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InterMixxx Bobzine

Offline Edition

July 2004 • Issue #93 • FREE!



IMC2004
September 2-6
Philadelphia



**Interview with
Rob DeRosa,
Daffodil Fest
Music Coordinator**



**Green Inside
at the
Daffodil Festival
in Meriden, CT
&
IndieGateLive Tour
in Hamden, CT
&
IMC2004
in Philly**

IndieGateLive!

June 25th

www.IndieGate.com

IndieGateLive is Coming To Connecticut

Hot off their Daffodil Fest Show, Green Inside will next touch down at the IndieGateLive Tour date at the Space, in Hamden, CT, then on to IMC2004!

Story and photos by Noel Ramos

One of the hardest working bands we know... Green Inside recently performed at the Meriden Daffodil Festival to a large and very enthusiastic crowd. The Daffodil Festival has grown over the years into a massive outdoor event that spans several days, and several acres. Playing the main stage housed in the James J. Barry memorial bandshell, GI met with loud applause and cheering from a healthy portion of the Daffodil attendees who had gathered on the grass to enjoy the perfect weather, and the energetic sounds.

Green Inside has mastered the kind of appeal that crosses boundaries and attracts people from all ages and backgrounds. Young, pierced and tattooed fans sat right alongside minivan drivers and their kids. Everyone seemed to be enjoying the upbeat music and GI's inviting stage presence. Often thought provoking, Green Inside's lyrics engage the listeners who choose to dig deeper.

The band stays very busy and regularly tours up and down the east coast, with frequent gigs in Vermont, Massachusetts, Newport and of course, all over Connecticut. On June 25th they will be performing at a very special show, the very first tour date for IndieGateLive. This special concert series is being designed to showcase the many talented artists from all over the US whose music is available at IndieGate.com, the online independent music store. IndieGateLive is bringing several performers from nearby states to Connecticut, and as the tour progresses throughout the country, CT performers will then travel to those shows. This "cross-pollenization" will allow the store to present the awesome variety and talent represented by its members.

The first IndieGateLive tour date is also being advertised in the very well-designed PLAY Magazine, a CT publication produced by the local newspaper, the New Haven Register. In addition to the advertising, lots of "street teaming" is being done by the bands themselves, staff members from IndieGate.com, and helpful volunteers. Posters are being hung and flyers distributed. This sort of street level marketing has always been essential to any band's success, but it is even more important in today's market. The most impressive thing about all this new technology, and the overwhelming marketing that we see in the music industry today, is the simple and basic fact that has become so much more obvious... it's all about connecting with the fans. IndieGateLive will help to

bring the music to the people, and the people to the music. Turn the page for lots more photos from the Daffodil Fest, and info on Green Inside's upcoming show at the Independent Music Conference in Philadelphia...





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Green Inside joined dozens of other
bands who performed for large and
enthusiastic crowds at the Daffodil
Festival in Meriden, Connecticut. For
lots more on the Daffodil Fest, see the
interview with Rob DeRosa, who is the
Music Director for the successful
annual gathering.

Green Inside will be performing again
on June 25th for the IndieGateLive
Tour at the Space in Hamden, CT and
then look for them in Philly, at the
Independent Music Conference!

The Independent Music Conference will
return to Philly September 2-6, 2004.

Q&A WITH ROB DEROSA

We caught up with the Music Director for the Meriden Daffodil Festival as he tooled around in his signature golf cart. This busy guy has helped the Fest grow into one of the Connecticut's largest and most successful events, and the music has a lot to do with it!

Q.) Please give our readers a bit of background on yourself. Where were you born and raised? Schooling?

A.) I was born and raised in Meriden, Connecticut - but I lived in Amsterdam for a while and in Florida for a year. I have an Associates degree in English/Journalism... but I quit college when Nixon finally dropped the draft, to travel Europe for a while.

Q.) How did you become involved with music?

A.) I became involved in music as a young teen. My friends had a band and I was their roadie. Since then I've been a promoter of shows, Director of Publicity for Big Sound Records for a while, manager of Roger C. Reale in his various endeavors and have started ThinManMusic, the label I currently run in Connecticut.

Q.) What led to your involvement with the Daffodil Fest?

A.) In 1999, the Daffodil Committee contacted me to help convince Gary Burr to play at the Festival. Now, Gary has written tons of hit country songs... so many that for three years running Billboard named him top country songwriter. We've been friends for a long time, and I was able to convince him to play. But his condition was that I be in control of his portion of the show. I worked that year on the headline act and that was it. The next year the Music Coordinator took a leave of absence and they asked me to fill in. Half way through the planning for that year I was voted a full Committee member and have been since. This was my sixth festival.

