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# InterMixx Webzine

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Offline Edition

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joins  
InterMixx



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# Indigenous

by Steve Bornstein, pixx by Dan Hott

**Mato Nanji** is the lead guitarist, lead singer, and songwriter for the band **Indigenous**, one of the newest, and certainly most successful additions to the InterMixx family. Comprised of himself, a sister, a brother, and a cousin close enough to be a brother, these young Nakota Indians from the Dakotas (now Minneapolis) have been blazing a trail across the country - award-winning heroes among the Indian community, only now getting noticed by the rest of the world. These talented young musicians work together as only people who grew up closely - can, though the spotlight most often falls on Mato. His fearless, flamboyant guitar style has drawn easy comparison to Stevie Ray Vaughan and Jimi Hendrix, but he has a distinctive style that is much more than the sum of its influences. He is one of those rare artists who seems to tap into a universal wellspring of inspiration, transcending language, culture, demographics - any of the usual criteria - until his music flows as naturally as breathing. We caught up with him after their set at Boston's now-gone Paradise Rock Club on a brief swing out east. Health problems had forced half the band to stay home, but even with a replacements bassist they rocked the joint. They were heading on to play two sets at Foxwoods Casino's Fox Theatre the next night.

**You're like 22 now?**

25 now.

**How long have you been playing together as a band?**

Probably about nine years. We grew up together so we basically started out together as a group. Our dad taught us all the basic stuff and we just went from there.

**Your dad taught you rock and roll?**

He taught us everything.

**So he was a musician too.**

He listened to Santana, BB, Jimi Hendrix, everything.

**I never would have guessed.**

[laughs] Yeah, he used to play in a band of his own

**He played guitar.**

Yeah. He pretty much knew how to play everything, so he taught my sister how to play drums, he taught Horse percussion, bass, and lead guitar. It was pretty awesome

**A man with an idea there, I think. How old were you when you picked up a guitar?**

Probably about ten, I think. My dad taught me basic chords and how to tune it. He basically said, "Well, sit down and listen to these records I got, and once you start learning it, you know, forget it." And I've been doing it ever since. Still doing it now.

**Have you pretty much just been playing at clubs on reservations till now?**

We've been playing pretty much all over, through the Midwest.

**You just haven't gotten out East.**

Oh, we've been out East maybe three times this year, I think. That's on an actual tour. We came out with BB this summer.

**Yeah, I know. You came out to Connecticut, and due to one thing or another, I got there when you were just finishing your set. They started you on time, that was the problem.**

[laughs] Yeah, we've been playing around smaller places here and there on the east coast. Just kind of working our way, trying to get as many fans as we can.

**They reran your Conan O'Brien show appearance last night.**

Yeah, I think I've seen that [laughs]. That was a pretty fun thing,

**I'll bet. I guess word has spread about you.**

We've just been doing our best. When we started out, and even now, we just basically want to go out and tour and make music as much as we can, as long as we can. Just give it to fans, whoever wants to listen.

That's always been what we wanted to do from the beginning - and we still want to do that as long as we can. That's what it's all about for us.

**So you've been able to support yourself from doing this.**

Yeah, we've been supporting ourselves ever since we started. That's how we make our living.

**That's great that you're getting that much support. It's not always easy to do that.**

There's a lot of fans, through the Midwest. I know a lot of major acts very rarely get to go through there. There's a lot of fans who are pretty supportive.

**Do you play Chicago?**

Yeah, we've played Chicago a few times.

**Pretty big blues scene there.**

Yeah, it's great, it's fun.

**You've got a new live album out.**

Yeah, they just released a live CD that we recorded back when our first CD got released. We just did a live thing in the studio. The record label [Pachyderm] really liked it so they wanted to release it. Before that they just released it to certain radio stations, like a bio thing. It had all the live songs. So all of a sudden they picked certain songs off it and just released it.

**Jim [the studio owner] sent me a couple of singles. There are some cool live cuts there.**

I think that's on *Got To Tell You*, I think that's the latest one. "Things We Do," "Now That You're Gone."

**I can't remember.**

I can't remember either. [laughs]

**Passerby: Mato rocks!!**

**What does your name mean?**

It means "bear."

**Mato?**

It means "standing bear," the whole thing.

**Wambdi [his sister, the drummer] -**

"Eagle."

**And Pte [his brother, percussionist] -**

"Buffalo." And Horse...

**Means "Horse."**

Yeah [laughs].

**Horse is your cousin.**

Yeah, but he grew up with us so he's pretty much one of my brothers.

**He's home sick with the flu, right?**

Actually, Pte is the one that's sick with the flu. Horse actually broke his ankle.

**Oh man.**

That was actually like a couple of days before we had to come out here. We kind of scrambled around, and we found Steve. He's one of our friends from Minneapolis. He plays in another band that we know called Rex Daisy, that's coming out on the same record label as us, so we asked him. This is actually the first night he's played with us.

**Sounded pretty good, right in the groove. What's his last name?**

Steve Price.

**What's the name of his band again?**

Rex Daisy. They started out in Chicago and moved to Minneapolis, and got signed by the same label. They're a good band. I think they'll be coming out within the year. They're pretty cool.

**I'll keep an eye out. Is this going to be your first gig at a casino?**

Actually, we've played at a lot of casinos lately, all over the Southwest and the West. They got casinos all over now.

**Yeah, it's a great gig.**

It's the first time we've played in *this* one.

**It's pretty nice. They have a museum now. It's supposed to be really cool. It's gotten a lot of good write-ups. I don't know if you can go there early enough to catch some of that.**

Somebody told me about that, at that Conan show. I'm kind of anxious to check it out.

**The Indigenous website is: <http://www.indigenousrocks.com>.**

Thanks for coming out.

**You bet!**

**Search on Indigenous at the IndieGate!**





# FOLK FESTIVALS 2000

By Steve Bornstein

Spring has sprung, and summer is coming right along. I can't tell what that means to you, but to me that means folk festivals! What better way to enjoy music than in the fresh air, surrounded by a myriad of performers and styles to choose from? The northeast is blessed with a wide variety of festivals, and with so much to choose from it's difficult to be discriminate. I hope to come back as a teacher in my next life so I can have the summer off and go to every one of these festivals.

The biggest news on the festival circuit is what happened to Winterhawk. This is a little confusing, but I'll try to clear it up. The bluegrass festival originally known as Winterhawk is now called Grey Fox, and there is now an Americana festival called Winterhawk two weeks after this. When the partnership that created Winterhawk dissolved, the festival stayed the same but the name went with departing partner Howard "Bub" Randall, co-creator of Falcon Ridge. He and FRFF partner Ann Saunders have started something different but related on the same site. Whatever legal and personal difficulties these people had to endure, the result is a bounty for music lovers and festival goers. A great way to spend your summer vacation is to volunteer for all three festivals and enjoy this lovely part of New England for two weeks and three weekends, ie, the last half of July.

The next biggest news is Greg Brown's imminent (hopefully temporary) retirement from touring. He wants to spend more time at home, and who can blame him? I am sure he will still find time to record and play a few dates here and there, but he has been at it for nearly twenty years and earned time off long ago. So catch him where you can, just in case. And besides, he always gives a good show.

I cannot stress enough that the weekend camping festivals require a good amount of preparedness. You don't have to overdo it - you may be carrying supplies in by foot - but there are a few essentials: raingear, flashlight, boots, warm clothing (it does get cool at night), sleeping bag. A lot of people bring enormous amounts of food and cookware, and while it is fun to do that, it is also time-consuming. Budgeting a little extra for often overpriced vendor food is often more sensible, so you can maximize your musical experience. The best way to go is as a volunteer. That way your meals are taken care of, you get the music for free, you have more room to roam, and you make new friends, all in exchange for a few hours spread out over the weekend. You may make friends for life this way. I know I did. That's one reason I keep going back, year after year, even though people who have never been to one don't understand. Their loss.

**Strawberry Park Bluegrass Festival June 2-4**  
Preston, CT  
P.O. Box 830 Norwich, CT 06360  
phone: 860-886-1944 or 888-794-7944  
email: [camp@strawberrypark.net](mailto:camp@strawberrypark.net)  
All weekend: \$66, \$80 at the gate; Friday: \$15; Saturday: all day and evening, \$50; day, \$25, evening, \$30; Sunday: \$25

**BlueRidge, Breakaway, Dry Branch Fire Squad, Jonathan Edwards, Amy Gallatin And Stillwaters, Ryan Holladay, Laurie Lewis & Her Bluegrass Pals, Lonesome River Band, Schankman Twins, Seldom Scene, Ralph Stanley, Traver Hollow**

**12th Annual Appel Farm Arts & Music Festival Saturday June 3**  
Elmer NJ 08319  
856-358-2472, fax 856-358-6513, email: [applearts@aol.com](mailto:applearts@aol.com)  
\$28.00 advance / \$32.00 gate  
Children 12 years and under free

This charming festival just outside of Philly has a consistently fine line-up. One of these years I am not going to have a conflict and be able to go. Please go in my place and tell me all about it!

