Call for Contributors

Do you go to local music shows? Do you love to write or take pictures? Do you know about an upcoming show that could benefit from some hype? Show Chime is looking for volunteer contributors to help us cover the local music scene. Lend your skills and passion to help promote the homegrown music you love and help us grow this beloved publication. Cover one show or become a regular contributor. Contact us at theshowchime@gmail.com to start the conversation.

FROM SOMMER CARTER, AMP PRESIDENT

January.

The dreaming time is upon us again. The time to reflect, consider, sleep-on-it, muse.

I am so proud that AMP has grown in our development of our local music events and our fabulous Show Chime publication. We’ve grown our volunteers: musicians, artists, decorators, organizers, keepers, and tenders. Really, this is what motivates and encourages me most. The culture of our community relies on the contribution of what we naturally are and what we are curious to be. It feels like a good time to be curious about what’s happened this past year and learn from it—shake it out and see where it leads.

AMP continues to hold the vision of a community project that supports and promotes local music and the culture around it. We also envision a storefront with our radio station curated round-the-clock by DJ’s who have something to share, practice and performance space for all ages to show up to, mentors and mentees working on sound engineering, recording, radio programming, archiving, sponsorship, teaching, writing, designing, publishing....the list is unlimited and wonderful.

And so we dive into the dreaming and rest, and then the work. It’s such a pleasure to do this work right here.

Warmly,

SHOW CHIME

February

Interview with Cover Artist
Hannah Dunn

Local painter, Hannah Dunn, grew up in Montana and was raised out in the country where the outdoors inspired her love for art. She had a hard time in school due to a learning disability but art was something that came naturally and brought her joy. She joined the Navy after high school and was eventually stationed on Whidbey Island. The Pacific Northwest, like Montana, has so much natural beauty and fuels her strong need to paint. You can see Hannah’s art on Instagram @hannah.dunn.art, Facebook @HannahDunnART and in her HannahDunnART Etsy shop.

WHAT GIVES YOU THE MOST JOY AS AN ARTIST?

Art is my way of documenting what I see accompanied by the method to emphasize what I want the focus to be. I love being able to change perspective and shift attention to create a feeling with my paintings. What gives me the most joy as an artist is documenting something in my artistic expression and it speaking to someone else so strongly. When a person sees my art and it brings them joy, that’s what brings me joy.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PAINTING?

I have done art my entire life as a hobby. I started painting in watercolor in high school. Watercolor is a unique medium that has a mind of its own and adds to the mood of my artwork. My husband encouraged me to pursue painting as a business when my daughter was due to be born in 2016. It is a gift to be able to stay home with my children and still get to create and provide income for my family.

WHAT IS YOUR NEXT PROJECT?

My next project is illustrating a children’s book.
No Grinches Allowed: Yule Bizarre 2019

by Joel Askey

You know that question that always bugs you? The one that triggers your insomniac tendencies and makes you go downstairs and watch cooking shows until you realize your pantry has no black truffle oil and you have to make a 3 AM run to Safeway, where you run into a friend from high school working night shift who has a sweet 1977 Datsun 240z for sale and you always wanted one but could never afford it when you were younger and this one only needs a new transmission and screams “relive your youth!” and you might be able to cover it tonight but you have to hit the ATM, but no, you forgot your card and have to go back home? I hate when that happens.

The question, you ask? Of course, it’s that eternal mystery: “Which Black Sabbath song best fits the lyrics of ‘Deck the Halls’?” You know you’ve always wanted the answer, right?

If you were at the 2019 AMP Rockin’ Yule Bizarre, you would know the answer to this and many other choral conundrums.

On the warm-ish damp evening of December 14th, a fabulous crowd of music lovers gathered once again for the traditional holiday cheer offered by our AMP team and a host of local bands. Tables full of goodies, merchandise, local art, and a Santa photo booth greeted attendees, as well as many people wearing clothing or hair accessories that featured illumination or greenery.

Our own Carol Laing along with Elizabeth Dirks started things off with some lovely piano/guitar/cello music. The family duet of Pearl and Brian Tottenham gave their renditions of several Yuletide standards next. By this time, the main room at the Depot was getting packed, just in time for our own AMP choir to lead a great sing-along, accompanied by Andrew Velin’s guitar.

The electric guitars came out next, and the band Ristfut took the stage. These young performers have tightened up their live sets over time and are gaining stage confidence. A highlight of their set was an energetic arrangement of “You’re A Mean One, Mr. Grinch”. Detention Hall followed Ristfut and offered the most stylistically diverse set list. Tom Savage and company held down some tasty rock, blues, and a rumba-styled “My Favorite Things”. Despairplain got behind the microphones and clearly had some fans in the audience as well.

