2025
w/ Special Guest - TOMMY-V-LIVE
Strand Theatre - Hudson Falls NY

For A Complete List Of Our Shows And

Ticket Links Please Visit

www.e1presents.com



Stephen Hepp's
AUTO SERVICE

**HONEST.
LOCAL.
EXPERIENCED.**

(518) 237-8170
MONDAY - FRIDAY: 8AM-5PM
SATURDAY: 8AM-1PM
122 ONTARIO STREET
COHOES, NY 12047
WWW.STEPHENHEPP.COM

Monday - Saturday
Open at 4pm

Gift Certificates Available
Takeout and Delivery
Available




CORCORAN'S
TOWPATH TAVERN

Early Bird Special

15% off (Food Only/Dine-In Only)
(Mon-Sat 4-5pm)

Come Check Out Our Daily Specials!



Weekdays at Noon
on RadioRadioX.com

33 Saratoga Avenue Waterford, New York (518) 326-2739

The Heights

BY JOE BARNA

Oh baby...It's cold outside...However, it's going to be quite warm inside Alias Coffee Roasters on Sunday, February 18th. This will be the night we present the second annual "Troy Winter Jazz Festival" to the loyal and appreciative fans of live music in the Capital Region. If last year's sold out showcase was any indication of what is to come I'd say upstate NY is in for quite a treat.

When brainstorming in regards to what I believed made a great jazz festival there were many considerations to behold. How will the bands blend together without sounding the same? What type of audience would be engaged by the artists presented? How do we satisfy all in attendance both musically and socially? What type of food should be provided on the free buffet? How many seats might we supply? Who will be the headliner? Who will be an exciting opener? How much should we charge for an event that includes 3 bands and a meal with dessert?

All questions listed above have thankfully been answered. When I say the capital region is in for an explosive night I mean it. It's been a year of planning, working out schedules, choosing the artists, finding volunteers, planning the room set-up, considering angles for advertising and much more, but everything is now in place.

Here is what to expect.....

Opening the festival will be The Killdeer Trio out of Oneonta, NY. This group features jazz educators from Hartwick College that over the past few years have made quite a name for themselves. This original project features an exciting young lineup including Wyatt Ambrose (guitar) Evan Jagels (bass) and drummer Sabastian Green. All accomplished musicians in their own right, these talents will join together in opening the festival with some

high energy compositions that cross styles, feels and genres.

Next up will be vocalist Shannon Rafferty with Joe Barna Trio. Nothing screams jazz like a sultry and alluring singer presenting some of the most timeless of lyrics in a space the likes of Alias Coffee Roasters. Rafferty, most known for her performances in professional theaters such as Capital Rep and as a member of Hold On Honeys, is a multi talented artist who captivates audiences no matter the content or venue. She's been a staple on the regional scene for years. Rafferty has also spent her fair share of time living and performing in NYC, Philadelphia and beyond. We are proud and elated to have Shannon as part of our winter celebration.

Backing up Rafferty will be an all star trio that includes pianist Ian MacDonald, legendary NYC bassist, from the Betty Carter Band, Tarik Shah and myself, drummer/leader, Joe Barna. We have put together a fascinating set of music from the Great American Songbook that is sure to leave you both spiritually warm and creatively satisfied.

Now, let's get to the headliner for this extraordinary night of performances.

Anyone who considers themselves to be a fan of jazz will recognize the next name on our list of performers. This decorated recording artist, touring musician, 1st call sideman, educator and composer has been blowing the minds of audiences all over the world for over 2 decades. His list of credits is endless having played with the who's who of jazz. His tenor sound can be heard on albums with Brad Mehldau, Betty Carter, Kurt Elling, Jane Monheit, Kenny Barron and too many others to list.

Ladies and gentleman, please let me introduce the one and only Joel Frahm.

Born in Racine, Wisconsin in 1970

Frahm quickly found his passion in life when introduced to the saxophone. At the age of 15 he and his family moved to West Hartford, Connecticut where he befriended Brad Mehldau, who would go on to be one of the most groundbreaking pianists in music history. After graduating high school Frahm attended Rutgers for only one year until transferring to the prestigious Manhattan School of Music. Frahm graduated from Manhattan School and the rest they say is history.

A little back story about the connection between Joel Frahm and myself...

When I moved to Manhattan in September of 2014 I found myself barbacking at Smalls Jazz Club in the West Village. While working there I had the privilege to both meet and play with some of the greatest artists on the New York jazz scene. One night while working the late night jam I noticed a sea of some of NY's top players. I was excited and couldn't wait to hear what was about to transpire. Only there was one major problem, not a single drummer was in the room to start the session. A saxophonist by the name of Wayne Escoffery came over to me while restocking clean glasses and asked....

"Hey man, you play drums, Right?"

I said, "Yes I Do...Why?"

Wayne said, "You got your cymbals?"

I said, "Yeah, but I'm working...I can't play."

Now, the bartender overheard part of this exchange and inquired as to what was said. I told her Wayne had asked me to sit in, but I told him I was working. The bartender, Simone, Looked right at me and said "You didn't move to New York City to wash dishes. Get your ass up there and play."

So, I went to the ice machine area to claim my cymbal bag. I set up my cymbals and told Wayne I was cool to start. Little

did I know who would come up on the very first tune to sit in...The sax players were Tivon Penicott, Wayne Escoffery and Joel Frahm...All on the same up tempo rhythm changes. To say I was a bit frightened would be a gross understatement. But, I was down to go in hard and offer whatever I could to the performance. Joel Frahm took the first solo (it was epic) and immediately upon completing his musical journey turned, leaned over the drumkit and said...

"Yeah man..Swingin"

That was the first time I had ever met and played with Joel Frahm. Right from the very first meeting he was gracious, humble, supportive, encouraging and showed a level of class that was inspiring. It's now been 9 years and we still talk pretty often. Given that he now lives in Nashville, Tennessee we do not have too many opportunities to hang out or play. However, he and his band will be on tour the entire month of February and have made it a point to drop by Troy, NY for one single performance. I couldn't be happier to see my friend once again in our fair little city.

Now, onto the show...

Troy Winter Jazz Fest

Live at Alias Coffee Roasters, Sunday, February 18th

The Killdeer Trio

6pm

Shannon Rafferty w/ Joe Barna Trio

7:15pm

Joel Frahm Band

8:30pm

\$35 ticket includes food, dessert and all 3 performances

For more information contact / Joe-BarnaMusic@gmail.com

Warmest Regards,

Joe

What's the Freakiest Thing?

