Say their names.

World is possible.

Silence is violence.

HOLD DEVA

BLM

July 2020
We Stand In Solidarity

AMP is committed to becoming an anti-racist organization. We realize that as a white-majority community we have directly benefited from the suppression of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), including Samish and Swinomish people of this land.

AMP is committed to engaging in our island community and beyond to listen and learn from voices other than our own. We are committed to confronting our history and learning ways of creating equity. We approach this work with humility and a willingness to be uncomfortable.

We hear the voices that are speaking out in this moment. As we continue to reach out to our musical community, we are committed to listening deeply, amplifying these voices, and finding ways to support BIPOC communities here where we are.

—AMP Board

Ringing the Bell for Anacortes Music: Brought to You by Anacortes Music Project

Say Their Names: A Chalk Memorial for Black Lives

The art on our cover this month comes from the streets and sidewalks of downtown Anacortes. On June 3rd a small group gathered in front of the Post Office to show solidarity with the Black Lives movement by writing the names of Black Americans killed by police. When a video of the names being washed away by city employees was posted online the next morning, it sparked an outburst of local activism and four city blocks were chalked with art and words. We spoke with several leaders involved in the event to learn more about their motivations and reactions.

“It was a sense of love that broke through the chatter. To see both sides of downtown Anacortes covered with the names of black folks wrongly killed, came through like a roar. It moves me thinking about it even now. Seeing my community come out of the shadows to stand up to these injustices, injustices I’ve seen my whole life, filled me with deep love. It was a breakthrough seeing those names written down, hearing them spoken on the street, knowing that our children, babies are witnessing our stories and validating our existence. I feel a profound sense of belonging, love, and that I am not alone. I want everyone to know the appreciation I feel, as someone who has been hunted. I am truly thankful to those who rallied and are holding our systems accountable.”

—Anthony Young, Anacortes City Council

“The names on the sidewalk were to bring humanity to these people—they have names, they have families, and it is important for people in Anacortes to know this. It was so, so inspiring, the fact that the video of the words being erased just on one corner inspired 4 blocks to be chalked. It showed how strong our community is in wanting to fix these problems and make change. Our community is not the most diverse, so it can be easy for people to get into the mindset that our community is not racist.”

—Ally Perez, Anacortes Activist Student Union

“A small group from XR Anacortes, created the initial chalk art in front of the post office as a small gesture of solidarity with Black Lives Movement. When the artwork was washed away by the city it ignited a fire that ultimately amplified the original message far beyond what we could have imagined. It was inspiring to see people come out of the woodwork and chalk four blocks in an afternoon. It was even more inspiring to see people come out and read the names, share their stories with their children, and engage in difficult conversations with their friends and neighbors. It was important for us as climate activists to take action and speak out in solidarity with the Black Lives movement, because the issue of climate justice is intricately connected to the issue of racial justice. In our small town on this beautiful island, it’s easy to look the other way and pretend we don’t have a problem with racism here. In that way, it’s a lot like climate change. It’s easy to pretend we’re not part of the problem. But, we are as soon as we acknowledge that, we can also be part of the solution.”

—Julio Frisbie, Extinction Rebellion Anacortes

“it has been inspiring to see the response within our own community to these events. Indeed, seeing our own city workers come out to wash away the names written in sidewalk chalk in front of the post office was disappointing and upsetting. It seemed my immediate responsibility was to document the occurrence so there was evidence. Videoing it live to Instagram, the video was sharable and word quickly spread. Art, even if it is sidewalk chalk, is an entry point. A bigger conversation that could potentially change someone’s mind or make them empathize on a deeper level. These are incredibly complicated times and it is important we do our best to listen, learn, and write emails to our city council members, the mayor, and other elected officials as much as possible. For now, we can introspect and question what personal racial biases we may personally hold, and might not even be fully aware of.”

—Lauk Money

Photo courtesy of Thaddeus Hink

Have you heard about the AMPulance? With large festivals and gatherings canceled for the summer, the AMPulance is here to provide you with live music and entertainment, right at your front door! AMP hosted its first AMPulance tour on June 13 and it was a stunning success. Show Chime spoke with organizers Sommer Carter and Doug Nickerson about the origins of the AMPulance and plans for the summer.

Describe the AMPulance Tour and what it’s all about.

Doug: The AMPulance Tour is a roving performance, stopping at several locations around town, where the performers hop out of an old ambulance and put on a short show, just for the people of that neighborhood.