#### Grove Stage Schedule

11:30AM **Vanida Gail**  
12:10PM **Asylum Street Spankers**  
1:30PM **Willy Porter**  
2:15PM **John Gorka**  
3:30PM Intermission  
4:00PM **Jonatha Brooke**  
5:30PM **Richard Thompson**

#### Meadow Stage

11:30AM **Ben Arnold**  
12:10PM **Lucy Kaplansky**  
1:00PM **Greg Brown**  
2:15PM **David Gray**  
3:15PM **Moxy Früvous**  
4:15PM Intermission  
4:45PM **Willy Porter**  
5:20PM **Martin Sexton**  
6:45PM **Mary Chapin Carpenter**

**Hear in Rhode Island June 10 - 11**  
Roger Williams Park Temple to Music, Providence, RI  
401-949-0757, fax 401-949-5987  
email: [hearinri@ids.net](mailto:hearinri@ids.net) P.O. Box 367  
Harmony, RI 02829-0367

I keep missing this annual gathering of Rhode Island and nearby singer/songwriters (the Thompson twins have moved around so much they're from New England now). I wish I knew more about them, and I'm sure this would be the best way to learn. Some of the more recognizable names are **Mary Ann Rossoni**, fresh from what I'm sure will be a triumphant appearance at **Kerville**, and **Kerri Powers**, Boston-based and on the **Respond** CD - and **Chris & Meredith Thompson**, of course. Also appearing are **Tish Adams**, **Serena Andrews**, **Julie Bisbano**, **Rebecca Blue**, **Jeff Cannon**, **Shoshana & Anam Cara**, **Chameleon**, **Becky Chase**, **Mark Cutler**, **Ray Davey**, **Deb Dovale**, **Joey Driven**, **Bob Fish**, **Eric Fontaine**, **Fontaine Family**, **Bo Gordon**, **Cecile Grobe**, **Christina Hajjar**, **Hula Hillbillys**, **Intrigues**, **JP Jones**, **Mike Khouri**, **Dan Lilley & Lovetrain**, **Jan Luby**, **Ken Lyons**, **Marilyn Manfra**, **The Masons**, **Ed McGulirl**, **Dean Petrella**, **Bill Petterson**, **Lon Plynton**, **Mark Quinn**, **Josh Ritter**, **Spogga**, **Jon Stark**, **Marianne Thomas**, **Betsy Thuot**, **Kari Tieger**, **Tish Kids**, **Toledo Sky**, **VIZions Gospel Group**, maybe even more!

**Fairfield County Irish Festival June 16 - 18**  
Ludlowe Field, Fairfield, CT  
email: [Irishfest@hotmail.com](mailto:Irishfest@hotmail.com)

I am including this mostly because this is the only New England stop this summer for **The Mollys**. They have a new album, and a new lineup to go with it. **Catherine Zavala** has moved along after umpteen years, as has drummer **Gary Mackender**, replaced by guitarist **Danny Krieger** and drummer **Max Loeb**.

**Eileen Ivers**, **The Prodigals**, **John Whalen**, **Gaelic Storm**, **The Mollys**, **Kilt**, **Aolfe Clancy**, **Patty Furlong**, **Music in the Glen**, **Celtic Justice**, **Sean Fleming**, **Highland Rovers**

**Band, Lenihan School of Irish Dance, Avoca, Once Removed, John Hoban, The Irish Band, Bold Fenian Men, Mike O'Brien**

**Hudson Clearwater Revival**  
June 17 - 18, 10 am to Dusk (8:30pm)  
Croton Point Park Croton-on-Hudson, NY

This daytime festival combines music and environmental activism. Originally a fundraising event that benefitted the sloop Clearwater, with its mission to increase awareness of the efforts to bring the Hudson River back from certain death by pollution, it has grown to include a wide variety of environmental and political activist groups as well as musical performances on five solar-powered stages and in four other areas. When the festival moved to this site last year they added camping, which adds to the fun. There is also swimming and a boatlaunching area a short stroll from the festival area. Croton Point Park juts between Haverstraw and Croton Bays into the wide Hudson River. By the way, the local Kitchawane Indians called this place of quiet beauty "Senasqua Navish" - the grassy point.

**Saturday: Ray Wylie Hubbard, Holly Near, The Nields, Psych-a-Billy, Josh White Jr., Dar Williams, Robin and Linda Williams**  
**Sunday: Terri Allard, Robin Flower & Libby McLaren, Amy Fradon Band, Vance Gilbert, Greg Greenway, Ubaka Hill and the Shape Shifters, Janis Ian, Pamela Means, Casey Nell Trio, Viva Quetzal, Whirligig**  
**Both Days: Moxy Früvous, John Hall** and special guest **Jonell Mosser, Harmonious Wall, Pat Humphries, Chris & Meredith Thompson, Jay Ungar & Molly Mason**, and, of course, **Pete Seeger**

Mainstage workshops include **Songs of Phil Ochs** on Saturday with a slew of performers, **Country Cousins** with **Ray Wylie Hubbard, Robin & Linda Williams, Terri Allard**, and **Flower & McLaren**. On Sunday there are **Fiddlers of the World** with **Lisa Gutkin (Whirligig)**, **Pandit Kamala Prasad Mishra** (Indian traditional and classical), **Jay Ungar** (Folk), **Vinny Sau** (Gypsy); and **Artists with Social Attitude** featuring **Vance Gilbert, Pat Humphries, Janis Ian**, and **Pamela Means**

Advance tickets (before 6/15): \$30 weekend, \$23/day. Tickets at the gate are \$40 for the weekend, \$30/day. There are price breaks for people with disabilities, seniors and students. Members receive a \$5 discount. Children 12 and under are free. For tickets and directions call 800-67-SLOOP. To volunteer, call 914-454-7673 or e-mail [revival@clearwater.org](mailto:revival@clearwater.org)  
Website: [www.clearwater.org](http://www.clearwater.org)

**24th Annual Pickin' in the Pines Bluegrass Festival**  
Sat June 17 12:00 PM - 8:00 p.m  
Pines Theatre, Look Park Northampton, MA  
phone 413-253-8829, fax 413-253-8824  
email: [adam@sweetmusic.net](mailto:adam@sweetmusic.net)  
Sweet Music 708 Federal Street Belchertown, MA 01007

Featuring the bluegrass & country music of **Skip Gorman, Andy May, The Blackstone Valley Bluegrass Band** and Northampton's own **Lonesome Brothers Semi-Acoustic Band** with host band: **Maple Ridge**. \$12 for adults, children under 12 free with adult. There is a \$3 special event fee per carload to enter Look Park. Remember to bring a blanket or lawn chair.



# FOLK FESTIVALS 2000



Greg Brown (above) and Pamela Means ( right) from Newport last year (Photos by Barry Tenin)  
Jess Klein (far left) makes her Newport debut this year (Photo by Jean Sapula)

**Gathering Of The Vibes June 23 - 25**  
Seaside Park Bridgeport CT  
800-677-8650  
[www.gatheringofthevibes.com](http://www.gatheringofthevibes.com)  
Weekend: \$75; Saturday and Sunday: \$70;  
Saturday or Sunday alone: \$35

**David Grisman Quintet, Ratdog, John Scofield, Deep Banana Blackout, Strangefolk, moe, Percy Hill, Merl Saunders and Friends, Max Creek, Soulive, Zen Tricksters, Tony Trischka, Sonia Dada, Sector Nine, Harlem Gospel Choir, Schleigho**

This weekend-long celebration of music, arts, crafts, and camaraderie is the outgrowth of a grassroots effort to keep the spirit and community of The Grateful Dead and their devotees alive. The musical diversity of these performers is a testament to the influence that The Dead exerted on the culture.

**Grey Fox Bluegrass Family Festival July 13 - 16**  
Rothvoss Farm, Ancramdale, NY  
888-946-8495 email: [greyfoxoffice@aol.com](mailto:greyfoxoffice@aol.com)  
[www.greyfoxbluegrass.com](http://www.greyfoxbluegrass.com)  
Weekend:\$75; Thursday or Sunday only: \$20;  
Friday or Saturday only:\$30

**Dry Branch Fire Squad** are the host as always, welcoming us to the new incarnation of this wonderful festival. This year's model features **Jim Christensen & Wanda Yueh, Geno Delafosse & French Rockin' Boogie, Donna the Buffalo, Jerry Douglas, Fiddlestyx, The Flood Plain Gang, Skip Gorman, The Grasshoppers, John Hartford Band, The Hula Monsters, Jones & Leva, Bill Keith, John Kirk & Trish Miller, Kruger Brothers, Jim Lauderdale, Laurie Lewis & Her Bluegrass Pals, Claire Lynch & Front Porch String Band, Natalie MacMaster, Del McCoury Band, Tim O'Brien Band, Bob Paisley & Southern Grass, Rarely Herd, Tony Rice &**

**Peter Rowan, Schankman Twins, Seldom Scene, Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder, Ralph Stanley & the Clinch Mountain Boys, Sugar Beat, Chris Thille & Nickel Creek, Vanaver Caravan, Rhonda Vincent & the Rage, Brian Wicklund, Robin & Linda Williams & Their Fine Group, maybe even a few more!**

**Green River Festival Saturday, July 15**  
Greenfield Community College, Greenfield, MA  
Franklin County Chamber Of Commerce  
395 Main St Greenfield MA 01302  
413-773-5463 or [fvccc@vallnet.com](mailto:fvccc@vallnet.com)  
[www.greenriverfestival.com](http://www.greenriverfestival.com)  
Advanced weekend tickets - \$20  
Friday night only - \$10 at the gate  
Saturday only - \$30 at the gate  
Children under 12 - free

Originally a convergence of hot air balloon enthusiasts, in its 15th year this delightful one day festival has grown to be a celebration of Americana in its many varied forms. The balloons are still there, for display and rides all weekend long, but the centerpiece is the music, from 11 AM - 10 PM on Saturday. The organizers have impeccable taste, tending toward eclectic, even obscure, but great choices, as shown by their choice of a headliner, **Taj Mahal and The Phantom Blues Band**. Also appearing are the modern bluegrass of **Rani Arbo with Daisy Mayhem**, cajun greats **Beausoleil**, modern traditional country **Stacey Earle**, the country/rock of **Robbie Fulks**, **Peter Mulvey's** progressive folk, blues-rockers **Kelly Joe Phelps**, and the modern folk of **Louise Taylor**. There is truly something for everyone. And stick around for a spectacular fireworks display immediately after the music.

