DETERIC RADIORADIOX COM

April 2024 Vol. 6, Issue 4

22 Jon Lindstrom

General Hospital, True Detective, CSI... and now your local bookstore

26 Don Howland

A R

OP talks to Don Howland, drums, motorcycles, and a cherished local music store.

MUSIC

3 Colin Hay

Frontman for Men At Work shares the music within.

11



(518) 203 - 7730 www.darktowertattoo.com

To luc,

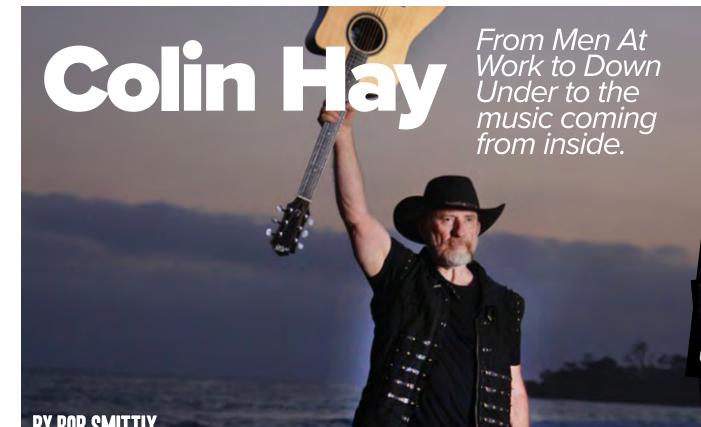
Cattoo

Tattoo

P

Piercing





BY ROB SMITTIX

RX: I'm very excited to talk to you today I look forward to April 10th at Troy Savings Bank Music Hall. It's been so many years that these songs that we love and grew up with have been released but you're still out here doing it. I imagine sometimes maybe you get tired of playing those hits because you've written so many songs since. But at a show people want to hear the classics no matter what. How does it feel inside to see how happy it makes people?

CH: Yeah. I mean the songs that were big hits are interesting because they live inside me, you know? That's where they came from. I relate to the songs perhaps in a different way than other people do.

They hear the songs, whether it's on a disk, computer or radio... however they hear the songs coming at them. But when I think about the songs they're coming from inside me.

You know? They're kind of part of who you are.

So, I don't really get sick of playing

them because they've been very good to me and they're kind of ... I don't know ... different from a lot of the other songs sim- them because they're just, there, you ply because of the fact that they were so hugely successful. I mean my old band was only together for four years and those albums did really well. I've been very lucky, I suppose because I've been touring for 35 years or something.

I've made 15 albums or so since then and none of those albums have been anywhere near as commercially successful as the Men At Work records. But you have to remember that a lot of people that have come to see me over the years weren't necessarily coming to hear Down Under or the Men At Work songs.

Because no one was telling them to come and see me. When I started going out on the road not very many people were coming and if they were coming it's because they were truly fans of what I was doing. So a lot of the people that come to see me play wanna hear the song I wrote last week, opposed to the song I

wrote 40 years ago.

But those big songs, you can't ignore know?

Colin Hay. Photo provided.

Obviously you play them because there's always a certain amount of people in the audience who've come to hear those songs. But I'm lucky because a lot of my audience have been following me since then.

So, I mean, I think it would be a little bit glum if I was going out on the road and only playing those Men At Work songs.

I probably wouldn't enjoy that too much and I probably wouldn't even do it to be honest. But I'm just very lucky because I've had a loyal, growing and passionate audience. I'm lucky in that sense.

RRX: Absolutely and you're still writing I imagine?

CH: Yeah. I released a couple of albums in the last couple of years. I did a covers record and I also did a record called "Now And The Evermore" and

Page 3

Men At Work frontman

moves beyond past fame to share what's important now.

Page 3

His work on General Hospital

and elsewhere has given Jon Lindstrom fuel for fiction with

Page 22

a new book.

Parkway Music is

stomping ground of one of

the region's best drummers/

Page 26





Art Fredette Publisher

Mike Stampalia Editor-In-Chief

Liam Sweeny Managing Editor Creative Director

Rob Smittix Associate Editor Advertising Design

Dick Beach Staff Geek

Team Members

Ed Conway John Brierly Kathy Conway OP Callaghan Peggy Smulsky Stephanie J. Bartik **T**imothy Reidy Mike Patrick Vito Ciccarelli 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@radioradiox.com Published by Imperial Broadcasting in conjunction with Radioradiox.com.



CONTENTS

3 (b) COLIN HAY MEN AT WORK 10 (c) BEN SILVER ORCHARD LOUNGE 16 (c) ANACORTEZ TRIPLE THREAT 22 (c) JON LINDSTROM ACTOR AND AUTHOR 26 (c) DON HOWLAND AREA DRUMMER 32 (c) CHATHAM RABBITS NORTH CAROLINA BAND



Continued from Pg. 3.

that's the last thing I did. Yeah, I mean, it's what I do.

I've always just been writing songs and recording them, it's very different now from how it used to be. It's more for me anyway, it's like a cottage industry. But there's a cycle that happens, it's not that dissimilar from how you used to do it in the sense that you put a record out and you go on the road to promote it.

I still do that. It's rather an old fashioned approach but now you have the advent of social media and the internet. So it's a whole different way of exposing yourself and your music to. But essentially... I think that my strength is going out on the road and playing for people that seems to be what people respond to with me.

RRX: It's funny because I totally forgot about it until someone mentioned it to me but you did that "Scrubs" episode. That was amazing and I imagine it might have really made a resurgence bringing younger people in that weren't alive during that decade to kind of say... hey, this is a really good song. That must have been a lot of fun to film.

CH: Yeah, I can't remember it all that much, to be honest, it was just a day in television. You go there and sit around for eight hours and then you do something for 15 minutes and then you sit around for few more hours and do something else.

But it was very good Zach (Braff) and Bill Lawrence who created that show.

Zach brought him along to see me play one night. He got a little bit incensed actually that he wasn't hearing any of my material on the radio.

So he said, I'm gonna feature your songs on my show and see if it can make a difference. And it did! It made a huge difference. As you say, it increased my live audience by a lot and many of them are younger people.

The power of television, especially if it's a cool show that was interesting. It was written well, so it was a nice show to be part of. It really helped me a lot and established a whole other group of people that weren't necessarily aware of me before that.

RRX: Absolutely. Honestly, it's one of the best episodes of Scrubs ever and that's a great show. I think about Blue Oyster Cult and how people now show up to their concerts wearing the "more cowbell" T shirt because of the Saturday Night Live sketch but they had nothing to do with it. At least you were totally involved in this. So it probably wouldn't be unheard of to see Scrubs T shirts in your audience.

CH: No, people do that. Yeah.

RRX: That's pretty cool. So was there anything that you wanted to say to the people that are coming out to see you April 10th in Troy?

CH: I've just really been enjoying this tour. As I said before, I mean, every-one says this...

but I have great fans and it really started off when I got dropped by MCA Records in 1990 or 91. That was the end of my life with major record labels.

So the only thing I really had were the live audiences that really inspired me to keep going. They would come to the shows and they'd say we support you. So, it has nothing really to do with having big hits or having huge success.

It has to do with the struggle that everyone has in their lives and people can relate to that. Whether you're playing to 40 or 50 people and a couple of years before that you were playing to 50,000 people.

They recognize that you don't have to do this. Why are you doing it? Well, I was doing it because I wanna still be a part of people's lives in a musical sense. That's really what's kept me going. I have a great deal of respect and I take going out on the road and playing for people pretty seriously.

I've gotten great feedback from people. So it's a very nourishing thing but I would just say that I look forward to playing for whoever comes up to see me.

JAM-PACKED WITH FLAVOR; TRY ALL OUR VARIETIES!