BY JOHNNY MYSTERY

Go to a time when things were soulful. It was a time when boys with guitars and drums would attempt to play R&B and not quite pull it off. In the process of said attempt, they would pull a whole new sound down from the heavens. These lads had no horns, no saxophones or angelic choirs to emulate a wall of sound, nor the knowledge to do so, even if they did have access to the proper tools. What they would create, would be some of the freakiest beat music ever produced. So now you get where the term Freakbeat comes from.

This music grew out of the Northern Soul clubs that sprung up in England, many of which were populated by Vespa driving, pill popping, American soul loving British kids, who had zero direction and didn't much care. In other words, they were like the Punks who would follow them over ten years later. The big attraction at these shows was "The Who." You could say The Who was one of the first freakbeat groups-billing themselves, "Maximum R&B." I would probably put The Kinks in this category too and even The Pretty Things to a lesser extent.

But the next generation of bands coming out of the great R&B explosion were looking to leave the old times behind. They were ready to experiment with newer sounds, arrangements, sound effects, instruments and anything different they could get their hands on. Though they were several years away from the psychedelic era, new groups and producers were looking to push the boundaries of what studio engineers were willing to do and often would take to the controls themselves when the record companies A&R men weren't around.

The greatest freak bands in my opinion are the ones you might be less familiar with or might not have heard of at all.

In order to get attention, they had to be more outrageous and experimental than anybody else burning up the airwaves on Radio Caroline that week. Most of those bands were produced by British producer Joe Meek. Meek is best known for recording the first song to top both the British and U.S. charts- "Telstar" by "The Tornados." The spacey record started out with the sound of a toilet being flushed, backwards. You read that right.

Meek operated out of his apartment, using it as his office and studio. One of his biggest stars turned out to be the Tornado's bass player, "Heinz." The tall blond bassist was sort of a pre-punk "Sting." Heinz biggest hit was "I'm Not A Bad Guy" from 1966. A good single with the distinction of having a pre-Deep Purple, Ritchie Blackmore on lead guitar.

Check out "You're Holding Me Down" by "The Buzz" which is considered one of the wildest Meek productions ever! The public however was not digging its frantic energy for some reason. It sank like a stone because it was just too far ahead of its time.

Another Meek production that was too far ahead for its own good was by an outfit called "The Riot Squad." Check out "I Take It That We're Through" from 1966. This sounds exactly, and I mean exactly like a New Wave song from the 1980s. It is absolutely uncanny! It sounds like Elvis Costello via "This Year's Model." I had to play it back three times to believe it. Certain parts, such as the saxophone solo, has got Roxy Music written all over it. Somebody should check Andy Mackay's record collection. Incidentally, members of the band included Jimi Hendrix drummer, Mitch Mitchel and David Bowie spent a year as their singer.

The Honeycombs who featured a rare female drummer, scored a huge hit with

Meek with "Have I The Right." Check out a B-side of theirs called-"Can't Get Through To You." Listen to the riff and the structure and soon you'll hear "The B-52s" playing 'Rock Lobster" and prepare to be stunned.

Check out "David John and The Mood." From 1965 comes "Digging For Gold" and even though it failed to chart it is now considered one of Joe Meek's finest productions along with another relative flop, "Love To See You Strut" which was as great a jumping rave-up as anything on the charts at that time. It appeared as the B-side of a Bo Diddley cover called "Bring It To Jerome." Their cover of "Pretty Thing" featured none other than Mick Jagger and Keith Richards on background vocals.

Saving what I consider, the best for last, check out "The Syndicats" featuring future "Yes" guitarist, Steve Howe. "Crawdaddy Simone" released in 1965 is probably the freakiest of the Freak Beat movement. It starts out like a normal blues song but soon turns into complete chaos with one of the craziest guitar solos ever committed to vinyl as it ends with a wild beer bottle slide. On another of their singles "What To Do" the keyboard and drum arrangements bring Devo and The B-52's to mind again.

Next issue, we'll explore some more Freak Beat in my second part of this subject. You might even recognize some of the songs we'll talk about. Till then, get to the record shop-QUICK!



HIGH VOLTAGE NIGHTS
 WITH
RALPH RENNA
93.9
WABY
90s AND 2000s ROCK
SUNDAY - FRIDAY
7 PM TO 11 PM
www.939WABY.com

PIECE ON EARTH

Bigger PRINTS *Serving the Capital Region!*

We're a Creative Studio, Vinyl & Print Shop
Specializing in Large Format Prints.
518.328.4810
hello@biggerprints.com



Canvas Prints & Gifts

Printed in Cohoes!

Canvas Prints // Enlarged Photo Prints // Photo Gifts
Delivery Available within the Capital Region...



THE BROTTIES

JOE MANSMAN & THE
MIDNIGHT REVIVAL BAND



same old rat

3db

FEBRUARY 17th
\$12 advance \$15 door 6pm doors 7pm show

SMOOTH TRUTH **EMPIRE UNDERGROUND** ip concert

SEVEN
DINING & CATERING

sevending.com INTIMATE & COMFORTABLE ATMOSPHERE (518) 280-9258



50 Cent Wings -Mondays **Happy Hour 3-7pm**
Taco -Tuesdays **1/2 Off Drafts, Well & House Wine**
Build a Burger -Wednesdays **Special Happy Hour Menu**
Prime Rib -Thursdays **Daily Specials**
Build your own Pizza -Fridays **Live Music Weekends**

7 Northside Drive Clifton Park, New York

SEVEN booking private parties,
weddings & corporate meetings

Park Manor Hotel offers:

- Laid-back, warmly decorated rooms
- free Wi-Fi
- flat screens
- minifridges
- coffeemakers
- parking is complimentary
- gym
- indoor pool,
- seasonal BBQ area.



Other amenities include:

- business center
- event space.

7 Northside Dr., Clifton Park, NY 12065



Straight Jacket

How many kids did it take to wreck a club in the 90s?

BY JESSIE WHITNEY

Straight Jacket. Photo provided.

I sat down with Thom Lytle (Guitar) and Sean Green (Bass) of Straight Jacket, to catch up with them before their One Time Reunion show at Empire Live on March 9th. Everyone lives in different states now, so this was a rare opportunity for the two old friends and band mates to catch up face to face. Their last show together was 16 years ago. We were strapped for time, so I had to cut it short unfortunately.

SG: Damn Lytle I haven't seen you in like 20 years

TL: Yeah, likewise. Can you put your nephew Sean on?

SG: (Laughing) Hey, leave the grey beard alone.

RRX: How'd you guys come up with the name straight jacket?

TL: I remember the story Sean, do you remember the story?

SG: It's got something to do with Section 8 correct?

