Show Chime

JUNE 2020

ANACORTES

MUSIC PROJECT
From Andrew Velin, AMP Treasurer

Serving as the “business end” of AMP (aka Treasurer) has proven to be one of the greater joys of my life. Seriously. I get to participate and contribute something essential to a community organization that happens to support the kind of creative work I have a passion for. The working relationships that make up the board and other volunteers have become some of my closest friendships. I am so thankful to this community for allowing me the opportunity to jump on and join in!

Anacortes has a rich and colorful music legacy and, at this point in time, it feels like AMP has both inherited and shored up the foundation for music outreach, mentorship, and scholarships. We’re in the development phase of this program and if you are interested in teaching, mentoring or sponsoring this kind of community work, please get in touch with us.

As we prepare to re-enter public life, my hope for us all is to remember to go slow. I was recently reminded of a quote from Alan Watts: “What we really need, above all else, is to slow down.” For the first time in my life, I have been forced to slow down, stay home, and just be present. This allowed just enough space, just enough pause, for the possibility of reflection and re-evaluation of my life priorities. For me, relationships make life worth living and one major silver lining of quarantine has been the opportunity to connect, with intimate attention, to those dear ones.

Let us not forget, once society goes back to its manic pace, to tend to the small things, and to tend to each other.

Warm Regards,

Interview with June Cover

Artist Taylor Bannister

Taylor is a wife and mama based in Mount Vernon. She lives for the Arts—spending her time drawing, finding things to photograph, acting, singing, and working as the outreach manager of the Historic Lincoln Theatre. She strives to make people laugh through any means possible.

WHERE DID YOU GET THE INSPIRATION TO MAKE COLORING PAGES?
Generally, my coloring pages come from a funny phrase I’ve heard or a sassy take on a popular quote. I love to make people smile and especially laugh, so being able to either surprise people by taking a quote in a new direction or create a silly coloring page from pop culture references are incredibly enjoyable for me.

WHAT ROLE DO THE ARTS HAVE IN THESE HARD TIMES?
I truly believe that at ALL times, the arts can be an escape. Things are obviously really heavy right now, and taking the time to sit down and relax your mind while you focus on something like a coloring page can be a great reset for anyone.

Missing the printed version? Print out the coloring book version on your home printer!

» Print at 100% on standard letter-sized printer paper. Print single or double sided, color or black and white, as your technology allows.
» Staple or sew it together on the left edge.
» Read it. Color it. Hang it on your wall!
Seattle songwriter, performer, visual artist, and animator, Clyde Petersen, has been spending a lot of time in Anacortes lately. Show Chime founder, Karl Blau, who has had the privilege and pleasure of producing many of Clyde’s albums under the name Your Heart Breaks, caught up with Clyde via electronic mail to find out about his quarantine experience and his latest projects.

A Conversation with Clyde

by Karl Blau

You are a project-oriented person, get us up to speed with your Guemes project and the Earth documentary.

Clyde: I’ve been working since May 2019 to get the Dreamboat Artist Residency program up and running on Guemes. A place for writers, visual artists, and musicians to come and spend some quiet time working on projects and sifting through ideas. I’ve been working on the land for the last few months. I built a woodshed out of driftwood and this summer I’ll build a sauna. I’m spending the quarantine time trying to make it cozy, welcoming, and functional. It’s pretty rustic and small but I think it will be an excellent place for folks to create, once it’s up and running. I’ve always felt like the artist residency world is very exclusive, like “if you’ve never gotten a residency, it’s hard to get a residency.” I want to make something that is accessible and welcoming to artists of all levels of experience. That’s important to me. Everyone deserves time and space to think and dream about art.

I’m entering year three of my work on a documentary film about the Seattle-based band Earth. They have been around for over 30 years and play drone music and very slow rock. I’m editing the film. It’s all soundtracked and I think I just have a few months of editing left on it! It’s experimental, an art film, all shot on Super-8 film at various locations in Washington state and on tour with the band. I filmed the Karl Blau section on Guemes Island and shot some footage of Anacortes as well.

Name two or three of your go-to quarantine coping techniques.

Clyde: Looking for the new baby fawns on Guemes. Picking Salmonberries. Stickball at the beach with rocks and driftwood. Listening to the new dance album, Melonday, by Tomo Nakayama. It is very beautiful and it takes my mind away from all of this strangeness.

How has your band been affected by Covid-19?

