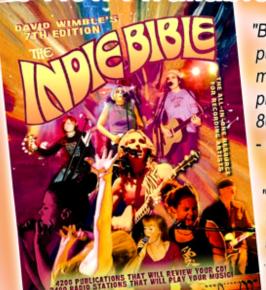


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"Fantastic Five" Cont'd from Page 1

With interest peaked all around, a song featured on the television show Joan of Arcadia, and local record sales mounting, major labels began to call. "As soon as Jim started working with us, record labels took an interest," says Orlando of the band's initial working relationship with their manager. A showcase at the Mercury Lounge (NYC) was soon to follow.

#### **Not Your Usual Record Label**

Fortunate to have a competitive situation, Omnisoul ultimately signed (Spring, 2005) a "solid" multi-album contract with Wind-Up Records, a little known independent label that has recently caught the eye of many, both in and out of the industry. Described as the "most buzzworthy label in music" by Newsweek Magazine, Wind-Up Records has, in many ways, redesigned the way that labels and artists' work together.

Citing their dedication to artistic development and their penchant for innovative marketing strategies, Wind-Up has managed to build annual sales to over \$100 Million dollars with artists including Evanescence, Creed, Seether and Drowning Pool. By putting their money where their ear is, Wind-Up execs allow their bands to mature. This means not only giving them several chances to make a hit CD, but also providing the band the basic support that is needed to focus on making music. In the past this support has



Omnisoul, L to R - Josh Berger - bass, Derek Fuhrmann – vocals/guitar, Jamie Orlando - keyboards, Tyler Ingersoll - drums, and Shawn Manigly – guitar. Photos by Rudy Archuleta

included everything from health insurance for the band (WHAT?!) to rent, gym memberships and a network of useful contacts to help the artists (in one particular case Amy Lee and Ben Moody of Evanescence) mature. With expertise in both retail and distribution, Alan Meltzer and Steve Lerner, Wind-Up's founders, have shown, again and

again, that they have the patience, dedication and capital to focus on building a brand with each band that they sign.

For the members of Omnisoul the partnership with Wind-Up has already meant much more than having a song on the soundtrack of a blockbuster

summer movie. All reports indicate that the bands relationship with their label is truly a personal one. From dinner at the president's house to having their A&R guy in the studio with them as their producer, the sense of support is palpable. "They treat us like family," reports Manigly, "We are in this together and they really want our album to succeed."

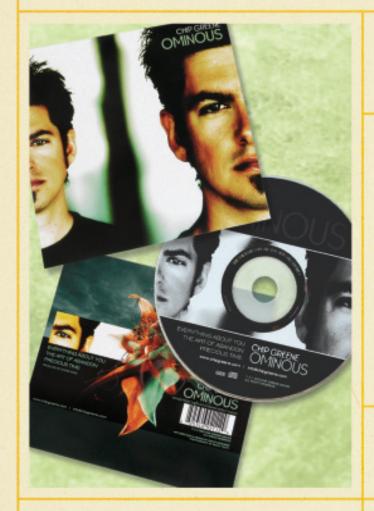
#### A Future So Bright...

Attributing their current success to solid friendships, hard work and the ability by all to "let go of ego and do what is best for the song," Omnisoul seems poised for success. With their debut album scheduled for release in "late spring or early summer" the band is currently in the process of planning an upcoming tour. "We are a live band," says Manigly, "and when we get out there and play our asses off, we make fans."

For upcoming album release and tour dates go to www.omnisoul.com

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#### Mercury (Up)Rising - A Brief Review of the Danbury, CT Music Scene

by Dave Bonan

Even though there was a sparse scene during the 60s, 70s and 80s, the Danbury music scene started in 1989/1990 at what is now Cousin Larry's Café. Those bands were Hed, China Pig, Monsterland, Bunny Brains and Creature Did in the "alterna rock/ grunge" scene. On July 2, 1992, Sonic Youth played at Tuxedo Junction where member Thurston Moore (a Bethel native whose brother's family lives in Danbury) told the crowd the Danbury scene was the next Seattle. That was the scene coagulater but the breakup of popular band Monsterland in late 1994 was the crack in the dam. I believe they were the first Danbury band to ever received a large cash advance from a record company ('s subsidiary). (Heck, they still have an underground following in Europe and Australia).

When I arrived in 1995, I felt that crack but 1996/1997 seemed to build up but never reached its potential. 1999-2002 were the prime years of the last peak of creativity in our scene. Now the peak is within reach as it's been building for the last eighteen months. It seems that every winter it churns and bubbles and come springtime, the fruits are ripe and ready to be sampled.

The Danbury scene is a rare thing to find if you live elsewhere. It's a diverse, eclectic, cross-cultural, symbiotic family organism that is forever changing.

I tried to cross-reference my thoughts of past owners of various places and incarnations but the city of Danbury's records are an immense paper trail without much confirmation. So it will be a mix of my memory and conversations with area

figures. I was also told to interview the remaining scenesters from the 60s and 70s but this piece would be a book.

The Danbury scene has always been supportive of its counterparts. We are all for the most parts, musicians, poets, organizers, media (and trouble) makers and artists. The scene has always been independent of any corporate sponsorship and yet it still continues to live. Could it be that for us, it's not the money but playing together for the fun of it? (Two prime examples – In late summer/early fall 2005, an unnamed local band won a battle of the

bands at Tuxedo's and won an expensive guitar donated by i95 (95.1 FM) and then proceeded to smash it to bits on stage. The sponsors were appalled and it was apparent that they didn't quite get it, or rather weren't on

the pulse of the community as they thought they were. Another time Ski Market donated money to a past Gasball and gave a banner for us to hang in front of the stage which we did. But we decorated it so you couldn't read it and then stomped on it at the end.) And we're one of the few, if not the only place in CT that has its music scene supported by the community. Ironically, the scene that always has plenty of money is the most homogenous, non-familial one, the cover bands that play in what I call "penny drink 'you lookin' at my woman? I'll kick your ass'" clubs. But we all must cohabitate and offer variety.

#### We're Ready, Where do we Play?

Brass City Records in Waterbury has a

history of the Connecticut psychedelic scene in 3 volumes from 1967-1971 and sadly only Ridgefield was represented in our area. But as Russ Mumma pointed out there was a scene in the 60s, 70s and 80s but it was limited. The 60s and 70s had many bands but very few venues to play as was the case, except for maybe the Elks lodge and churches. Of note were a few venues like the On the Hill Café which burned in the mid 80s and was diagonal from the East Coast Music Mall on Hayestown Avenue. There was a venue called the Factory at the North Street Shopping Center which closed in the early 70s and an all African-

late 30s and 40s. Everyone ran it and it showcased local artists and from time to time there would be benefits such as poetry reads with DJs mixing beats and liquid/black light shows all around. It's now rented by local artist and movie buff, Jim Riggs and the bathroom and back room have all the old stickers and flyers from shows spanning 10 years including lots of Gasball posters where they were shot.

The Music Guild (276 Main St) isn't a venue but is full of musical history where people come to jam. In fact, Russ Mumma, the owner created the place in 1967 but

"I don't want it to return to that type of use. I want to keep the weirdos off Elm Street as much as possible..." referring to landlord Joe DaSilva not wanting the closing Chameleon to become another music venue.

American venue near Meeker's Hardware on White Street called Payton's Celebrity Place that closed in the early 70s and Russ Mumma played there. Bands in the 60s and 70s were the Cold War Babies, Boss Blues, Blue Beats, What Nots (all female) and the Beggars Opera.

#### Elm Street/Main Street/Library Place

This block was once my favorite spot in Danbury with countless places to hang out, such as Gallery 13, Seattle Espresso, Music Guild, Luigi's and The Magickal Painted Bird.

