FROM KARL BLAU,
SHOW CHIME & AMP PROGENITOR

MARCH!

Those who know me know how I feel about this month being the obvious first month of the year. I mean it’s called “March” for cryin’ out loud. Plus then SEPtember, OCTober, NOVember and DEcember take back their rightful 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th places on the calendar respectively. And so many other reasons.

It was in March 2013 that the first Show Chime came out featuring artist Hannah Stephens—so this means Happy Birthday to Show Chime! And I want to send a HUGE thanks and congratulations to Laurie Racicot, Editor and Designer of Show Chime, for keeping it rolling these past many months. If you’ve been following Show Chime over the years you know how it limped along for many of those. Now it’s just rolling tough with a head of steam thanks to Laurie and AMP’s hard work.

We had a wonder-filled Anacortes Music Project annual retreat out at Guemes Island Resort in mid-February. I was invited to come out from my current sojourn in Philadelphia to join the retreat and play songs at Guemes Island General Store on that Friday eve. Thanks all of you who came out to that! The AMP gathering, led by President Sommer Carter and VP Todd Young, spent an entire Saturday brainstorming and fleshing out ideas towards the commitment of amplifying Anacortes music.

We have what we refer to as the “5 Fingers” of AMP development; Events, Anacortes Music Channel, Mentoring and Scholarships, Promotion/Show Chime, and Archives. These encompass all the things we do (AMP Fest, Shipwreck Day, Yule Bizarre, Show Chime, The NeXt Show, AMC) and all the things we hope to do (Summer Rock Camp, community AMP space, all-ages venue, scholarships). We dreamed around these and made plans for the coming year.

Many of us signed up for subcommittees to help spearhead goals in each of these categories so look for rad new programs on the horizon. And that fact that we have faces to front these AMP goals is going to make it easier for you, community members, to interface and be a part of keeping and sharing a vibrant music scene here on Fidalgo Island. Keep your eyes peeled this year and keep your ear to the ground by reading Show Chime and having the calendar handy.

I encourage you, reader/listener, be part of the inner-workings of this community by contributing any way you can. Getting out to shows is a great start. I know Show Chime forever needs help getting distributed around town, and I know they are always looking for photos and coverage of shows and music events. I’m sure you’ve heard it said that connection is one of the best things you can do for your livelihood, there’s nothing like being a part of something bigger. And for a small town, Anacortes has a tremendous legacy with international connections.

Be well, my good-hearted people, hope to see ya and catch up this Summer,

Karl

MARCH 2020

Interview with Cover Artist Melanie Dugan

Anacortes artist, Melanie Dugan, has enjoyed art ever since she could hold a pencil. She received her first pet portrait commission at the age of 14 when her junior high home room teacher noticed her talent in art and hired her to do a painting of her two cats. Even with the broad experience in different media, she prefers to work in pencil, choosing colored pencil even for her works in black and white. She is largely self-taught as she has had only one drawing class since junior high. Melanie runs Art Studio 2120 in Anacortes along with her husband, Greg Dugan. Her work can be seen online at their website www.artstudio2120.com or you can like her on her Facebook page: Melanie at Art Studio 2120 and Instagram: art.studio.2120. melanie. She is also a featured artist at the Trinity Gallery in Anacortes.

WHAT INSPIRES YOU TO DRAW ANIMALS?
I have always loved to draw animals; I have drawn them ever since I was old enough to hold a pencil. I love to render their fur or skin, but I am most inspired by the eyes. I strive to capture the personality of each animal through its eyes.

HOW DO YOU MAINTAIN A SUCCESSFUL STUDIO IN ANACORTES?
Maintaining a successful studio is a challenge anywhere. Anacortes is an art friendly town. I use social media for both local and national promotion. I have a booth at the Anacortes Farmers Market. I do many pet commissions and this is a great way to connect with local clients and those who may be visiting from other parts of the country. I share my techniques by teaching classes to adults and children. We also participate in open studios. The biggest factor of success is sharing the burden with my husband and fellow artist, Greg. He inspires me and supports me in all that I do.

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The Glorious Return of Karl Blau

by Joel Askey

A music lover might be forgiven if they stayed indoors on a rainy, windy February night rather than brave the ferry crossing across the Guemes Channel to see a show. But there were few who required absolutely the evening of February 7th as a standing-room-only crowd packed the Guemes Island General Store to see Jacob Navarro and Karl Blau, who was visiting from Philadelphia.