Buy · Sell · Invest Real Estate

Kareem Jandali

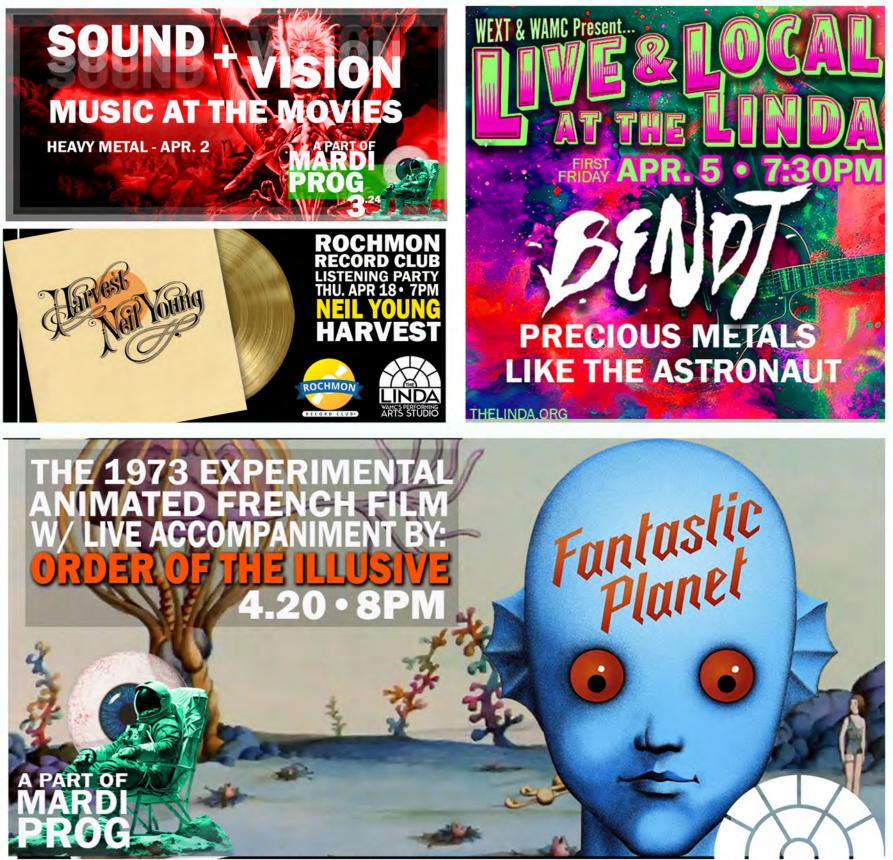
Owner / Broker

Jandali Realty 518-542-3506 jandalirealty.com



550 Hoosick St, Troy, New York 518-271-1100





THE LINDA: WAMC'S PERFORMING ARTS STUDIO. ALBANY, NY • THELINDA.ORG



















paintcohoes@gmail.com

Leslie Odom, Jr. April 17, 7:30PM

TROY SAVINGS BANK MUSIC HALL UPCOMING SHOWS

Ophira Eisenberg with shaun Eli APRIL 5, 8PM

1964 the Tribute APRIL 6, 7:30PM

MUSIC AT NOON SPIRA APRIL 9, 12PM FREE

Colin Hay APRIL 10, 7:30PM



Emo Orchestra WITH ESCAPE THE FATE APRIL 25, 7:30PM

LIFT SERIES Rafiq Bhatia MAY 1, 6PM

Ukulele Orchestra of Great Britain MAY 3, 8PM

AN EVENING WITH The Wailin' Jennys MAY 11, 8PM

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





thank you for taking some time with me today to answer some of my silly questions. First thing I'd like to ask you is, how the hell are you? And what's going on in your world?

BS: Hey Rob, I like silly questions! I am doing well. I live in Wisconsin, and I am trying to make sense of this winter. It has been in the 70s, which does not feel like a good old Midwestern winter. Often, when I am on the East

RX: First off, Ben, I'd like to Coast, people will say, "Wisconsin? Isn't it freezing there?" No. It's not that cold. Honestly, it doesn't seem cold at all. I was hot today! Lol. I actually would have preferred cold and snow for a bit longer though, so the warm rives. I've been fairly mellow, though, my work slows down in the winter. I've been listening to a lot of music, podcasts, and checking out the shows. I also absolutely love stand-up comedy

and listening to the comedy stations on might not really recognize any of it. XM on my drives.

RRX: What can we expect from a Ben Silver performance these days, besides the unexpected?

BS: You ever see videos of DJs on weather feels even better once it ar- social media that look like they are just jumping up and down in front of explo-(lol). What you can expect is the unex- looking to let loose on a Friday night. pected, because my biggest goal is to play a long set of music where people

House, techno, downtempo, jazz, rap, funk, world music ... I'm open to anything. I get a kick out of trying to cover as many bases as possible in one set. I'm into a lot of different styles of music, so it's fun to try to include elements of the other stuff I dig. Overall, I am sions? Well, you won't be getting that just happy to play music for people

> **RRX:** I've been a DJ for almost three decades on the radio but I'm not



Glens Falls Nation

There's definitely a huge difference. How would you describe the difference between what someone like myself does (front and back sell songs) and what you do to entertain the audience?

BS: I love and respect that. Growing up, I listened to the radio constantly, and then I worked in radio for a little bit. I also had a radio show on the air for about a year and had an absolute blast doing it. Being on the air and DJing for a live audience both have a similar goal of turning people on to new sounds they may not have heard. When you are passionate about an art- nature and I love how you could be on ist or a song, sometimes you just want to tell somebody else about it because you feel they may also enjoy this song that brings you joy. Or, they could hate it and change the station. You never know, but it's fun to spread the music that you feel a certain way about.

However, when you are playing in front of a crowd of people physically in front of you, not over the airwaves, the direction of the set reflects the energy in the room. Whether it is DJing solo or with my DJ collective, Orchard Lounge, I am 100% reading the room. I don't want to plan out what I am going to play because there is no way to know how the music is going to be received ahead of time. In the moment when you can watch the crowd, some songs just make sense. I always try my hardest to take the listener on a journey.

RRX: I've listened to you and Orchard Lounge, and you really know how to capture a person's imagination. Your mixes have brought me to places (dare I say realms) that I didn't know existed in my mind. So first off, thank you for that, and secondly is that really your goal with the music or am I just approaching this with psychedelic eyes?

BS: That is awesome. I am glad we were able to make you think. The goal with mixes has always been to use the sounds to tell a story. I rarely play

what you would call a performing DJ. anything with vocals, so it's the tones and textures that convey the mood. I was just at the gym earlier today, and I was listening on random, and when a song was a funky acid-type track I was bouncing between machines with a light, energetic, vibe. Then, if the next track was more atmospheric with a lot of deep, low tones, it caused me to feel more introspective and move much slower. That would also cause me to space out while thinking about something random and surely lift a lot less (lol).

> Electronic music is psychedelic by a dance floor, or on a walk with headphones on, no matter the surroundings or state of mind, and still have it reach new realms.

> **RRX:** Lastly and perhaps most importantly (lol)-do you believe in aliens? Why or why not?

> BS: Oh, I 100% believe in aliens. I mean, we may not know what is out there, but it's crazy to say there ISN'T anything else out there. The universe is far too vast; it seems like it would be impossible for there not to be life somewhere else far, far away from here. With the James Webb Telescope, they are discovering more and more Earthlike planets that could host life. The part that is hard to wrap my head around is the time it would take to actually reach these places. It would take hundreds of thousands, or millions, or billions of years to travel there, or for something to come here. But who knows, maybe there is something out there with much more advanced forms of travel that we can't even comprehend. Imagine technology on a planet if it already had life for billions of years. Anything is possible. It has been very interesting over the last handful of years how the Navy has released videos they are unable to explain. If you haven't seen the "Jellyfish UAP" video, definitely check it out (lol).

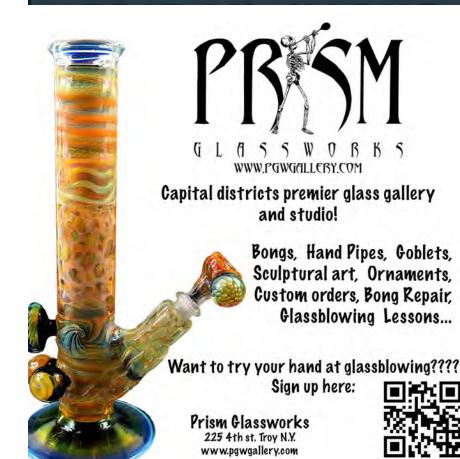


finch

















April 2024



PORTALS 2024



NEW WORKS BY: CHARLENE SHORTSLEEVE Represented By: DANTOBIN245GMAIL.COM

Paint Cohoes: Studio & Gallery

DISCOVER YOUR INNER ARTIST A space for creativity EXHIBITS Events & Murals

Find us at www.paintcohoes.com | 144 Remsen St Cohoes NY











Anacortez and talked music and recording, including a sneak preview of their most ambitious original song yet. Spoiler alert—it's great!

RRX: OK, thanks for joining me today, guys. So, Anacortez, where did that name come from?

ANA: I had this hoodie from when I did over-the-road trucking for a while, from this little town in Washington called Anacortes (spelled with an "S"). We originally spelled our band that way; I thought this would be such a cool band name. Mike and I were messing around playing music, locked in the house and stuff; this was Covid time. So I thought, "He's always been in a bunch of bands, we should start a band and call it that." I thought it sounded cool, almost like metal.