OK, I promised you an answer to the mystery question. The Mosstones blew the roof off the place with a delightfully twisted version of “Deck The Halls” set to the Black Sabbath classic “War Pigs”. Impressively degenerate fun ensued.

Did things let up? Nope. Whiskey Fever commandeered the room, belting out some classics like “Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer” and “Feliz Navidad”. Come to think of it, that was the most performed Christmas song that night. But, if you’re going to hear a Christmas song twice, Jose Feliciano is not a bad choice for a cover.

The evening was capped off by local legends Fanny Alger, who had their own original Christmas themed song about Burl Ives. After Fanny Alger’s set finished, an “All Star Jam” took place with many of the previous musicians congregating to give the crowd a holiday sendoff.

The Anacortes Music Project would like to extend a thank-you to everyone who attended and helped us raise money to support our activities in 2020. Stay tuned to our blog and Show Chime for coverage of our local music scene and of course, our events calendar.

And we promise not to use the money to buy vintage Japanese sports cars with questionable mechanical integrity.

Above: The AMP Choir leads the room in a round of carols. Photo courtesy of Joel Askey.

The Art of the Love Song: An Interview with Lizzie Weber

by Joel Askey

The love song as an art form is as old as music itself. When poorly executed it can be maudlin, trite, cliché, or worst of all, insincere. The songwriter who makes this genre fresh and compelling has to have her craft finely honed. Lizzie Weber, an Anacortes resident, is one of these gifted composers. She has graced our local stages at Kennelly Keys and at the Rockin’ Yule Bizarre in 2017.

Lizzie has released two new tracks: “December” and “When You Look At Me”. Like most of Lizzie’s work, her voice takes center stage, with muted guitar or piano accompaniment. “When You Look At Me” expresses the subject’s deep connection to a lover, and features some lovely layered reverb vocals. “December” is about the pain of separation during a season when others are celebrating. We spoke with Lizzie about her recent releases.

SC: “When You Look At Me” is a very personal song. It sounds like a love letter with the un-dercurrent being that this person was a source of support and now you both are coming out on the other side of something?

LW: This song is an intimate reflection on the physical and emotional feelings that arose when I found myself falling in love. When composing it, I wanted that intimacy to be palpable; for it to feel as though it were a poem written from one lover to another.

SC: The arrangement features your voice, with some very cool layered choruses. I immediately thought of the early Fleet Foxes albums. It sounds like a song that was written on piano. Tell me about the composing process. How will you perform it live?

LW: I love the early Fleet Foxes records. Their debut is still my favorite. I actually composed the song on guitar: a finger-picked melody on the electric. I kept the arrangement simple, leaving space for the vocal to be surrounded by the warm tones of the open tuning on my acoustic guitar and melodic embellishments from piano, strings, and the electric. For live performances I usually keep it stripped down to the acoustic guitar.

SC: Are there some companion pieces in development? Do you think this will make it onto an EP or full length album?

LW: I’m sure one day it will be a part of an EP or full length, but for now I’m leaving it as a single.
Ringing the Bell for Anacortes Music // Brought to you by Anacortes Music Project

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 1**
- Guemes Island General Store
- Ben Starner
- Local Piano
- All Ages

**THURSDAY JANUARY 2**
- Guemes Island General Store
- 720 String Band
- Island Strings
- All Ages
- The Next 1 Show
- Featuring Bret Lunsford
- with DJ Todd & KXUY
- Live at anacortesmusicproject.org

**FRIDAY JANUARY 3**
- Rockfish Grill
- Badd Dog Blues Society
- Regional Blues
- All Ages
- Swinomish Casino
- The Wingman
- Rock Hits
- 18+

**SATURDAY JANUARY 4**
- Swinomish Casino
- The Wingman
- Solid Rock
- 18+

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 8**
- Guemes Island General Store
- Ben Starner
- Local Piano
- All Ages
- Rockfish Grill
- Blues Union
- Blues Grooves
- All Ages

**THURSDAY JANUARY 9**
- Guemes Island General Store
- 720 String Band
- House Band
- All Ages

**FRIDAY JANUARY 10**
- Swinomish Casino
- Decade X
- Dance Faves
- 18+

**SATURDAY JANUARY 11**
- Guemes Island General Store
- Scott Pemberton Band
- Rock Onslaught
- All Ages
- Swinomish Casino
- Decade X
- Danceable Hits
- 18+

**THURSDAY JANUARY 16**
- Guemes Island General Store
- 720 String Band
- Island Strings
- All Ages

**FRIDAY JANUARY 17**
- Swinomish Casino
- Wes Jones Band
- Country Classics
- 18+

**SATURDAY JANUARY 18**
- Rockfish Grill
- Scratch Daddy
- Beyond Blues
- All Ages
- Swinomish Casino
- Wes Jones Band
- Country
- 18+
- Brown Lantern
- The John Blaxa Band
- Bar Rock
- 21+