The Anacortes Music Project sponsored this welcomed mid-winter show in the cozy confines of the store's dining room. Jacob Navarro opened the show with his solo acoustic set. His delivery, like on the song “Liza Jane” was both laid back and filled with foot-stomping energy; an alchemy that he frequently pulls off with seemingly effortless grace.

After Jake’s set, Karl took the stage to a warm welcome. He pulled out some tunes from his back catalog, especially “Introducing Karl Blau”. The song, “That’s How I Got to Memphis” playfully became “That’s How I Got to Guemes”, as a nod to the home crowd.

Near the end of Karl’s set, he called up Jacob to sit in on guitar, as well as John Seybold on harmonica and Ben Starner on upright piano. Karl is currently based in Germantown, Philadelphia and releases member-direct releases for $5/year at klaps.bandcamp.com. His latest of many eclectic releases is “Winter Holiday Arrangements”. Jacob Navarro was busy during February backing the Secret Sisters at Benaroya Hall, opening for Brandi Carlisle. Follow Jake at jacobnavarromusic.com.

Photos courtesy of Joel Askey.

The Business will Host Two All-Ages Shows in March

The Business is hosting two concerts in March. The first is March 7th Orindal Records Showcase with performances by Advance Base, Nicholas Krgovich, Claire Cronin, and Ruth Garbus. Advance Base frontman runs the record label and has a great ear for dreamy pop music and excellent songwriting.

This all-ages show is at The Depot (611 R Ave) at 7:00 pm and the cost is $10.

Tickets can be purchased in advance in-store or online at thebusinessanacortes.com/events.

Mount Eerie’s Tiny Desk Concert

by Clarity Miller

Mount Eerie (Anacortes native Phil Elverum) and Julie Doiron performed a Tiny Desk Concert in early February. Tiny Desk Concerts is a series of short, live video performances hosted by NPR music and recorded at the desk of All Songs Considered host Bob Boilen in Washington, D.C. Clarity Miller caught up with Elverum to find out what the experience was like.

SHOW CHIME: What was the experience like? How does it compare to performing in front of large audiences? Does the intimacy of the TDC format have an effect on the music?

PHIL: I have watched a lot of those Tiny Desk videos. There’s something about them that feels like you’re getting to see an artist performing unadorned, more direct and truly human. My favorite is The Breeders. Look at Kim Deal’s face when she sings! So, going into it I was pretty excited to be in the company of so many excellent performances, not to mention the big-timeyness of NPR itself. The show Julie and I were doing on that tour was pretty extremely unadorned already, so it was an easy translation. It was slightly more nerves inducing playing in front of a bunch of NPR employees in the afternoon with no sound system than to a crowd of distant people in a venue, but I close my eyes when I sing anyway so it’s not that big a deal. I’m in my head. It was fun to be there with my daughter. We did it at the end of a tour last December and it came together at the last minute, they had a cancellation and a spot was freed up. We got lucky. Plus, the cafeteria there is excellent and we got swiped in and pigged out.

SHOW CHIME: You and I both listened to a lot of Eric’s Trip and Julie Doiron and the Wooden Stars when we were younger. I know how much you loved her music. What is it like creating songs with an artist you’ve long admired? If you could go back and tell your teenage self that twenty years later you would record an album with a musical idol, what would you think?

PHIL: If I could time travel back to 1995 and tell that dweeb about this, yeah, I’d blow his mind. The truth though is that the friendship between Julie and I developed slowly and organically over all these years, starting with going to see her and Wooden Stars play in Port Townsend in 1997 and staying in touch. Then playing occasional shows together and first recording together in 2008. It’s a small community actually, this international pop underground. The perception I had as a teenager was that there was a big-time “other” world and then the world I get to live in, but the experience over the years has been that nobody is really that far away from contact. Nonetheless, yeah, every time I get so sing with her I’m so happy. It is insane.

Opposite: Mount Eerie (Phil Elverum), Julie Doiron, and the tiny desk. Photo courtesy of NPR.
WEDNESDAY MARCH 4
Guemes Island General Store
Ben Starner
Local Piano     All Ages
6:30 PM
Rockfish Grill
Joan Penney
Accomplished Vocalist     All Ages
7:20 PM
Swinomish Casino
The Wingmen
Solo Dick     18+
9:00 PM
Anacortes Public Library
Open Mic
All Ages
10:00 PM
Depot Arts Center
Advance Base, Nicholas Krupovich, Cline Cream, Ruth Garbus
Orindal Records showcase brought to you by The Business All Ages
11:00 PM
Brown Lantern
Upbeat Mix     All Ages