Let us start with the former Seattle Espresso at (262 Main St) which fostered the music scene since1993 until late 1999. It was owned by Seattle native and Italian trained barista and roaster Leslie Wolff. This was everyone's respite with the classic wall-to-wall packed, Thursday open mics, hosted by veteran blues/country/bluegrass musicians, Bill Wisnowski of My Dad's Truck and Father Frank (Wedell). There were also the monthly art gallery openings with a jazz band accompaniment and great murals on the wall done by local artist Holly Gundolfi in the latter years. The sidewalk out front was teeming with folks jamming and smoking cigarettes. Most of the younger baristas at that time and the crowd are folks I hang out with now and I still see their young faces in my mind's eye. When Leslie sold the place, it was to friends of hers, Grace and Dominick as Coffee Please and unfortunately she whitewashed the walls. After a year or so it was sold under the same name to a local musician/teacher John Hurbon and his wife, doubling as a smoothie business inside. The music scene had already left this venue but he brought it back with a stage built by Leif Smith of My Dad's Truck and he would record all the shows for free and burn cd's for bands for the open mics. When he moved to Arizona some two years later he sold it to a Portuguese man who had good intentions but could never make an espresso. It was changed to the Best Hits Café (with the star on top) an obvious biblical reference. The music scene at this venue was to die a short time later. Then he sold it and it was run poorly; and they sold clothes out of it kind of sketchily. Then it changed hands again in the beginning of 2005 and is now vacant once again. I did see people in the place the other day but nothing resembling Danbury's greatest coffeehouse. A past Seattle Espresso barista, Wendy Cahill of local rock/blues/folk Sans Cherubs is now proprietor of Molten Java in Bethel which is where the current evolution of Seattle really left off with a huge gap. I like to call it Seattle East.

There was Gallery 13 (13 Library Place) started in 1994-ish and run cooperatively by countless area artists now well into their

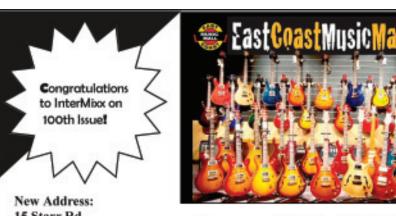
previously it was The Black Pussycat, a hipster coffeehouse where music may have been played and the black tin ceiling layout in the front windows are the only remainders of the place. Joe Bouchard, a famous local and former bassist of Blue Oyster Cult once worked there and Tracy Chapman bought her guitar there while she attended the Wooster School nearby.

On to Luigi's at 278 Main St. Music was booked by Music Guild owner, Russ Mumma which means it's all quality. They had a parquet dance floor with tables around, a small bar and pool upstairs. I only went to a few shows there. Unfortunately they closed down out of the blue towards the end of 2002, but recently opened at Christmas as Sabrasura, another ethnic restaurant and bar.

The Magickal Painted Bird (formerly at 48 Elm St) wasn't a venue but rather a pagan/ wiccan boutique that is now the Bonanza Bus Terminal and was owned by a woman from New York City named Autumn, a former model with a weird past. We used to gather there every week to hang out and talk, eat and occasionally have a jam session/drum circle. At one point in Danbury, there were three of these stores, with Purple Moon on Padanaram Road and Mirranda's Creations near the Clubhouse Deli. (Purple Moon survives). Another independent gathering place now a distant memory was the short-lived Blue Moon Bookstore (now Elizabeth Hair Salon next to Billy Bean's) which occasionally hosted a broke guitarist.

Across the street is Cousin Larry's Café (at 1 Elm St) which was opened in January of 1999. Previously it was Classics, then Gotham City, Chameleon, McNally's and then Frank's Tavern in 1973. The local music scene was strong at Gotham City as it was told to me, but its unattractive interior, both furnishings and people lingered on, even when we, at the Independent Media Center produced shows there as Larry's, starting in Spring of 2001. Larry Stramiello has always fostered the growth of the scene here and the Media Center produced benefit concerts every other month until late 2004 until Jeff Goresen, Adam Brandt and Frank Stewart started the now very popular Monday open mics. These have people traveling from 40 miles away to play and jam with the crowd. Th Tuesday night jam sessions have brought the scene that was lacking back to the forefront, starting just 2 months ago and quadrupling attendance, while bringing back veteran scenesters into the mix from word-of-mouth. Malcolm Tent from Trash American Style showed me a saved newspaper clipping about the Chameleon's demise in early 1991.

Mannequin's/Foo Bar (corner of Ives and



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White Sts) has a weird story. It appealed to the upscale with martinis and dance music and an occasional band. Rumor has it the 2 partners fought and one decided to open a competing club originally called The Loft which became Foo Bar. Look through the windows and you'll see the furniture just as it was left back in 2000/2001. There was a power washer on the building recently, so look out!

Billy Bean's Café and Pub at 80 White Street has hosted countless local bands from 1994-2005. Before that, it was Gilly's from 1986-1994 where local music was utilized.

11 Ives Street always caters mainly to the penny drinks crowd. It was once Boppers and other incarnations. I saw the one and only rock/metal show there in the back room (In Itself and Vitamin F) which has a huge stage and great sound but they don't take advantage of its potential.

The Ives Street Café (12 Ives St) has a storied history and I used to read poetry and jam here on alternating open mic Thursdays with Seattle Espresso. It went through many name changes finally settling on Copacabana.

Tuxedo Junction opened in 1983 by a wellknown real estate professional and local, Rick and Ron Jowdy. It showcased live local and national acts for many years and in 1998 Mike Roviello and Al Caccamo bought the business, although the Jowdy's still own the building. (How convenient). They are smart enough to cater to the Brazilian population in town with Brazilian nights and the large room now hosts mostly cover bands. I remember they hosted the burgeoning CT ska scene in the mid-90s and 1997 was the last year good music was there, although they have brought in local talent in the big room recently. The front room is now The Monkey Bar (at 2 Ives Street) and was previously The Living Room, The Lounge, and The Cave. They now host all local music and some regional and northeastern bands. A blurb in the July 2003 issue of the Hat City Free Press's "Local Music Concert Calendar" mentioned The Lounge returned to playing local music after a 6-year hiatus. Also, a few WestFest concerts (the annual springtime WCSU concert) have been hosted due to rain outs at the outdoor venue, the Ives Concert Park.

The Colorado Brewery and Trading Company (6 Delay St) opened in ? was at one time another independent brewery in Danbury. They hosted local bands and gave them chances to earn their keep by playing weekly. Open jams were featured and they also had regional bands, big band orchestras and national acts. There was a stage in the cavernous brewery area, a loft upstairs and smaller stage by the entrance. A great memory was BigTopLow's Halloween show in 2000? where they were dressed in white jumpsuits and each wore a pumpkin head the whole gig. Owner, Mike Kondrat, was a very honest person who unexpectedly died the day he decided to close the business, on February 15, 2004. He was a real supporter of the scene and it broke our hearts when he passed on. The best memory was during the Gasball in 1999 or 2000 when the City of Danbury constantly rejected his plea for an Oktoberfest on the Danbury Green, so during Gasball, he brewed a special edition Gasball Brew and provided a bar in his front parking lot with taps and stools. The venue sat vacant for a while and then became Pure Country, a country western bar. The lack of this venue in the vicinity definitely brought in their scene, but its demise was it also catering to one type of music and it closed down. Just recently it was reopened as Premier Music Hall in the fall of 2005 by local music scenesters, Peter Kauff and Keith Mahler who cleverly hired local talent to work every aspect. They are hosting local bands and have already brought through national talent

The Empress Ballroom, (155 Main Street, Palace Walk) opened in 2000 by Chris Cacciato, Billy Willy and Brian Blair. It is located in what was once the staging area of the former Empress Theatre, once a popular movie palace, second to its neighbor, The Palace Theatre. Billy sold his share in 2005 and local sound master and DJ, Brian Blair retained ownership. They have hosted local, regional and national acts and the basement is fully equipped with state-of-theart studios and rehearsal space.

Area bluegrass musician Bill Wisnowski designed what is now City Ale House (253

Main St) and it was an all ages venue called The Chicken Coop for reasons known to many of us, but you'll just have to ask me since it's kind of a rude joke. The first show was on January 4, 1993 but there may have been

a Halloween show prior to it. Local police tried to bust them many times but never had anything. The stage is where the bar is now and it was one room. It became Hat City Ale House in 1996 with over 100 beers on tap and a cigar bar. It was to became one of the premier music venues in our area for many years with local jazz quartet Blue! playing there almost every Wednesday for 6+ years. Pete Walrath of this publication played guitar for them. They closed down in mid-2005 and it was long coming. \$2 pints started to cause fights and from our viewpoint, there was no manager, only owners and staff as well as the no-smoking ordinance. It was then transformed into City Ale House, run by the building's owner.

Did you know the Danbury Music Centre (256 Main St) had local shows? Only two. Freak Baby played there on February 15, 1991 with Bunny Brains and two weeks later there was a metal show, but the smoke machines caused problems and that was the end of that venue.

It may have been called Old Park Avenue Lounge when it opened in the 1950s, before it became Park Avenue Lounge (127 Park Ave) in the 1960s. Then it became Blues Alley by Rufus (last name not remembered) a retired IBM executive. Russ

Mumma booked there for 3 years by bringing in countless legendary blues and jazz musicians. It became Mario's in 2003 with the occasional scenester playing there.