TL: Yesss. Well now these are all stories we don't know if its real, lets assume it's real.

SG: Because this actually came from the original singer (of Straight Jacket) who I haven't seen in like 20 years

TL: Supposedly he was playing a take for Kasey Dorr, singer of Section 8

and he was like, this is crazy, you know what you should call this? You should call it Straight Jacket. That's the story that we got from the singer.

SG: My recollection was, Straight Jacket was one of the finalist names for section 8.

TL: OH! That's probably why he mentioned it.

SG: It was kinda like, they were going to name it Section 8 or straight jacket. They obviously went with Section 8 but I think our original singer heard the story, and just took straight jacket from Kasey to be honest.

TL: That's probably more like it, but I think it's safe to say that it has some relationship with the early stages of Section 8. Section 8 does have some name rights I think.

RRX: Nice

TL: We'll have to sacrifice some of our millions over to them

RRX: Thinking back on how it was back then, what were some of your favorite bands to play with back in the early days.

SG: We did stuff with VOD when they first started, they opened for us actually

TL: Hate breed, you know Candiria.

We played with a lot of cool bands.

SG: Any band from the victory label in the mid 90s, we opened up for. You could go down the whole roster and we played with them. I remember Hate Breed taking us and playing in Connecticut.

TL: Yes. Yes. That's right.

SG: Remember that? The skate park? We played in the half Pipe. Yeah, those bands. It was a different time. It was just fun. We were kids and we were playing with like every band. Ted (Etoll) was very influential in that. I mean, Tiny (Straight Jacket singer) would just go to Ted and be like, "hey, Earth Crisis is coming to town, can we get on the show?" and we were on.

TL: Sean do you remember, we tried to play almost every weekend somewhere in the greater Albany area. Literally every weekend.

SG: Hell yeah we were playing every weekend. If not, every weekend at the QE2.

TL: Yeah or twice a week. I think we worked hard, I don't know how we pulled it off in our lives, but we did not try to leave any weekend untouched by Straight Jacket for sure. And as far as those other bands, a few come to mind

for me, but for local bands Sean, I would say we probably most enjoyed, and were aligned with End of Line and Skinless as the local bands that we played with the most

SG: We played with Section 8 a lot too.

TL: Yeah, You're right. I felt really close with the End of Line/Skinless crew.

SG: Well, End of Line obviously, because I went to school with Ian. We were in the same grade and had the whole Cohoes thing. I don't know where Skinless came from, but they were just kinda in the picture.

TL: Joe (drummer) and I started playing with them up in Glens Falls. Freddy's on Elm Street. That's where we started to know those guys. But yeah, I think they kind of did what we did and just came closer to Albany, and started playing shows down there.

SG: I mean, we just totally rambled off on a tangent.

RRX: No, that's great. That's awesome. Those are fun little tidbits. This is what we want. Nobody is here to read my corny questions. It's really the substance that matters

TL: I'm only here for the corny questions.

RRX: But, yeah, I'm trying to think, back in the 90s, the scene was way different than it is now. The music scene had to have been ... I wasn't even old enough to go to shows. I'm just curious, back before the internet and things were so digital, how did you get word out about your shows? How did people find out you were playing?

SG: Canal square?

RRX: Is that... like a bulletin board?

SG: It's a physical spot

RRX: Was there a bulletin board at the physical spot? Oh, you just like hung out there?

TL: Yeah. I think it was primarily the Metroland right?

SG: Mostly yeah, Ted who ran the shows back in the 90s worked for Metroland. And he was the advertising guy. So you could pick up the Metroland and there was always a full page of what was going on. And all the hardcore kids knew to look in the Metroland.

TL: The other thing I'll add is, I don't

know if it was intentional, but what started to become a really sought-after thing was the weekly flyers they would give out at the shows

SG: The long lists.

TL: Kids would collect them and have them on their walls.

SG: I collected those.

TL: Yeah, me too. I know why we collected them, but it's amazing that the fans would collect them and like hang them up in their rooms and stuff. But yeah, it was good. Just kind of manual old fashioned word of mouth

SG: The thing about the scene in the 90s was, the kids that went to go see you on Saturday, would go see you the next Saturday. It was almost the same group of people. And they'd bring other people in, but it was always the same core set of people who you could go up to and be like, "yo, who's playing Saturday, oh its this" It was just a lot of word of mouth. People would have those hand bills in their pocket or you could go get the

Metroland in any convenient store or mall, they just had them. You could grab one, they were free. You could see what was coming up.

RRX: So more community based, face to face kinda

TL: Well yeah that's how it was. There were no websites. You couldn't really get that stuff out any other way.

SG: No cell phones, no nothing. It was all word of mouth, flyers, phone calls. It was a network of people.

RRX: That's sick. I like that.

SG: I remember there would just be like 30 of us sitting in canal square and someone would be like, "is there a show tonight?" and we'd be like "yeah," and everyone would just pile into 3 cars and go to the show.

RRX: If you could think back, do you have any really funny memories of shows?

TL: Funny?

RRX: Yeah.

TL: I don't know, I remember

playing that pig roast, Sean, that was pretty wild

SG: Dude the pig roast, the Cohoes pig roast. I still have the shirt from that. The show we played at Freddy's on Elm Street where the dude who looked like Todd from Bevis and Butthead was the security dude and people were punching the ceiling tiles out and jumping through the stage.

TL: Yeah, that's a good point. A lot of the smaller venues did not know what they were getting into. I think, generally when they would have hardcore bands, but especially Straight Jacket. As embarrassing as it is, now as I'm older I feel bad. But yeah, the whole crew would roll in and they would just leave it in dust

SG: It would be mangled. We'd play, and there would be people piled to the ceiling and through the ceiling... We were just kids, we had maybe part time jobs, shitty cars we just hung out wherever we could hang out. The whole, being in the band and just doing it was fun.

BOUTIQUE &

COFFEE

MADE SIMPLE

Open: Tuesday - Sunday

Gluten free baked goods
unique gift items, healing crystals and stones
Espresso, tea, coffee, lattes and specialty drinks

behind Fred The Butcher

BOUTIQUE & COFFEE
MADE SIMPLE

1471 US-9, Unit 110 Halfmoon, New York

(518) 280-3745
boutiquecoffeemadesimple.com



ONLINE ORDERING

Marra

Funeral Homes, Inc.

Paul L. Marra

246 Remsen Street
Cohoes, NY 12047

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

T&J

HANDCRAFTED SOAP
WWW.TANDJSOAP.COM
etsy.com/shop/TandJsoaps
(518) 272-2660
271 River St Troy, NY 12180



Your favorite Spring scents are back!
We have Lilac, Peony, Baby's Breath, Sweet Honeysuckle
and more!