THURSDAY MARCH 5
Guemes Island General Store
7:20 String Band
Guemes Strings     All Ages
8:30 PM
Brown Lantern
Open Mic     21+

FRIDAY MARCH 6
Pelican Bay Books
The Sean Keck Project
Brown Lantern
80’s Hits     18+

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11
Guemes Island General Store
Ben Starner
Piano Man     All Ages
Busy Beer Company Brewer’s Night

SUNDAY MARCH 12
Anacortes Public Library
Manieri Jazz Series
Jazz trio with Brent Jensen, Bill Ruehle, and Phil Sparks Professionals All Ages
Guemes Island General Store
The Business
Island Cats All Ages

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12
Guemes Island General Store
Ben Starner
Local Piano     All Ages
Brown Lantern
Open Mic     21+

THURSDAY MARCH 13
Guemes Island General Store
720 String Band
Swinomish Casino
The Business
Savage Blues Band
Chicago Blues     21+

SUNDAY MARCH 13
Anacortes Public Library
Manieri Jazz Series
Regional Artists Mixed Performances All Ages
The Business
Swimminah Casino
Singer-Songwriters     All Ages

SATURDAY MARCH 14
Guemes Island General Store
Savage Blues Band
Swimminah Casino
Chicago Blues     21+

THURSDAY MARCH 19
Guemes Island General Store
720 String Band
Local Piano     All Ages
Anacortes Public Library
Manieri Jazz Lecture Series Producing a Big Band Recording with Ron Jones All Ages
Brown Lantern

FRIDAY MARCH 20
Anacortes Public Library
Open Mic
All Ages

SATURDAY MARCH 21
Guemes Island General Store
Josh Clausen & Kyle Fraser-Meier Singer-Songwriters     All Ages
Swimminah Casino
Country Crooner     18+

THURSDAY MARCH 26
Anacortes Senior Center
Kevin Carroll
Local Piano     All Ages

SATURDAY MARCH 28
Guemes Island General Store
Kevyn Duvall
Dance Covers All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Rockfish Grill
Little Bit & The Bananotes
Rhythm & Blues All Ages

SUNDAY MARCH 29
Anacortes Public Library
Open Mic
All Ages

ANKAROTES VENUES
Anacortes Public Library
Anacortes Senior Center
Anchor Inn
Croatian Cultural Center
Depot Arts Center
Christian Cultural Center
420 Commercial Ave
216 Commercial Ave
501 5th St, Anacortes
611 R Ave
1205 Commercial Ave
100 Commercial Ave
320 Commercial Ave
32885 Casino Dr

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anacortes, wa.
360.588.1676

THE RED SNAPPER
RINGING THE BELL FOR ANACORTES MUSIC // Brought to you by Anacortes Music Project
ANACORTES MARCH 2020
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. This month we have lyrics by Anacortes legend Bret Lunsford, the songwriter behind D+ and formerly the guitarist of Beat Happening. Bret founded the Anacortes label Knw-Yr-Own 30 years ago and was the owner of The Business, taking it in the direction of a record store in the 80s and 90s. Now the director of The Anacortes Museum, Bret’s gift for connecting his community with its roots resonates sympathetically with his skill for putting words to thoughts you didn’t know were possible.

Recognizer

By Bret Lunsford

If you escape the place you were born You will find the need to perform You will be tried Tested by pride

There’s no one from here there There’s no one from here there
There’s no one from here there
There’s no one from here there

I will pick the low-hanging fruit Taste it down to the root Not wrong, not bad Not strong, just mad

I’ll be what you need I’ll be what you need I’ll be what you need I’ll be what you need Your recognizer Your recognizer

If you escape the place you were born You will find you are reborn No need to hide Along for the ride

Common causes common cold You will find this when you’re old Forming bee hives into beards That’s why people think you’re weird

Ooh, I lose When I lose track of you I’ll be what you need I’ll be what you need Your recognizer Your recognizer

Manieri Second Sunday Jazz Concert

Jazz Trio with Brent Jensen, Bill Anschell, and Phil Sparks

March 8, 2:00 PM

Join us for an afternoon of Jazz at the Anacortes Public Library with the Anschell/Jensen/Sparks Trio. Featuring two members of the Earshot Jazz Hall of Fame, pianist Bill Anschell and bassist Phil Sparks, along with saxophonist Brent Jensen, this dynamic trio creates an intimate chamber jazz setting reminiscent of the adventurous recordings made by Jimmy Giuffre (“The Jimmy Giuffre 3”, “Thesis”) and Lee Konitz (“The Lee Konitz Duets”, “Dovetail”).