McNally's (Steak and Ale), formerly Classic Rock Brew Pub (1 Wibling Rd) opened as the latter in 1995 and closed in mid-May 2003. They hosted local bands, cover bands and national acts touring the regional area on their off nights. It is located at Danbury Airport and the building was a former hangar. The building is soundproofed, so when you go to your car the sound stays eerily indoors. Previous incarnations were a gay steakhouse, The Hangar and The Flying Squire which hosted local bands in the late 1970s.

St) had shows as the latter in 1995, mostly dance party music. There were live band shows there in 1980-85. It has been closed for a long time.

Debbie's (now demolished) was on the corner of Elm and New Sts, behind the red church and was a dive. They hosted bands from 1991-92

The First and Last Café (formerly Quest) at 2 Pembroke Rd (corner of Pembroke and Padanaram) hosted bands from 1983-86.

The Dialtone was located somewhere on Mill Plain Road and hosted bands from the mid-1970s until 1982.

Elan's (82 Federal Rd) formerly City Limits

I tried to cross-reference my thoughts of past owners of various places and incarnations but the city of Danbury's records are an immense paper trail without much confirmation.

Trash American Style (on 12 Mill Plain Road) is the scene store and venue for the area. You can buy, sell and trade almost anything there (within reason) and they host local bands and bands passing through on tour on their off nights. It can fit 25 people standing if you move the clothing racks and they have been presenting shows since 1990. Malcolm and Kathy even had/have their own record label, TPOS that put out amazing local and regional music on vinyl since the early 90s.

#### Flashes in the Pan

TK's American Café (255 White St) had many incarnations as seen on their "venue graveyard" on site and they hosted the scene from 1990-93. Both Billy Bean's and TK's are the last two bars on White Street. In the 1950s, there were about 60 bars on White Street.

The Old Oak (84 Liberty Ave) a Portuguese watering hole and restaurant is an inviting building from the outside with porthole windows and brick and stone on a corner in the "Little Portugal" section of Danbury. I saw one live show there in 1999/2000 when Omin'E held their CD release party there.

Evolutions, formerly Sunset City (68 Keeler

hosted bands from 1982-84.

Widow Brown's Café on 128 Federal Road hosts weekly open mics and hosted local bands in the mid-1990s.

Bebe's Lounge at 40 Tamarack Ave (corner of Tamarack and East Hayestown) hosted bands from the late 1970s until the mid-1980s.

The Cowboy Café at 40 Wildman Street, formerly Rosie's and Togeby's hosted bands from 1983-87. It was a biker bar for many years.

The Atlantic (seafood restaurant) at 176 Germantown Road was previously Players that hosted bands in the late 90s until 2001. What used to be a one-room venue is now unrecognizable.

East Coast Music Mall has supported the local music scene from its opening in 1977 until present day. They hosted bands at 240 Main St in 1977, 242 Main St in 1979, 40 Main St in 1981-82 and Hayestown Ave from 1988-2005. On Main St, they gained local and regional fame for letting bands try out P.A.s and lights on their stage, but their neighbors hated the noise and put and end to it. Their new property on Starr Avenue



will feature a stage once again.

Pippa's on 100 South St hosted bands in the early 1990s.

#### Tying it all together

The countless ethnic restaurants rarely have music, but when they do, it's not local music. Western CT State University has weekly coffeehouses and the Music Departments' musicians have always

crossbred into the scene as an outlet (I did). Many of the amazing musicians in the scene today were in the department when I was and we would jam. And let's not forget the many famous musicians who live nearby. Joe Bouchard (former bassist for Blue Oyster Cult) who lives in Kent and who jammed with some of us at Cousin Larry's last year, Mary Travers (of Peter, Paul and Mary) lives in Redding, Meatloaf in Weston (who coached his son's soccer team) and Keith Richards who occasionally lives in Georgetown and plays at the Georgetown Saloon's open mic.

The scene always seems to surprise me. Remember "7 on 7" in early summer of 2002. Brilliantly done but sadly, only once. It was 7 area venues with 7 bands and folks paid a set price and all the bars did well as a band would play at one place for 45 minutes and the next show would start at the next venue 15 minutes later. Then on December 31, 2005, overlapping family members of area legends, Litmus, along with Burnkit and Kateroy staged a great

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party at Bethel Cinema with beer, raffles and bands in the main theater with Nina's Hair signature visuals and video game consoles on the other screens.

The Gasball was a time of the year when we would all put our creative and mischievous heads together and show Danbury and the surrounding communities who we are and what we do best in art, music, mayhem and culture. Sometimes it was one day, others two days. The popular area bands would play. There was no Gasball last year after eleven straight years but this year we've been given the greenlight for 3 days. What awaits?

I welcome any scenester who I'm friends with or not to chime in the next issue with their recollections of the scene from their points of view and add to our scene.

Thanks to Malcolm Tent, Morgan Pettinato, Russ Mumma, Bruce George Wingate, Todd and a special thanks to Marian Anderson, the oft-underappreciated Charles Ives, and Monsterland.

About the Author: Dave Bonan is a vearround bicycle rider and advocate, activist, organizer, musician, journalist for the Hat City Free Press and one of 30 co-founders of the Mad Hatters Independent Media Center.

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## TIPS FOR PERSONAL SAFETY

With all the dangers of MySpace, cyberstalkers, sexual predators and other internet related tragedies in the news lately, it's clear that we are living in dangerous times. Personal safety is even more of a concern than it ever was.

These excerpts are taken from a primer I wrote some time ago, the advice is timeless and never more timely. The entire primer can be easily downloaded as a Word document from our site:

#### www.InterMixx.com/downloads

As a performing independent musician, you are always seeking to increase the amount of attention you can bring upon yourself. Sometimes, that attention may not be a good thing and there are some important facts you should always be aware of. Your personal safety is priority one and should never be taken for granted.

The statistics tell the tale every year, too many people becoming the victim of crime, sometimes violent and deadly. The daily news reaffirms the sad truth. According to the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN) there were 198,850 victims of rape, attempted rape or sexual assault in 2003, and every two and a half minutes, somewhere in America, someone is sexually assaulted. RAINN, which was founded by Tori Amos and others, is the nation's largest anti-sexual assault organization and operates the National Sexual Assault Hotline at 1.800.656.HOPE.

Other potential crimes should also concern you, such as the theft of your gear or vehicles. Whether you are in a band or a solo performer, and regardless of your gender, you should always remember to think about your own personal safety first in any given situation.

BE CAREFUL, and ALWAYS remain alert

about your own personal safety whether you're a woman or a man. The unexpected situation is always the most dangerous. Don't let yourself be lulled into a false sense of security by thinking "It'll never happen to me."

#### Some Personal Safety and **Security Tips & Suggestions**

These tips and suggestions may help in ensuring your personal safety and security not only when you are touring and gigging, but at all times.

#### Vehicle Safety

- \* Keep your doors locked and your windows rolled up. Remember to lock the trunk, the hatchback, the tailgate... in other words, ALL doors and windows on vans, motor homes and trailers. If possible park the van or trailer with its doors close against a wall to prevent opening.
- \* Don't place a mini replica of a license plate or any personal identification (e.g. name or address) on your vehicle key ring.
- \* Consider purchasing a steering wheel lock to deter would-be thieves.
- \* As you approach your vehicle, have your kevs ready. Before entering the vehicle check the back seat to ensure no one is hiding there.
- \* Engrave batteries, wheel covers and car stereos with your driver's license number. \* Store a spare key in your wallet or purse, not inside or outside the vehicle. Thieves know all the hiding places.
- \* Don't invite a vehicle break-in by leaving packages or valuables in sight (instruments, gear, clothing, radar detectors, cel phones, CDs). Take valuables with you, put them under the seat or lock them in the trunk.
- \* Periodically check your license plates to make sure they have not been stolen, switched or altered.
- \* If someone tries to get into your vehicle, drive off immediately. If this is not possible, use your horn to draw attention to what is happening.
- \* Consider your surroundings. Well lit, busy places are obviously the best spots to park. Do not park in a poorly lit areas or anywhere that causes you to be concerned with walking to or from your vehicle.