Sommer: Where did the idea for the AMPulance tour come from?

Doug: The AMPulance was formerly the ambulance of Lopez Island based Tommy & the Nazgul. We joked about turning it into an ambulance but when this pandemic rolled around the idea actually took root.

Sommer: What stops did the first tour make and who were the artists?

Doug: We started out in Skiline, St. Mary’s Hill, 20th & 10th & H, 5th & N, and finally at Causland Park. Tom Savage and Chris Nickerson, of Ebb Slack & Flood, performed as Tommy & the Nazgul and Nickerson, of Ebb Slack & Flood, performed as Tommy & the Nazgul. We then went to had such a different feeling. Families who hosted us spread the word to their neighbors. Bubbles were blown, cookies were baked, sidewalk chalk and children were afoot. From a distance, we got to cross the whole island and see people we hadn’t seen in months.

Sommer: How can I sign up to have the AMPulance come to my house?

Doug: When we organize the next one, we will have a Facebook post where people can request a stop. We choose from the requests, based on interest, timing, and general attractiveness of the spot.

Sommer: If you’re not on Facebook you can email us at theshowchime@gmail.com and we’ll add you to the list of possible stops. If you’re a musician or entertainer and want to be part of this traveling show, get in touch! We hope to have multiple tours throughout the summer!

AMPulance!
Sign up for the AMPulance curbside tour to come to your neighborhood this summer!

Go to Anacortes Music Project's Facebook page or email us at theshowchime@gmail.com and we'll set up a time to perform near your neighborhood.

Ringing the Bell for Anacortes Music /// Brought to you by Anacortes Music Project
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. Here we highlight the words of one song with an artist who has been on a musical odyssey.

 Nate Ashley had a couple-year stint living in Oldtown Anacortes in the late 90s where he made some excellent records, Darlin’ I’m Your Devil and Liminal Sea, on his cassette 4-track, both under the Anacortes imprint Knit-er-Done. His voice is like a flute and his musical arrangements are always executed with that precision. The contradiction of this style recorded onto cassette 4-track is Nate’s trademark sound.

Currently working from home in Portland, Oregon, Nate Ashley is a book author, Books and poster designer for Movie Madness, Nates continues to create vivid pop underground music you can find on Bandcamp.

Here is “Even The Sun misses this night.” From his first album Where Motley Lives, (also a Knit-Y-Done release) this tune has been consistently loved, covered by Brinn Elliott’s various projects over the last 10 years. Enduro even did a version in the last year.

The NeXt Show
Please join us on the first Thursday of every month for The NeXt Show, the live show where you hear the music and thoughts of artists from Anacortes and beyond. On our July show we have something a little different for you. We’ll be talking with two local politicians, Mayor Laurie Gere and Senator Liz Lovelett, about the connections between our local government and our local music scene.

MAYOR LAURIE GERE 7:00-8:00 PM
Anacortes Mayor, Laurie Gere, has a lifelong passion for community service and is the founder and owner of Gere-a-Dell. We will talk with her about what our local government is doing and can do in the future to support local music and musicians.

SENATOR LIZ LOVELETT 8:00-9:00 PM
Washington State Senator, Liz Lovelett, has been part of the local music scene for decades as a dancer, a singer for The Sound, and a previous owner of The Business. We will discuss how our local music scene is and can be supported at the state level.

July 9, 2020 7:00 PM To listen live and access podcasts go to ANACORTESMUSICPROJECT.ORG

Badgers in Quarantine
by Quinn K. Thompson

Quinn K. Thompson is a legendary Skagit musician (most famous for being Fanny Alger’s high-kicking bassist), artist, songwriter, metal detector, and the founding member of a much talked-about moped gang “Vicious Badgers.” I caught up with him on his wanderings around Skagit Sound and the Olympics. Quinn says he survived [andthrived] the initial quarantine lockdown by being creative and using the backyard of his house. “If you’re bored, you deserve to be bored.” The sedentary life is not his ideal. Apparently the act of life is not long enough and keeping a healthy relationship with the backside of his brain. “If you’re bored, you deserve to be bored.”

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All we can hope is that he recovers well and receives the nutrients to go back to being the amazing light in our community that he is. Godspeed QKT.

Quinn K. Thompson gets ready to ride. Photo courtesy of Andreas Welt.