Q.) Please give us a bit of history on the Fest.

A.) The festival just celebrated its 26th year. Basically it started as a little picnic to bring attention to the beauty of Hubbard Park. The park is a 1600 acre gem, designed by Frederick Law Olmsted and given to the city by Walter Hubbard, 100 years ago. Over the years the festival has grown to a full week of great events culminating with a weekend of incredible fun for all ages. When I took over the music aspect of it, we expanded from a small stage in the food tent and one headline act in the bandshell to the present set up of 30 local bands and a headliner each day, all on three continuous stages, all day long.

Q.) What are your main duties for the event and how do you accomplish your goals?

A.) I book all the acts by January. Then I decide which stage to put them on and schedule the times so that theoretically a person can see part of each act if they keep on the move. Then I do all the publicity... newspapers, TV, radio and printed material. Without the coverage from Connecticut's music writers, I'd be lost! During the actual days of the festival I coordinate three dozen volunteers who carry equipment, drive the little vehicles that transport musicians and their gear, run the individual stages (MC's, roadies, merchandisers etc) and I myself drive around in a golf cart from stage to stage making sure everything runs smooth and on time. My favorite part is when the gate people alert me that a headliner has arrived, I cruise to where they are parked, greet them, bring them to their dressing area and introduce them to my Hospitality Volunteer... who just happens to be my wife! She makes sure the backstage area is all set and that they have everything they need to be comfortable. She coordinates the bands with the merchandise sellers as well.

Q.) What do you take into consideration when choosing performers?

A.) My goals there are simple. I try to book

headliners that besides being either Grammy winners, Rock and Roll Hall of Famers and hit makers, are also in tune with the demographics of the festival's best customers - the 25 to 60 age group. These people will bring the family, enjoy the rides, buy crafts and eat lots of food. Those things benefit the non-profit groups who raise money at the festival. Then I try to book the best local bands in a wide variety of musical styles. I watch all year for who puts out the most interesting CDs, who plays the exciting shows and who gets the most press buzz. Every year I receive over 100 requests for gigs. Of course, I try to keep a good amount of Meriden artists in the mix as well.

Q.) What are the benefits to the performers for playing at the Fest?

A.) The benefits to the performers are many... first of all, we get tons of good press for the music program. Every newspaper in the state covers it, as well as Connecticut Magazine. We often receive articles in the New York Times, Post, Boston papers and the like. I act as guest DJ on WPLR's Local Bands show for two weeks each spring, playing music from Daffodil performers. This year over 100,000 people came to the park. Of course- they were never all in front of one stage at a time, but the possibility of a large crowd is always there. We treat our performers like stars, our volunteers carry their gear, we ride them from their cars and vans in vehicles right up to their stages, feed them, provide plenty of water onstage and backstage, and best of all, I pay very fairly for the one hour set that I ask them to perform. By the hour, it's probably the best money lots of these acts make all year!

Q.) Can you give us some notable reactions that you've gotten from attendees and performers over the years?

A.) Notable reactions? Well, up until the past couple of years, many bigger acts were a bit wary of coming to Meriden to play. But the word has spread among booking agencies and now I'm on tons of availability lists and get offers from huge agencies for their acts to add the Daffodil Festival to their tours. Graham Parker and Roger McGuinn were both skeptics who had a real blast and could barely believe that 10,000 people were in front of the Bandshell stage for their shows. This year on the Monday following the fest I received a call from The William Morris Agency to say that Asleep At The Wheel had called them and encouraged them to push bands towards the Daffodil Festival, they had that good of an experience. All the locals love it too, of course.

Q.) How does the town feel about the performance aspect of the Fest?

A.) Meriden loves the festival. It's by far the biggest and best event in town all year and TV and the press have been very good about presenting a positive view of Meriden for it. This year three different stations sent their crews to cover it.

Q.) Please give us some info on next year's event if you can.

A.) Next year I plan to make The Jeff Crooms Welcome Stage a real hot spot. Besides a major headliner on both Saturday and Sunday I plan to bring an act to the Welcome stage that will blow people away... a hot, current act with a major buzz. I'm already working on that decision even now, but it will likely change as the scene does. It's too early to make any announcements, but I've bid on headliners already and I'll be scouting locals all summer and fall. Interested acts should send me material and hound me until around Christmas, then I make my decisions and sign the deals. We will rock... no doubt about that!