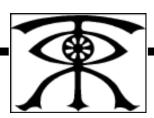
#### Bicycle/Scooter/Moped Safety

- \* Purchase and use a good locking device. The bicycle frame and both wheels should be secured to an immovable object, preferably a bicycle rack. If you have a quick release seat take it with you.
- \* Try to park in a well lit area and remember that a spot that looks good in the day may not be adequately lit at night.
- \* Engrave an identification number (driver's license number) in several places on your cycle e.g.- the frame, both wheels, front forks etc. Ensure the markings can easily be seen, as this will make it less attractive to a would-be thief.
- \* When traveling by bike, scooter, moped etc., be aware that ride-by snatchings are not uncommon. Do not leave valuables in baskets or other areas where they are easily removable from the cycle.

#### Pedestrian Safety

- \* Walk with a strong attitude. Keep your head up and act like you know exactly where you're going (even if you don't).
- \* If you are lost on the streets, be careful whom you ask for directions. Good options are employees at stores, hotels, and gas stations. Do not ask strangers on the street.
- \* Stay in well-lit areas. Walk midpoint between curbs and buildings, try to keep from using alleys or less traveled routes between buildings, and avoid bushes.
- \* Stay near people and avoid taking short cuts alone through deserted places.

Continued on Page 8



# Real Time Records

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#### **ROBYN HARRIS: ROAD WARRIOR, NOMAD, SPIRITUAL SEEKER**

by Lauren Quinn

Noel Ramos of the Independent Music Conference has described Robyn Harris as a "sweetheart" and said this about her performances; "Robyn's live show feels both comfortable and provocative at the same time. She'll charm you, and surprise you in ways that draw you into her world and keep you riveted to your seat."

On MySpace.com Robyn states her location as San Jose and Philadelphia but she has been everywhere. Originally from Saratoga, California, she attended college at UC San Diego. It was there that Robyn began writing music as a form of relaxation. As she relates in her biography, singing and songwriting became a "social and spiritual quest" for Robyn.

It was this spiritual quest that also provided her a lot of material for her music. In 1998 Robyn spent a semester in India. After the semester ended she was not ready to go home yet and decided to backpack around the world. Her nomadic journey took her to New Zealand, Australia, Southeast Asia, and South Africa to name a few. In Argentina Robyn decided to stay for awhile. Once settled there, she pursued another of her passions... teaching.

While working at a learning center where she taught the children English with songs she had written, a spark ignited in Robyn. Upon returning home she realized "at that point, I had definitely become more of a songwriter."

Wanting to take the next step in her

journey the singer decided to move to Philadelphia in September of 2002. She chose Philly because she knew someone there with a small studio and record label. After trying to lay down a couple of tracks, Robyn realized she was not ready to produce a whole CD. Instead, she hired a guitar instructor and vocal coach while taking several months off from performing.

Robyn did make time to record a six-track demo, "Two Red Doors," but it was not until February of 2005 that she felt ready to start recording her first full length CD. "Pocket My Pride" was released in August of 2005. Her most recent project is a video that is

now in the editing stage and should be completed in March. Robyn is also planning the recording of her second full–length CD which is scheduled to take place in May.

When the songwriter is not in the studio, she is touring and driving... LOTS of driving. She traveled 10,000 miles on her two and a half month long tour this past fall. It began in Boston on August 24th and continued through November 11th with her last show in Kingston, New York. Robyn only goes home to her parents for few weeks at a time to earn money as a waitress so she can go back on tour. Whether you are on the east or west coast, be sure to check out Robyn Harris the next time she motors through your town. You can find a schedule of her shows, pick up her CDs and get some of her great merchandise at www.RobynHarris.com and www.IndieGate.com/robynharris.

"Safety," Continued from Page 7

- \* Carry only necessary cards and money.
- \* Do not stop to provide strangers with directions or information, especially at night.
- \* Walk with someone else whenever possible and set up a buddy system with your friends.
- \* Do not jog or walk alone at night.
- If you suspect that you are being followed:
- \* Be openly suspicious. Keep looking behind you so the person knows you cannot be surprised.
- \* Cross the street or change direction.
- \* Go to a well-lit area, enter a residence or building, get yourself anywhere there are people and telephones.
- \* Be observant and aware, notice and remember as much as possible.

Residence and Accommodations Safety: The perceived safety of your home or hotel room can lull you into a false sense of security and occasionally you may not pay as much attention to your own personal safety as you should.

According to research done by the New York State Office of Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Services, it was determined that 4 out of 10 sexual assaults occur inside the victim's home. Even more importantly, if you are touring and accepting the graciousness of hosts who offer you their hospitality for the night, be especially vigilant and cautious. Be aware that most sexual assaults are perpetrated by acquaintances of the victims, not strangers. The Violence Against Women Survey (Statistics Canada, 1993) of women in Canada found that 89% of sexual assault victims were attacked by someone known to them. According to a national study cited on the Miami University web site, 77 percent of rape survivors knew their attacker and most acquaintance rapes happen to women ages 16 to 24.

The primer contains many more safety tips that may reduce your risk of a potentially threatening situation or becoming the victim of a crime. Please download it:

www.InterMixx.com/downloads



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#### LUNCH Receives Award from World Hunger Year; Presents Check to WHY at Chapin Concert - Hard Rock Café in New York City



December 14, 2005 - MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT Local United Network to Combat Hunger (LUNCH) received an award for innovative grassroots solutions to fighting hunger from World Hunger Year (WHY), an international hunger-fighting organization co-founded by Harry Chapin in 1975. The award was presented at a concert featuring members of Harry Chapin's family at the Hard Rock Café in New York City on Sunday, December 11, 2005.

At the concert, celebrating WHY's 30th anniversary, LUNCH founder and executive director Bill Pere presented WHY with a check for \$1,000 for

the 16th consecutive year. The money was raised through concerts put on throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island by the LUNCH Ensemble.

WHY invited the LUNCH Ensemble to attend the concert, and nine Ensemble members joined Bill Pere and Kay Pere for a day in New York City, highlighted by the concert, which featured members of Harry Chapin's family including his daughter Jen, his brothers Tom and Steve, and Tom's daughters Abigail, Lily, and Jessica (known as "The Chapin Sisters"). Also performing were original Harry Chapin band members Howard Fields and "Big" John Wallace, and special guest





Darryl "DMC" McDaniels, of the legendary hiphop group "Run-DMC." With Sarah McLachlan, McDaniels recently recorded "Just Like Me," which tells his own personal story of adoption and features the chorus from Chapin's "Cat's in the Cradle."

"I saw this as a very rare opportunity for the LUNCH participants to actually get to see the original creators of the songs they have been singing all these years, and thus gain a new perspective on the music we do," said Bill Pere. "We have so many kids and parents who have given so much that it was an exceptional opportunity to show them that their contributions of time and talent really are appreciated not only in Connecticut, but beyond our borders, and by the Chapin family."

Representing LUNCH were Bill and Kay Pere,

Chelsea Bateman, Anna Buehler, Katie Castagno, Stephanie Leach, Rosemary Ostfeld, Samantha Schaufler, Stefanie Schaufler, Rachelle Seney, and Kat Wyand. All agreed the show was "awesome" with three generations of Chapins participating. "This is the kind of event Harry would have loved," said Grammy-award winner Tom Chapin. "With music and stories shared and sung by close friends and family, with the proceeds going to help those in need."

WHY (World Hunger Year - worldhungeryear.org) is a nonprofit organization co-founded in 1975 by the late singer-songwriter Harry Chapin and radio talk show host and present Executive Director Bill Ayres. WHY attacks the root causes of hunger and poverty by promoting effective and innovative community-based solutions that create self-reliance, economic justice and food security. Harry Chapin donated half his concert proceeds toward various causes before his untimely death in a car accident on the Long Island Expressway in 1981 at the age of 38. The Hard Rock Café event was part of WHY's Hungerthon concert series, and all of the performers are members of its Artists Against Hunger and Poverty Program. Through AAHP, WHY and dedicated artist-citizens have raised awareness and more than \$7 million for more than 500 anti-poverty organizations in the US. Each artist has given considerably to community based organizations in WHY's Reinvesting In America network. These organizations address the underlying causes of hunger and poverty by providing education, life skills, job training, community economic development, health care, child care, housing and transportation, among other services, to their clients and communities in need. They are feeding America's hungry and moving people out of poverty. For additional information on WHY's Artists Against Hunger and Poverty program, please call Jennie Walker at

The Local United Network to Combat Hunger (LUNCH) was founded in 1989 by Bill Pere and has raised more than \$500,000 to support community outreach agencies and programs. The LUNCH Ensemble (lunchensemble.com) includes more than 40 young people from throughout Connecticut and Rhode Island. Some 2,000 youths have participated over the years and they see first hand that they can make a difference in other people's lives. For more information on LUNCH, please call Bill Pere at 860-572-9285.