Attend our **FREE** metal guitar seminar on **Friday, February 23rd 6-7:30pm**

Want to play metal guitar but not sure where to begin?

Peak Music can help!



- ✓ Review the basics
- ✓ Metal rhythm
- ✓ Tips and tricks
- ✓ Sweep picking
- ✓ Pinch Harmonics

Open to the first eight guitarists that sign up!

Call or text **518-727-3401** with any questions
www.PeakMusicStudios.com Convenient Latham location.



Eat Healthy, Shop With Us!



GREEN GROCER
NATURAL FOODS

1505 Route 9
Halfmoon, NY
(518) 383-1613
Hours: MTWF: 9am - 7pm
Thurs & Sat: 9am - 6pm
Sun: 11am - 5pm

One Stop Health Food Shop



Always here when you need us!



FREE! hometown show

radioradiox.com & billbored records proudly presents:

GUS UNPLUGGED

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23
8-11 pm

Blessings Tavern II

1116 Watervliet Shaker Rd. • Colonie, NY

NOMINATED FOR "LISTEN UP! AWARDS"
FAVORITE ACOUSTIC SOLO COVER ARTIST 2024

gusunplugged.weebly.com

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



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 1211
(518) 374-2222

Asphalt & Aggregate **Customer Service** **Ready Mix Concrete**
1-800-446-8649 1-888-473-9649

Corporate Office: PO Box 15097 Albany, NY 12212
www.facebook.com/CallananIndustries
www.callanan.com



WATCHFOR.US

CALLANAN *est. 1883*
INDUSTRIES, INC.
A CRH COMPANY

A Moment Can Save A Life
Pay Attention When Driving in Work Zones



A VITA TATTOO

(518) 283-3539 avitatattoo.com

\$10 off any piercing,
\$20 off any tattoo
\$50 off permanent cosmetic.

Services: body piercing, machine tattoos, stick and poke tattoos, permanent cosmetics and esthetics.
428 N Greenbush Rd Rensselaer, NY 12144



BULL AND BEE
MEADERY AND TASTING ROOM

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

f TheBullAndBee
@TheBullAndBee
@TheBullAndBee

Donna Fitzgerald Demarse
Manager & Director

Fitzgerald
Funeral Home

Nicholas J. Brendese
Director

Funeral & Cremation Services
Nationally Certified Pre-Need Counseling - Monument Service
Our Family Serving Your Family with Compassion & Professionalism
105 Vliet Blvd, Cohoes, NY 12047 · 518-237-7666
Fitzgeraldfuneralhomelt.com



P. Gutter

Bringing hard times and adversity to fruition in verse.

LIAM SWEENEY

P. Gutter. Photo provided.

RRX: We all get into creative pursuits for different reasons. Some people get into music and the arts to escape; for some, it's a natural outlet. Was was music, and creativity in the larger sense, for you?

PG: Creating and performing music has been a huge part of my life since the age of five. Over the years it has transformed into

different forms of music but it has always been more than an art form for me. Music is a biological part of my anatomy. God has blessed me with a gift that I can't turn off. I didn't choose to make music, it chose me.

RRX: Where was the first place you felt comfortable performing? People talk about places where they cut their teeth musically. Where was

that for you? And does that place, or that scene still exist, or was it lost to time?

PG: Albany, NY is my hometown. I perfected my live performance by performing on every stage in the city before taking my show on the road

Albany still has a talented music scene but unfortunately most of the venues where I performed coming up have closed their doors.

RRX: Music is both word and note, beat and measure, and message. If your music was laid out like a story, what's the main character like? What's the plot? And what's one of the big moments that turned the story around?

PG: The main character spent his life overcoming adversity. Being successful in spite of insurmountable odds. I'm not even supposed to

be alive. Everything in my life that tried to destroy me has failed and only made me stronger and more resilient. My hustle is relentless and I'm grateful to be in the position I'm in right now. The big moment that turned my story around was the birth of my 1st son. I was doing dirt in the street with no fear of consequences because I no longer valued my own life due to the tragic loss of multiple close loved ones. The news that I was gonna be a father took the focus off of my own pain and depression. Now I had a reason to live. My life had a new found purpose and responsibility that was bigger than me. Failure was no longer an option. Success was not just a goal. Now success was mandatory.

RRX: Creative people move culture, especially musical performers. We have to thread the circumstances in our lives in a way to affect others. And this is sometimes a responsibility put on us. How do you, specifically, move culture?

PG: When I'm creating new music I make a conscious effort to create something that is authentic and resonates with the listener. I do that by drawing from my own life experiences and choosing production that provides the perfect canvas to paint that picture. My music is inspirational and full of verses that provide hope to the listener.

RRX: Music is a good traveling

companion. Play it in a car on that long ride and the miles disappear. But you gotta have something to play. You have something out, maybe more than one thing – can you tell us about some of it?

PG: I have recently released some big records that you can listen to online right now. Two of those records are "Money Talks" featuring Jadakiss and "What It Came Wit" featuring Fat Joe and DJ Drama

RRX: One of the biggest challenges musicians face is getting their name out there. There's so much competition, and technology makes it possible for everyone to be out there with a well-produced offering. What's your favorite way to promote?

PG: I make it a point to promote across all of the social media platforms. My favorite way to promote will always be in person at live shows, podcasts and radio stations because no form of promotion will ever beat word of mouth especially after an individual is excited about the real life connection they had with an artist in-person. Promoting in-person also separates you from the masses who are all trying to promote their music the same way on the same platforms.



Taylor Dayne
FEBRUARY 29, 8PM

TROY SAVINGS BANK MUSIC HALL UPCOMING SHOWS

Let's Sing Taylor FEBRUARY 2, 7:30PM	Cat Power Sings Dylan FEBRUARY 16, 8PM
Joshua Redman Group FEBRUARY 7, 7:30PM	Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis FEBRUARY 17, 7:30PM
Hannah Berner FEBRUARY 8, SOLD OUT	National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine FEBRUARY 22, 7:30PM
Croce plays Croce FEBRUARY 10, 8PM	
LIFT SERIES Connor Armbruster and Ian Cotter WISHLIST FEBRUARY 14, 6PM	

32 Second Street, Troy, NY 12180
Box Office: 518-273-0038 TROYMUSICBALL.ORG



www.biggerprints.com

Bigger PRINTS

We're a Creative Studio, Vinyl & Print Shop
Specializing in Large Format Prints.