For more info on the Daffodil Fest, visit www.DaffodilFest.com

Turn the page for lots more photos...



IndieGateLive

First Tour Date: June 25th

Venue: The Space, Hamden, CT

featuring:

Green Inside
Cathy Grier
Allison Tartalia
Showin Tell
Cuzin D

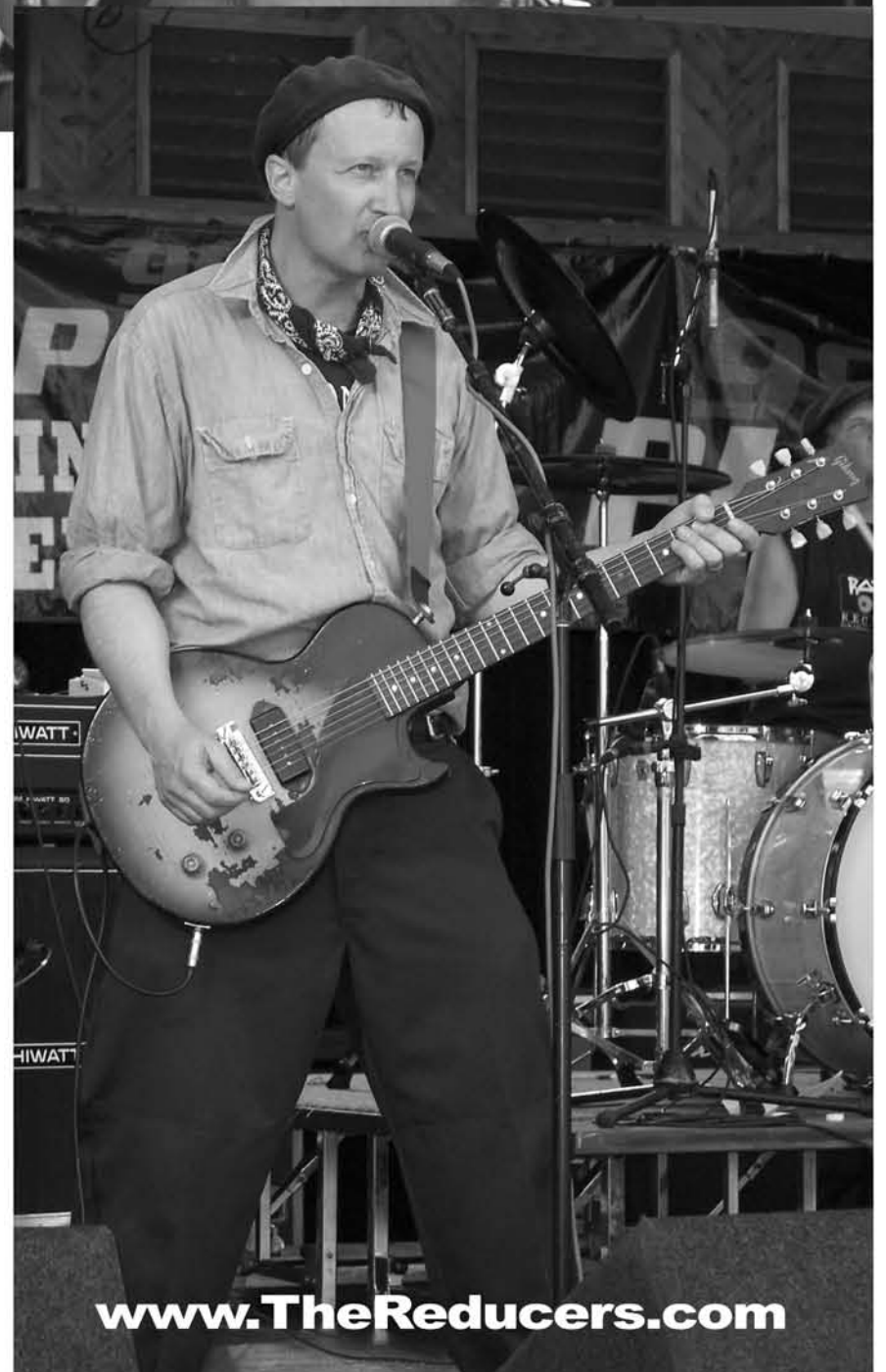
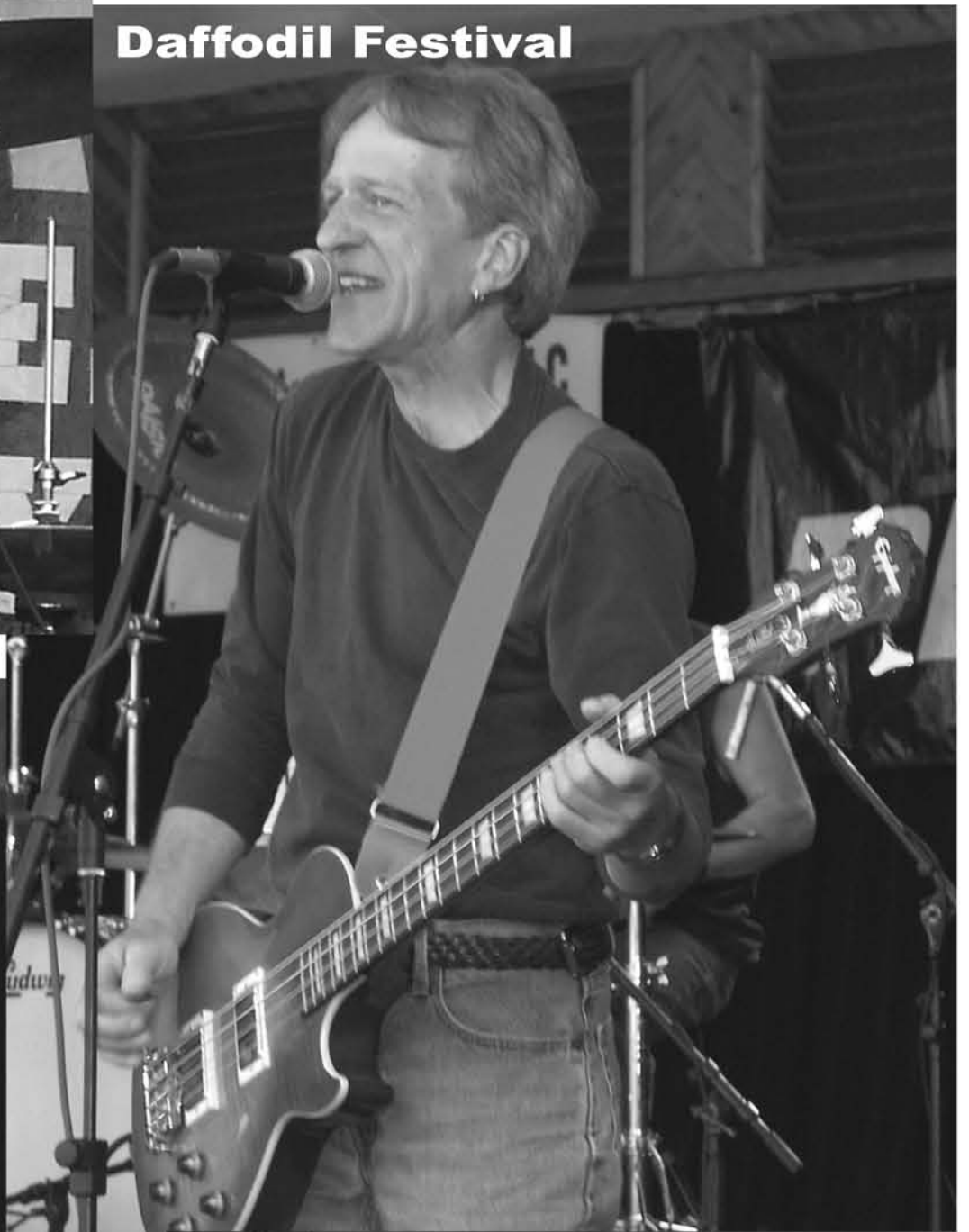
Tix: \$8