**14th Annual Hartland Folk Festival July 15**  
Berg Field, East Hartland CT  
PO Box 308 East Hartland CT 06027

Kind of a busy day, eh? I have been known to scoot over to this delightful, down-home event for the afternoon and early evening, then around dusk beat it back to Winterhawk (I mean Grey Fox!) to whoop and holler till dawn. This is a fundraiser for the local fire department, but Bruce Pratt's involvement has led them to book high caliber performers year after year. No lineup available at press time - check again next issue.

**Falcon Ridge Folk Festival**  
Hillsdale NY July 21-23  
[www.falconridgefolk.com](http://www.falconridgefolk.com)  
860-350-7472/860-364-0366  
To volunteer contact Beth Thompson at 305-872-4150 or [volunteer@falconridgefolk.com](mailto:volunteer@falconridgefolk.com)

The big news this year at Falcon Ridge are the return of **Patty Larkin** and the absence of **Greg Brown** and **Karen Savoca & Pete Heitzman**. Well, nobody's perfect. Still, there is so much talent they will hardly be missed. For the first time there will be five performers for the Friday Night Summer's Eve Song Swap: **John Gorka, Janis Ian, Patty Larkin, and Nerissa & Katryna Nields**. The splash that last year's special guests from **Respond** made is continued by this year's special guests, the **Indiegrl Showcase**. Expect **Sam Shaber, Ina May Wool**, maybe even Indiegrl founder **Holly Figueroa**, in a special presentation of women artists on their independent label. Most performers are there both Saturday and Sunday, including **Dar Williams, Lucy Kaplansky, Richard Shindell** (but not **Cry Cry Cry**), **Cliff Eberhardt**, and **Moxy Früvous**, as well as winners of last year's most requested contest,

**Hugh Blumenfeld, Rachel Blissex, Ruthie Foster, and Small Potatoes**. Artists there Friday and Saturday only include **Patty Larkin, Janis Ian, Hudson Crossing, Rodney Miller's Contrazz, Patti O'Brien Melita**, and Texas singer/songwriter **Jimmy LaFave**, whom I've been wanting to hear for years. But why miss anything when you can hang out all weekend with the likes of **Pamela Means, The Nields, John Gorka, Mary Gauthier, and Eddie From Ohio. Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys** and **Vance Gilbert** sre there only Friday, and it's worth staying around till Sunday if only for **Barachols**. This Maritime quartet seldom come around these parts with their intriguing and fun modern approach to traditional music. And all that is only half of the performers listed! Plus there are dance bands in a variety of styles - Cajun, jazz, contra - playing into the wee hours, afternoon workshops which often provide some of the most magical moments, kids' activities, nearby swimming - yes, it's a music lover's Eden for three weeks in the tri-state area, with Falcon Ridge as the centerpiece.

Until July 1, weekend tickets are \$55, \$70 with camping. After July 1, they are \$65, \$80 with camping. Friday or Sunday alone are \$25, Saturday is \$30. Children are free, teenagers 12 - 16 \$18 for either one day or the weekend. Dogs are \$25 and allowed in the at 5 PM for prepaid weekend ticketholders. Concerts on the main stage begin at 12:00 noon Friday with the New Artist Showcase, and continue until midnight. Saturday and Sunday the music starts at 10:00 AM. The festival ends at 7:30 PM on Sunday with an ensemble sing-along.

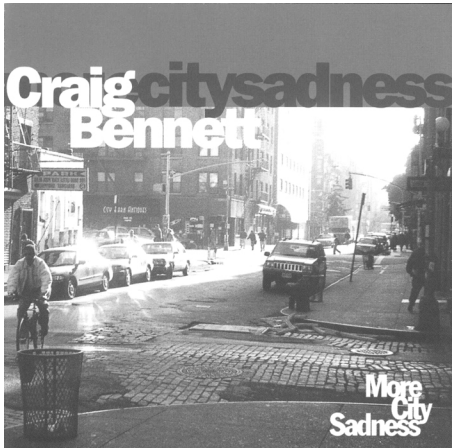
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# NewReleaseNoize

by Christopher Marz



**Craig Bennett - More City Sadness** 10 song CD; Black Cottage Records

Full of atmosphere, subtleties and not-so-subtleties. The soft breathy vocals of Craig Bennett flow from this CD like a thick syrup made more viscous by the mind-altering production techniques. Richly blended vocal harmonies, synth effects, instruments effects and overdubs make this very trippy/pop. Immersed in techniques and styles made popular by the late 60s early 70s era, the music exudes an aura of familiarity. The musicianship has the same feel of the era's less aggressive, relaxed, harmonious at-one-with-everything vibe. The songs are all more or less from a personal perspective, like the goings-on in Craig's life. The flavor is European and it's all worked out very nicely to boot. Being that the CD was so easy to listen to, nothing really shook the floor but rather filled the room with, like I said "Atmosphere!" "Lots of atmosphere!" Craig Bennett, vocals/guitars/piano/keyboards; Diana Hoskins, drums/percussion; Daniel Dinardo, bass; Chester Bellows, cello; Melhoyt Snow, violin; Balzac, viola; Blake Street, all horns; Nathinee Chen, voice. Contact: Black Cottage Records, PO Box 190806, Atlanta, GA 31119, [www.craigbennett.com](http://www.craigbennett.com), [craig@craigbennett.com](mailto:craig@craigbennett.com)

**Blister Rust - Who's Gonna Scratch Your Itch** 10 song CD; Thundermug

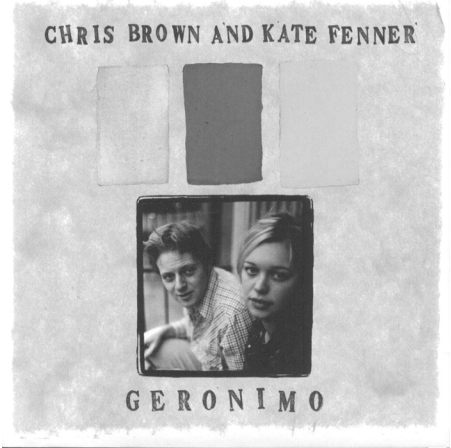
Garage band on steroids? This is a little more than garage rock! Strikes me right off the bat like Quiet Riot, Guns and Roses and



Rage Against The Machine. Big names, right? The first song "V-8" sounds a little Axel-ish (raw and unseasoned). The singer Rex Rasputin has both a good vocal range and dynamic range and the rest of the group is a solid wall behind him. "Nail Me Down" is another song worth a mention, as is "Christ." Take N'Sync and go to the complete other end of the spectrum and that's the niche where you'll find Blister Rust planted. Hardrock/Core best describes the band's sound, and overall the music is a little "rough production" feel. Rex Rasputin, vocals; Otto Spumo, guitars; Dug Spoon, bass; Terry Toajin, drums; Contact: 212-564-4611, [www.blisterrust.com](http://www.blisterrust.com)

**Chris Brown and Kate Fenner: Geronimo** 12 song CD: Self

While the style is adult contemporary with a bit of country tossed in, the first noticeable thing to me was how well Kate Fenner's voice lends itself to something big. With the strings in the background, there's an epic flavor to this music. Apparent on the first song "Mountain" is the large and awe-inspiring embodiment of the vision. The lyrics also are right on the mark of the adult contemporary theme, in that they're thought evoking and intelligent. The rasp in Kate's voice and other distinguishing traits also gives the sound a classic pop color. Chris Brown, who also sings on a couple tunes is also an adept singer with a unique vibrato and smooth style. He does a song called "Women And Children," where his writing and vocal skills are most apparent. Other than the two songs I mentioned, one of



my favorite tunes is called "Vanishing Points," beautifully sung by Kate. The music itself is sometimes full and sometimes empty with my preference leaning toward the full sound of the string arrangements. Though I'm sure Kate would sound perfect a capella. Chris Brown, vocals/keyboards/acoustic guitar; Kate Fenner, vocals; Tony Scherr, bass, guitar; Mike Mazor, drums; Michael Blake, saxophone; Jane Scarpantoni, cello; Lorenza Ponce, violin; Antoine Silverman, violin. Contact: [www.chrisandkate.com](http://www.chrisandkate.com)



**The ButterClub** 13 song CD; Pressure Records

Right from the start the first thing you notice on this CD is the drawl and the falsetto - Wait a minute, this isn't Jagger! - but that's what it sounds like. No one can tell me it's coincidence either. The strumming of the guitars, the steady beats, the group singalongs, the raw Jagger throatiness, all spell STONES. Some of the tunes seem almost as if they were partially copied. Other than that, there's some Blind Melon, also some Tom Petty (was that Keith Richards on backing vocals?) and others. I often make comparisons and I think maybe too often. This is a good band - the music is tight and really well written and played. If there was ever a band that should be searching for something different to do, it should be the ButterClub. Whether or not the similarities are intentional, they are just too distracting to judge the band on originality. I really like the funkiness though on the song "Mama I'm Willing!" Rhett O'Neil, vocals; Gabe Loor, guitar; Frank Stone, guitar; JC, bass; Roly "Tymes", drums; Tony Suarez, percussion Contact: The ButterClub, 305-534-0808

**Clowns For Progress - Progress** 15 song CD Last Beat

The CD kicks right in with the high energy "Sammy Says" and you know right off, you're about to listen to a punk onslaught. The song has the classic sliding punk rhythm chord carried along by the essential punchy, live snare sound and group chorus. The singer Deano Jones belts out the vocals like a punk pro - abrasive sounding but maybe not hard enough for the veteran punks. But then you listen to the rest of the CD and you're wondering. It's punk-influenced rock 'n' roll. If you don't like punk you may still like this CD, as it has a lot of substance. It has the rawness, raucousness, and rebellious quality of punk, like in the song "What I Wanted." Then



throughout it rounds out their identity with tamer lyrical content, topping it all off with a remake of Neil Diamond's "Cherry, Cherry" sung by Dicky Barnett of The Mighty Mighty Bosstones. Nice!!! Really NICE!!!! Brad Goop, guitars; Deano Jones, vocals/bass; Johnny T - drums Contact: CFP, PO Box 2114, New York, NY 10009