RRX: It does sound metal. ANA: It looks cooler, visually, with married?

sat down with Mike and Jessie from the "Z" on there. Very appealing. He said, "Let's do it." And then Kevin-the drummer who he was already doing another band with called Grey Days. I went there with him once a week, when he was practicing with them, and then we told Kev, "Let's make a band," and then it was on. Then we changed it to the "Z" later when we went to upload the demo onto Spotify. When I checked to see if there was another band. I found another band from New York with the same name, same spelling, named after the same small town. I'd already had the artwork uploaded and was ready to go, so I said, "We're gonna call the demo 'Anacortes'." We had done a professional recording with John Nada. Well, his real name is John Naclerio, but the studio is Nada Studio. We went down to Montgomery, near Poughkeepsie.

RRX: So you and Mike are

gether since 2020, which I only know from Facebook memories (laughs). That's a pretty good run for us. Mike and Kevin (the drummer) have been playing together since middle school, so like 30 years.

ANA: Honestly, like 30 years. We started jamming in middle school. Green Day, whatever was popular at the time.

RRX: What do you guys think about the local music scene here and a little wider view, regionally?

ANA: At least locally, I can't speak to regionally, because we don't go outside our little bubble. Locally, here I'd have to say I'm very blessed, #blessed. It offers a lot. I'm from a small town and I taught myself to play guitar-not very well-so I could sing and had something to sing over. But here, everyone I know is a musician. Last weekend, Mike

ANA: Yeah, we've been playing to- played with Straight Jacket for a packed house at Empire Live. I'd say it's thriving.

> RRX: Mike, how did you get on that show?

ANA: I'm friends with Straight Jacket from back in the '90s. I went to high school with a couple of the guys, and their bass player and I were in a band together in the late '90s called Descent. They decided to do one more run, one more big show, and the original guitar player opted not to do it. So they knew that I was a friend and would be able to learn the songs. I'm in the area so it's convenient for me. I got the call from Sean, and this was like 6 months ago. I wore my Anacortez hat on stage.

ANA: So Mike was able to play guitar with Straight Jacket and it got a lot of people to notice him. And maybe they will find us through him.

RRX: What are your guys' personal



influences in music?

ANA: I'll let Mike talk a little bit.

ANA: I was like a hardcore kid kind of vibe, and all my friends were hardcore people one way or another. I don't listen to a lot of newer, heavier music now. I don't seek it out much. I listen to a lot of R&B and neo soul, more of the After the show I was like, "Oh my god, smooth-vocal-singer stuff like that, cuz I'm a vocal guy. I really enjoy a good singer, a good male vocal.

RRX: That's interesting because that's not heavy music.

ANA: I think it sort of balances me out because I'm inclined to write these sorts of songs with a lot of chugging heavy overtones to them, and it's nice to have a soulful balance. So that's how my songs usually sound kind of driving with a nice vocal to smooth it out.

part in "Shove It," Mike?

ANA: Yeah.

RRX: And what about you, Jessie?

ANA: When I was really young, I was just really into singing. Like, I liked Disney movies. The first band song I liked was "American Pie." I listened to the tape over and over again until the he's kind of a sound nerd and recording tape got eaten at the daycare I was at. nerd, came up with some tweaks, and And I was so sad, you know, because I was little, and little kids can't handle of our band. their emotions.

so meta.

ANA: I was like 3 years old, I had Plush. this boombox, so it was like the day the music died for me. And then in my angsty teen years, I got into the alternative scene, like the Warped Tour scene. I got really into the Used, My Chemical Romance, Flyleaf, Blink-182-all of the things I could sing along to. And Avril Lavigne, who inspired me to play guitar.

RRX: What's the date of your Plush Live! show at Empire Live?

Empire Live.

RRX: Speaking of shows, can you share one of your favorite show memories, or a crazy memory from a show?

ANA: I think my favorite memory

was opening for this band with a female drummer and singer, and I took off my hat and was going to throw it into the crowd. There was a young girl there with her hands up, and a guy was standing in front of her, so I threw my hat and ended up hitting him right in the face. I'm so sorry, you get a free hat." He ended up getting the hat, and we signed both hats.

RRX: I have an admittedly nerdy question about the production sound on your cover of "Shove It." The production of that is very different than that of your demo. How much of that production sound was overt to replicate or offer homage to the original production sound?

ANA: It was a marriage of accident **RRX:** And that's you on the male and trying to have their sound ... their tuning, it worked with my guitar. I use a Dimension C pedal, like Chino does, which gives a good, metal, shoegaze-y sound. So it was pretty faithful to their sound, and people responded to it when we played it live. Then my buddy Tyler at Pacemaker Audio who recorded it, we wanted to touch on the harder side

RRX: Now it's your time to talk **RRX:** And what a sad song; that's about whatever you want or we forgot. I know you have the May 4 show with

> **ANA:** Right, May the 4th with Plush at Empire Live. Also–August 17 in Lake George-the festival organized by Marshall VanBuren, we will be hopefully playing.

> **RRX:** Thanks so much for spending some time with me this evening, and go see Anacortez with Plush at Empire

Editor's Note: The ADK-Phoric Fes-ANA: May the 4th ... be with you, at tival is at Roaring Brook Ranch Resort in Lake George, on August 17, 2024.





April 2024









193 RIVER STREET DOWNTOWN TROY PRE-OWNED CARS & TRUCKS We have a wide selection of pre-owned cars, trucks, SUVs and minivans!

Inventor

Sound House Records

Hawa

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

sandwiches, soups, salads & more



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





121



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!

Dorado

 Δ

518-874-1026

- Partiel

4TH ST TROY NY 12180

LIVE MUSIC DETROIT PIZZA – WINGS BOOK YOUR PARTY WITH US!

HOURS

MON - WED 4PM - 2AM

THURS - SAT 4PM - 4AM

121 4th Stre

ELDORADO BAR ELDORADO_BAR_TROY



Your #1 STOP for PIZZA, MUNCHIES and WINGS!



Order Online ELBOTOGO.COM

he



GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

518-250-5087 Take Out & Delivery

Rith Food On Fi

Hours Monday: Closed Tuesday-Thursday: 11am-8pm Friday: 11am-9pm Saturday: Noon-9pm Sunday: Noon-8pm

644 New Loudon Rd Latham, NY



BY LIAM SWEENY

here's nothing more frightening that putting out a book. As much fun as it can be, you never know what kind of journey it's going to take. But John Lindstrom, veteran actor of soap operas, television and film is giving the written word a go.

RRX: You're an actor, among other things, and one of those other things is a drummer. I'm a big fan of synergy and seeing how talent can apply to multiple areas of life. Did you start out as a drummer, or did you pick it up during your acting career? And either way, how do the skills you need to be a good drummer transfer to acting, or vice versa.

JL: I started playing the drums long before I became seriously in- your roles on General Hospital, and volved with acting. But I was probably 16 before I did a real role in a stage play, and I had played with a couple local rock outfits well before then. But acting was something I was always drawn to, mainly because I loved movies so much. Drumming has been very important to my development as an actor and has also informed my creative life as I moved into screenwriting, directing, and finally writing novels. Mainly, it's because of the dialogue, and how that influences the rhythm you develop being a percussionist.

Jon Lindstrom

He's been in everything from General Hospital to True Detective. Now he's in the pages.

RRX: You're very well known for the spin-off Port Charles. But you've been in a ton of stuff, including True Detective, Bosch, Homeland and NCIS: Los Angeles. You have multiple Daytime Emmy nominations. What has been your biggest challenge in Hollywood?

JL: Staying in it. I always say that breaking into Hollywood is hard, staying in is harder. It's really true. Over 70% of the actors listed on imdb can claim exactly one credit. The attrition rate is astounding, especially when you consider how badly so many people want to be a part of it.

RRX: You've just written a book called Hollywood Hustle, about a hasbeen film star and a kidnapping. I have to ask, as a fellow novelist, where your main character comes from. Is he based off of someone you know, or a stitching together of people? Is he you looking at a possible future in some deep dark mirror, a reflection of some aspect of your own life?

JL: Winston Greene is definitely a composite of many people I've known in this town. I don't have enough fingers and toes to count the ones I've personally seen careen into oblivion due to their demons. Some pull it





ston I wanted to give some props to those who are strong enough to get their shit together and make hay with what's left over. You know what they say; Trust is a hard thing to gain, but easy to lose. Once you lose the trust of the people hiring you, you're pretty much done. I can say I've flirted with disaster more than once, but that was long ago. Feels like a whole other life now, mainly because it is. But I learned early on in life that there's no one to pull you back from the abyss but vourself.

RRX: Writing is hard because you need form and substance, and while I believe everybody has enough to write a book, few people know how. But as an actor and director, you are immersed in storytelling, in the guts of it. What were you able to gather into your "toolbox" from Hollywood itself?

JL: Indeed. I think everything I've done was possible because of an having some kind of creative impulse,

together, some don't. I think with Win- almost unconscious preparation I but when it came to writing, there was gained as I learned and tried different fields of creativity. For example, Acting led me to screenwriting (which I basically learned by reading about a thousand scripts, good and bad), that led to directing (which I basically learned by watching a thousand movies), which took me even deeper into structure, motivation, plot vs story, etc. Finally, book narration took me deeper into creative writing than anything before it. When you narrate you need to lean in much harder to the text than when you're just reading for pleasure. It all added up.