www.IndieGateLive.com





Daffodil Festival



The Reducers hail from New London, and they have been touring and performing continuously for over 25 years! The band is so beloved by their home town that the mayor of New London proclaimed August 23, 2003 as *The Reducers Day*.

With a terrific new CD, "*Old Cons*," to promote as a 25th anniversary celebration, The Reducers are as wild and wooly as ever as they continue to churn out instantly classic songs and play rave up shows just as they did when they first formed.

www.TheReducers.com



The Manchurians are a great big slab of greasy R&B that invoke feelings of The Yardbirds, Peter Green era Fleetwood Mac and Dr Feelgood all in one listen. Propelled by Mat Reale, arguably the most powerful drummer this side of Bonham, sweetened by the incendiary guitar work of Mike Roth and pushed to the very limits of virtuosity by harpist Bob Orsi, The Manchurians primarily perform the songs of bassist/vocalist Roger C. Reale, who is up for a WC Handy Award from the National Blues Foundation.





Bunji This group of young musicians has been making giant steps and is heading toward touring. Formed to play the music of Michael Greenberg, who first played the Daffodil Festival as a 14-year-old prodigy, Bunji routinely sells out all ages shows at prestigious venues such as Toad's Place in New Haven, CT.

Songsalive!



www.songsalive.org

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<http://www.songsalive.org>

Daffodil Festival



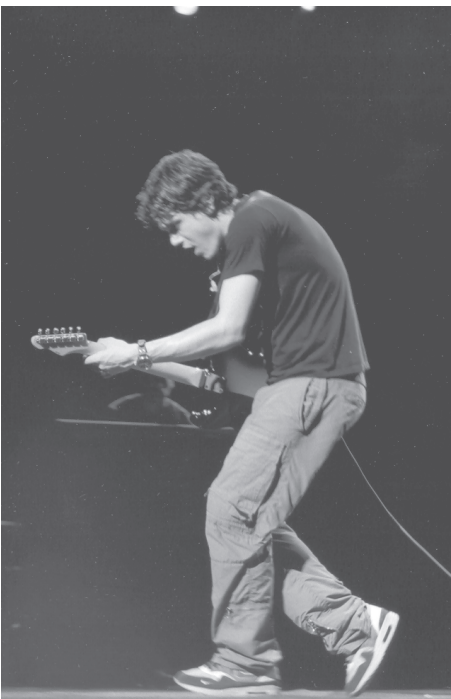
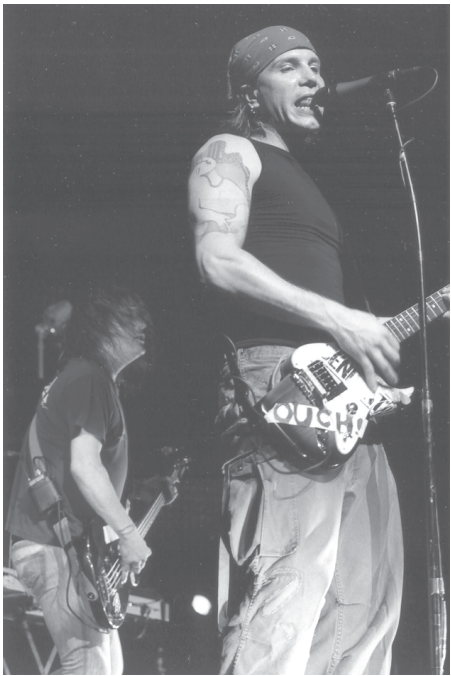
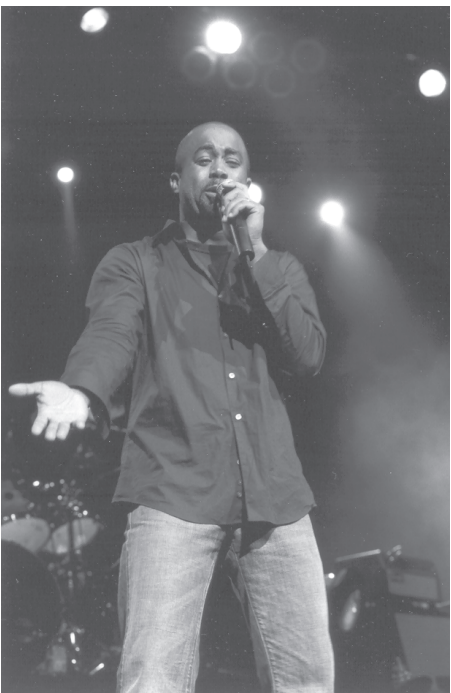
WPLR’s Mike Lapitino spent the day making fans of the radio station happy with prize giveaways and raffles. One item up for grabs... a custom built chopper worth over \$80,000!!!

MIXX PIXX CAPTIONS:

Top: Hootie and the Blowfish perform at Mohegan Sun Arena.
Below: Goo Goo Dolls perform at Meadows Music Theatre.
Below: Meatloaf performs at Mohegan Sun Arena.
Below: John Mayer performs at Meadows Music Theatre.

NEXT PAGE...

Top Left: Crosby, Stills & Nash at the Mohegan Sun Arena.
Top Right: Steely Dan at the Mohegan Sun Arena.
Middle Left: Ringo Starr at the Mohegan Sun Arena.
Middle Right: Counting Crows at the Meadows Music Theatre.
Bottom: Bon Jovi at the Meadows Music Theatre.