**Anne O'Meara Heaton** 15 song CD; Spill Records

Seldom does an artist I listen to come across live the way they do on their CD. In this case the CD is live but the clarity of the recording is absolutely impressive. Anne's delivery is unwavering and her vocals are crystal clear and (for the most part) right on key. Her vocal and piano style is a little jazzy, a little folksy, a little poppy, punchy and clean. The accompanying guitar played by Frank Marotta is perfectly blended into the mix as are his backing vocals. Anne's natural ability to tell her stories is a talent in and of itself. My favorite song which by the way immediately caught my attention, was the song "Megan & Kevin" a short funny story with a unique structure and a very hooky chorus. I really also liked the song "Water," which had an aggressive attack, a great piano progression and a somewhat freeform style. I've never heard a studio recording from Anne but she seems to be very comfortable as a performer getting the audience to sing along on a couple songs. Great work from a very talented singer/songwriter/performer. Anne Heaton, vocals/keyboards; Frank Marotta Jr., guitar/vocals. Contact: Spill Records, 192 Edwards Street #204, New Haven, CT 06511 [www.anneheaton.com](http://www.anneheaton.com), [anneheaton@anneheaton.com](mailto:anneheaton@anneheaton.com)



**Jive Bone** 6 song CD; Self

What can I say? The Jive Bone boys funk me up! They took their lighthearted good time party attitude and translated it to music. Starting with "She" to "Legalize It," "Good Time" (of course) and so on, they seem to be having too much fun. The music is funk with a bit of rock, rap and reggae thrown in the mix, they also do a cover of Sublime's "Caress Me Down." There's also a funk instrumental



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on the CD called "Curtis' Groove." The songs are lyrically straight forward and musically simplistic in structure nothing too deep, just songs. It also sounds like they recorded what they would do live only with a little more production. The overall feel of the disc was very upbeat with a twist of humor. Where's the next party?

Jason Studney, vocals/percussion; Raliegth Estes, guitar/vocals; Clint Amerino, bass; Joe Boccino, guitar; Chris Colmbio, drums.  
Contact: Thomas G Cavilier, P.O. Box 57, Wallingford, CT 06492, [www.jivebone.com](http://www.jivebone.com), [tomcav@ct2.nai.net](mailto:tomcav@ct2.nai.net)



**The Pleasure Bombs - Food Plus Sex Equals Nature** 9 song CD

Well, who woulda thunk listening to The Pleasure Bombs would be such a pleasure? Well it was! The sound is mostly pop with some rap and R&B. The songs are all very catchy with good male and female harmony vocal blends. A really good clean production sure helps a lot to put this sound across. Very upbeat and fresh, the CD has a unique quality that I can't pin down as sounding like anyone else. If you're looking for an original up beat sound then this is it. The only fault I found was that it was a little humorous to listen to this very clean-cut looking duo with such a pop sound delving into rap. The vision of them in my head on stage doing the LL moves was funny. The rap elements credibility is questionable. Other than that, it sounds GREAT! Charles Paul, lead vocals; Anka Rollins, vocals; Christian Kohler, drums; Chad Batty, bass; Justin Slusher, guitar; Joel Adams, keys; Alexis Casano, vocals.  
Contact: Andrew J. Harris, 781-251-9966, [aharris@mediaone.net](mailto:aharris@mediaone.net)



**Valentine - Walkin' Shoes**

11 song CD; Sunset Music

This guy has a lot of accomplishments and credits, from performance to sound tracks to software. The music is a smoothly blended sound rich with originality but sounding like a handful of other artists. From Steely Dan to Michael Sambello to Glen Frey, the resemblances and influences are there. The catchiness of most of it is pure and stands on its own. Solid song structure, unflappable delivery and beeline arranging says "veteran" all the way. Characteristic of most of the late 80s to early 90s TV soundtrack stuff, the artist's roots are showing above the soil. So much of this CD sounds so familiar I must have heard his work before. Perhaps somewhere in the soundtrack of my own life! Valentine, words and music  
Contact: Sunset Music, 33 Sunset Drive, Peabody MA 01960 [www.vamtech-ent.com](http://www.vamtech-ent.com)

**Watts - Flash!** 12 song CD; Luminosity Music  
If it were all this easy! The sound hit me and once again I was right on the money! I said it and then I read it (in their bio), T-Rex! Never thought I'd hear that but I did. I heard that and Buckcherry. 12 tunes all together and very cutting edge - rough poppy rock, not bubblegum. Rough, throaty vocals sounding like Joshua Todd (Buckcherry) and a good



understanding of the word "HOOK" is built into most of the songs. Nice lead fills and classic rock song structure, simple and unique. The songs are not really abstract deep, but more street level direct. Titles like "Subterranean Kids on Heroin," "Someone To Beat," and "Black and Blue" say it all. This one goes into my collection!

Ron Chane, bass/vocals; John Blout, guitars/vocals; Dan Kopko, vocals/guitars; Jon Rutkowski, drums

Contact: Watts, Luminosity Music Group  
35 Warren Street Suite #1 Stoneham, MA 02180 email: [watt@massed.net](mailto:watt@massed.net)

<http://members.xoom.com/wattstheband>



**The Limit - Self titled** 5 song CD; Real Time

The demo is a preview of the upcoming CD release of this trio of rockers. While the lyrics are really intense and deep, it's the music on this CD that makes this band shine. The tunes are mostly rockers done in a style derived from such heavy hitters as Pearl Jam, Jimmy Page, Stone Temple Pilots, and the like, but they have a flavor all their own. They draw on these influences but extrapolate something new and exciting. The whole band is tight and exceptional. The expert guitarmanSHIP by Mark Daniel is complemented by Todd Grosberg's equally adept bass lines. The drums played by Bob Chmiel by no means take a backseat either, but rather turn this group into a hard hitting power. The vocals, sometimes scorching and sometimes mild, give the band a hard edge but also hint at a more sensitive side. With enough push and enough work, they should develop just the momentum they need to fly into orbit.

Contact: The Limit, 81 Linden Drive, Milford, CT 06460 203-878-7368

e-mail: [mdlimit@hotmail.com](mailto:mdlimit@hotmail.com)

<http://www.RealTimeRecords.com/limit.htm>



# ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS FOR INDIE ARTISTS

by B.C. McLane

In today's rapidly changing music business, major labels are hesitant to sign new, unproven acts to their rosters. However, do not be disheartened; a major label deal is only one avenue to obtain mass exposure for a musical artist. This article will explain some alternatives to signing a recording contract with a major label.

**Independent Labels** These labels tend to specialize in a particular style of music and obviously have smaller rosters. This can work to the artist's benefit because the act should receive more attention. Also, an independent will usually have some form of distribution in place, which is necessary to put records in stores. Many independents have become successful subsidiaries of major labels, which has provided them with major label distribution.

**Distribution Deals** Here, the artist delivers to a record company an agreed amount of completed product (e.g., compact discs). Then, the label will distribute the product to stores. Sometimes, the label will also market and promote the product. Otherwise, this duty is left to the act. For its services, the label will collect a percentage of the selling price of the record.

**Production Deals** In this type of deal, the artist signs on with a production company (usually headed by an established producer). These deals are normally structured like a regular recording agreement. In essence, the producer will record the act's music and then attempt to obtain a deal with a record label. If the production company is successful in procuring a deal, the royalty paid by the record company to the production company on records sold will be divided between the production company and the artist.

**Pressing and Distribution Deals (P & D Deals)** In this situation, the artist delivers a fully mixed master and finished artwork to the record label, which in turn manufactures and distributes the records. One advantage of this kind of deal is that the artist should be able to obtain a higher royalty on sales because the act has already paid for the costs of recording the product.

Since it seems that major labels prefer to see what the public responds to before making a large financial commitment, many artists are considering independent labels, distribution deals, production deals, and P&D deals in order to prove that they do appeal to a record buying audience. As a warning, some of the operations listed above can be suspect. Thus, an artist should make sure

that any deal made is with a reputable entity/person.

(B.C. McLane is an entertainment attorney. Contact : 4605 Lankershim Bl, 110, N Hollywood, CA 91602, 818-752-6695, [bcmclane@aol.com](mailto:bcmclane@aol.com))

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# mixx flixx

by Robert J. Sodaro, Dylan J. Sodaro, and Kayla Rose Sodaro

You all know the drill, people. Put your feet up and your chairs back in the reclining position; we're about to go to the movies. As with the last time, the contributions of my children; Dylan (*DJS*), and Kayla Rose (*KRS*), come first, and run at the top of the column. Ready? Set? Go!

Movie List w/Dylan & Kayla



**The Flintstones "G":** This movie takes place before the original live action Flintstones movie came out in 1994, and it tells the story about how Fred and Barney (Mark Addy and Stephen Baldwin), met Wilma and Betty Kristen Johnston and Jane Krakowski). Fred and Barney were friends, and worked together at the Rock Quarry. Wilma ran away from home and met Betty at Bronto King, which is where Betty worked. Betty thought that Wilma was poor and she didn't know that Wilma was richer than rich.

Betty and Wilma came over to wait on the two boys at Bronto King, and Fred asked Betty for a date. She then asked if Barney wanted a date too, and she fixed Barney up with Wilma. They all went to the fair. It was funny, because when they went to the fair, Barney was with Wilma and Fred was with Betty, and once they got to the fair they switched because Barney noticed Betty's laugh. Fred taught Wilma how to bowl, and Fred got an egg because he won at bowling. Then Fred and Wilma went on the ferris wheel and baby Dino hatched.