> author what inspired them to write, but asking any creative why they engage in creative pursuits is going to produce an answer you wouldn't understand if you had to ask. But screw it. What turned the light bulb on for you?

JL: Honestly, I can't remember not

just a need to do it. I can't paint, I was only an OK drummer. I'm a good actor but you need a real support crew around you to do a production of any kind. Same is basically true for music since most of us only play one or two instruments. Even screenplays are often developed by committee, so I suspect it was the solitude and freedom that writing represented to me that pushed me over the edge. There's no one else to take the credit or the blame, but there's no one telling you what to write, either.

RRX: Art is always about pushing **RRX:** I know a lot of people ask an the envelope, even if it's just pushing your physical technique to a new level. Do you feel you pushed the envelope with Hollywood Hustle? If so, was it a departure from the way you push yourself as an actor, or a dovetail?

> JL: This definitely pushed me far- magic in it. Begin it now." ther that I've ever gone before. Even writing and directing a feature film

didn't require as much (as I mentioned above, there's support around you to get it done). I think in any creative endeavor you reach a point of no return: You've come too far to abandon it and have to see it through. But with Hollywood Hustle there was just no one else but me on that cliff. Going through the whole journey to publication often felt like a "soar or crash" situation.

RRX: This is where you answer the question I didn't ask. Comments? Remarks? Educate, enlighten, emote the floor is yours.

JL: The only thing I would add is of anyone feels this is something you really desire to do, then do it. I wish I had conquered my fear of it decades ago. I could be several books in by now. Remember the Johann Goethe quote-"Whatever you dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and







ear Singing Guru,

I run out of breath when I am singing, and it is worse when I am nervous. Everyone says to do diaphragmatic breathing, and I think I know what that means, but am not so sure. Please help!

Signed, No Wind Bag

Dear No Wind.

Breath support is one of the most critical yet misunderstood singing skills. It's like the VIP pass to singing success, and these are the four key moves:

Inhale deeply – like you mean it – filling your lungs from top to bottom. Don't suck in your abs. Your core should move out as inhale.

Engage your core – your abs, intercostal and lower back muscles – keep them tight.

Make sound with style (that's phonation for you fancy folks).

Rinse and repeat (because you're a Once you get the hang of filling those lungs singing rockstar).

Most online resources talk about breathing with the diaphragm, but all breathing involves the diaphragm. What the singer wants to avoid is using the upper chest area to breathe. If your shoulders are moving up and down, you're only filling your upper lungs. Chest breathing tenses the vocal apparatus and makes your singing sound tight which is the opposite of what you want to do!

You need to tighten your core and fill your lungs completely. No Wind, no concave guts here-pooch that baby out and keep it tight because you are filling those lungs from top to bottom. Instead of your shoulders moving your gut should be moving in and out. Relax those neck and shoulders. This even goes for emo or heavy metal screaming! Otherwise, you will over tense, over compress, and run out of gas early.

Practice this type of breathing daily.

all the way and exhaling slowly, try it out when you sing. It takes a bit getting used to, muscles, refine that pitch like a pro, and but not only will you be able to hold those long notes, your singing will have a better tone. Good luck, Wind Bag!

Dear Singing Guru,

I practice songs with my band and then by myself all the time, but it doesn't seem like I'm getting any better. I keep putting the practice time in but I'm stuck. There are songs I'd like to sing but I just can't. How do I move forward?

Yours Truly, Mr. Stuck

Dear Mr. Stuck,

Brace yourself for a shocker: singing songs is like the turtle race of vocal improvement - slow and steady won't get you to vocal excellence. And if you're singing along with the original artist after you You don't even need to be singing to do this. have a sense of the song, well, it's like slo-

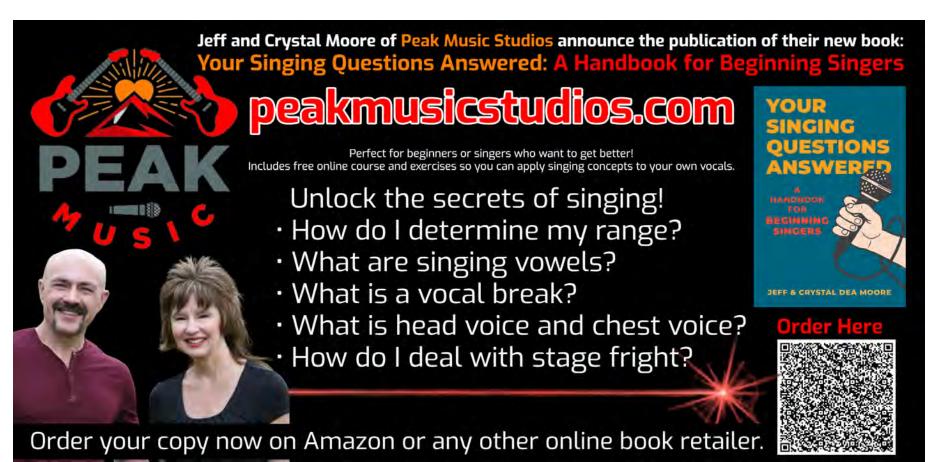
mo on repeat.

Time to switch gears! Flex those vocal upgrade your breathing game with some killer exercises. Commit to just 15 minutes a day, five days a week, and voila - improvement magic! No hocus-pocus here, I promise.

Feeling skeptical? No worries. Dive into our guide, "Your Singing Questions Answered: A Handbook for Beginning Singers." It's not your typical snooze-fest - just pure, unadulterated singing wisdom. Plus, there's a free class with evidence-based exercises that you need to move on from that voice plateau.

Mr. Stuck, I sense a singing revolution in the air! Grab your copy on Amazon, and let the vocal adventure begin. Your future self will thank you, and your gigs and shower concerts will never be the same.

Check out the Singin' Guru's author website: YouSingingQuestionsAnswered. com





Jeff and Crystal Moore BY LIAM SWEENY

you the first question I got. I am going to come right out and say it. What is the number one question people ask you about singing? And then after that, what's the number two question?

JM: Well, the number one question is usually, "Do I have talent?" And that's a very interesting question. And the number two question is, "Can I extend my range?" And both of those questions were what led us to write the book. There's so much misunderstood by asking those questions. "Do I have talent?" when it's like, "Can I learn to walk?" And it's like, "Do I have the talent to walk?" Yes, you do. We just need to show you how to do that. It seemed like a natural follow-up from there.

RRX: Speaking of talent, since we're talking about that, do you think people overestimate their potential for talent, or do you think people underestimate that?

JM: It's about 98%, 99% way underestimate talent. "Talent" are metrics that allow you to sing, which are rhythm, timing, pitch. A lot of memory. People think that they are (and they use the word) terrible. I rate it on a scale so it's easier to talk about. But ... most people are just very concerned that their singing is not good enough. And that's one of the nice things about being able to give people a path forward that want to present their voice. It's really not that difficult. There's just so much misinformation and so much emotion tied up in the voice that makes it difficult for people to get out and sing. Now, I'm discounting the drunk karaoke, karaoke people out there. That, that's, that's a little bit different. "I'm gonna take eight shots of tequila and

ferent than "I wanna improve my voice and sing in front of a group of people."

RRX: Ok. All right. Yeah, that makes sense. And so, you're saying a vast majority of people have an underreading of their own potential for talent? If I could follow up on that, so as far as the talent goes, do you think that starts with an affinity? Like ... however vou do this ... does it start with an affinity for actually singing with your voice, or is the talent something more inside? Like more of a conceptual part of a person?

JM: Well, that, that's an interesting and insightful question, because that's what it is. If someone really says to themselves, "I want to sing and present my voice and find a path to do that," we can deal with just about anyone. I have, vou know, two students who have Down Syndrome, I have one student that has a serious speech impediment, and all of them are moving forward towards performance at different levels. But it is the decision that they want to do that. And that's what we found (to be) the differentiating factor. If someone is so afraid that they can't make a decision and say, "I want to sing," then there's very little information that I can get them to do that. So it really is an internal thing. And once you get that fire going— "I want to perform. I want to sing." There's, you know, you really can't stop them once you get that fire going in a person, right?

RRX: Now you had mentioned having some students with Down Syndrome. I had read at the beginning of what Crystal had sent me, that you started this journey of your own ... from having a speech impairment. Let me give you a second to talk about that head voice and that is the stretching

RX: So let me go ahead and ask then I'm gonna sing a song." That's dif- because that's pretty important for and thinning out of the vocal folds. as they're reading through the book, I think.