Clyde: I’m currently in two bands. Your Heart Breaks can exist as a solo project if needed, though it’s not my preferred state. I have played several solo online shows since Covid-19. One experience I’ve had that has been odd is that the last Your Heart Breaks album, Drone Butch Blues, was all about the plague of HIV and AIDS. I was reading a lot about the effects of AIDS on the arts community and I wrote this whole album about it and spent a long time thinking about plagues and deaths and pandemics. It is, unfortunately, not fun to be ahead of the curve on plague-themed art or music. Though I do feel like it gave me a good understanding of lack of government response and how communities need to organize to help each other out.

My other band ManDate had a tour planned for July from Phoenix to Vancouver with Nana Grizol. Sadly, that is not happening anymore. We were excited to tour for the first time and were planning on going directly from tour into the studio to record a new album. But we are now working on ideas of how to make the album through the internet, sharing tracks with each other.

Check out Clyde’s many music, art, and animation projects at clydepetersen.com.
The COVID-19 shutdown has been tough on musicians, and our local music scene is no exception. With venues closed and shows cancelled for the foreseeable future, it’s hard to imagine when things will get back to normal. This month we continued checking in with local musicians to find out how they’re doing and what they’ve been up to during this time.

**Lily-Rose Day:**

When they first announced a Washington State school closure for six weeks, I was beyond excited. The temporary quarantine meant that I would finally have time to do the things I loved—writing, painting, reading, songwriting--the list is endless. And for a while, this was the case. I stayed up until 2:00 AM writing stories that I’d dreamed about since my freshman year. I was finally able to add melodies and chords to the quick poems I had written in the notes app of my phone. I no longer have any unread books on my shelf. The school was still providing “learning resources” online, which basically translates to “optional homework.” I chose the option to spend time on the things that brought me the most joy. But then, Washington announced school closure for the rest of the year, and mandatory school work fell into effect. I find myself struggling with the motivation to complete assignments that I had no choice but to do the things I loved—writing, painting, reading, songwriting--the list is endless. And I was forced to focus on what I had no audience to worry about pleasing, or band members to argue with, currently. So I’ve been writing very honest, more experimental songs. Above all, I’m trying my best to use this time wisely. We’re never gonna have this much free time at home, as an obligation, ever again! Gotta make the most of it.

That said, I can’t WAIT to get back on the stage and sing for you lovely people again!

**Alex Heubel:**

I luckily had gotten a window washing job just before the shutdown order and was deemed essential because it is janitorial. I probably wouldn’t call it essential but it’s nice working without having any contact with people. Of course, because work is slow I’ve been able to try new ways to make art, like using new instruments and taking up drawing. Oh and lots of synthesizer.

**Pearl Tottenham:**

Being a person who struggles with mental health, this shutdown has been really hard for me. I’m finding I get the most done when I take time to be kind to myself and let my art unfold naturally instead of forcing it because I feel this immense pressure of “too much free time” (wild right?). I think as artists it’s easy for us to put lots of pressure on ourselves to create in this time when many of us have nothing but time, but now more than ever we need to be kind to ourselves now that we have less access to our supportive community that I’m sure everyone else misses as much as I do. Sappy thoughts aside, I’ll be releasing a small EP of 3 songs I’ve written and recorded during quarantine on Friday, June 5th and I’m so excited for people to hear it!

**Tony Vecchione:**

I miss the Moss! The Mosstones were regrouping and ready to play dates we had booked starting in May when the quarantine hit. Juels Avalon is back, and now with Beth Baker-Bishop on vocals. Two-timing Henry Szankiewics (still with Fanny Alger) has joined us on bass taking over from K-Dug, and of course, the rest of us. Damn, we were ready to rock!

We have been doing our own things in the Q-zone musically and otherwise. Two of our singers have been on leave from the Mosstones. Lisa Yeager is working to bring legal psychedelic psychotherapy into practice, Senator Liz Lovelett has been working hard in Olympia for us; protecting our health and well being here in Washington. (Vote Liz 2020) Juels has been working on a topiary exhibit for the Rock n Roll Hall of Fame. Beth has been diving in the Marianas Islands with Pierre Yves Cousteau working on a sea turtle synchronized swimming documentary for Animal Planet. Rob was appointed interim director of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Andrew was crowned Muay Thai Boxing world champion in Singapore. Henry has discovered the nearest new M class planet; capable of supporting human life (but not sure if they want it).