The four of them went to Rock Vegas because Chip Rockefeller (Thomas Gibson—the loser who lived next door and really liked Wilma just because she was rich), owned a casino and asked them to be his guests. He wasn't being nice, he really wanted Wilma to not like Fred, and marry him instead. Fred won \$100,000,000, then Skip made him lose it all.

I really liked the movie. If you want to see it you should go to the closest Crown Cinema. If you go to Burger King you can get a Big Kid Meal and a Flintstones toy. (*DJS*)

This one was kind of funny, because they were cave men but they had cars and stuff. Instead of having a pet doggie, he had a pet dinosaur named Dino. I really liked it when Dino popped out of the egg. It was funny that they had girlfriends,

and they went to Rock Vegas, and then they went home at the end because they always go home at the end. (*KRS*)

This is the story of how the boys met the girls. Call it deep background. All-in-all, it was a really cute flick. Entertaining for both adults, who grew up on the cartoon and our kids, who are watching re-runs of it on the Cartoon Network. While it wasn't as falling-down funny as the first live-action flick (John Goodman, Elizabeth Perkins, Rick Moranis, and Rosie O'Donnell), it was entertaining (I'll never tire of their "retro-futuristic" technology).

The only real fault that I can find with it, is that Mark Addy seemed to never quite ever lose his British accent, which made Fred sound far more sophisticated than he needed to be. In any event, find some kids and take them, or just go yourself and enjoy.

**Dinosaur - Rated "PG":** This was a great movie with great computer graphic animation. This is way better than *The Land Before Time*. The movie is about how dinosaurs lived. One dinosaur was stolen from his mother's nest and wound up on an island where the egg was found by some monkeys. When the egg hatched, the monkeys raised the dinosaur as their own



baby. There was a meteor shower that hit the Earth and it changed the climate. The island got swamped, and the monkey family and the dinosaur wound up on the mainland, where they hooked up with a herd of dinosaurs that were looking for the nesting ground.

This movie was a little scary because the animation was so real, it looked like you were right there. It didn't look like a cartoon, but real dinosaurs. This was like the most amazing dinosaur movie I ever saw. (*DJS*)

Aldar was a very helpful dinosaur. He helped them get over the rocks, he helped them find water, and he helped the other dinosaurs keep walking. Then the monkeys helped them find the light and get to the lost valley. This was a very scary movie, because the carnivores were trying to eat the other dinosaurs. The girl dinosaur was pretty, and she had purple on her. We went to McDonald's to get the Dinosaur puppets. I think that it's funny that there are dinosaurs in the *Flintstones* and in *Dinosaurs*, and that there are dinosaurs at McDonald's and Burger King. (*KRS*)



**My Dog Skip - Rated "PG":** This movie is about a shy boy named Willie Morris growing up in Mississippi during the 1940s with the help of his beloved dog, Skip. I didn't like it that much because there weren't many special effects in the movie. It starred Frankie Muniz (from FOX-TV's *Malcolm in the Middle*), as Willie. (*DJS*)

Willie had a dog named Skip. His daddy didn't want him to have a dog, but his mom did, so she gave it to him for his birthday.

There were these two bad guys, and they hurt Skip, but he got better. Skip taught Willie how to play football. I liked this movie, it was a good movie. (*KRS*)



**Mission To Mars - Rated "PG":** This one was awesome! The movie was about the first manned mission to Mars that took place in the year 2020. When this mission to Mars meets with a mysterious disaster, killing all but one crew member, a rescue mission is launched to investigate the tragedy and bring back survivors. The rescue mission had problems of its own, and lost a crewman as well. But, the survivors of both crews met up on the planet. Together they explore the mysterious face on Mars to learn its secrets. (*DJS*)

You can tell that director Brian DePalma has done his homework on this flick, for he not only paying homage to Stanley Kubrick's classic 2001 A Space Odyssey, but plays into the pop culture mythos of the image of the "face" on the Martian surface. Not in a slavish way, but in such a way that he gives you a taste of that great flick while not swiping any of the actual story. Here we have a rescue mission headed up by Woody Blake (Tim Robbins) and Jim McConnell (Gary Sinise) who are out to rescue Luke Graham (Don Cheadle) who headed up the first manned mission to Mars.

A taut, suspenseful thriller that takes a realistic look at what space flight could potentially look like a few years from now if we were actually serious about exploring our nearest neighbors in space.



**The Road to El Dorado - Rated "PG":** This is an animated film about two guys named Tulio (voiced by Kevin Kline), and Miguel (voiced by Kenneth Branagh), who cheated people out of their money by gambling. They were using loaded dice, and the guy that they were playing offered to bet a map against their pile of gold, but he wanted to use a different pair of dice, that wasn't loaded. They got a seven, and won anyway. A soldier saw them and tried to arrest them, but they escaped by pretending to sword fight with each other.

They accidentally stowed away on a ship bound for the New World, and somehow managed to escape off the ship, and discover El Dorado, the Lost City of Gold. When Tulio and Miguel were discovered by the Aztecs, the Aztecs thought the two men were gods.

To find out the rest of the story, you'll have to go to the SoNo Crown Cinema. It was a really good movie, you should go and see it this weekend. The two actors who voiced Tulio and Miguel (Kevin Kline and Kenneth Branagh), were also in 1999s *Wild Wild, West* (as Artimus Gordon, and Dr. Loveless). (*DJS*)

These two guys were pretending that they were fighting, and they pretended that they were gods so that the Aztecs would treat them nice, but they weren't really gods. They met a pretty Indian girl and she helped them get away. This was a cartoon, and I liked it a lot. (*KRS*)

Not a bad flick, actually, the tunes were pleasant enough, the animation was full and lush, and the story was entertaining. Not *The Lion King*, but I wasn't really expecting that. Rosie Perez (who voiced the very curvaceous Chel) sort of reminded me of Jessica Rabbit (she wasn't really bad, just drawn that way). Needless to say, this perhaps put too much of an unnecessary sexual overtone on the movie for younger kids, but hey, I'm a parent and I'm gonna notice that sort of thing. Still, it was entertaining, enjoyable, and worth the trip to the theater.

Movie List w/o Dylan & Kayla

**American Psycho - Rated "R":** I went into this flick hoping for some biting satire, what I got was 97 minutes of drivel. I don't often say this



in print, but what a piece of crap this was. I'm sure that somewhere there was a story or even a point in here somewhere, but for the life of me I can't figure out what it was. After viewing this mess, it occurred to me that at the onset of the film there was the barest glimmer of why the film ended so abruptly, and the way it did. Still, this aspect of the film was never fully explored (about three-quarters of the way through it, there came a second, inscrutable hint, but again it was so slight that there was no way to truly understand it for what it was.

Thus, having sat through this dreck, the only thing that I can think of is that (and I apologize up front if this observation/guess ruins this for you), none of the events of the film actually took place, save for in the mind of Patrick Bateman (Christian Bale).

**Erin Brockovich - Rated "R":** Wow, this will make three worthwhile Julia Roberts films in a row (*Runaway Bride*, *Notting Hill* ). Who would have thought it? This flick has Roberts (as the titular Brockovich), unearthing evidence about a toxic waste class action law suit



(think Love Canal, only worse). Brockovich is a former beauty queen, a single mom (twice divorced), with two kids (one from each husband), about \$17.00 in her bank account with no education beyond high school, and no discernable skills. Still, she is earnest, personable, hardworking, and has a bodacious set of knockers (aside: Calm down, I'm not being sexist here, Brockovich herself points out in the film that it is her halter tops, cleavage, and winning smile that get doors opened up for her).

Piece by piece she helps her attorney boss Ed Masry (Albert Finney) build a case for the hapless inhabitants of a small California community against a large utility company that knowingly caused an outbreak of cancer and other illnesses. While the plot of this one sounds more farfetched than that of *The Phantom Menace*, it is based on a true story, and ultimately, very uplifting. A great date flick.

**Frequency - Rated "PG-13":** Man do I love time travel stories, and this one's a beaut! A young man, Frank Sullivan (James Caviezel), discovers that, due to an unusually

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severe bout of sunspots, his father’s old ham radio set can reach 30 years into the past to communicate with his father (Dennis Quaid), a firefighter who died in a fire. Frank desperately tries to find a way to change history and save his father’s life. However, once he does, he learns first-hand the full applications of Chaos Theory. That is to say, by saving his father’s life, he somehow accidentally killed his mother.

The son, a cop, learns that-due to this change - his mom was killed by a serial killer who’s original crimes ended with three deaths, now extends to 10 or 11 deaths. Using his access to the case files (and 30 years), he directs his father across time to stop the killer, and save his mother’s life. This is a film that you need to watch all of the details, as virtually everything-whether it happens in the past or present-relates in a significant way to the overall story.

**Keeping the Faith - Rated "PG-13":** A priest and a rabbi open a karaoke bar and...oh, you’ve heard this one? Well, actually you really haven’t, but you can, as it’s the new flick from Ed Norton (no, not the son of Art Carney’s character on *The Honeymooners*, but the actor from *American History X* and *Fight Club*), who not only co-stars as Father Brian, but directs as well. (It was his cut of *American History X*, not



director Tony Kaye’s, that ultimately made it to the screen.

As it turns out, Fr. Brian’s best friend since eighth grade has been Jake (now rabbi) Schram (Ben Stiller). Rounding out this trio of fast friends is Anna (Jenna Elfman) who befriended the boys, but moved cross-country shortly after eighth grade. Now, some 20 years later, she breezes back into their lives, and falls head-over-heels in love with Jake, much to the dismay of Fr. Brian who has recently confessed his own love for Anna.

As you can tell from the outset (a priest and a rabbi...), this film had every possibility of being trite and hackneyed, but under the superb direction of Norton, it rises above its own cliché origins, and is transformed into a fine film.