518.328.4810
hello@biggerprints.com



Angelina Valente

*In the growth of her sound,
there's no looking back.*



BY LIAM SWEENEY

Angelina Valente. Photo provided.

R **RX:** Every comic book hero has an origin story. What is the origin story for the band? (points if you tell it like a comic book origin.)

AV: My origin story begins with a young girl in a crib. My mother always said, "You could sing before you could talk." So noticing my musical tendencies, she put me in my local community theatre program to start doing musicals. And that led to dance classes and

piano lessons. In middle school I attempted to walk away from the piano lessons but she wouldn't let me quit and so I stuck it out. When I got to high school, all of the older kids played instruments and because I stuck with my piano, I got to hang with them and make music in the school's auditorium at all hours of the day. Leaving certain classes and staying late after school to meet up with people or play all on my own.

Then, I attended Rider University to study Musical Theatre and came in contact with a few villains who tried to knock me down. But instead, I began to write my own music. Spending all of my spare moments in the practice rooms crying about boys and writing songs that made me feel less like I was failing at the whole theatre thing and more like I had finally found my true calling. The rest - as they say - is history.

RRX: Every band's first song is a milestone. But so is the latest song. Describe the first song/album you recorded, and also the latest song/album you recorded; what are the differences?

AV: The first album I recorded (EP I should say) was right out of college, 9 years ago, with a professor who luckily saw so much more in me than I could see in myself. He was a touring/session drummer with a lot of very famous people and took the time to help me

hone my skills. He had a friend who had a studio and we holed ourselves up in there during the summer after my senior year and we recorded three songs that I can't listen to much anymore because I sound like such a baby and have grown so much since then. But I hold that time dear to my heart. I think my body knew I was in the right place before my brain did.

The latest album I recorded, my first full length, was just done this past summer/fall. We did most of it live, everyone in the same room at the same time and I love that because I feel like it just captured our year so well. The musicians on this record are so killer and really made it all that it is. I'm so grateful to them and I can't believe how well it came out. But give it 9 years and I'm sure I won't be able to listen to this one either.

RRX: Like songs, every band has a unique feeling about their first show. What was your first show like? Was it your best show? If not, what was your best show like?

AV: My first shows were me basically blacking out. Even at open mics, I would step up to the piano, sweating, so nervous I couldn't feel my legs. Then I wouldn't remember a thing I said or sang, I'd step off the stage and come back into my body thinking, I can't keep doing this.

It just took time, slowly got more comfortable being on stage and singing my songs. My best shows are when I'm most present. When I can feel my legs (even if I still sweat and get super nervous) and I can connect with the audience and the band and make music. Real, present, heartfelt music.

RRX: Music genres are difficult for some bands. Some strictly adhere; others not so much. What is your perspective on the genre you play, or the genres you hover around?

AV: I like to hover around genres. When I first started making music, it was very sad-songs-with-a-piano-girl

music. This last record feels very Americana to me? A lot lighter. But the music I'm writing most recently has a little more flare to it. I'm very lucky to have a voice that can do a lot so I'd love to be able to create music that allows me to do all that I can with it.

RRX: It's a lot of fun living in the present, but we all collect memories and give birth to dreams. We're talking dreams here. Where you see yourself next year? In the next five years?

AV: The next year. I'd just like to keep growing. Keep going. Let the road take me where it leads. That kind of thing. Next five years? Ten years? I'd like to be a full-time touring musician. My ultimate goal is to be able to travel across the country and sell out small(ish) clubs but still be able to go to the grocery store and not be bombarded by people. I like picking my own produce.

RRX: We all get a little support from those around us. And we also can be impressed by our fellow bands. Who do you admire in your community, and why?

AV: Geez. There are so many people I admire. The first one that pops into my head is Rick Sleeper over at The Cock 'n Bull. He's making a place for music there like none I've ever seen. I think I've been spoiled by it actually. Every time I leave that place after a show, my heart and belly are equally full and I have leftovers to take home.

He believed in me long before lots of other people around here did. He put me on stages in front of audiences I probably wasn't quite ready for yet. But he made me believe I could do it. He put a seed in my head that made me realize this is what I want to do and these are the rooms I want to play and the people I want to play for. I want to step off stage and chat with each person and sit by a warm fire and laugh until 3 am. It's the real deal and so is he. I wouldn't be here without him and that room.



PARSONS

GUITAR REPAIR

SCHOOL

Learn to maintain and repair guitars from an expert!



DJ Parsons - Master Luthier

One on One Instruction
Flexible Schedule

Also, 2 wk. course for out-of-state students
Certificate of completion

Frog Island Schoolhouse
66 East St. Suite D
Mechanicville, NY 12118
(518) 704-5208
pgrschool41@gmail.com

parsonsguitarrepairschool.com

SAWTOOTH JEWELRY STUDIO

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

HANDCRAFTED JEWELRY

EXPERT REPAIR

ESTD 2015

Start Your Holiday Shopping With Us!

193 RIVER STREET
DOWNTOWN TROY

WWW.SAWTOOTHJEWELRY.COM



WEXT & WAMC Present...

LIVE & LOCAL

AT THE LINDA

THE E-BLOCK

NEW AMERICAN CUISINE

BARBIE BARKER

FEB. 2 - 7:30PM - thelinda.org

STICK MEN



MARKUS REUTER
PAT MASTELOTTO
FEB. 14 TONY LEVIN

SOUND + VISION

MUSIC AT THE MOVIES

ROCK 'N' ROLL HIGH SCHOOL - FEB. 6

THE LINDA - WAMC'S PERFORMING ARTS STUDIO - ALBANY
thelinda.org

Call us for all your Football munchies and wings!



Order Online
ELBOTOGO.COM

Remember us for all your munchie needs for Bowl games, the Playoffs and The BIG game. We got what you need!



518-250-5087
Take Out & Delivery

Hours

Monday: Closed

Tuesday-Thursday: 11am-8pm

Friday: 11am-9pm

Saturday: Noon-9pm

Sunday: Noon-8pm

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

644 New Loudon Rd Latham, NY

DJ Hollyw8d

More music, less violence



BY ROB SMITTIX

DJ Hollyw8d. Photo provided.

RRX: DJ Hollyw8d, man, thanks for taking the time with me here today. I knew I had to talk to you about this eventually. “More Music, Less Violence,” 100%, I can get down with that! Tell us a little bit about how you got involved in this and how it started up?

HW: Yes. More Music, Less Violence is a community concert series. I kinda coined the idea in 2020. We all know what happened in 2020.

RRX: We sure do.

HW: With the lack of being able to do social engagements.