I’ve written a couple of new songs that I am looking forward to arranging with the band. Hoping to be practicing soon. Are social distance rehearsals included in Phase 2 reopening? I think so. Do we have to sing with masks on? Be assured, we will practice Safe Breath! Be Well. Keep it Mossy!

**Sommer Carter:**

In the weeks before the shutdown, The Enthusiasts were having a go, a year after our first go, at recording. Nich at The Unknown is a most respectful host and engineer and we got some things done. Having these weeks, rather, months to listen to those sessions reveal more work to do, and still time to think about it. I don’t know... We’ve been working these songs as a band for over a year, granted as a hobby, but it’s hard to be dragging on this project. New songs are coming and certainly new feelings then when those songs were feeling alive. It’s hard and it’s good, quarantine. I’m puzzled, but often pretty relaxed, at least while pulling weeds.

**Channing Waves:**

As a teacher and musician who just started a cool new job right before these strange times hit, I’ve been going through a lot of transformation lately. Being unemployed has given me tons of time to focus on permaculture projects, dive deeper into learning old time music, spend valuable time with family, and reflect deeply inward as my once social life has been censored. I am grateful for the historic changes these days are creating, like showing people, myself included, just how innate our need for community, touch, and connection to life and nature is. I cherish the time when we can all get together again, play music, make art, create and simply be next to each other, and hope some damn good songs come out of this. •

Do you have a quarantine experience to share? We are collecting stories from or about musicians with an Anacortes connection. Send your story to theshowchime@gmail.com.
Livestream in the Airstream

by Martha Harper

“Oh look, an invitation to a live event! Wait, is that allowed? I thought social gatherings were canceled. Ah, I see now, it’s a ‘livestream’ event. I’ve heard of that. Hmm, I’ll check ‘interested’, so I’ll get the reminder from Facebook... and if I don’t catch it live, I can always find it later and watch it when I have time.”

While it may be true that you can watch the recording of a livestream at a later date and that can bring a certain level of satisfaction and entertainment, there is something to be said for the Live experience.

Due to the Stay Home order, we were unable to host a musical event in our backyard this spring, which was a huge disappointment. However, we do have musicians in our family with songs to share and so we decided to host our first livestream event for our friends and family on Facebook.

Now, if you have attended a livestream before, you know the first moments are a bit awkward while the host gets all the levels right and waits for guests to tune in. Ours was no exception! The discomfort soon falls away as more and more viewers tune in. Very quickly the conversations and encouragement begin to flow.

Watching in real-time is just that. Real. It is honest and (mostly) unrehearsed and experienced collectively, often with names you recognize of mutual friends to conjure up reminders of past shared events. Now pausing to wonder when anyone will ever feel that relaxed in that climate, then settling on gratitude that all those people that you care about, near and far, are keeping themselves safe and trying in the best ways they know to weather this storm together, apart.

In this strange new world, our social interactions carry a weighted significance in keeping our connections alive and appreciating each other. We are finding new ways to reach out to the people in our lives, mostly through favors and flowers, I have found.

I’ll admit that leading up to our evening show I felt a deep sadness for what it was replacing and the reality of how much we have all had to give up. At the end of the night though, I was grateful for the comfort of knowing that our friends and family were out there, loving and supporting us, and that they will still be there when the time comes to host an actual live event.

Be Safe, Be Well.

The Oregon Donor: A Retrospective

by Joel Askey

When the family moved into their new house in Anacortes, the previous resident had left something of a gift behind. The organ, it turns out, would soon be commandeered by young Chris. Inside the piano bench, he discovered a music dictionary embossed with the letters O.D.

Chris Edwards was that young man who discovered the music dictionary and started writing his own songs on the organ. Those songs soon launched his live performance debut at the Department of Safety, where he would use pre-recorded backing tracks to accompany his guitar or Casio keyboard to achieve a “full band” sound. Using the letters embossed on the music dictionary, he labeled his solo project “The Oregon Donor”.

At the Department of Safety, he soon became friends with fellow musicians Lance Umble, Kyle Holland, and Jesse Cohen. They quickly became collaborators in the songwriting process, not just a backup band. By this time, Chris had some self-recorded albums under his belt and, starting in 2006, the band began to generate some serious regional attention. In 2006, they released their first album, Cares.