**Return to Me - Rated "PG":** This should have been David Duchovny’s first film outing, not the dreadful *Playing God* (the best part of which was the one sound bite between him & Timothy Hutton: “You gonna hurt me?”, “You asking because you’re afraid or because you want me to?”, “Just trying to plan my day.”) Ah, well.

Here, the premise is that architect Bob Rueland (Duchovny) has a happy marriage to his wife Elizabeth (Joely Richardson), only she dies in an auto accident and her heart winds up in the body of Grace Briggs (Minnie Driver). Through a series of unusual



circumstances, the two meet, and hit it off, until Bob learns of his wife’s “gift”. This is a sweet, sentimental story, with not nearly as many laughs as the trailer seems to promise. Still, it is worth the trip out to the theater.

# funnubook by Robert J. Sodaro City

Man-o-man, do I have a treat this time out! Not only did I manage to score a bunch of comics off my old pals at **Image Central**, but one of them is from **Warren Ellis**, only the finest writer working in the medium today. So let’s not waste any time, and jump right into the fray!

According to the Image press release *City of Silence* is a technoir mini-series about a metropolis in a futuristic version of the US, where every citizen has the ability and the technology to easily create brand new weird sciences. It is also a place



where policemen, the Silencers, will hunt them down for having a bad idea. Written by Ellis (*Planetary*, *Transmetropolitan*, *The Authority*) penciled and inked by **Gary Erskine** (*Star Wars*, *Hellblazer*, *Punisher/Wolverine*), *City of Silence* was (apparently) originally created and produced in the mid-90s and was a precursor in theme and approach to later Ellis projects including *Transmetropolitan*. This previously unpublished series also has colors by **D’Israeli** (*Sandman*, *Batman: No Man’s Land*).

What Ellis is delivering is fabulous. A society eyeball-deep in chaos and despair and floundering in its own excrement. God, I love this stuff. No one does it better (think *Judge Dredd* without the superheroes, updated to the new millennium, and spun into astounding new circles, with better art, and written way-cooler). I’ve been a fan of Ellis since I “discovered” him on *StormWatch*. And while I would personally prefer reading his superhero stuff. I know that he loathes writing superheroes, and prefers this type of SF. Thus I say “bring it on!” I challenge you all to go out and grab this stuff up. You won’t be disappointed.

*Rumble Girls: Silky Warrior Tansie* is an American-produced **Manga** comicbook (or so it appears to these untrained eyes). Written and drawn by **Lea Hernandez**, this B&W comic is cast in the grl-centric variant of Japan’s manga, only (for me, at least) it reads way better. As stated, I’m not a big fan of this particular genre, as I have a difficult time reading it, much less following the multiple-layered mythos and concepts. I always feel that I’m reading the fifth, twelfth, and thirty-second chapters of a 100-chapter epic story as translated by people who don’t speak the native tongue, nor fully understand the mythos nor story either.

Not so with *Rumble Girls*. Yes, I feel that stuff has happened before I got here, but the author seems to know that and fills us in in a logical way. It seems that the main character, Raven, is a member of some type of all-girl school, and there is this TV star that is all the rage. She seems to have some sort of mysterious past, and there is something up with the TV star. While this may sound like not a lot, that’s simply not so, as I was able to glean all this (and more), from the first issue - more than I can get from the average Manga comic. I really want to see more of



this, as it looks as if it could become quite interesting.

*Powers* from **Brian Michael Bendis** and **Michael Avon Oeming** seems to be an “Ordinary People” style comic living in a Super world, sort of like **Marvels** from a few years ago. The main character here is Detective Walker who is a cop living in a big-city metropolis. Walker is the cop they call when a super-powered criminal is involved (which is how this first issue starts out). Walker has been called on the scene to a hostage situation. Once the perp is collared, Walker winds up with the hostage in his charge – a pre-teenaged girl. Needless to say, Walker isn’t very happy and takes her to the station to babysit her.

*Powers* seems to be very much a “talking heads” kind of book, but that isn’t a drawback at all, as it simply enhances the comic. It is also drawn in a very dark and gritty fashion. I was very much intrigued by this book and would dearly love to see more of it, to see where the authors are going with it. As a longtime superhero fan I am intrigued by new spins on this, my favorite genre.

I know that I talk quite a bit about **Dark Horse** in this column, but they do such good work. Thus I would like to briefly mention the new *Grendel* series *Devil Legacy* from **Matt Wagner** and the **Pander Brothers**; *Titan A.E.* (a prequel to the upcoming animated movie), and **Francisco Ruiz Velasco’s** *Battlelords*.

*Grendel* is following Christine Spar (yet another descendent of the original Grendel), who has donned the mantle of the night slayer to locate her son who has been

kidnapped by a nefarious kabuki dancer. As always, each *Grendel* series is different from the last, as it explores yet a different aspect of this seminal creature of the night. As said, *Titan A.E.* is a prequel and tells deep background prior to the onset of the movie, due out later this summer. Look for an adaptation of the movie itself, and probably a follow-up or three – especially if the movie does as well as expected. I’ve seen the trailer to the film, and it looks great.

*Battlelords* is a very cool comic, if only because it explores the myths and legends of Guatemalan gods in a modern setting (much in the same fashion that **Marvel’s Thor** explores the myths of Norse gods in a modern setting). While I knew of the Norse and Greco-Roman gods prior to their updating in comicbook form, I know nothing of these characters, so it is interesting to see them brought to life. I’m very interested to read more about them, and I hope that this series does for them what Thor has done for the Norse gods’ mythos.

While talking about Norse gods, I’d be remiss if I didn’t mention **P. Craig Russell’s** new adaptation of Wagner’s Ring Trilogy (also from Dark Horse). Here again we are treated to familiar mythology, as well as story lines. However this one is probably more faithful



to not only the original stories, but to the classic opera as well. Check it out if you get the chance, you won’t be sorry.

Dark Horse also just wrapped *Hell And Back*, the latest **Frank Miller Sin City** outing. Great stuff. Keep your eyes open for a new installment of this series featuring Marv. Personally, I can’t wait!



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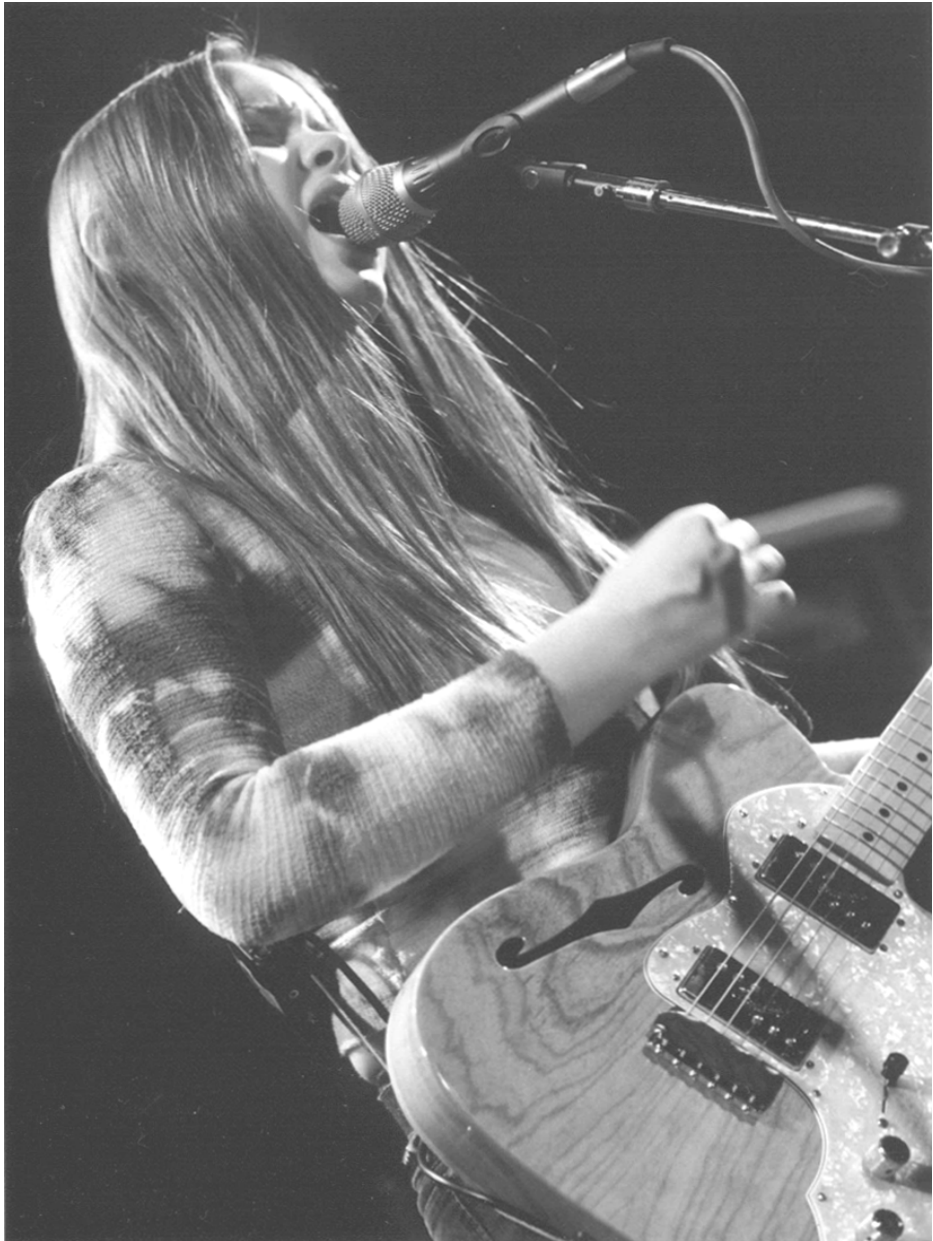


# Mixx Pixx

The Mixx Photogs give you a taste of the area's hottest shows!