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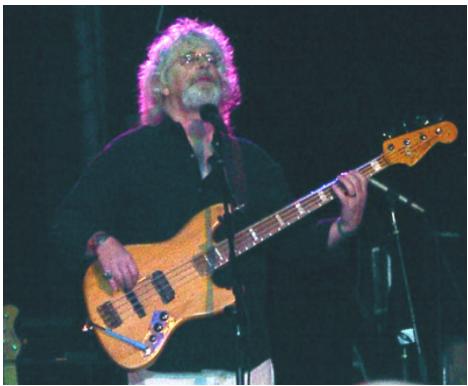
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Mike Grayeb, Board Member of WHY and the producer of the Hard Rock concert, recognized a few individuals and groups that are "doing extraordinary things to make a difference in the local and worldwide fight to end hunger.

Bill Pere and his LUNCH team has done such a tremendous job over so many years in keeping Harry's legacy alive by bringing the messages of hope and commitment to the cause through song that we felt it was appropriate to recognize their efforts at this celebration of Harry's life.

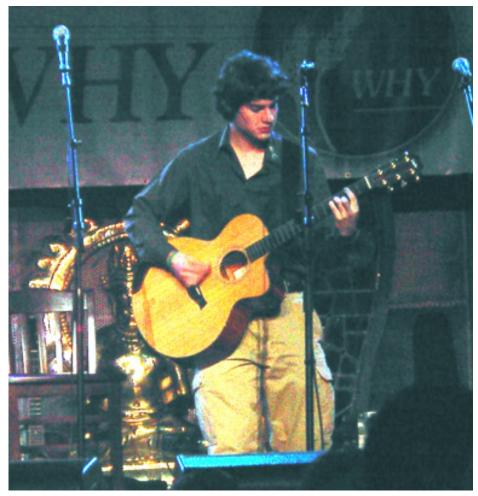
LUNCH continues to help thousands of people each year, by raising much needed funds and by inspiring others to get involved and make a difference, which is what Harry Chapin was all about. WHY really appreciates Bill Pere's continued efforts to bring together communities of people toward this vital common cause."





**Above Left:** Big John Wallace, bassist in the original Harry Chapin Band. **Above:** Bill Pere talks about LUNCH at the Hard Rock Cafe in NYC. **Left:** Bill and Kay Pere. **Lower Left:** The Chapin Sisters perform. **Bottom Left:** Tom and Steve Chapin perform. **Below:** Jen Chapin performs. **Bottom Right:** Jonathan Chapin performs.





#### IndieList - independent music advice, resources, referrals, discounts and discussion

The IndieList began 15 years ago as the very first email discussion group on the web specifically for independent music! Now it has become a popular group on MySpace with almost 1500 members. The independent artists who are members of the InterMixx InterNetwork learn from the many generous industry members (many of whom also teach at the IMC!) who have graciously agreed to offer advice and assistance. To join: http://groups.myspace.com/IndieList Reprinted here are a few excerpts from those discussions...

**Q.** OK, so now we're in the digital age, and the idea of a physical "master disc" is all but obsolete. So what does "retaining ownership of your masters" mean to today's artists? To further complicate my question, how does it relate to digital delivery and the infinite number of perfect duplicates that can be created and sold and/or digitally distributed as podcasts, ringtones, etc.?

**A.** Good question. I've seen many misunderstandings arise over this. When an artist finishes a recording (one song or full CD) the following pieces exist:

- a) The individual digital tracks.
- b) Midi sequence file(s) if any midi tracks were used.
- c) The digital file which is the 2-track stereo mix-down.
- d) The mastered version of the 2-track mix (peaks adjusted, spacing between songs, entrances and fades adjusted, etc.).
- e) The physical CD burned from that digital mastered stereo mix.

Items **a** through **d** above will exist on a hard drive somewhere.Item **e** is a physical disk.

If the writer/artist has paid a studio or producer to do the recording, then the writer/artist owns ALL of the above and should take possession of it all (D can be called the digital master and E can be called the physical master, but you want to have ALL the pieces that you paid for).

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It should be made clear at the start of any relationship with a producer/engineer that whoever is paying is contracting their services as a work for hire, and thus has the full right of ownership of all the above items. The producer/engineer has no further claim to any of it UNLESS:

- the writer/artists don't pay as agreed for the services
- another arrangement was negotiated and agreed UP FRONT
- the producer/engineer has waived some or all payment in exchange for partial interest in the song's future income (as negotiated up front)

It is also important to specify up front how the above items will be delivered to the writer/artist. Item E, the physical disk is easy. The other items, which can take up a full hard drive, will have to be given to the writer/artist on a portable hard drive, and it is normal for the writer/artist to have to pay for that drive (\$100-\$200, or less, for a standard IDE Drive). Many artists don't even know to ask for their Midi files as well, if any were used.

It is important to define the understanding up front, since a producer/engineer may add considerable creative content and thus believe they have some right to a part of the song or album's future income (sometimes called 'points'). This is not true unless otherwise agreed up front. I've seen many studios hold back on giving the

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digital masters to clients due to these kinds of disputes.

Another thing I've seen is for a studio to give the artist the physical CD master but not the digital tracks, effectively making the artists come back to that studio for any additional editing or changing that needs to be done. That is simply unethical if the writer/artist paid for the recording/production services. Reputable studios will make sure the person paying for the project gets all the parts of the project and can take them elsewhere.

The artist should be free to take the digital tracks and mixes to any other studio for further work. This cannot be done if they only get the physical disk and not all the digital files.

Be clear on all parts of the agreement up front, and do expect to have to pay for whatever hard drive you are going to walk away with, but by all means, DO walk away with that hard drive with ALL your files on it, unless there is some agreement otherwise.

Bill Pere www.BillPere.com www.CTSongwriting.com www.CTSongs.com www.LunchEnsemble.com

Revenue Streams for Independent Musicians

**Q.** In a recent radio show, the host listed "6 potential ways a band can earn revenue."

#### They were:

- 1.) Sale of Music
- 2.) Touring (live performances)
- 3.) Merch
- 4.) Internet
- 5.) Publishing
- 6.) Video

I would probably subdivide those into other items as well or possibly add a few, such as licensing, ringtones, royalties, fundraisers, endorsements and "other" (meaning work as a session player or jingles writer, or luthier, or roadie or drum salesman or ANY music-related job that helps pay the bills.)

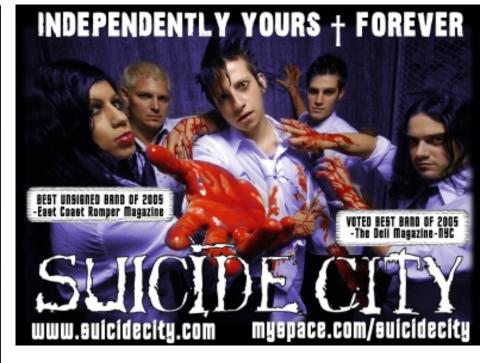
I'd probably also add the inevitable "Day Gig" in there as well, because it's nothing to be ashamed of if you make good money as an Entertainment Attorney, Financial Advisor or Domino's delivery dude and it's helping to finance your music career. That's the reality and it should be embraced.

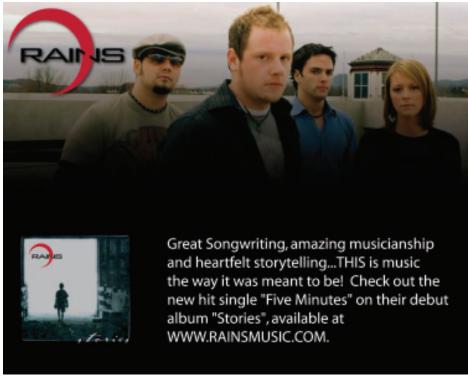
Ringtones might go under "internet" and royalties & licensing might go under "publishing" which leads me to one of my main questions. The "publishing" beast has long been a source of some mystery and I'd love to hear some feedback from the experts on the topic.

Continued on Page 17



Prices do not include shipping costs and are subject to change without notice





# LauraLea: Trained Business Women, Born Singer

LauraLea Taraskus did not plan on becoming a singer/songwriter. She actually just finished up her Associates Degree in accounting and was working as a hotel sales manager when she started singing with friends for fun. Then the business graduate was given an idea for a business... get paid for singing!