Manieri Jazz Lecture Series

Producing a Big Band Recording with Ron Jones

March 19, 7:00 PM

Come to the Anacortes Public Library to hear how music was composed, arranged, and recorded for an album by the All-Star Jazz Forest swing band. Ron Jones is a leading figure in the music industry who has created and conducted scores for many of Hollywood’s major productions. He has received many awards including 5 Emmy nominations, one Grammy Nomination and multiple ASCAP and BMI Film Scoring awards. Ron now heads the SkyMuse professional recording studio in Stanwood.

These free jazz events are sponsored by the Anacortes Public Library Foundation Manieri Jazz and Swing Endowment.

Town Talk

by Correspondent Nick

January was one of the wettest months on record on Fidalgo Island. With nearly 11 inches of precipitation, it was over twice the average. Local flooding turned back walkers on the Tommy Thompson Trail, and cars on Satterlee Road near Similk Beach.

The retail space behind Johnny Picasso’s on 5th street has a new tenant. The folks that sell honey and bee-related products at the Farmer’s Market will open The Honey Bee Healthy Cafe in the space recently vacated by Island Smoothies.

The Shell Station on Commercial Avenue was robbed by 2 men from Federal Way on January 21st. One man with a handgun demanded money from the teller and left in a stolen pickup truck. He parked the pickup 3 blocks away and jumped into another stolen vehicle driven by his accomplice. Video and physical evidence led to the arrest of both men a week later near March Point Road.

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.

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:

Dear Cherry: My neighbor thinks deer are cute and puts out food to lure them into his yard. They promptly hop the fence and eat my garden. How can I save my vegetables and my relationship with my neighbor?

—Ruining Ruminants

Dear Ruminants:

Do not even get me started on Anacortes deer. I’m pretty sure they outnumber residents 2 to 1. While I do appreciate the beauty of nature, they are overrunning the town and eating every leaf they can find. After they eat your garden, they leave steaming piles of excrement that you have to clean up! I mean, can you imagine if I came to your house for dinner, ate a delicious meal, then pooped on your living room rug? My solution to your neighbor issue is to suggest to him/her that you don’t want him/her to catch the highly contagious Ruminant Creeping Gongas, a disease that spreads through close contact with deer. Liken this disease to leprosy. Mention cranky sores. Or something oozing. No one wants to be oozing.

Dear Cherry:

My neighbor sets up floodlights in her yard and does her yard work at night. My kids can’t fall asleep with lights shining in their window and a weed whacker whirring away, and neither can I! This seems to me like a completely unreasonable time to be trimming the hedges. How can I make it stop?!

—Noisy Neighbor

Dear Neighbor:

This is a completely unreasonable situation. Cherry’s solution to problems like this are usually sabotage and vengeance, though never bodily harm. My response harkens back to a question a few months ago about the absolute horror that is Axe Body Spray. Pick a time she’s not out in her yard, bring several gallons of Axe Body Spray (plus a gas mask for yourself) and go nuts. Spray everything. She’ll never want to set foot in her yard again, let alone trim hedges. Axe Body Spray is a powerful weapon in your arsenal of vengeance.

Write for Show Chime!

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.
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, Patti Pattee, 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 March cover artist, Melanie Dugan. 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! Show Chime March 2020 is printed by How It Works and made possible by a grant from the Anacortes Public Library Foundation Manieri Endowment. Yeah, team!

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 guests for March are KARL BLAUE and this year’s Rock the Island winners, RISTFUT.

March 5, 7:00-9:00 PM.
To listen live and access podcasts go to ANACORTESMUSICPROJECT.ORG.

Picture This Sound

by Mary Woods, the Seahawk, January 15, 1969

“Some of us are walking along the beach, looking not for seaweed, seabone, driftwood, But skulls of some of us are waiting (patiently) for things to get rather sticky - red, Before things get too dry to drink”

Utopian Monk writes some of their own music, they arrange it all themselves. Blues, acid rock and folk rock are the types of music they play. First started four years ago by Ralph Krebs and Mark Krueger, the band plans to stay together after graduation (1969). Rick Waidron joined as a freshman, Ken Crawford as a sophomore and Jill Dunton became a member of the group last spring. The band has played all over this area and Seattle during its four years. In a recent battle of the bands contest held at Skagit Valley College, Utopian Monk came in first.

This series of historical music photos is brought to you by the Anacortes Museum. More than 40,000 photographs from the Anacortes Museum are now available online.