Patti Rothberg and Freddie Katz at The Acoustic Cafe in Black Rock CT, in a thrilling set previewing songs from her forthcoming album, plus many familiar greats (Photo by Jean Sapula)  
Shannon Curfman wailing at Toad's Place, New Haven, on 4/4/00. Next time she comes around she will be the ripe old age of 15! (Photos by Dan Hott)





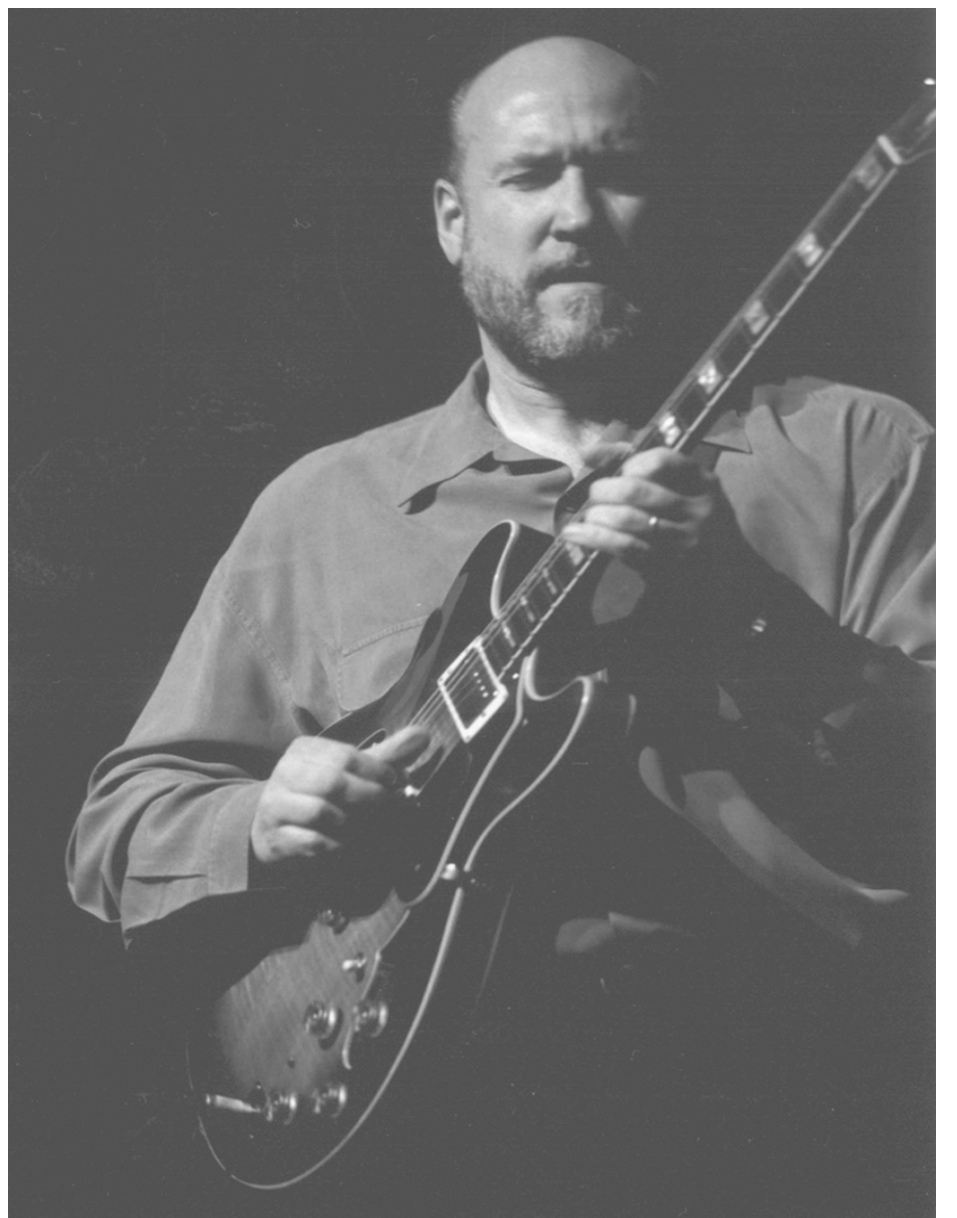
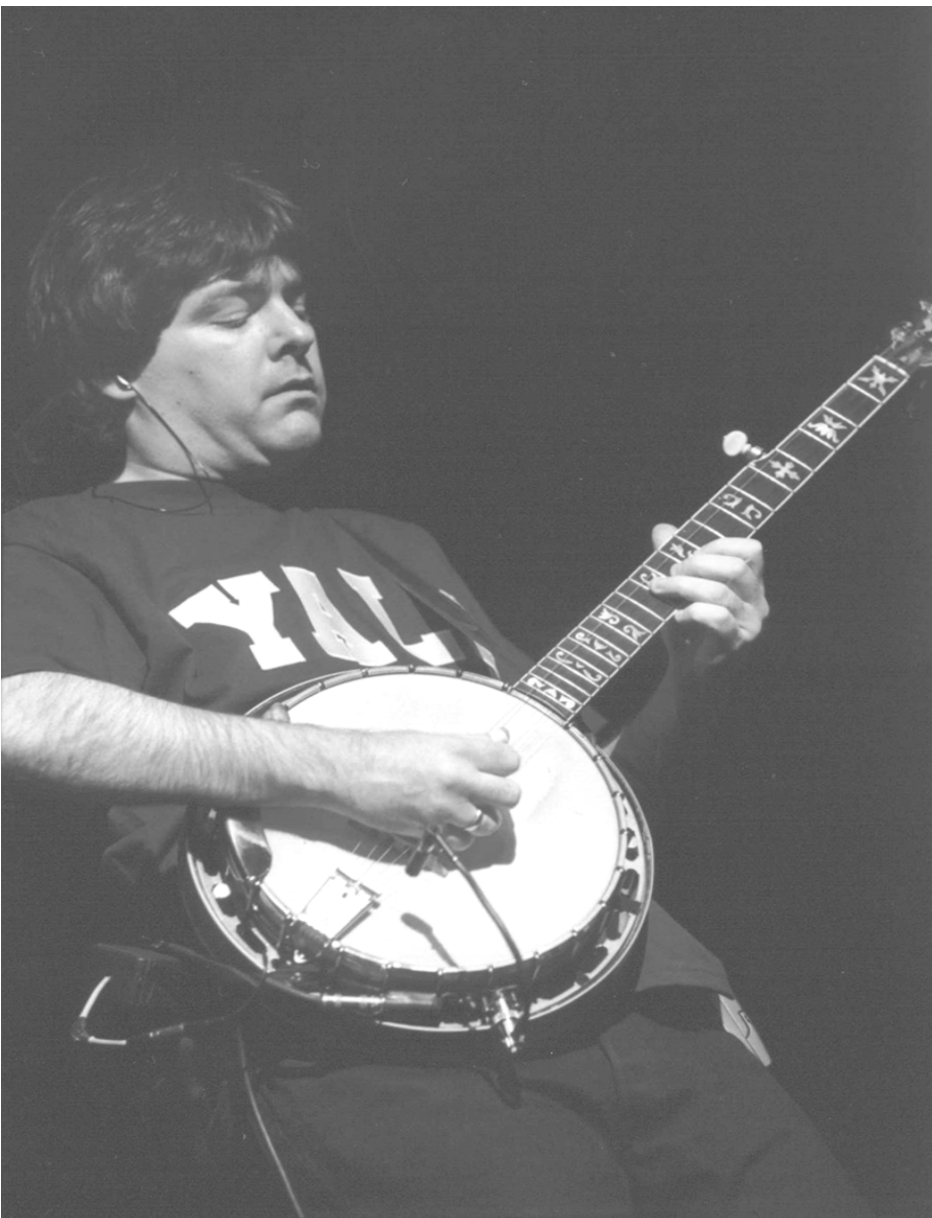
# Mixx Pixx

**The Mixx Photogs give you a taste of the area's hottest shows!**



CSN&Y (all right, Stills, Nash, Crosby, and Young) captivate a sold-out Hartford Civic Center (Photo by Dan Hott)

Bela Fleck, multi-banjoist extraordinaire, and opener folk/jazz guitarist Paul Scofield from an evening of instrumental wizardry at The Palace Theater in New Haven CT (Photos by Dan Hott)





"Festivals" Cont'd from Page 3

**Winterhawk 2000**  
Long Hill Farm Hillsdale NY July 28 - 30  
860-364-9396, info@winterhawk2000.com  
www.winterhawk2000.com  
To volunteer contact Beth Thompson, at 305-872-4150 or volunteer@winterhawk2000.com

The new festival with the old name (T-shirts are really going to be confusing) , this features a variety of shades of Americana, and a few singer/songwriters who might otherwise play Falcon Ridge (indeed, a few do).

**Big Table, Dave Carter & Tracy Grammer, Boozoo Chavis, Chesapeake, Commander Cody & His Lost Planet Airmen, John Cowan Band, Ben Demerath, Stacey Earle, Judith Edelman Band, Einstein's Little Homunculus, Mark Erelli, Dave Fry, Vanida Gall, Mary Gauthier, Jimmie Dale Gilmore, The Hickory Project, Chris Hillman, Hoopoe the Clown, Jim Hurst & Missy Raines, Eileen Ivers, The Ivy Vine Players, Jeff Lang, Laurie's Stories, The Lemonade Parade, Bob Malone, George Marshall w/Wild Asparagus, Tim Mason, The McKrells, Beth Molaro, Mustard's Retreat, Northern Lights w/Vassar Clements, Sam Pacetti, Reckless Abandon, Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys, Paul Rosenberg, Rotary Pancake Day, The Storycrafters, Kathryn Wedderburn, Gillian Welch and David Rawlings, Kevin Welch, Cheryl Wheeler, Erica Wheeler,** and, believe it or not, even more.