You know? Being a full time DJ, that’s how I made my money. Bringing people together and doing community stuff. It derives from me doing a virtual

event called “Housechella” in 2020 in which I would basically have artists come on to my Instagram live and do a split screen. They would perform and that was a cool way to do the mass communication thing.

I had people from London performing, people from the west coast. It was super cool man. I realized people wanted to come back outside. So I ended up doing a pop up show uh in Troy, New York at the riverfront. I brought like four artists. I didn’t really promote it as much. It was very flash mobby as I dropped the flyer not even eight hours before.

We got some people to shoot some content there as well. The photographer and I basically put it together. An actual

like legit show. Whoever was there enjoyed it, the feedback was great.

So, I ended up doing it the next year and I did it legit in a coffee shop. It started from about 60 people and then it just slowly gravitated more and more. We’ve been to Troy, Albany, Schenectady even Caffe Lena. We’re bringing in 100 plus people per show now. I’m pretty excited for what’s to come for this year and ongoing.

RRX: Well, the thing that really made me gravitate towards your whole idea, as uh you put it on your social media pages and your website... the name says it all. More Music, Less Violence. I talked to Doc Horton not that long ago. He was talking about you and about this and I think he has some involve-

ment in this as well.

HW: Yeah. Doc Horton and the Jay Street Band performed at our first annual Gala which was at Capital Rep last year. They kicked off the show and they got the crowd going, it was such a great time. Doc and I, have done a bunch of different collaborations. We did a recent collab for his single release party at Proctors. It’s been an amazing ride and since knowing Doc and the band it’s been amazing.

RRX: Well, back to the whole More Music, Less Violence because I mean... You mentioned 2020 and obviously we had the pandemic but Albany (and other cities) but Albany in particular... I know the stats because I was a big part of trying to do whatever I could to help

fight gun violence. Gun Violence in Albany went up 1000% in 2020.

I was so happy to wake up to the Thanksgiving Black Friday edition of the Times Union, the biggest paper of the year because Xperience had a special edition in there and that was a big deal for us. But on the front page of the Times Union on Thanksgiving Day it read that Albany close to surpassing the homicide record again. I hope that we didn't, I didn't see where that ended up. Now we're here in 2024 and not even a week into this thing, it's not looking too good out there. It's really sad.

I started walking and doing the shooting responses with SNUG. The cause is near and dear to me, especially after my friend's son was gunned down. Not to mention I, myself have had a 45 to my head getting robbed in Washington Park. So to me, More Music, Less Violence is very necessary. We need music embrace this concept because as you know, it's no big secret that much of today's popular music promotes and glorifies violence and negativity.

We gotta do something about that. And I feel like the message that you're putting out there is what we need. Especially the youth.

HW: I agree and the big thing with More Music, Less Violence is when I have people perform, I tell them, one of our guidelines is no curse songs. Even if you have a song with one or two curse words in it, I still advise them to cut it and clean it up.

Music can go way further with having a clean version or just not even cursing in your songs to begin with. On top of that, for me, having a message with your music goes a long way and will resonate with someone.

That's how I try to form it with our artists. Our shows are open to all ages, Doc is in his sixties but telling it like he's 21! The youngest we've ever had perform was with an eight year old. She's 10 now.

She got the opportunity and I

booked her to perform with me at Tulip Fest. She got to perform in front of her mother. And I got to actually perform in front of my mother for the first time too!

She came up from Brooklyn on Mother's Day and she performed with me at Summer Night Out in Schenectady in front of like 20,000 people. I'll remind you once again, she's 10 years old. I'm super big into helping the youth and giving them a different outlet to express themselves. And letting them know that people are here to support their talents and foster it, more and more.

RRX: Absolutely, 100% respect! Let's get the artistic integrity back into it. Let's get some talent back into it. And God, man, if we can get that message out there. Imagine the kids starting to grab onto that. Imagine getting the message out there, that's real solid and it starts catching on. I'm all about that.

HW: With that being said... just giving kids just different options of things to do is definitely a way to keep them away from all that negative stuff that just might come their way. You know, I grew up playing sports my whole entire life. And luckily that kept, that kept me out of, um, you know, being in trouble. But, you know, at the same time, sports, you can only go so far with sports, you know. So, uh, you know, my second passion was, was, uh, music. So, you know, that I came to play and, you know, I'm just thankful for that.

And when I say More Music, Less Violence, I left it being very vague in regards to like... more music, more producers, more singers, more music managers, more DJs and more engineers. I'm really trying to push that factor too, to the youth to let them know that there's multiple sides.

So, you know? Like I said the more options we have will definitely increase the rate of success. I'm here for it all!

For more information visit moremusiclessviolence.org

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



D'Andrea's
A Slice of Italy
Large Delivery Area
Catering Available

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

Find us on:
facebook



409 FULTON STREET TROY, NY 12180
(518) 212-7729

"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!"

WHISKEYPICKLETROY.COM

HOURS
TUESDAY-THURSDAY 5PM-12AM
FRIDAY & SATURDAY 5PM-1AM
CLOSED SUNDAY & MONDAY

Extreme Music Awards

BY OP CALLAGHAN

I've always felt that our local music scene has been very supportive and positive. The Capital Region arts and music history is rich, vibrant, diverse and eclectic, and has been an open, welcoming, and thriving scene. We've had more than a few locals become internationally known, and our little part of the world has a reputation as a "must" stop for the touring artist. This camaraderie, support, and devotion was never more clearly demonstrated than at Saturday night's Extreme Music Awards held at Empire Live. This labor of love, created by locals Mike Valente, Ralph Renna, Fuzz Kebabjian, and Brendan Manley along with Ted Etoll and Artie Fredette, was not only a tribute to the local heavy music scene, but a tribute to the scene as a whole. The event included local celebrities as well as national artists from the likes of Overkill, Rancid, Biohazard, Agnostic Front and Murphy's Law. Paying tribute to an often overlooked yet vital genre in the capital region, The Extreme Music Awards more than made up for lost time.

Assuming the role as master of ceremonies was none other than Schemnectady native and drummer extraordinaire, Jason Bittner. Currently playing in Overkill and Shadows Fall Bittner's resume includes stints with local bands China White and Stigmata, Flotsam and Jetsam, Burning Human, and Anthrax. Bittner not only commanded the stage as a humble, yet professional and entertaining MC, but also played his ass off in a number of performances over the course of the evening. Bittner's relaxed, easy going manner and sharp wit kept a perfect pace over the evening's festivities. Presenters, both

live and in video submission included local members of Brick By Brick, Lethal lipstick, and sworn Enemy, and was augmented with musical performances and all star jams. Highlights included Judas Priest's "Grinder" with members of Overkill, Shadows Fall, Violence, Exodus and Hatebreed, Agnostic Front's "Crucified" featuring members of Agnostic Front, Stigmata, Biohazard and Murderer's Row, Slayer's South Of Heaven with Uncle Samm and Jason Bittner, and some killer vocal performances from China White's Paul Ruckwid, and Local Vocal phenom Vegas Nacy.