One day, at band practice, Jesse casually informed the others that he had signed them up for a band competition. This was SoundOff, an event sponsored by the Experience Music Project in Seattle. The Oregon Donor placed second. More regional success followed. They entered another contest, the College Battle of the Bands, and won regional competitions locally and in Oakland, California before making the national finals in Las Vegas. Again, a 2nd place finish.

They played over 400 shows in the western U.S. over that 5-year period from 2006-2011. While touring, the band composed and recorded two more albums, Somethings (2007), and A Pageant’s End (2009). Music for a final album was being rehearsed and performed but other projects pulled Lance and Kyle away and the band broke up in 2011.

Chris Edwards reflects on that time with a sense of well-deserved pride, as well as some angst over what he sees as missed opportunities. His songwriting, influenced by bands such as Sonic Youth, has an ear for pop structures and hooks, but in his own words was also “subversive”. While a solo artist, Chris described his early stuff as “dark, moody, bedroom pop”. The band brought additional sensibilities; pop, punk, metal, and emo. The Oregon Donor skated in that narrow track between genres.

On listening to the band’s recorded output, Chris feels that the material was both of its time and out of its time. His intent was to write music that he himself would enjoy listening to. A lot of that came from the ‘80s and ‘90s. Since the band broke up in 2011, Chris has compiled a playlist of their performances on his curated Oregon Donor YouTube channel. Of the unreleased material, he cites the videos from the Hope Lodge sessions as some of the band’s best efforts.

The NeXt show in June will feature the music of The Oregon Donor in discussion with the band’s founder, Chris Edwards. For a discussion and musical retrospective, join Chris and host, Todd Young, streaming live on June 4 at anacortesmusicproject.org.
AMPULANCE TOUR

Circus acts and musical entertainment!
Live at your doorstep!

Sign up for the AMPulance curbside tour to come to your neighborhood on June 13. This first tour features musician Tom Savage and circus performers Wren and Della. We can’t wait!

Go to Anacortes Music Project’s Facebook page to post your interest and we’ll set up the time to perform in front of your house. The Tour will travel all afternoon, so look out!
Chime Chat with Cherry

In the tradition of the great personal advice column, Show Chime presents Chime Chat with Cherry. Do you have a problem you need help with? Are you wondering who you can turn to? Cherry doesn’t just dish out advice, she peers deeply into your soul to find the answers within you. She also specializes in naming bands, boats, and babies. Write to Cherry at theshowchime@gmail.com!

DEAR CHERRY:
My three-year-old son has started making screechingly loud music on his imaginary electric guitar. I want to encourage his musical instincts but my ears hurt. Should I plan on 15 years of earplugs or is there a better way? —No More Noise

DEAR NOISE:
Firstly, I feel your pain. My children are several loud things every day. I think you have to ask yourself whether a 3-year-old’s imitation of a screeching guitar is better or worse than a real screeching guitar. If the latter is true, get him a real electric guitar. Or a toy electric guitar. Or convince him that the triangle is the coolest of all the instruments. It rarely screeches.

DEAR CHERRY:
About two weeks into the quarantine my neighbor started a daily habit of blasting classic rock from her house with the windows open. I appreciate that this is a healthy coping mechanism but I’ve heard enough Born to be Wild and Free Fallin’ to last me the rest of my life. Are there peaceful ways I can encourage variety? —Had it With Hitz

DEAR HITZ:
Why go for the peaceful when you can go for the passive-aggressive? Once again I fall back to my ubiquitous Axe Body Spray. Put some in a Super Soaker. Every time the hits start playing, spray a nice hit of Axe through her open window (from a safe distance, naturally; no need to go spreading germs). But judging by the two songs she’s blasting, she’s yearning to be wild and free. Aren’t we all?!

Anacortes Music Channel

Do you know about the Anacortes Music Channel? One great pool of Anacortes music just churning away—24/7! Each sound recording played at Anacortes Music Project online radio has an Anacortes tie-in—a story that, if not rooted in Anacortes, is affected by or involves a person from our town.

Tune in day and night at anacortesmusicproject.org.

Write for Show Chime!

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. Have ideas about what we should cover?

Contact us at theshowchime@gmail.com to start the conversation.

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. Our guest for June will be Chris Edwards of THE OREGON DONAR. Check the article in this issue for more about The Oregon Donar story.

June 4, 7:00-9:00 PM.

Go to anacortesmusicproject.org to listen live and access podcasts of past shows.
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, it’s important to appreciate the 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.