> JM: Yes ... I was diagnosed with that ... early on in elementary school. They picked that up. I had difficulty speaking and making certain sounds. And, um, one thing I noticed as a kid was, I didn't have a problem when I was singing, and I was enormously embarrassed that I had this speech impediment. So, it made me, it drove me to ... sing. So that when I was singing, I didn't have the same issues as when I was speaking. And to understand as much about my voice as I could, and to avoid feeling that way, because I felt like an ... outsider. I felt like I was an insider when I was singing, and when I was just speaking to someone, I felt like an outsider. So it really drove me to try to understand myself. And later on, (I never thought I would be dealing with students,) but it really helps me have a point of connection because I know what it feels like to be embarrassed. I know what it feels like to not feel like you're good enough to perform, and all of those things. I'm really happy that I was able to collaborate with Crystal on this because it feels like we're offering something to the public that's really worthwhile. Absolutely. Absolutely.

RRX: What is your "head voice?" And what is your "chest voice?" And can you, in fact, say it with your chest?

JM: Ok. So the chest voice is basically your speaking voice. That is the range that you use on a day-to-day basis. Speaking, it is the TA muscle group that is responsible for most of that. The CT muscle group is responsible for the

someone to understand that about you, And that is a higher-pitched voice. And between those two things, as you're moving up, you get to where your break is, which is kind of the transition between the two muscle groups. And that's why you get that weird behaviorvoice flips and those types of things. They call it "head voice" because it kind of feels like it resonates in your head, and "chest voice" because it resonates in your chest. But it's basically just two different muscle groups, and whether it's pushing your vocal folds together and shortening them, or stretching them out.

> **RRX:** I have one more question here and then I'll leave the last two for Crystal. Alright ... I'm gonna do a hardcore show tomorrow. I scream. What can I do the day before and the day after to protect my voice?

> JM: All right. So the biggest thing that you're gonna do if you're doing screaming and heavy grit with your voice, is you actually practice a growling technique where your vocal folds are not grinding together. What you want to use is ... your false vocal folds (which is basically the loose tissue around your vocal folds). And that will vibrate, and that vibration produces the same effect as if you were grinding vour vocal folds and causing all sorts of health issues. So drink a lot of water. learn the right method for screaming and growling, and you can carry on a two-hour show without any problems.

> CM: And... if folks would just check us out on Amazon, that would be great. That really helps bump us up in the algorithm, but we also have an author's website. So it's just yoursingingquestionsanswered.com.





on the scene for over 40 years. He's a great drummer, vocalist, former motocross champion, and the go-to drum guy at Parkway Music. I've always found Donny to be incredibly gifted as a player, but also a humble professional who is always willing to help. His encyclopedic knowledge of drums is staggering, and I feel like I could talk to him for days. Growing up in Amsterdam, Donny has led an amazing life, surrounded by motorcycles, music, and some mayhem for good measure. I'm proud to call him my friend, and happy to introduce Donny Howland!

RRX: How did you get started on drums?

DH: My grandfather was a drummer; bought me a pair of drumsticks, snare drum, and a rudiment book when I was about 10. Now, I used to race motorcycles when I was a little kid, so I hated every minute of practicing rudiments (lol). I was bored to tears doing that, so I put drums on the back burner. Then I saw Rush at the Palace Theatre on the Hemispheres Tour. I was in the balcony and was blown away by the songs and the musicianship.

on Howland has been a fixture Also, the power that those three guys had over the audience, the volume of the amplifiers, the energy from the band, and the crowd. Anyway, I was hooked. I said "I don't know what just happened, but I want to be part of that." That summer I had a few serious injuries ending my motocross career, and I was so blown away by that experience seeing Rush at the Palace Theatre here in Albany. I went all in. So began my 40+ years of drumming.

RRX: When did you start to gig?

DH: I didn't really immerse myself into playing until I was about 18 years old, like I said, after those motorcycle injuries. But it was "game on" once that happened. I practiced four hours a day, every day. I knew I had a lot of catching up to do if I wanted to be good. My family moved to Arizona shortly after that. I answered an ad in a local paper: "Working band, looking for a professional drummer." Lucky for me. There was no such thing as the internet back then, so I called the number, told him I was from New York. They immediately assumed I was from Manhattan. I heard the guy say, "There's some kid from New York on the phone that wants to audition." They thought I was from Manhattan. I didn't tell them I grew up on a farm

here in upstate New York (lol). Anyway, that got my foot in the door. I had only been playing for about a year. Lucky for me, though, I got the gig with these older guys that were all really good players. They showed me how to play as a musician and to work as part of a group. Plus, I was getting paid to do what I love really early on. Also, I might add here, it really helps that I am a singer. I have a pretty good ear and a decent range. This has helped keep me working steadily for 40+ years. My Arizona saga continued, and I played in a bunch of bands. The main one, I would have to say, was Tyrant. That was more of a heavy rock, almost Soundgarden-type original band. At the same time, I played in cover bands. Out there I was pretty much living just on music, squeaking by eating Ramen noodles and Kraft Macaroni and Cheese. It was a struggle, but it was fun. I eventually moved back to New York.

RRX: Tell me about your first kit.

DH: My first kit was a combination of two drum sets I bought at a garage sale. I think they were Kent Drums. They were pretty crappy. I tried to doctor them up as best I could by wrapping them in white contact paper. They looked good for about

a week (lol). Keep in mind, back in those days there was very little information about drums, so I basically learned how to tune by ear. Out in Arizona, once I started playing professionally, I bought a really nice Gretsch drum set. I have it to this day. I toured with that all during the '80s. Although it was huge-it has a 24-inch kick, 14 rack, and 16 and 18 floors. I wanted to be John Bonham (lol).

RRX: Tell me about the bands you've played with.

DH: I've been doing this forever and a week, so I've played with countless bands. Notably, out in Arizona, was my original band Tyrant. I played in a cover band called Beggars Reign and played in a cover band called Night Shift. I was also in a classic rock band called Hydra. The bass player for Hydra and Night Shift went on to be the bass player for Stevie Nicks. Alfred Ortiz-we still keep in contact. He's an awesome guy and an incredible player. I spent most of the '80s touring with bands. Notably, the band Sinema. I also went on the road with another band named Talk Show. Both bands played the New England circuit, on the road for months at a time. That was a great experience, but let me tell you being on the road



me, but it can be tough. Staying in motels and band houses, traveling in a van, being away from home, and you don't get any sick days. I eventually came off the road, settled down, went to school, and started a family. I played with country bands back in the '90s; I played with Two Lane Highway and Aged in the Hills. Also in the '90s, I was in an original band called White August (we later changed our name to The Burning Cage). I was the lead singer and drummer in that band. The band Two Lane Highway eventually morphed into a band called Vivid. That was a really fun band; incredible players, and a great female vocalist.

Also, some advice for younger players: the more styles you can learn, the more tools you have in your toolbox. I made a living out of filling in with bands all over the Capital District. Getting your sound together, being punctual, staying sober, learning your parts, and being easy to work with are keys to being successful.

RRX: That's strong advice. Do you teach? Did you take lessons?

DH: I've been asked to teach, but that's a special kind of person that can teach. Not really in my wheelhouse, unfortunately. I am completely self-taught.

RRX: You sing, and play drums! No wonder your dance card is full. Do you play any other instruments?

DH: I also play guitar and do a solo act. Being a singer and knowing about one million song lyrics (which are running through my head constantly all day long, lol) helps me do the acoustic solo thing.

RRX: That's great, man. What would you do if you weren't a musician?

DH: If I wasn't a musician, I would've chosen a career as a professional motocross racer. I would've retired about 20 years ago, and probably be on my eighth knee replacement by now (lol).

RRX: I hear that you're a bit of a collector. C'mon; dish.

DH: Yes, I am a drum collector of sorts. Having the good fortune to work in the music industry for so long has allowed

can be grueling. We had a lot of fun, trust me, but it can be tough. Staying in motels and band houses, traveling in a van, being away from home, and you don't get any sick days. I eventually came off the road, settled down, went to school, and started

RRX: That's a nice collection!

DH: I am currently the drum guy up at Parkway Music. Been there for 20 years. I've met so many incredible people. This area is a hotbed for great musicians, undoubtedly. Parkway is an amazing storenot a giant box store; we are independently owned. Everyone I work with is very professional, extremely knowledgeable, and helpful. I've been blessed to make so many good friends over the years. It's been a great ride for sure. One of the perks of my job has been hosting a bunch of drum clinics and master classes over the years. Organizing, promoting, and working with the artists, making sure everything goes perfect. Putting these on is very stressful, but it allowed me to be on a oneon-one level with these amazing artists. This gave me a chance to get to know them and to even establish friendships with many of them. Here are some of the people I have had the honor of working with over the years: Rod Morgenstein; Steve Smith; Danny Seraphine; Alan White; Terry Bozzio; Omar Hakim; David Garibaldi; Will Calhoun; Ed Shaughnessy; Virgil Donati; Dennis Chambers; Todd Sucherman; Billy Cobham; Mike Mangini; Jason Bittner; Ted MacKenzie; Jack De-Johnette; Alex Acuna; Mike Portnoy; Jonathan Mover.