So LauraLea kept her day job as a sales manager and started selling her new band, Eve's Apple, to bars at night. Before she knew it they were playing a lot more and she started slacking on her day job. She continued slacking at her job for eight months before she realized it wasn't for her and quit. LauraLea had no idea what she was going to do but in the back of her mind she was hoping her band would take off.



Then one night a band called Tin Pan Alley came walking into a bar where LauraLea was doing an acoustic act. The band wanted her to replace their pregnant singer. It took some convincing but she joined the band and never went back to an office again.



Eve's Apple and Tin Pan Alley were cover bands but they provided LauraLea with an opportunity to gain experience as a performer. Prior to



joining Eve's Apple, LauraLea had no singing or guitar experience, other than a few piano lessons when she was only four years old. In the year and a half she was with Tin Pan Allev LauraLea gained a great deal of experience. Her bandmates helped her learn the guitar.

Eventually the singer went out on her own and formed LauraLea and Tripp Fabulous. Since then she has been performing an average of six nights a week doing originals and covers. This allows her to be a full time musician, leaving her days open to write new material. LauraLea describes her music as open to interpretation. She likes writing music from which listeners can get their own meaning. When I asked LauraLea what her idea of success was she replied, "To make a living off of performing my music." Check out LauraLea at www.MySpace.com/LauraLeaMusic.





### \*\*\*\*\* blurbs \*\*\*\*\* stuff that just don't fit anywhere else!

#### Jaxon's Local Shots Vol. 1 Released

On Dec. 6th Philadelphia's 93.3 WMMR and on-air personality Jaxon released a compulation CD with 13 tracks from Philly area artists. The CD is available at area Tower Records and all proceeds benefit Music Cares.

#### Ike Opens for Bon Jovi

That's right boys and girls, last month's cover and page one feature opened for Bon Jovi on Feburary 4th. The show took place at the Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City in front of a SOLD OUT crowd.

#### Keep An Ear On This Band

Self described as a whiskey drinking Rock n Roll band, FOSTERCHILD is a band that you don't want to miss. FOSTERCHILD is Kevin Miller (drums, ex Fuel), Brian Quinn (guitar, ex Octane), Eric Leonhardt (bass, ex Freak), and Danny Beissel (Vocals). You can check them out at:

www.fosterchildmusic.com and www.myspace.com/fosterchildmusic

#### **Robyn Harris**

Robyn Harris will be moving back to California in March. Her last show in Philly will be on March 11th at the Tin Angel opening for John Eddie. Be sure to check it out.

#### **Apologia and Rains**

Apologia and Rains played their first show together at the LEGENDARY CBGB's on January 17. It was a great show and hopefully these two acts play together again in the future. Stop by www.apologiamusic.com and find out

about their U-haul trip for this show. I'm surprised no one got locked up. Check out Rains at www.rainsmusic.com

Throg (formally The Frank Porter Band)
One of last issue's cover stories The Frank
Porter Band has changed their name to
Throg. They will be playing at CBGB's on
March 4 and The Five Spot in Philly on
March 10th. Check all their dates out at
www.frankporter.com

#### Canadian Invasion set to release first full length album!!!

After two years of recording Canadian Invasion is set to release Songs For The Atco Ghost on Tuesday, March 21. On Friday, March 24th they will host a release party at The Fire in Philadelphia with special guests the Andy Brown Trio. For more info go to:

www.canadianinvasionrocks.com

Our Own Noel Ramos Appointed NY Chapter Coordinator for Songsalive!
Songsalive!, the international singer/
songwriter organization founded in 1997
by Gilli Moon Aliotti and Royanne Kiely in

by Gilli Moon Aliotti and Roxanne Kiely, in Sydney Australia has announced the appointment of Noel Ramos as their NY Chapter Coordinator. The first NYC Songsalive! Songwriters Workshop & Showcase hosted by Noel @ The Bitter End in Greenwich Village will take place Sunday Feb. 26th at 5:30 pm.

www.songsalive.org/newyork

#### LELIA BROUSSARD HURRICANE KATRINA BENEFIT

Time has gone by, people have forgotten, but for many families in South Louisiana, the nightmare is still very fresh and they are living it everyday. Indre Studios in South Philly is the setting on February 25th for a benefit show for some of those families featuring the music of Lafayette, Louisiana native Lelia Broussard. Although now living in Philadelphia, Lelia has many family and friends in South Louisiana, which is why she and her team decided to have another benefit show to help out a few specific families there. "I believe there are very worthwhile organizations doing great things for the people of Louisiana and I know it's important to support them, but I also know that some families get lost in the shuffle. The money raised from this show will go directly into the hands of a few families we have adopted back home. They still need so much, and every little bit helps. This show is to raise money but it's also to celebrate the spirit and resolve of the people we love so much. And it's Mardi Gras! What a great time to celebrate! And if you know anything about the people of Louisiana, you know that their spirits are very strong and we never miss an opportunity to celebrate!" says, Lelia.

There will be two shows on February 25th, along with some good Louisiana food and drink, beads and Mardi Gras trinkets. "Back when the hurricane first hit, there were a lot of benefit concerts and I participated in several of them, but I knew then that in six months, people would probably start to forget, maybe even sooner than that. So I always had it in the back of my mind to do another benefit show when the right time came. I think with it being Mardi Gras, it's a perfect time to bring the attention back to the problems people are facing and to try and get some additional help going their way. I couldn't think of a better place than Indre Studios because it's just a great atmosphere for something like this. If you haven't been there before, you're in for a real treat!" Lelia explains. Joining Lelia that night are New Jersey jam band Days Awake (www.daysawake.com). "I am so happy to have Days Awake do this benefit with me. I first met them this summer in New York and we have been friends ever since. They have such a high energy rocking set, and people are going to be blown away by them." says Lelia. Need another reason to come out? Lelia's band is filled with some of the finest

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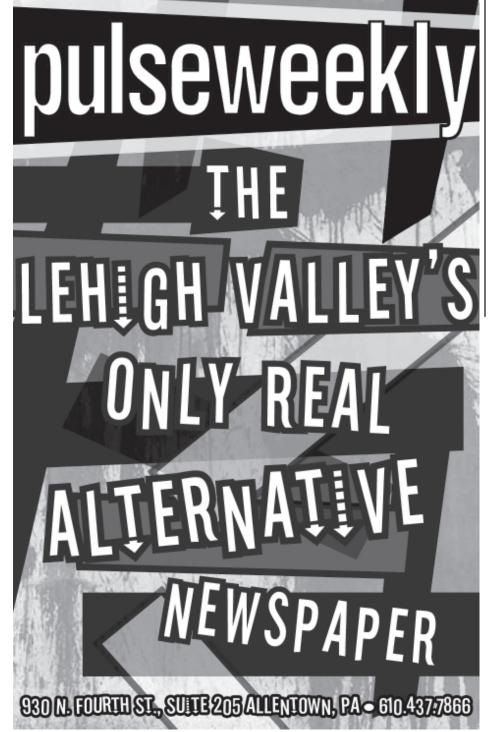
musicians in the area. Chico Huff (James Taylor, Carly Simon) Erik Johnson (Huffamoose, The Fractals), Joel Bryant (Aretha Franklin, Harry Connick Jr.), Ron Jennings (Jim Boggia), Matt Cappy (Kirk Franklin, Earth, Wind & Fire, The Roots, Jill Scott) Chris Farr (Rob Thomas, The Roots, Jill Scott), and Mayra Casselles (Regina Bell, Phyllis Hyman).

When asked specifically how Hurricane Katrina affected her family, Lelia says, "The most difficult thing was not knowing... not being able to get in touch with family and friends, and of course, watching it all take



Independent artist, Lelia Broussard is presenting a benefit for Hurricane Katrina victims. The artist stresses that the need is still there.

place on television and looking for people I might know was heart wrenching. My cousin is a Sheriff's Deputy and was out rescuing people... I think he is a changed person because of what he saw. My uncle was a reporter there, it was just devastating, and there were about 5 families we didn't even know staying at my grandma's house which was pretty hectic for them... but I guess the most important thing to remember is we still need to help people out there and they will need our help for a long time, and that's what this concert is about. The people I know in Louisiana will definitely be celebrating Mardi Gras this year and so that's why we wanted the show to have a celebratory theme as well, because that is what we do in Louisiana even in... well, especially in hard times." People coming to the show can expect a rollicking good time or as they say in South Louisiana, "Laissez les bon temps rouler" (Let the good times roll!)