Mike Trash, winner of the Best Hair/Glam/Sleaze Rock, as well as winner of Best Veteran Band gave quite the acceptance speech (NSFW) but was much more PG on Monday morning, saying "The Extreme Music Awards was probably the most epic event in the area. I am so honored we were even nominated, let alone winning 2!"

Sponsors performers and the behind the scenes Extreme Dream team, all did an amazing job paying tribute to the local heavy/hard/punk/hardcore scene. The devotion to their craft, as well as their appreciation and promotion of the genre is inspiring and infectious. The event was exceptionally well attended, and could have easily filled a bigger venue. I spoke with Mike Valente, guitarist for Brick By Brick (who also performed at the Pre-Show party on Friday), to get his thoughts on how things went. I personally thought that this was one of the best events that the area has presented. The star quality, local recognition, and support of the fans and fellow artists,

makes one proud to be a part of this scene. Valente concurred; "Wow, I am utterly amazed at the amount of support that was had for this. Not one drop of ego in the place. I am humbled to be among such great musicians, such a great scene, such an awesome club and staff." A giant thanks to everyone who planned, played, donated their time or came to the show. This was one for fans of all ages, including scene veterans and newcomers alike. A proud day for the scene and a win for everyone.

The Awards

Best Death Metal Band: Skinless
 Best Black Metal Band: Malefic
 Best Doom/Goth/Stoner Band: Gozer
 Best Power Metal Band: Frozen Sun
 Best Prog/Math Metal Band: The Phoenix And The Raven
 Best Hair/Glam/Sleaze Band: The Erotics
 Best Thrash Metal Band: Faced
 Best Grindcore Band: Escuela Grind
 Best Metalcore Band: Downswing
 Best Punk Band: The Hauntings
 Best Hardcore Band: Violent By Design
 Best Hardcore/Beatdown Band: Wrong Move
 Best Hardcore Punk Band: Murderer's Row
 Best Metal Video: Downswing, Bound to Misery
 Best Live Performance: Joe Mansman and The Midnight Revival Band
 Most Brutal Mosh Pit: Invoke Thy Wrath
 Best Merch: Alloy Reign

Album Of The Year: Blackbraid, Blackbraid II

Lifetime Achievement Award: Bob Riley

Best New Band: Flatwounds

Best Veteran Band: The Erotics

OP Callaghan

I am really blown away by the turnout and support for heavy music. It has been under appreciated in the scene for far too long, and this show was just great.

Prog Digest

BY KLYDE KADIDDLEHUMPER

My how time flies – there’s that time reference again.

February is an important month in this household. No – Valentine’s day is not a big thing (although it is a thing even if your wife tells you it isn’t). It is for a far more important reason.... and it will all tie together – honest.

A number of years ago – I was married to constant companion with the ceremony being done by a very dear friend, and my now dearly departed brother from another mother as witness. Yes – small wedding – in the living room (it was Mrs. Peacock with the lead pipe) and there was rum.

The date – February 2nd. Think about it.....think about it.....yup. Groundhog Day.

Things keep repeating and repeating and.....well, you get the idea.

Now – let’s hit the target. Why is this important? Well, it’s all part of the nothing new under the sun routine and the prog bit this month is – Michael Portnoy.

Connection to Groundhog day – well, on October 25, 2023, after a 13 year absence, Portnoy announced his return as the once and future drummer of Dream Theater. Without doubt – likely the loudest show I have ever attended – and just amazing. Word is, now, that vocalist James LaBrie has diminished chops and may (or may not) be using tracks (maybe fellow Canadian Sebastian Bach ought to look into that) but the rest of the band is still killing it.

While many consider the band ‘stable’ in lineup – they are on their 3rd vocalist since their inception in the mid 80’s out of The Berklee School of Music having fired Chris Collins and Charlie Dominici (who I must say I consider the best of them – he passed in 2023) and have changed keyboards and singers and, that 13 years ago, drummer.

Born in Long Beach, NY, Portnoy is a busy man. Currently a member of Dream Theater, The Neal Morse Band (a founder of Spock’s Beard) Liquid Tension Experiment (with Tony Levin), Flying Colors, The Winery Dogs (with a couple members of Mr. Big), Metal Allegiance and BPMD. Previously, but fairly recently, with Transatlantic (with Spock’s Beard vocalist Neal Morse, Flower Kings guitarist Roine Stott and Marillion bassist Pete Dinklage), OSI, Cygus and the Sea Monsters, Yellow Matter Custard, Avenged Sevenfold, Adrenaline Mob and Sons of Apollo. Guy can’t seem to keep a job....heh.

And still – the prodigal son returns.

Following the 1999 release of their concept album ‘Metropolis Pt 2: Scenes from a Memory’, Dream Theater recorded a live performance of this, along with other material, at the Roseland Ballroom in NYC on 8/30/2000, for release in 2001.

This is where one of the strangest co-incidents in modern music history occurred.

At the time, I was doing some IT consulting work for a local music store. I had heard this album was on the way. Usually, record stores had the albums and cd’s the Saturday before their Tuesday release date. I received my copy that weekend. Then, the release happened – on September 11, 2001. None of them were ever to have seen the light of day, being immediately recalled that day. You see, in a gruesome twist of fate, the album cover depicted the NYC skyline, Statue of Liberty and World Trade Center – all engulfed in flame.

No time is long enough to have a snarky ending to this story.

Until next time.