Something I've noticed about every single one of them—they all have an impeccable work ethic. We don't get anything for free. You have to make a major commitment and spend countless hours practicing and improving. I also found out that, even though it seems like these guys have magic powers, it's all about having some talent, being hungry, and putting in the work.

RRX: Thanks, Donny. Looking forward to catching up some more.

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









(We begin accepting mini rockers at age 5)

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





SONGS FROM

ALBANY'S

GARAGE

ROCKERS.

110000

84 YEARS IN BUSINESS!











Chainam

Did you know there's more than one Chatham? Neither did we.

BY ROB SMITTIX

spoke with Sarah McCombie of the bans Chatham Rabbits.

RRX: I think a lot of people that aren't yet familiar with you in our area are gonna be confused because they're gonna think that you're a local group. Within our local area, we actually have a Chatham, New York. So a lot of people are probably gonna think that you're from that Chatham.

SM: Oh, sure. Yeah. When we have played in New York State, Massachusetts, and in Georgia there's a Chatham. Either it's a town, a county, a region, or whatever. So, there's definitely a lot of crossover there. We happen to be from Chatham County, North Carolina. Ok. So yeah, that's where the Chatham is coming from. But I can totally understand a lot of people think that we're local.

RRX: It doesn't hurt.

SM: No. See, that's fantastic actually.

RRX: Normally, I don't ever ask

about where a band name came from or anything. It's like the most cliche thing that you can ask. But going through your information, I saw that there was another group that was like 100 years ago in the past called the Chatham Rabbits that you named vourself after.

SM: Yeah, exactly. The area in North Carolina where we live is a very prominent cotton mill community. We live very close to a river, the Haw River, and there's all of these little cotton mills that are along the edge, up and down throughout various joining counties. And when Austin, my husband-slash-bandmate and I got married, we moved to Bynum, North I mean, honestly, there's probably Carolina. That's one of these mill communities, these mill villages. We learned that back in the early 1900s, the cotton mill sponsored a string band, among other things. They spon- it as long as it was cooked. sored a basketball team, and a base-

were supposed to boost the morale of the mill workers. One of them being the string band. So when we moved to Chatham County and we moved to this little house ... we were starting our band. We found out that the original guitar player for Chatham Rabbits string band lived in a house that we bought! Which is crazy. And then we also learned that Chatham County has a huge history of rabbit hunting, supposedly around the same time. day off this week. "I'll pay you to stay Back in the early 1900s, there were so many large, wild rabbits that people were coming from all over to hunt and harvest these rabbits. Then taking them back up to places like New York. riety that made it to y'all's neck of the woods.

Chatham Rabbits. Photo provided

RRX: I mean, I would eat it. I'd try

SM: Exactly. But that's where the ball team, and all these things that name comes from, and it's a strange

name that gets a lot of questions and commentary. So that's kind of fun.

RRX: Oh, that's pretty cool. And ... so you and Austin are, like you said, not only bandmates but you're also married?

SM: Yes.

RRX: God bless you. God bless you. I don't know how you do it. My wife took a staycation this week and my boss told me to definitely take a home with her a day. She'll love it," he says. I ran the idea by her and she was like, "If you come here, I'm going to work!" She's like, "I'm taking this vacation so I can be by myself."

SM: Oh, my gosh. That's too funny. some Chatham rabbit of the meat va- Yeah, being married to your bandmate is its own subset of humanity. And the other people like us that do the same thing, we kind of all have to gravitate towards each other. How do you make it work? Because you know, it's obviously a creative partnership,



but there's also logistics and the fi- original songs in the Americana space. nancial aspect of it. Constantly being on the road and then when you're not plays guitar and fiddle, and we both on the road, you're at home together. I mean, we are with each other 24-freaking-7, except when we intentionally carve time out. We have to do that, it's crucial. So, yeah, it's its own thing and it works for us, but it's not without a lot of effort and definitely not for the faint of heart.

RRX: No, I think about it. There's a band around here named Sirsy, and they're husband and wife, and they're always posting these videos of being in the van on the road together and they're always smiling and stuff. I'm like, I can't drive to the amusement park (which is like an hour from here) without my family getting on my nerves.

SM: Austin and I 100% are constantly getting on each other's nerves. I mean ... don't worry, it's not all sunshine and rainbows over here but ... we try to really hear each other out, really respect each other, and try to find a lot of common ground. We are really fortunate that we do ultimately, really enjoy each other's company. But it's not without its struggles.

wish my wife played an instrument. I wish we could be in a band together. I've been in a band for almost 20 years. So, I guess it's kind of like being mar- way out of the state. But if it ever ried to your bandmates.

SM: Exactly. It's a whole other it's so tasty. thing. Gosh, for 20 years and you're in a band that long. I mean, there is I love my vegetables. I love my carrots. some serious devotion and partner- I got a juicer at home. I make carrot ship there.

RRX: Absolutely. And we're guys, too. too. So we'll throw it down if we need to.

SM: That's right. That's right.

RRX: So what are people to ex- something I would like to try. pect from a Chatham Rabbits concert?

SM: Yeah, so great question. We play all of our own music, so it's all

I play banjo and guitar, and Austin sing. We tell a lot of stories onstage as well. I mean, we really let the audience in and we really make it a warm, collaborative, lighthearted experience. But there's also elements where it's deeply emotional or we try to touch a lot of human emotions just within a 75-minute concert.

RRX: That would be kinda crazy.

RRX: Now, another thing: real quickly, I saw on your social media that you are part of a thing ... making a beer with carrots?

SM: Yeah, we worked with one of our very favorite, if not our absolute favorite, brewery that's also on the banks of the Haw River and an old cotton mill. It's called Haw River Farmhouse Ales. And we've collaborated with them for a big ... carrot-and-honey Vienna Lager made with all local ingredients. It was really fun ... it's obviously tongue-in-cheek, doing the carrot thing with our band name. But it was really fun to create that together and work on the name, and the flavor profile, and the artwork for the can, and all that kind of stuff. RRX: That's the best. I mean, I You know? Just all aspects of it. It was really fun to collaborate and yeah, it's sold all over the place in North Carolina right now. I don't think it's made its makes it to New York and you see it ...

> **RRX:** It sounds delicious. I mean, juice all of the time but I love my beer

SM: See, there you go. It's a two-for-one.

RRX: It definitely sounds like

SM: In all seriousness, I really need to see if the brewery can get us some cans so we can keep some on the bus and share it with people. So TBD.



MONDAYS: FAMILY TREE (7:00PM)

63A PUTNAM STREET | SARATOGA SPRINGS, NY

TICKETS & MORE INFO AT: WWW.PUTNAMPLACE.COM



2024 Listen Up WINNERS

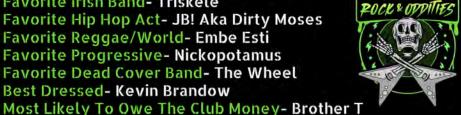
2024 Hero Award Class: Charlene "Char" Shortsleeve, Bill MIlhizer, Rudy Lu, Jason Keller, The Erotics, Johnny Rabb, Ralph Spillenger, Ted Etoll

Favorite Metal/Extreme Band- Brick By Brick Favorite Jam Band- Ampevene Favorite Blues Band- Soul Sky Favorite R&B/Soul/Funk Band- Donna Tritico Band Favorite Electronica/ Experimental band- I'm Getting The Skeleton Favorite Country Band- Skeeter Creek Favorite Performing DJ-DJ Goodlyfe Favorite Irish Band- Triskele Favorite Hip Hop Act- JB! Aka Dirty Moses Favorite Reggae/World- Embe Esti **Favorite Progressive- Nickopotamus** Favorite Dead Cover Band- The Wheel

HATFUZZINGROCKSHOW

Best Dressed- Kevin Brandow

S18SCENE.COM



CAPITAL

WABY

Favorite Solo/Duo- James Mullen Favorite Solo/Duo Covers- Jason Irwin Favorite Party Band- Hit-N-Run Favorite Rock Cover Band- Hit-N-Run Favorite Americana Band- James Mullen and The Strangers Favorite Pop Act- Phil Orsini Favorite Rock/Hard Rock Band- Same Old Rat Favorite Alt/Indi Band- No Such Thing As Ghosts Favorite Folk/Bluegrass- Jim Gaudet Favorite Jazz Performer- Ian MacDonald Favorite Punk/Garage Band- The Hauntings Best Hair and Make Up- Emo Sea Monster Most Likely to Fall Off Stage- Tommy Love

AWARDS















Capital District Digital is a digital marketing agency.