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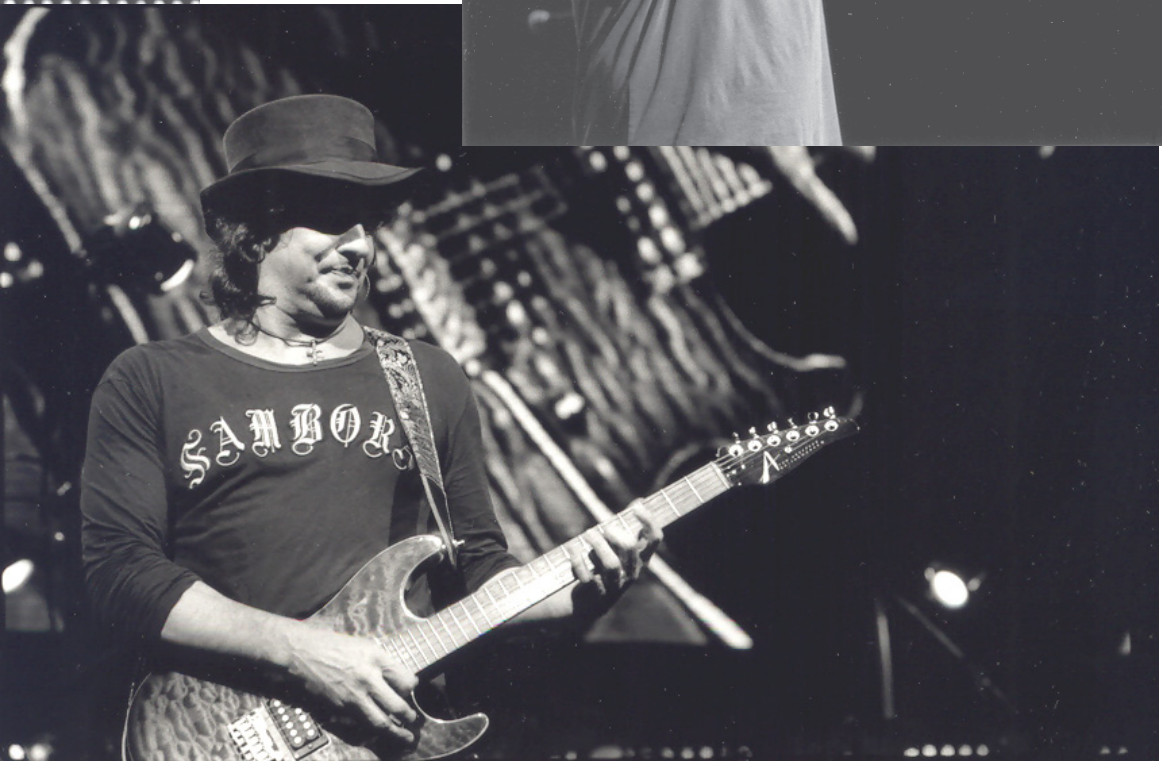
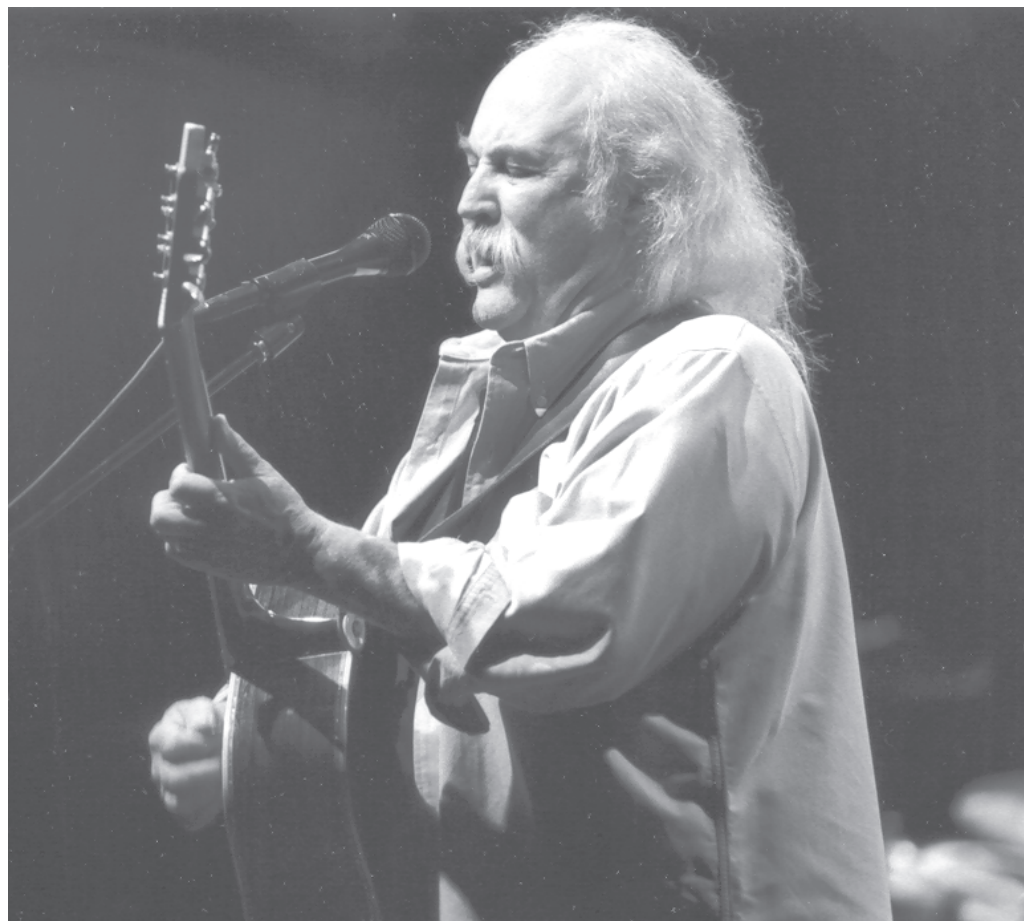
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Mixx Pixx