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 22**
- Guemes Island General Store
- Ben Starner
- Local Piano
- All Ages
- Rockfish Grill
- Fidalgo Swing
- Gypsy Jazz
- All Ages

**THURSDAY JANUARY 23**
- Guemes Island General Store
- 720 String Band
- Island Strings
- All Ages

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 29**
- Guemes Island General Store
- Ben Starner
- Local Piano
- All Ages

**FRIDAY JANUARY 31**
- Rockfish Grill
- Swinomish Casino
- Guy Johnson Band
- Rock Trip
- 18+

**SATURDAY JANUARY 4**
- Guemes Island General Store
- Ben Starner
- Local Piano
- All Ages
- Swinomish Casino
- Harmonious Funk Band
- Funk
- 18+
- Brown Lantern
- Cosmic Sauce
- Bham Funk
- 21+

**WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15**
- Guemes Island General Store
- Ben Starner
- Local Piano
- All Ages
- Rockfish Grill
- El Colonel
- Da Blues
- All Ages

**SATURDAY JANUARY 25**
- Guemes Island General Store
- Lucas Warford & Friends
- Heavy Beats
- All Ages
- Swinomish Casino
- Harmonious Funk Band
- Funk
- 18+
- Brown Lantern
- Cosmic Sauce
- Bham Funk
- 21+

**FRIDAY JANUARY 24**
- Anacortes Public Library
- Brown Lantern
- Guemes Island General Store
- Kenney Keys
- The Rockfish Grill
- Swinomish Casino
- 1220 10th St
- 46 Fresh Local Bands
- Battle of The Bands
- All Ages
- Swinomish Casino
- Harmonious Funk Band
- Funk
- 18+
- Brown Lantern
- Cosmic Sauce
- Bham Funk
- 21+

**DIID WE MISS YOUR EVENT?**
We do our best to publish all Anacortes Music shows! You can help us out by sending information about your upcoming event. Email details to theshowchime@gmail.com by the 20th of each month, to be published in the following month's edition.

**ANACORTES VENUES**
- Anacortes Public Library
- Brown Lantern
- Guemes Island General Store
- Kenney Keys
- The Rockfish Grill
- Swinomish Casino
- 1220 10th St
- 46 Fresh Local Bands
- Battle of The Bands
- All Ages
- Swinomish Casino
- Harmonious Funk Band
- Funk
- 18+
- Brown Lantern
- Cosmic Sauce
- Bham Funk
- 21+

**HOW IT WORKS**
The Red Snapper
412 Commercial Ave
1704 Commercial Ave
12885 Casino Dr

**SHOW CHIME JANUARY 2020**
Soon there will be a small new city park along Commercial Avenue between Penguin Coffee and Jimmy John’s. The park will be named “Pickett Park,” in honor of Erica Pickett, who served on City Council and The Planning Commission for untold years.

The crazy intersection at 12th and Commercial is up for a reboot. The State and the City are working together with Alta Planning to make it safer for pedestrians, bicyclists, and automobiles. After a woman was killed in the westernmost crosswalk while on foot last year, the city was awarded a $2 million grant for improving the busy crossroads. Another roundabout is one option being considered.

In this time of polarization, Anacortes city residents were divided over a Christmas tree. In an apparent slight to the Chamber of Commerce’s crab pot tree, some residents organized a tree lighting ceremony of their own. Memories of the old live tree on Commercial Ave. spurred the decorating and lighting of a live fir tree in The Heart of Anacortes courtyard.

Imagery of the San Juan Islands and Salish Sea have served as a backdrop for musical collaborations and performances for at least a century. We don’t know much about this image of a band playing on a float, with Guemes Island in the background, but it looks like they were having a good time and were comfortably cushioned by life preserver seats. From the Anacortes Museum photo collection.

Verse Chorus Verse

Anyone who has ever gotten lost in the liner notes knows that reading the lyrics of a song can give you a whole new perspective on a band or musician. As we experience the music in our town, there is so much wonderful poetry and writing that goes along with it. Here we highlight the words of one song. Each piece of writing featured here has a unique Anacortes connection. Here is a poem for the New Year by Anacortes musician and AMP board member, Carol Laing.

Limp Rags
by Carol Laing

“You have not grown old, and it is not too late
To dive into your increasing depths
Where life calmly gives out its own secrets.”