# "ear-responsibility" It's a good thing! The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association WWW.asha.org Courtesy of Elaine M. Law, CCC-SLP/A Speech-Language Pathologist • Educational Audiologist

"IndieList." Continued from Page 14

So, question one is: In simple terms, what kind of publishing revenue can an indie artist work towards and what does the typical deal look like?

I have long suggested that indie bands need to "diversify their revenue streams" (look Ma, I'm quoting myself!) and in this brave new digital world, new opportunities to do just that are popping up every day. Indies can add a lot of little "trickles" together to form a healthy combined revenue stream and actually earn a good living from their music and related products/skills.

The BEST part of creating a total income stream by combining lots of little trickles of income is that you have security. If all your eggs are in one basket and that source of income goes away, you're sunk. However, if a diversified indie loses one or more tiny trickles, no problem! It's a much simpler and less stressful challenge to find a replacement revenue stream for a few dollars than it is to find another single source of sustaining income.

Here's my second question: Can any of you suggest other possible sources of "trickle income" to add to our current list?

And my final questions for this round: For those of you already experiencing some success with diversified income streams, how do you keep track of it all? Do you work with a financial expert, use a computer program, keep a ledger...?

**A.** Publishing is one of those often misunderstood areas of songwriting, so here's a brief summary:

When a song is written, it automatically has

two equal parts: the writers' share, which is 50%, and the publishing, which is 50%. (Thus if a song has 2 writers and the song is under contract to a third-part publisher for 100% of the publishing, and the song earns \$100, then the writers get \$50 to split as per their own agreement, and the publisher gets \$50. If you, the writer, retain your publishing rights, then you ARE the publisher and you get to keep the other \$50.

Note that all royalties are paid to the publisher and the publisher pays the writer(s).

What all this means is that when you have finished writing a song, you are the writer AND the publisher. You can choose to keep the publishing rights and try to shop the song yourself (i.e. place it with other artists, license it for film, ringtones, etc), and if you do that, you get to keep all the revenue.

If however, someone offers you a publishing contract, and if you sign it, then the publisher is responsible for shopping the song and gets to keep the agreed-on portion of 50% of the revenue (REMEMBER - if you sign away 100% of your publishing rights, it is 50% of the song - you NEVER give away any portion of your writers share (50%) ). You can co-publish, meaning you retain some portion of the publisher share, and you sign away some portion of the publisher share (a 50/50 publishing deal means you own 75% of the song — 50% for the writer's share and half of the other 50% — and the other publisher owns 25% .

Given the opportunity, should you sign away some or all of your publishing rights to a song? The answer is yes ONLY if:

(a) You are SURE that the publisher has a

better chance of getting the song placed somewhere than you do (what's their track record, are they reputable, what are their connections, etc) - otherwise it's no better than you doing it yourself.

(b) the contract is at least equivalent to an SGA contract (check the SGA website)

(c) you NEVER are required to pay the publisher a penny - this is important, as it is the publisher's responsibility to pay all fees, demo costs, copyright registrations etc. You do NOT pay a publisher (exception - if you are co-publishing, you may split costs). If a publisher asks you for all the publishing rights and asks for money, walk away.

(d) there is a reversion clause where you get your song back if nothing happens in a year, or two at most

(e) you're clear on the exclusivity publishers like to have a song under exclusive contract to them, meaning you can't shop it or place it elsewhere for the duration of the contract, unless otherwise specified

(f) you're satisfied with how the publisher will pay you (remember all monies will go to the publisher and you're dependent on the publisher to pay you)

(g) the MOST you are giving up is 50% of the song (equal to 100% of the publishing) (h) if you are co-publishing which party is the adminstrator of the song (i.e. only one party manages the licensing, royalty collection/payment, etc).

If you're okay with all of that, then go for it.

All songwriters should have their own publishing company. It just means setting up business name for yourself. No special incorporation or anything needed. It can just be a sole proprietorship with a checking account in the publishing name, and a

spreadsheet for record-keeping. If you ever decided to join ASCAP or BMI, it's best to do so as a publisher rather than as an artist

In a band, having clear written definition of who owns what part of songs co-written in a band or with others always helps avoid hassles if the band breaks up or if a particular song is wanted by a third party.

Whether you are the publisher or another party is, you need to know what a publisher does.

There are essentially 4 sources of royalty revenue, and the publisher seeks to generate these, negotiate rates, collect monies, and pay the writers.

They are:

1. Mechanical (CD's)

(statutory rates, usually administered by Harry Fox or by Record label )

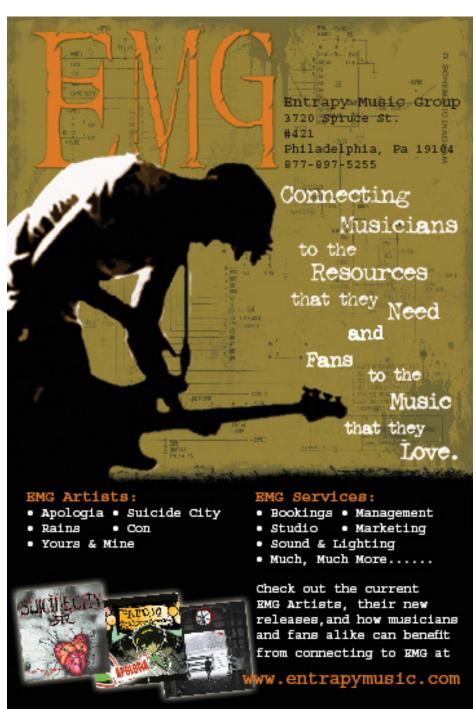
2. Synchronization (Film, TV, Soundtrack, Stage-negotiated by the publisher)

3. Print (sheetmusic, printed arrangements - negotiated by the publisher, Administered by the print publisher)

4. Performance (radio/TV airplay, concerts, jukebox,muzak, etc.-sometimes negotitated by the publisher, or sometimes payments administered by ASCAP/BMI/SESAC through their formulas )

New stuff like digital downloads, podcasts, internet radio, and ringtones are still finding their place in all of this, but the principles are the same - 50% writer share, 50% publisher share and YOU are the publisher unless you sign otherwise.

Regarding 1. above, it's important to realize that once you publicly distribute a song in any form, it is 'published'. Once a Continued on Page 19







#### Independent Music Conference - Dallas Panels and Workshops to date:

Check the site for frequent updates!

\* PANEL: Digital Delivery... It's A Reality!

(Neil Sheehan, Gilli Moon, Richard Gabriel, Noel Ramos-Moderator)

Digital delivery is a reality. Now we are seeing how it is affecting the market. Even in the short time that we have been utilizing this new distribution method, it has already morphed considerably. Podcasting, ring-tones, digi-singles, sound tracks, and other digital marketplaces have already expanded this brand new opportunity. This panel will be a cutting edge discussion of these critical developments. Topics will include protection of intellectual property rights, digital distro deals, and the state of the emerging digital delivery market.

\* PANEL: Publishing, Fact and Fiction

(Robert Case, Richard Gabriel, John Acosta, Noel Ramos-Moderator)

The complex business of publishing will be discussed including: role of the publisher, benefit of their expertise to the songwriter, writer's share, publisher's share, statutory rates, the functions of the PROs, sync licensing, master use licensing, artist royalties, as well as which royalties are paid by radio.

\* PANEL: Street Teaming and Buzz Building

(Ducado Vega, Susan Crandall, Neil Sheehan, Terry Coughlin, Don DeBiase, Toni Koch -Mod.) Members of the promotional side of the market will discuss the importance of incorporating a serious street teaming effort into your overall indie business efforts.

\* PANEL: Indie Booking and Touring

(Toni Koch, Ducado Vega, Susan Crandall, Gilli Moon-Moderator)

Many Indies realize the importance of watching their budget and utilizing DIY methodology for their booking and touring efforts. But what's the point of touring? This panel takes it to the next level. Maximize your effectiveness: gig-swapping, interviews, airplay, promotion, retail. Time is precious and touring is a massive undertaking; learn to tie in all the critical elements. These experienced road warriors will help you make the most of your efforts.

\* The 8 Keys to Success in the Music Business (Bill Pere)

Music is first and foremost a people-driven business. Understanding the 8 factors that determine how people (band-mates, booking agents, DJ's managers, record producers, partners, and fans prefer to give and receive information can give you powerful leverage in navigating the maze of human dynamics.