You may know Alex Heubel from around town or as the main singer in New Uniform. Though he’s currently in Fremont, we learned from the horse’s mouth that Alex recently started writing songs under the moniker Gustaaf. He has a Bandcamp page up and running where he has released his first single “Barf.” Alex/Guataaf was kind enough to allow Show Chime to publish the lyrics to “Barf” and also shared a couple of stanzas of an upcoming tune. A work in progress which has Anacortes at its heart:

Call out to Causland gazebo of Stone.
Old friends are drifting nostalgia is all... all I have.

As I grow older I’ve noticed we change,
gazebo of Causland is all that’s the same.

Barf

By Gustaaf

Pretend like its nothing until I felt something
But I’ve never been the one to,
Start a fire
you can call me anytime
you can call me anywhere
write me a letter

I sparked up a gas leak barfed up my feelings
staring at the ceiling
you lay your heavy head
on my broken chest
I did this to my own heart
waiting for you

you make me feel alone
when you’re standing next to me
it’s like I’m not at home anymore

Anyway you want it you know you can have it
Use me as a bandage
use me for anything
‘cause anythings enough for me
I did this to my own heart
and used it for petty art

You make me feel alone
when you’re standing next to me
It’s like I’m not at home anymore

Check out Alex/Gustaaf on Instagram @alexheubel
**Music Resources**

**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 thebusinesssanacortes.com.

The Business is now closed to the public until further notice. They will still be shipping and delivering locally, so contact nick@thebusinesssanacortes.com or call 360.293.9788 to make a special order. You can shop online, buy gift cards, and subscribe to their monthly new music program on their website.

**The UNKNOWN: Recording Studio**
It’s an amazing place to record music. It sounds huge because it is huge. Our great collection of equipment and instruments plus the skills and familiarity with the space have made consistently great albums for people from all over the world who have traveled here to record. We are currently focusing on mixing and mastering due to the pandemic. Email Nich at: nicholas@fonteefount.com

**The ConneXtion**
Since 1997, The ConneXtion has been a family-owned and operated business providing Direct2Consumer sales, marketing, and 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 glove services to customers around the world. Learn more at TheConneXtion.com.

**HOOPLA**
Missing your library? Check out Hoopla, a digital media service provided by the Anacortes Public Library with support from the Manieri Endowment. Access over 300,000 music titles, 40,000 audiobooks, 13,000 movies, 180,000 ebooks, 9,000 comics, and more, all in an incredibly user-friendly interface. Sign up with your library card at hoopladigital.com. The library has temporarily increased the number of monthly Hoopla downloads to each patron.

**KENNELLY KEYS MUSIC**
Kennelly Keys provides instruments, supplies, lessons, rentals, repairs, and venue space for performances, private parties, and weddings. Kennelly Keys is currently closed until April 11. Check their website at www.kennellykeysmusic.com/locations/anacortes/ for updates on their operating schedule.

**MANIERI JAZZ & SWING COLLECTION**
The Anacortes Public Library features the Manieri Jazz & Swing Collection—specially chosen books, CDs, and DVDs on the uniquely American art of jazz and swing music. Sponsored by the Manieri endowment, the entire collection is accessible for check-out with your library membership. While the library is closed, check out the great music resources available on the library website.

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**Represent! Thank You!**

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.**

**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 to our sponsoring businesses; Mugsy at The Red Snapper, Hal, Sheryl, and Erik at The Brown Lantern, Nick and Carolyn at Bikespot, Mark and Willy at Guemes Island General Store, Rick Star at Rockfish Bar and Grill, Barrett Community Caring Project. Thank you Manieri board, Chris Terrell, and Keith Eyer at How It Works. Thank you, community member sponsors; Laura Spehar, Victoria McNeil, Patti Pattee, Terry Velin, and DJ Browne. Thank you to The SAM Project for all they do to promote our cause. Thank you to our June cover artist, Taylor Bannister, and to Veronica Crommett for interviewing her. Thank you to the Show Chime planning group and to our contributing writers and photographers for your extra flexibility, ideas, and enthusiasm this month. Thank you, Laurie Racicot, for editing and design. Thank you to everyone who banded together to get this print-at-home Show Chime into the inboxes of every Anacortes music fan. We hope you print it out and enjoy holding it in your hands this month. Getting the Show Chime to you each month is a community effort, especially in this unusual moment! We can’t wait to have the fancy printed version available again soon. Until then, thank you for being a die-hard Show Chime fan!