-Rainer Maria Rilke

I am living deeply, now;
No longer swallowed by these soggy rags
That I’ve torn off, one by one to reveal
A small bump on a shoulder blade,
One stubble-covered knee cap, ten naked toenails,
A V-shaped birthmark on my forearm,
The deep abyss of a belly button, and finally
A gummy, tooth-filled smile.
And as I stride into this new,
unspoiled world; I am no longer
The leaky faucet I once was, dripping out
A meager existence—suffocating under layers
Of dirty cloths, soaking up drops and drops of Shame.

Mount Eerie Release

Anacortes’ prolific musician Phil Elverum, who performs under the name Mount Eerie, and Canadian singer-songwriter, Julie Dorion, have released Lost Wisdom pt. 2, a sequel to their 2008 record. Elverum discussed the themes of the album. He refers to the death of his wife, artist and musician Genevieve Castree, which inspired his last two studio albums. He also alludes to his marriage to Michelle Williams and their separation. “Finding myself staring into another fire, disoriented by the changes, these songs came out,” he wrote.

Elverum continued, “I tried to make songs that did not rely at all on who I am or who I am singing about,” adding, “Knowing that anyone with internet access might have questions about my specifics, I don’t want to say anything personal that isn’t already in the songs. My fingers are crossed that when I push them out to sea they will be met with calm humane understanding. That’s what they’re about after all.”

Beat Happening Box Set Release

Beat Happening, an iconic and beloved band active in the 80s and 90s and whose members included Anacortes’ Bret Lunsford, saw the release of their entire musical catalog.

On November 29th, Domino Records released We Are Beat Happening, a box set of the band’s entire recorded output: seven LPs that showcase how the band created an international network of underground pop entirely on their own terms. The albums have been newly remastered by Frank Arkwright at Abbey Road Studios, and this is the first time the entire Beat Happening catalogue has been in print in over a decade.

The box set also features a beautiful booklet created by friend Lois Maffeo outlining the band’s history, with never before seen photos and artwork.

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Represent!

Your support amplifies the music and musicians of Anacortes. In addition to the promotion, publication, and distribution of the SHOW CHIME music calendar, AMP is committed to creating events featuring local musicians, developing a scholarship and mentoring program, continuing the development and collection of archives past and present, and shaping exciting visions for the future, such as a physical space for our community’s very own radio station and music space.

Your contribution is uplifting the culture of art and music in our town. We’re doing this together!

**Go to anacortesmusicproject.org and click on the sponsorship button.**

**AMP Swag for Sale**

AMP T-shirts and stickers are now available! Support your local music scene by sporting some swag. Bill Murray wears one, you should too! Shirts and stickers can be purchased at AMP events or by becoming an AMP sponsor at anacortesmusicproject.org.

**Stay in Anacortes**

Coming to Anacortes for a show? Stay the night! Check out the range of options at Anacortes.org/stay/

**Get in Touch!**

Want your music projects or shows mentioned in the Show Chime? Want to submit a piece of art or an article? Have ideas for Show Chime you’d like to share? Please get in touch!

**theshowchime@gmail.com**

**Thank You!**

Thank you to our sponsoring businesses; Mugsy at The Red Snapper, Hal, Sheryl, and Erik at The Brown Lantern, Nick and Carolyn at Bikespot, and Mark and Willy at Guemes Island General Store. Thank you Manieri board, Chris Terrell, and Keith Eyer at How It Works. Thank you community member sponsors Laura Spehar, Victoria McNeil, and DJ Browne. Thank you to The SAM Project for all they do to promote our cause. Thank you to our contributing artists and writers and to our January cover artist, Hannah Dunn. Thank you, Laurie Racicot, for editing and design. Thanks to all of the downtown businesses who help Show Chime fall into the hands of the public and to our amazing crew of distributors who keep our drop points stocked. Getting the Show Chime to you each month is a community effort!

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Since 1997, The ConneXtion has been a family-owned and operated business providing fulfillment solutions for hundreds of festivals, concerts, fashion brands, musicians and bands, filmmakers, comedians, independent labels, foodies and more. Headquartered in Anacortes, Washington, their bi-coastal team provides white label distribution, promotion, publication, and distribution for over 1,500 musicians and the business anacortes.com. The ConneXtion is a bi-coastal fulfillment company dedicated to helping today’s independent musicians and creators. For more information go to TheConneXtion.com.

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**The Business**
The Business cultures Anacortes and the world with its selection of fiercely independent new music. They offer music subscriptions, curate local shows, and offer label operations and mail-order fulfillment for many self-releasing artists and labels. Located at 216 Commercial and thebusinessanacortes.com.

**The ConneXtion**

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**Kennelly Keys Music**

Kennelly Keys provides instruments, supplies, lessons, rentals, repairs, and venue space for performances, private parties, and weddings. Stop by to talk to their knowledgeable sales staff! Located at 18th and Commercial.

**Manieri Jazz & Swing Collection**

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