Services include responsive web design, SEO, sales & marketing automation, social media marketing, content writing & more! Page 38



Coming to Terms with Bazooka Joe **BY JOHNNY MYSTERY**

ecently a good friend brought to my attention that after two years of writing this column, I have not touched on the rich history of Bubblegum music. Seriously, I could have sworn I did. No-I looked back at my archives (or as I refer to them, my X-Files) and I've barely mentioned even one record. Now some would accuse me of being embarrassed to bring it up, but nothing could be further from the truth. I've talked up my love of Bubblegum to nearly every fellow music lover I've ever met. In fact, I'll tell people about it who don't even care and attempt to cross them over to my side. I'm usually met with blank stares because, let's face it, Bubble Gum gets a bad rap, even today.

The early days of Bubblegum ran right alongside the advent of album-oriented rock. All those new groovy FM stations were playing 11-minute cuts from progressive LPs for all the "with it hipsters" who suddenly outgrew the Dave Clark Five and were banging their collective noggins to Blue Cheer while hanging out at the head shops (I always hated those mellow places). They would never, ever consider going over to AM radio and checking out the latest offering from the Ohio Express or the 1910 Fruitgum Company. That type of music was for your little sister, or tone-deaf pre-teens who could never grasp the magnificent Woodstock Generation. Listen to what the flower people say ...

I swear, somebody once told me to never get the first Moody Blues album because it was recorded before they went progressive. And why? The cat said it was Bubblegum music. Clearly, if you ever heard that record, it's an attempt at R&B and not a really good one, but it was not Bubblegum. Bubblegum became the go-to genre for anything the new enlightened moderns of hippy land considered bad music. Nobody was really around to check into it, so the rumors just grew. If the song stinks, it must be Bubblegum!!

Do you know who wanted to be the greatest Bubblegum band of all time? The Ramones. Joey and Dee Dee are quoted saying that several times. You don't have to imagine what the Stooges mixed with the Music Explosion sounds like, because the Ramones did it and it sounds freaking COOL You can thank Bubblegum music for the explosion of Glam in the 70s. Listen to some Suzi Quatro or Slade and tell me you don't hear "Quick Joey Small." Tell me the Bay City Rollers would even exist if it was not for "Sugar, Sugar." Yeah, Music Explosion. Every Mother's Son that's right, I mentioned a song by a cartoon band, SO WHAT !! "A good record is just a good record." Do you know who said that? John Lennon.

Would you even consider it a stretch to call the Monkees the first Bubblegum band? Consider this if you will; The Monkees, aka the Prefab Four, were put together as a TV show. They pretended to be a band at first, they only did the vocals. Don Kirshner, the king of Bubblegum, corralled and produced all the material. This is truly Bubblegum of the highest order. Just last month, I attended a program called "Monkeemania" and the place was packed. The crowd and the participants were made up of all ages and

many of the people were not even born when "Last Train to Clarksville" was a hit. Talk about universal appeal, this Bubblegum stuff.

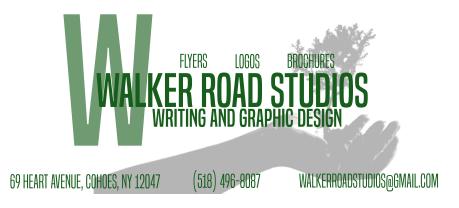
From '67 to '70 and beyond, the Bubblegum hit machine went into high gear. The 1910 Fruit Gum Company had hits with, "1,2,3, Red Light," "Goody Goody Gumdrops," "Indian Giver," and "Special Delivery." The Ohio Express did "Beg, Borrow and Steal," "Yummy Yummy." and "Chewy Chewy." The Lemon Pipers went to number one with "Green Tambourine" and followed up with "Rice is Nice." All of these records were released on the Buddah label, which would turn out to be the most successful company during the Bubblegum era. "Quick Joey Small" by the Kasenetz-Katz Orchestra was also a minor hit on Buddah.

Check out "Little Bit o' Soul" by the made a big splash with "Come On Down to My Boat." Crazy Elephant had a hit with "Gimme Gimme Good Lovin." Don't forget the ultimate Bubblegum hit, "Sugar, Sugar," by cartoon

band the Archies, which spent six weeks at the top of the Billboard Hot 100. By the way, "Sugar, Sugar" was rejected by the Monkees when Don Kirshner presented it to them. Success is the best revenge, right Donny boy?

After the initial hits of the Shadows of Knight and ? and the Mysterians, those bands released a few sides on the ill-fated Super K label but were met with little interest. Super K did put out one record that got some collectors' attention. Check out "Voodoo Medicine Man" by label owners Jerry Kasenetz and Jeff Katz. Barely a record, and sounds more like a demo, but it's lo-fi goodness all the way.

From the looks of some of these tunes, it might seem the key to having a Bubblegum hit would be to mention food twice in the title. The one thing these records do have in common is that, for the most part, the song subjects were almost always harmless and very bubblegum-y. Now scrape the gum off your shoes, and get out and hit the bins! Jughead is counting on you!





Page 39





THE BALSAM

Open Daily 9:30am-5pm | Weather Permitting Groups Welcome - Reservations Recommended 22 LAKE AVE | LAKE GEORGE VILLAGE | 518-302-6005

MOUNTAINSIDE CABIN RENTALS





CABINS | SUITES | POOL 1/4 MILE TO BEACHES, SHOPS, AND EATERIES 430 Canada Street Lake George, NY 12845 (518) 878-3906

DIRECT WATER FRONT PRIVATE BEACH AND POOL



CABINS | SUITES WALK TO THE VILLAGE

KAYAK | SUP RENTALS FIREWORKS THURSDAY EVENINGS



2736 STATE ROUTE 9 | LAKE GEORGE

22 LAKE AVE. | LAKE GEORGE | 518-857-0992





CHECK OUR FACEBOOK FOR DAILY SPECIALS TAKE-OUT OR EAT-IN

600 RIVER STREET TROY, NY 12180 (518) 272-9740

OUTDOOR COVERED SEATING WED-SUN 2PM-8PM





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





'take a walk down memory lane" time.

Jeff Spaulding; very few are. But I have recently (like right about now) come to the age where the first question I am asked is "When are you going to retire?" My answer is always the same—when pigs fly out my butt. Unless, of course, I am too feeble, incapable, or told to by my ever-suffer- the International Tchaikovsky Coming constant companion. We shall see.

It occurred to me that I've seen a really great bunch of shows in my lifetime. Santana multiple times. The mighty mighty Tower of Power multi- following ple times. Van Halen. Dream Theater. Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto No. 1 Art Van Damme–look that one up– jazz accordion. Chick Corea. Maynard Ferguson. Professor Pete (see last month). The Tubes. Dweezil. The list goes on and on and on ...

Of course, Constant Companion likes to needle me about how many times she saw the Ramones (a bunch), or her 18th birthday with Rockpile opening for Blondie at Belmont Park. the best?" And she is responsible for my nowhealthy respect for, and chasing Todd whenever possible.

What was the single best of them all? Is there one that rises above all?

In my world, yes indeed there was that ONE.

Van Cliburn at Tanglewood.

Here, kiddos, is where the history lesson starts. Thanks here to the great and wonderful Wikipedia.

born in Shreveport, Louisiana in 1934.

One could say he was a musical prodigy. He started piano lessons at age 3. At 12, he won a Texas State piano competition. He entered Juilliard

of the Russian Romantics.

In 1952, he won the International Now, I am not as old and cranky as Chopin Competition. At 20, Cliburn made his debut at Carnegie Hall and won the Leventritt Award.

Then the real fun started.

In 1958, Van Cliburn became an American hero and, in some areas, the scourge of the USSR.

That year saw the introduction of al superiority. Well, perhaps not so much.

The eight-minute standing ovation his performance of and Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 was epic. Following a short speech in Russian, he completely won over the crowd with his arrangement of "Moscow Nights."

Embarrassed judges came to the Russian leader, Nikita Khrushchev, asking permission to award the competition to Cliburn. He asked, "Is he They replied, "Yes." Khrushchev simply said, "Then give him the prize!" Cliburn and Khrushchev remained friends through the years.

To this day, Van Cliburn is the only classical musician to receive a ticker tape parade in New York City.

After a canceled concert at SPAC due to the illness of his mother, Cliburn was scheduled at Tanglewood.

Why is this the singular show in Harvey Lavan Cliburn, Jr. was my lifetime? Let's get past seeing a one-of-a-kind genius. Let's get past the venue. Let's get past anything else that surrounded Cliburn (none of which is of ANY consequence).

There is something that happens to

absolute mastery. Of seeing the complete joy in a performance. When something hits you in the pit of your stomach vou cannot describe, it leaves a mark.