**Solar Fest July 29-30**  
Middletown Springs, VT  
\$30/weekend, \$25 before July 1  
Tickets: 802-235-2561 or tickets@solarfest.com  
To volunteer, 802-235-2050 or info@solarfest.com  
**Frank Asch, Tammy Fletcher and the Disciples, Groovelily, Harmonytryx, Jennings and Ponder, Jim's Big Ego, Stephen Kiernan, Peter Mulvey, The Nields, Jody Scallise, Virtual Consort, Sloan Wainwright,**

**Woods Tea Company**

The organizers of this event say their mission is "to educate people about renewable energy by engaging the community through the performing arts. While we recognize our family oriented festival is beautiful and unique, we also know we have the potential to reach many more people and help effect positive change for the planet. The one common thread that runs through this diverse festival is that it is produced entirely with the power of the sun, and the energy of the people who believe in it." Noble sentiments indeed, and putting such beliefs into action is at the heart of this three-day celebration of arts, music, and politics. This year they are focusing on contemporary acoustic music and have added a Songwriter Showcase and an expanded Energy Fair. By the way, their Solar Roller - a custom trailer with solar array, batteries and inverters - helped power last year's Clearwater and Falcon Ridge Festivals.

**Newport Folk Festival August 4-6**  
**Fort Adams State Park Newport RI**  
**11 AM - sunset**  
**401-847-3700**  
**www.festivalproductions.net**  
**newportfolk@festivalproductions.net**

Friday Evening at Hotel Viking: \$28  
Sat or Sun at Fort Adams: \$45 in advance, \$48 at the gate; 2-day ticket \$75 before July 1  
Children under 12 \$15 per day (under 2, free)  
One of the longest running festivals, this daytime event continues its mixture of traditional and cutting-edge folk, in their many forms. Saturday is devoted to Texas artists, Sunday is weighted toward female artists. These are listed in approximate order of performance. And I always say - park in town and take the water taxi over!

Friday, August 4, 2000  
**The Hotel Viking Grand Ballroom**  
**One Bellevue Ave. 8:00 pm**  
**"On A Newport Night," Cliff Eberhardt, John Gorka, Lucy Kaplansky and Cheryl Wheeler**

Saturday Fort Stage 11:30 AM - 6:30 PM

**Ray Wylie Hubbard**  
**Stacey Earle & the Jewels**  
**Bela Fleck & the Flecktones**  
**Guy Clark**  
**String Cheese Incident**  
**Shawn Colvin (solo acoustic)**  
**Willie Nelson**

Saturday Harbor Stage 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**Peter Keane Trio**  
**Terri Hendrix with Lloyd Maines**  
**Slaid Cleaves**  
**Melissa Ferrick**

**The Hotel Viking Bellevue Room**  
**One Bellevue Ave. 9:00 pm \$10**  
**WFUV's "Bob Dylan Goes Electric" Karaoke**  
(I'm sure this is a lot of dumb fun but unless the festival has abandoned all hope of booking Bob again this seems ill-advised.)

Sunday Fort Stage 11:30 AM- 6:30 PM

**Peter Rowan's Texas Trio w/Tony Rice**  
**Natalie MacMaster**  
**Richard Shindell Band**  
**Mary Chapin Carpenter**  
**Dar Williams**  
**Natalie Merchant**

Sunday Harbor Stage 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM

**Equation**  
**Jess Klein**  
**Toshi Reagon & Big Lovely**  
**Mary Gauthier**  
**Carrie Newcomer**

**Folk Fest 2000 at Avalon - A Clothing-Optional Resort**  
**Paw Paw, WV August 10 - 13**  
**304-947-5600**

One can only guess what this is all about. Especially if this short lineup is spread over four days. Something else must be attracting people's attention.

**The Limelifters, Susan Werner, Bill Danoff, Hot Soup, Hickory Grove, Side by Side,** and, they say, more. Sometimes less is more.

**North Atlantic Folk Festival**  
**Rockland, ME August 13**  
**207-236-7660**

**Rory Block, Laurie Gelfman, John Gorka, Leo Kottke, The Nields, Tom Rush, Sister Moon, David Wilcox**

Another one-day fest with a dazzling lineup. And it's on my birthday, too. Anyone want to make my birthday wishes come true? Or at least want to share the driving up to this one. It's only an hour past Portland.

**Philadelphia Folk Festival**  
**Schwenksville PA August 25-27**  
**800-556-FOLK www.folkfest.org**

Our friends at PFFS have published a list of performers earlier than usual. No schedule yet - posted on the website June 19 - but here is what we have so far. Some of the more interesting include **Patty Larkin, John Hammond, The Nields, Nanci Griffith, John Gorka,** and **Mary Gauthier** (who certainly seems to be showing up a lot) An intriguing choice is **Entrain**, the island rockers from Martha's Vineyard, who may ruffle the feathers of sometrads but will delight the younger groovers. The rest of the lineup (so far!) is:  
**Scott Alarik, The Bacon Brothers, Barbara Barrow, Beats Walkin', Eric Bibb, Boys of the Lough, Craobh Rua, Mike Cross, Tom Dundee, Mark Dvorak, Eddie From Ohio, Irene Farrera, Amy Fradon, Cary Fridley & Friends, Give & Take Jugglers, Dennis Hangey, Harmonia, Inti Illimani, Jive 5 minus 2, Juggernaut String Band, Jeff Lang** (who also keeps showing up a lot), **Oscar Lopez, Natalie MacMaster, Mad Pudding, Moving Cloud, Utah Phillips, Saw Doctors, Sharon, Bram & Friends, Michael Smith, Rosalie Sorrels, Dave Carter & Tracy Grammer, Two of a Kind, Weavermania,** and **Jack Williams**

**3rd Annual Rhythm & Roots Festival**  
**September 1 - 3**  
**Ninigret Park, Charlestown, RI**  
**888-855-6940, www.rhythmandroots.com**

It's not too early to make plans for Labor Day weekend. There will be more added to be sure, but look at who they've got so far.

**Rani Arbo & Daisy Mayhem, Austin Lounge Lizards, Balfa Toujours, Marcia Ball, Beausoleil, Clarence Gatemouth Brown, Junior Brown, Geno Delafosse & French Rockin' Boogie, Donna the Buffalo, La Bande Feufollet, Hot Club of Cowtown, Laura Love Band, Steve Riley & the Mamou Playboys, Duke Robillard, Peter Rowan & Tony Rice w/the Texas Trio**

**4th Annual Brandywine Valley Association TurtleDove Music Festival**  
**Saturday, September 9 \$12**  
**Myrick Conservation Center, Chester, PA**  
**888-378-8729, www.turtledove.org**  
**email: info@chesire.com**

Sponsored by **TurtleDove**, a local folk music club, this one day festival brings together an eclectic collection of high caliber artists. I am cheered by these smaller events that devote their programs to a cross-section of Americana. Just look at this lineup: country rocker **Kim Richey**, blues guitarist **Hans Theessink**, British folk rockers **Equation**, singer/songwriters **Nerissa & Katrina Nields**, and the folk/soul of **Toshi Reagon with Big Lovely**. Somebody in the organization has a good eye (and ear) for talent. I am keeping this date open in case I feel up to the drive.

**Pines Theatre Summer Music Festival, various dates**  
**Pines Theatre, Look Park**  
**300 North Main St.**  
**Northampton, MA 01060**  
**413-586-8686 or 1-800-THE-TICK**  
**www.lookpark.org/pines**

Iron Horse Entertainment presents this series of concerts in many genres. Tickets are general admission. The Theater and Park are wheelchair accessible. Concerts go on rain or shine. No pets or coolers permitted. Children under 12 are free. Bring something to sit on.

**Bayou Barbeque Fri June 16 \$25**  
Dr. John, Nathan & Zydeco Cha Chas, Boogaloo Swamis  
Gates open at 4 PM, show starts at 6 PM  
**Natalie Merchant/Wilco** Sat July 1 \$37.50, \$47.50  
Gates open at 4 PM Show starts at 6 PM  
**Latin Music Fest** Sat July 29 \$25  
**Ricardo Lembo y Machina Loca, Los Jovenes Del Barrio, Jerry Gonzalez and the Fort Apache Band,** plus others!  
Gates open at 12 noon. Show starts at 2 PM  
**George Thorogood & The Delaware Destroyers** Thur August 3 \$27.50  
**Willie Nelson** Tues, August 8 \$32.50, \$42.50  
Gates open at 4 PM Show starts at 6 PM  
**Folk Festival in The Pines** Sat August 12 \$25  
**Patty Larkin, The Nields, Guy Davis, Mark Erelli, Melissa Ferrick, John Gorka, Vance Gilbert, Cheryl Wheeler, David Wilcox**  
Gates open at noon, show at 2 PM

**ZooFolk Summer Concert Series**  
**Beardsley Zoo Bridgeport CT**  
**203-394-6565**  
**www.beardsleyzoo.org**  
**All shows \$15 except August 19, \$9**

It's hard to believe the bucolic setting for this series of monthly concerts by well-chosen artists is in Bridgeport. If it rains they move into the carousel, which actually adds to the fun.

June 17: **Christine Lavin**; openers **Dee Carstensen, Ron Renninger, Diane Ziegler**

July 15: **Vance Gilbert**; opener **Lynn Miles**

August 19: **CT Artist Spotlight: Rani Arbo and Daisy Mayhem, Maria Sangiolo, Dan Lyons**

Sept 9: **Greg Brown**, opener **Hugh Blumenfeld**

For a massive listing of events all over the country go to [www.dirtylinen.com](http://www.dirtylinen.com). Compiled by the wizards at Dirty Linen magazine, there are an astounding number and variety. See you 'round the campfire!

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*Watch for Dave Miller  
on Interscope in March*

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