\* Tripling Your Audience with Targeted Songwriting (Bill Pere)

Are you reaching only 30% of your potential audience? The other untapped 70% is only a few key words away. You do not have to sacrifice artisitic integrity to reach a wider fan base. You just need to know some of the central factors in effective lyrical communication, and then decide how you want to apply them.

\* Ear Responsibility - What EVERY Musician Must Know About Hearing Loss (Elaine Ramos) Hearing loss caused by exposure to music will be described, as well as preventative techniques designed for each band member so as to avoid losing hearing sensitivity during not only performances, but practice sessions as well. Issues such a "tinnitus" (ringing in the ears) will be discussed along with most current research on music-induced hearing loss.

Music Publishing for Songwriters (Robert Case)

This workshop will consist of a basic overview of what music publishing is. What do music publishers do? What is Demo production and pitching songs? What performing rights societies do? Why is this information important for songwriters?

\* MPWR Workshop - Artist Empowerment (Gilli Moon)

Define success on your own terms... professional artist development, staying motivated, how to develop the right relationships, marketing and promotional tools, and overcoming obstacles. Gilli Moon hosts an MPWR (empower) Workshop to motivate you beyond creativity, into the business world of the Professional Artist.

\* Extreme Music Marketing and College Radio (Ducado Vega/Susan Crandall)

We know in any given situation extreme measures yield extreme results. It is no different in the life of musicians. In order to get desired results we as musicians have to at times take it to extremes. Because the competition is so stiff in the biz, one must be creative, bold, daring and fearless. Extreme Music marketing is the key. We will take a look at everything from creating a thriving music scene, to the look, the sound, language, sacrafices etc. Extreme mearsures yield extreme results!

\* Entering the World of Movies - It's Not Just Your CD (Richard Gabriel)

Whether, it's for your song, your CD, or your appearance, there's much more to this genre than exposure. This panel includes a discussion of the opportunities that exist in the movie world, not only with placement of your CD, but with your song, underscoring, and on camera performance. There are pitfalls to watch out for, and opportunities that can improve your deal." This workshop covers issues ranging from publishing to on-camera performances, either as a featured of non-featured performer.

\* The Performing Songwriter's Paint Box - Vocal Workshop (Kay Pere)

How to unlock all the colors of your voice. Techniques to release the unique expressive palette of each song. Tools to create a vivid experience for your audience no matter what your style. Learn specific vocal and songwriting techniques which will bring you attention as a Performing Artist. Kay Pere is a multi-dimentional music educator, performing songwriter, visual artist and activist, whose work embodies a message of hope, healing and humanity.

\* Stage Preparation (Tom Quinn)

Tom Quinn is a veteran sound engineer with years of experience in large venues with up to 6,000 person capacity. Whether your gig is in a small club or a large theater, this workshop will help you become better prepared and more skilled in the technical areas of stage and sound set-up.

\* Rock Solid Rehearsal Techniques (Steven Memel)

This workshop is for performers of all types, singers as well as instrumentalists, individuals as well as bands. In this workshop you will be taught how to stop wasting valuable rehearsal time, maximize your efforts, and become as solid as a rock on your material. This will not only save you time, but money as well. You will be far better prepared for gigs and recording sessions. Steven Memel will teach you simple yet powerful techniques that will forever change the way you approach your practice time. Learn how to break down your song for targeted work, how to permanently fix problem areas, how to get your band to play tighter than ever

Continued next page...

song is published, anyone else can record a new version of it. They do NOT need your permission - they only have to pay you the statutory rate (just went up to about 10 cents per song per CD sale as of this year) This is called a compulsory licence i.e. you are compelled to give them a license to record it. (This is usually done through the Harry Fox agency for major publishers, but you can do it yourself) This is actually a good thing. You WANT others to record your songs, as it means royalties for you. You can't say no. It is the publishers job to keep track of compulsory licenses, collect the royalties, and pay the writers. The same is true for digital downloading. Once a song is published (widely publicly distributed) then anyone else can record it and use it for digital download (their version, not yours). There is a slightly different process for this but the concept is the same.

Compulsory licenses and statutory rates are just for mechanical use. Other licensing uses, such as Synchronization, do not have statutory rates, so the publisher negotiates them and then can effectively block the use of a song in this way by asking too high a fee. You can license the use of your songs as you see fit if you are the publisher.

The most important thing for Indie artists to realize is that initially THEY are the publisher and have the rights to 100% of any income from any of the above. If you have the opportunity to sign away parts of that and you're sure it's to your advantage, then do it, but do NOT do it JUST because there is some contract in front of you. The best thing any Indie artist can do is to learn about this stuff so they know how to manage their intellectual property (which is what a song is).

In today's music world, all the tools are there for you to do as much as most publishers can do for you - it just take the willingness to learn and the work to execute.

Here's mysecond question: Can any of you suggest other possible sources of "trickle income" to add to our current list?

One MAJOR source of income I've found is in partnering with the non-profit sector. I've generated more than \$500,000 in revenue, (not counting CD sales) producing upscale charitable events. This is one of the workshops I give at IMC and many other places.

See L.U.N.C.H. Ensemble.for more on this, and the "Sweet Charity" folder here at the IndieList. Thereare multiple revenue streams to be generated under this umbrella. Non-profit does not mean no-profit. Sure you give away much of the generated revenue to charity, but you pay yourself fairly for services rendered, keep 90% of your merch sales, reach a totally different kind of audience, and start to generate a whole new stream of opportunities. I will be happy to mentor anyone in detail on this if you're at IMC Dallas or Philly. I have case studies of significant successes that have come from this path, when well executed.

And my final questions for this round: For those of you already experiencing some success with diversified income streams, how do you keep track of it all? Do you work with a financial expert, use a computer program, keep a ledger ...?

One of the most valuable things I did starting out as a self-employed artist is to read Publication 17 from the IRS cover-to-cover several times until I really "got" it. They also have a publication called "Tax-Guide for Small Business". As a result, I've always known how to organize the spreadsheets (I just use Excel) and, most

importantly, how to classify the income and expenses to optimize the whole tax thing and save significant amounts on taxes (tax reduction is just another revenue-stream it's almost like getting all your equipment and recording costs at huge discounts). And as an added bonus, I help my clients set up their books and record-keeping as part of my overall career development consultations, so that generates another income stream. (thus any specialized service you can offer becomes another revenue stream). Lots of folks use accountants or Turbo-tax, but those things can only work with what you give them - of you don't know what records to keep and how to classify things, you'll not get the full benefit of an accountant or software.

Exec. Director, CT Songwriters Association

To join the IndieList: http://groups.myspace.com/IndieList "IMC/DALLAS," Continued from previous page...

before, how to learn so you never forget, what are the rhythms that internalize music, and much more. From the comfort of knowing your material inside out comes the most fun, spontaneous and crowd-pleasing gigs you could ever wish for.

\* Looking for Press in All the Right Places (Noel

Noel has published a music magazine for 20 years. He'll relate his experiences and results of surveys he's conducted with media peers. What grabs their attention? What convinces them to print one band's story over another? What do booking agents like to see? What else should you keep in mind? Has the advent of EPKs changed things? These answers and more from the perspective of those you want to target. Examples of press kits will be shown, and a free hand-out of Noel's 7 page "Press Kit Primer" will also be available for all workshop attendees

IMC06-Dallas Presenters/Mentors -John Acosta - American Federation of Music Robert Case - New Pants Publishing Terry Coughlin - Hardcore Marketing,

**Director of Booking** Susan Crandall- co-Author: Xtreme Music Marketing

Don DeBiase Jr. - Hardcore Marketing, Production/Booking Agent/Producer

Richard Gabriel - American Federation of Musicians

Toni Koch - Songsalive! international singer/ songwriter organization

Steven Memel - vocal instructor

Gilli Moon - Songsalive! international singer/ songwriter organization Bill Pere - Certified Myer Briggs instructor and

industry icon. Kay Pere - singer-songwriter / vocal instructor

Tom Quinn - Entrapy Music Group / sound engineer

Noel Ramos - InterMixx Publisher & founder - IndieGate.com independent music store Elaine Ramos - audiologist/speech-language pathologist

Neil Sheehan - Founder- Hardcore Marketing, Inc. and A&R for Rust/Universal

Ducado Vega - co-Author: Xtreme Music Marketing

REGISTER NOW! TIME IS RUNNING OUT! Performers at IMC/Dallas will also be eligible for possible acceptance as a performer for the Rockstar Energy Drink Promo concerts!

www.IMC06/dallas

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