InterMixx Photog, Dan Hott shoots some big shows...



Mighty Purple CD Release Party



www.IndieGate.com/mightypurple



Local heroes, **Mighty Purple** launches their much anticipated new CD, "*Prefables*." The party took place at the band's own venue - The Space in Hamden, CT. Join us there on June 25th for IndieGateLive!



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Melissa St. Jude, 94WYSP personality and IMC Spokesperson

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Think for yourself... buy indie music!

Life is occasionally about trade-offs. You find that in order to gain something you value, you have to give up something you treasure. With technology outpacing itself every day, we seem to be faced with these little dilemmas more and more.

I remember a momentous day back in 1976, I literally raced down the street from the high school. I was a freshman, and I was about to purchase my very first LP. Sure, I'd played my brother's albums a thousand times apiece. I'd almost worn out the 45s my sister had given me. Boz Scaggs, America, the Beatles, Rolling Stones, Santana, and even more eclectic sounds had already been coaxed out of that old, beaten Olympia TV/Radio/Phonograph unit. The TV had not worked for years, and the radio was useless, but that phonograph still played the music I wanted to hear.

On that sunny day after school, I had in my hand some money I had saved for a very specific reason. Some years earlier, my brother had clued me in to one particular band that instantly became my favorite, and Steely Dan was just about to release a new album. The little record store near my school was scheduled to receive "The Royal Scam" and I wanted to get a copy as soon as they unpacked the shipment.

That was the very first LP I bought for myself, and it was followed by thousands more over the years. So voracious was my appetite for music that I found my way into the business by becoming a member of the retail record store army. I also crowned myself a DJ and became rather successful at it, having been lucky enough to be somewhat of a natural.

Back then, it was about the never-ending quest for fidelity. Audiophiles sought the best sonic reproduction possible within their particular budget through a combination of stereo equipment, high-end vinyl records and an expensive stylus, pumping through whatever speakers seemed to be "the" speakers to buy at the time.

The digital age has changed all that, as the dream of perfect sound realized through non-contact media like CDs has slowly given way to an online world, where "compression algorithms" now replace the rhythms we used to be concerned with decades ago.

So we trade off. No more obsessing over sound quality, and what stylus works better, which direct drive turntable is worth the big bucks and what set of speakers can best utilize the amp we bought with the rent money. Now we worry about how to download, rip, burn, encode, and how many gigs our iPod holds.

MP3s may not afford us the passionate audiophile experience of 1976, but they do allow us to carry around a few thousand of our favorite songs in our shirt pocket.

There's something to be said for that.

I'm building a very special audio library on my iPod. I call the playlist simply "InterMixx," and in a way, it symbolizes everything I've been working for in the last twenty years. Why? It's the music created by the musicians I work with every day, that's why. That playlist is the beginnings of a collection unlike any other I've ever assembled. From the many thousands of CDs and cassettes I've accumulated over the years, I am creating my ultimate indie music collection. Some of my most favorite songs will be in that playlist, and I am going to write about it as it's being built.