As with so many things in life these days, subtlety is in short supply. The recordings are of legend and have a sense of command in a way that you simply must hear.

Why this topic, and why now? Well, petition to demonstrate Soviet cultur- let's face it folks-sometimes we just

reetings all. This month is at 17, where he trained in the tradition you when you are in the presence of need to take a look back. When you have encountered something so close to perfection that it stands out well over 30 years out, you pay attention.

> Milestone birthdays are a blessing and a curse. If you are lucky, there are real gems in your life.

> Looking forward to what the next chapter brings-and certain it will be a Chinese Curse–I will be living in interesting times ...

Until next time. Klyde



Page 42



April 2024







314 Broadway Rensselaer

(518) 268-8104

SPORTS BAR & GRILLE

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



The Heights

In this episode we will talk vant, significant and revered drummers of the past 30 years in jazz history, rhythm master Joe Farnsworth. Many of you may not know this name, a little more... but after reading this article it will be a difficult one for you to forget.

Where to begin?

Drummer, educator, leader and recording artist Joe Farnsworth is what we consider in the industry a "Drummer's Drummer." He embodies all that it means to be a legend of the music and is an inspiration to generations of drummers worldwide. His knowledge of jazz, mastery of his instrument, sound, feel and style have placed him

sic's vast history. He is one of the most about one the most rele- recorded jazz drummers of all time and continues to make his mark on the NYC jazz scene today.

Born in South Hadley, Massachusetts in 1968 Joe was destined to become a great musician. His father was a music educator and 2 of his brothers took to the music early on as well. Both of which found themselves in the procators in their adult lives. Two of Farnsworth's earliest mentors were master teacher Alan Dawson and jazz luminary Arthur Taylor. These 2 drumming icons would leave a heavy imprint on



ed in 1994.

Upon finishing at William Patter-Let's get to know this beautiful cat son, Farnsworth found himself per- in NYC were humble, kind, supportive, forming alongside young masters the likes of saxophonist Eric Alexander and guitarist Peter Bernstein. Once the word started to spread about Joe's power, precision, swing feel, speed, musicality and melodic approach he quickly found himself comping for fessional world as performers and edu- some of the greatest musicians to ever play including Junior Cook, Cecil Payne, Harold Mabern, Eddie Henderson, Pharoah Sanders, Horace Silver, gentleman of the artform. Diana Krall, Benny Golson, McCoy Tyner, Lou Donaldson, Cedar Walton and way too many others to list. To say Farnsworth has been there and done that would be the understatement of 2024 thus far. He is simply one of the greatest to ever strike the skins and go tippin' that ride cymbal.

Joe Farnsworth...

One night at Smalls Jazz Club in the West Village of NYC I was hanging out and enjoying the sounds of the Harold Mabern Trio. Joe Farnsworth was the drummer on that gig and boy was this dude swingin'. After the per- to this giant of the drum kit. formance the late night session was getting ready to kick off and Joe stayed around sitting drum side, while talking with friends, waiting to see who was going to sit in. I happened to be the only drummer (again) so when the session started it was me at the throne. I'm not sure who else sat in that night, to Eventbrite.com and search but I remember after the first tune Joe leaned over to me and said "Man, I don't know who you are, but you sound

elcome back to The Heights. among the greats throughout the mu- the style and flare of Joe as he entered really good. Nice swing feel and ideas." into the jazz program at William Pat- Those inspiring words have stayed terson College and eventually graduat- with me since that chilly winter night in November of 2014.

> Most of the heavy cats I met while confident and most of all honest. They knew when to criticize and when to compliment. It was never competitive and always genuine, coming from a place of love. Joe Farnsworth is one of those musicians who carries with them a warmth and level of integrity to be admired by those who have the pleasure to be in his presence. He is a treasure on the New York scene and a real

> > S000000000......

On Sunday, April 28th the capital region will have the honor of being present at Alias Coffee Roasters in Troy, NY as we welcome Joe Farnsworth and his band of giants to the stage. This is a one night only performance featuring some of the greatest A little background on how I met voices of jazz on the scene today. His infectious swing and soul will fill the room with a vibrant love that is sure to transcend the entire audience to a place of complete sonic blissfulness. He has never played as a leader in Troy, NY and we are privileged to play host

Here are the details....

Sunday, April 28th

Alias Coffee Roasters, 219 4th street, Troy, NY

> Joe Farnsworth and Friends Sets at 6pm & 7:30Pm

To purchase tickets please go Joe Farnsworth at Alias Coffee, Troy, NY

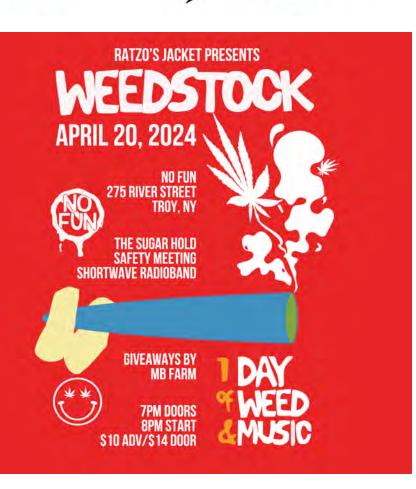




Advertise With Us









Observations and Ramblings from a Cranky Old Guy BY JEFF SPAULDING

his month, I will relive my youth (as it were) with a trip down memory lane to my earliest time in radio, when I was learning the business, polishing my chops, and trying to talk on the air without uttering a dirty word or seven (thanks George Carlin). That last one, I failed miserably at. In 47 years of broadcasting, I have uttered, purposefully or not, four of Carlin's Magic Seven. Since I'm still on the air, terrestrial or not, I still have a chance to complete the seven before I hit that big Control Room in the sky.

For one weekend, I will return to the Buckeye State and my old college radio station to be part of a worldwide event called Vinylthon. I'm going to borrow information from the official Vinylthon website, and then I will tell you about my part in all of this.

"On Saturday, April 20, and Sunday, April 21, radio stations throughout the USA and the world will be broadcast- organizes this event also hosts the aning shows from only vinyl, to celebrate the unique format for the annual VIN-YLTHON. Vinylthon also coincides with the celebrated and hugely successful Record Store Day, Saturday, April 20.

"Each year, radio stations across the world come together to take part in supporting not only this timeless medium, but also the incredible people that keep the records spinning. In previous years Vinylthon has garnered support from such artists as Judas Priest, Don McLean, Dee Snider, Sevendust, Daniel Lanois, Darlene Love, and The Lumineers.

"By taking part, stations are not only demonstrating their love of the vinyl

format but are also supporting college radio. For those participating radio stations, and upon request, they can receive special programming made available to play on the air as a part of their Vinylthon celebrations. As an added bonus, there is a unique award granted for those special stations that are able to run at least 12 hours of ONLY vinyl music-the GOLDEN SLIPMAT AWARD, sponsored by Glowtronics.

"Vinylthon is also a fundraising event for the College Radio Foundation, an all-volunteer non-profit that organizes the scholarships offered to encourage, prepare, and support the next generation of broadcasters. All money raised during this event allows the Vinylthon Scholarships to reach more students that have the passion and desire to pursue a career in radio.

"The College Radio Foundation that nual College Radio Day event. College Radio Day unites hundreds of USA college radio stations each year and has been supported by numerous artists including Andrew WK, Aviici, Coldplay, The Lumineers, Moby, and Wyclef Jean among others. College Radio Day has even been recognized and acknowledged by President Obama, with TIME calling it 'A nationwide movement ... illuminating the cultural significance of student-run radio."

So, that is what it is. Over the past 4–5 years, I have sent to my college radio station a recorded "request" and a background story as to why I requested said song. The request and song are then played (usually during what is

called "The Alumni Hour"), and a bunch of old fools think they are 18 again. With me being a spry 68, if I can knock off 50 years for a few minutes, geezers will be spinning the stacks and I'm all for it.

Over the last couple of years, some of my fellow college radio jocks and jockettes have gone back to where it all began to get the feel of playing real vinyl again and show these young whippersnappers how to do it the right way. Anyway, we got to talking and decided to make it a mini-reunion. That

led to me saying, "Hey, every day is one day closer to the box, so what the

hell, let's take a trip."

So during that weekend, a bunch of stacks of hot wax live on the air like it's 1974 all over again. I'm told the control rooms are being refitted for walkers and wheelchairs, and the school is providing complimentary oxygen and defibrillators just in case. In truth, I can't wait, and in a future issue, I will bring you a full report.

Be hearing you.





3 Amazingly Unique Establishments







mcaddy's Pub

452 Broadway Troy, NY (518) 326-0588 mcaddyspub.com



8 Delaware Ave Albany, NY

(518) 449-2988

susiespub.com

Open for Turkey Trot at 10 am!



12 1/2 Delaware Ave Albany, NY

(518) 462-0050

thelocal217.com

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