Klyde



FEBRUARY 2024



February 9th, 2024
HIROYA TSUKAMOTO
Guitarist / Composer / Storyteller

Doors: 7pm | Showtime: 7:30pm
Tickets: \$15.00 | \$20.00



February 23rd, 2024
MIKE LBOVITZ

Doors: 7:30pm | Showtime: 8pm
Tickets: \$22.00 | \$25.00



February 15th, 2024
THE MATT NIEDBALSKI TRIO
ft. Awan Rashad (saxophone)

Doors: 7pm | Showtime: 7:30pm
Tickets: \$10.00



February 28th, 2024
BILLY JOEL'S ALBUM
"The Stranger"

Doors: 6:30pm | Showtime: 7pm
Tickets: \$12.00



February 16th, 2024
ACOUSTIC NOMADS
Newgrass

Doors: 7:30pm | Showtime: 8pm
Tickets: \$15.00 | \$20.00



February 29th, 2024
ZAN & THE WINTER FOLK
Americana

Doors: 7:30pm | Showtime: 8pm
Tickets: \$15.00



February 17th, 2024
THE JOHNNY CASH EXPRESS
A Special Musical Journey

Doors: 7:30pm | Showtime: 8pm
Tickets: \$25.00 | \$30.00

PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS

PARKTHEATERGF.COM | 518-792-1150



ACOUSTIC NOMADS



The Park Theater Foundation's programs are made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Observations and Ramblings from a Cranky Old Guy

BY JEFF SPAULDING

As February is considered the “Month of Love”, I thought this would be a good time to share my observations and ramblings on something many of you can identify with, especially if you are married or in a relationship, and even more especially if you are in a long marriage or relationship. Additionally, what I am sharing **DOUBLES** when one if not both people are retired. The universal topic? What to watch together on television. This differs from going to the movies since money is involved, along with the desire not to mingle with people anymore.

My wife and I will be celebrating 25 years of wedded bliss in December, and actually 27 years of being a couple. We understand our differences and in general allow each other space. When it comes to the idiot box, however, it’s Israel and Hamas. We acknowledge there are many things one person loves to watch the other would Kevorkian themselves before viewing. For example, my wife would never watch (in no particular order): The Three Stooges, anything related to The Godfather, most anything on Turner Classic Movies, anything that’s “dumb” in her words (think Larry The Cable Guy etc.), any Western, anything with Country Music (think twin fiddles and a steel guitar), and that’s just scratching the surface. Meanwhile, I draw the line (but can remain in the living room, since I am the mature one, and won’t I hear about that line) at cooking shows, home improvement shows, cute animal shows (dogs are the exception),

and anything that has the word Lifetime in it.

Now we have to determine what to watch together. As Entertainment Boy, I program a lot, 90 percent of which will only be for me (see above list). If there’s something I think she will like (meaning something I really want to watch), on occasion she will give me the Five Minute Decision. That means she is on the fence, but is willing to try, only on the condition that if she’s not into it in the first five minutes, (A) we watch something else, (B) I save it to watch when she’s sleeping, or (C) I think it blows too and I’m deleting it first.

This has been said many times, but it’s worth repeating, the main difference between what men will watch and what women will watch is easy, for women it has to be “good,” for men it has to be “anything.” We don’t care. God made remotes for men to hold, control and surf with. Even if we have seen it a thousand times, we stop and watch. We know the dialogue. We know what will happen next. It just doesn’t matter.

Now, a word about finding a movie to watch at home. Hostage negotiators are more successful in saving people than I am at trying to get my wife to decide on a movie. Honest to God, I have to hit the bathroom first, and get a little snack before my blood sugar drops to coma levels.

Please understand, I love my wife eternally, and will do whatever she asks, but her idea of choosing a movie is not the plot, not the genre, not the

stars, she chooses on what (A) the title is, (B) what the little picture of the movie shows. An example of which, let’s say one of the choices is the classic “Citizen Kane.” It’s rejected because she thinks Orson Welles is old and fat, or it’s in black and white, or she doesn’t understand what the title means, or she prefers carnations to rosebuds, well you get the picture.

On the positive side, she is predictable when it comes to genre. Her first choice is always Suspense or Thrillers. I can skip past comedies, documentaries, anything to do with sports, action,

crime, animation, musicals, historical, war, and satire. With Suspense and Thrillers, that’s still a wide range and gives me something to work with, but then we go back to the “look at the picture” thing and I break out my Xanax.

Finally, before you may think I am a horrible beast for sounding so mean to my dear darling wife, I will end this by saying she’s the bravest woman I ever met, for putting up with my crap all these years, and I can’t believe how lucky I am that she continues to be in my life...is she still reading this?

Be hearing you.

1505 route 9 Halfmoon NY
 Located in Glennpeter Plaza

518-807-5512



**OTHER ONE
 BREWING COMPANY**

**Brewery and Tap Room
 Hours**

Wed & Thur 4-9pm

Fri 4-10pm

Sat Noon-10pm

Sun Noon-6pm

otheronebrewingco.com

3 Amazingly Unique Establishments



Mcaddy's Pub
TROY, NEW YORK

**452 Broadway
Troy, NY**

(518) 326-0588

mcaddyspub.com

Susies

**8 Delaware Ave
Albany, NY**

(518) 449-2988

susiespub.com

THE LOCAL 217
TAPROOM & KITCHEN

**12 1/2 Delaware Ave
Albany, NY**

(518) 462-0050

thelocal217.com

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

12 Central Avenue Albany, New York

FUZE BOX



WHITE TOWER
HAMBURGERS

FREE PARKING: ALBANY COUNTY LOT FROM 5PM-5AM : 206 WASHINGTON AVE ALBANY, NY 12210

FRIDAY 2/2 **HEX** Asylum - Goth Dance Night 21+/\$10/8:30pm

SATURDAY 2/3 **JUST DANCE** Ladies/Femme Dance Night 21+/FREE
LADIES/FEMMES ONLY! 8-10pm/

FRIDAY 2/9 **INDIE ROCK** Service Industry - Galene 18+/\$10/8pm
Otoho

SATURDAY 2/10 **HIP HOP SHOWCASE** 21+/\$10/7pm
Camtron 5k, Mirk, Jason LRXOHZHE, A Rapp, Ricky Bandana

FRIDAY 2/16 **RESIST** Industrial Dark Dance 21+/\$10/9pm

SATURDAY 2/17 **FREE METAL SHOW!** 18+/FREE/6pm
Concrete - From Within - The Lunkheads - Casket

MONDAY 2/19 **HARDCORE THRASH** 18+/\$15/7pm
Dead Heat - Prize - Wet Specimens - Stifled

FRIDAY 2/23 **80's DANCE NIGHT** DJ Asylum FREE 8-10pm
\$10 after 10pm
21+

SATURDAY 2/24 **FRL - FUZE REQUEST LIVE** FREE 8-10pm
All request dance night \$10 after 10pm
21+

fuzeboxalbany.com

JUST DANCE



Feb 3rd

LADIES AND FEMMES ONLY DANCE NIGHT

ASYLUM ALBANY & UPSTATE BLACK N BLUE PRESENT:

DEAD HEAT
Feb 19th
PRIZE . WET SPECIMENS . STIFLED

HIP HOP SHOWCASE

CAMTRON5000 MIRK JAYSON LRX
OHZHE A RAPP RICKY BANDANA

Feb 10th