Sometimes I plug the iPod into a set of fancy computer speakers that I got from a client as a gift. It almost brings back those giddy audiophile days. I crank the first song in the playlist and the bass booms from the sub-woofer...

"Drown" makes me sing along. It's a song worthy of the same respect I gave "Rikki Don't Lose That Number" back during that summer of '74 when I rode my bike down the sandy streets of Cape Cod from our summer cabin to the little store in town. That song was on the radio almost every time I



walked into that store and it burned itself into my brain. **Green Inside** has that same ability to infect you with their music and whether you want to or not, you'll be singing along soon enough. Seth Thulin's lead



vocals and guitar are formidable. The harmonies and percussion that Steve Tobey brings in clinch the deal. So far everything this band has released found its way into my list of favorites. Truly solid performers giving truly solid performances. Green Inside's music will no doubt occupy lots of spaces in my InterMixx playlist.

www.IndieGate.com/greeninside



Another song quickly becoming a fave of mine comes from a brand new member of my IndieGate family. **KK** came aboard as an applicant to the Independent Music Conference, and her CD immediately captured my ears. Combining lots of my favorite things, it was inevitable that I would

fast become a KK fan. A little bit of brooding, seductive vocals, add a dash of electronica and industrial rock, throw in just a bit of pop for sweetener, juxtapose that great voice and skilled instrumentalists... The song currently in my playlist is "Waves" but I suspect other cuts off the album will soon be added, since I often play the entire disc as I work at my computer.

www.IndieGate.com/kk

Also in my playlist is a quirky little tune by an artist that I just didn't "get" at first. Ironically though, as I listened to my iTunes randomly one day without paying attention to who and what was playing, I found myself strangely fascinated by this one weird song. Upon checking to see who the artist was, I was shocked to see it was Max McPherson off his "Big Plans" CD. It's one of those songs that just gets to you somehow. I enjoy the often unpredictable nature of music and its effects, and "Rooted Tree" certainly surprised me.

www.IndieGate.com/maxmacphersonjr



There is a tune by **Mia Kim** in my playlist that is playfully perplexing me, because as many times as I've listened to it, (which is LOTS of times because I really like it) I just can't seem to put my finger on all the subtle influences I hear. "Life, Inc." is just catchy enough to make you want to hear it again and again, yet it's not so sugary that you get sick from too many helpings. I suppose I can hear some Tori Amos in there, and some Jonatha Brooke, Patti Griffin and Sarah McLachlan, but these are all artists

that Mia unashamedly admits to as having an effect on her songwriting and performance. She might also be demonstrating an ever so subtle influence from her mother, a professional opera singer, who immersed Mia in music her entire life, and taught her to love the craft. Whatever magical ingredients are brewing inside that complex and creative mind, I am just grateful that Mia is recording the results for us.

www.IndieGate.com/miakim



I'm not a fan of country music, but one IndieGate artist performs what he calls "country music for city folk." The originality and wit he displays in his lyrics, and the consummate skill evident in the playing of the music is enough for me to enjoy his twangy treats. Bryan Miller of **Miller's Farm** has contributed two gems to my playlist... the hilarious "Those Jeans" and his newest release, "Back of the Bar," co-written with Christopher "Preacher Boy" Watkins. To describe "Those Jeans" to you all I have to do is quote the chorus, "no... yer ass don't look fat in those jeans." In his newest ditty, Bryan and the Farm hands get a bit more philosophical, keeping just enough tongue in cheek of course. "Back of the Bar" tells the bittersweet tale of the typical troubador, struggling to play heartfelt and meaningful songs to a bunch of beer swilling, pool playing bar patrons who seem oblivious the poor sap on the guitar who is baring his soul for their amusement.

www.IndieGate.com/millersfarm



Another recent addition to our little IndieGate family is **Cuzin D**, from NYC. D has an infectious, acoustic rock sound, with an emphasis on rock. His tune "Dressed in Green" is not just burned onto my iPod, but also into my brain. I'm very much looking forward to his appearance at the IndieGateLive show on the 25th. I'm not only interested in his musical performance, D is somewhat enigmatic and I'm curious to see if I can suss out what makes this obviously talented artist tick. His "Earth Song" is another quirky electric tinged song that injects itself into your cranium by way of tasty hooks and catchy sounds combined with an irresistible rhythm. His CD is entitled "Puppy & Substance," check it out...

www.IndieGate.com/cuzind

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