AMP Board Member

The question I ask myself is, how do we get back to where we were with the optimism in a time when optimism is not understandable, so did local music. The downtime for people I know are burned out on this past year has sucked. I can't get past it.

Ultimately, I felt compelled to offer something of optimism in a time when optimism is not on the forefront of anyone's mind. This past year has sucked. I can't get past it. Even the most positive of the positive people I know are burned out on this new normal. Everyone I know is in a state of depression at this point. No joke. A lot of our beloved musicians are on a creative hiatus. It's understandable. The downtime for things we take for granted is tough to think about without bringing on tears because we have experienced so much disappointment in 2020.

The question I ask myself is, how do we get back to where we were with the constraints we face? Is it impossible? Do people stop loving familiar music because it is virtual? The release of the Covid vaccine gives me a glimmer of hope for some normalcy, like hanging my favorite people without the masks. It is tough to think about without bringing on tears because we have experienced so much disappointment in 2020.

My resolution for the New Year is to focus once again on the music. Let's give our community a chance to stop filling their voids with online shopping, stiff drinks, and Netflix. Let's give our local musicians the love they need to write again. To play again. To sing again.

Anacortes is special. The healing that comes to our community from familiar voices and music is deep. Even though I am a resident freshman to the board, I have been a long-time supporter of local music. I want to bridge the void I feel. If you are a musician, when you are ready, AMP will be waiting with our support and our enthusiasm. We will be nodding our heads, tapping our feet, smiling. We will share your music with the community and we will never stop appreciating you.

We can do this, and it will be okay.
AMP Announces Instrument Lending Library

by Clarity Miller and Laurie Rickett

One of the most exciting projects currently in the works at AMP is our instrument lending library. Imagine being able to borrow musical instruments and equipment for free, right here in town. Think you want to learn the Trombone? You can try it out to see if you like it! Need an extra amp for a special event? We have one you can borrow! Your kids think they want to learn the violin? Let them test out their passion (and your earplugs) before you invest!

We’re still in the process of getting things up and running, but once all of the pieces are in place, anyone in Anacortes will be able to borrow instruments and equipment for free. We have already received a number of amazing instrument donations from the community and from the Sick Eddy Foundation for the Arts. We have several guitars, a number of violins, flutes, a trombone, an autoharp, a keyboard, a banjo, and two amps. Some of the instruments need some tuning, so if you have expertise in that area we’d love your help! If you have instruments sitting around your house that you don’t use anymore, you can donate them to our growing collection and get a tax deduction to boot!

If you’ve been waiting for the perfect time to learn a new instrument, get ready, your time is coming! ■

As the Pandemic Continues, Local Venues Struggle

by Kate Reysen

With the arrival of the vaccine, there seems to be a light at the end of the tunnel for pandemic fatigue—but brace yourself—the tunnel is longer than it looks. Unless you’re a frontline worker or at high risk, you’re unlikely to receive the vaccine until spring or summer. And even after that, life will go on but it won’t go back to normal. Unsurprisingly, all of our local venues are still subject to the same restrictions that have all but haled normal operations since March—especially now, with the arrival of the predicted winter “super-wave.”

The Lincoln Theater, our Mount Vernon neighbor and local hub for the arts, is no exception. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, several events scheduled for December have been cancelled. These cancellations included screenings of Evie! That’s The Way It Is and an In-Person Charlie Hunter and Lucy Woodward Trio concert. In lieu of in-person screenings, the Lincoln is continuing to offer online movie screenings as a part of their Quarantine Cinema series. However, a number of the Lincoln’s live streamed concerts were altered or outright cancelled through December due to new restrictions on band performances. These restrictions were put in place due to the risk posed by singing and the use of wind instruments, which can increase the rate of transmission. The Lincoln hopes to resume live streaming full band concerts starting in January. Unsurprisingly, the Lincoln is on hard times. In spite of the hardships they’ve faced this year, the theater has managed to keep all of its staff employed through the pandemic. A new relief bill may offer some much-needed assistance sometime in the future. Unfortunately, help may come too late for some of the theater’s employees. The Lincoln is planning to furlough some of its staff starting in January in order to stay afloat.

As we approach the end of the year, it might be tempting to let your membership to places like the Lincoln lapse, as it’s unlikely you’ll be going to the movies outside of your living room for months to come. I humbly urge you—resist the temptation. It is now more important than ever that you continue to give back and provide for our local centers for the arts. Since July, the Lincoln has been running a membership drive to encourage patrons to become members, or to renew or upgrade their existing memberships, fittingly titled Lather, Rinse, Renew 2020. During the campaign all new, renewing, and upgrading Lincoln Theater members will receive additional perks on top of the standard membership benefits. These perks include tickets, t-shirts, limited edition facemasks, and film passes. In addition, all Lather, Rinse Renew 2020 participants will be entered into a grand prize raffle for an annual film pass.

If you didn’t already know, membership at the Lincoln is a pretty sweet deal to begin with. Lincoln Theater members get access to exclusive tickets, discounts on general admission and Lincoln merchandise, invitation to exclusive events, and discounts at select local businesses, including our own Rockfish Grill. Higher membership tiers also include in-person screening recognition, annual film passes, gift memberships, and more! If membership isn’t your style, consider making a one-time donation at lincolntheatre.org. The pandemic is far from over, but the end is in sight, and the Lincoln needs your help to get there—including ACT Theatre, the Brown Lantern, the Guemes Island General Store, and all of the incredible local venues that have helped the Anacortes music scene thrive in years past. Do your part to support them!

2020 has been the year of cultivating good habits, starting at the sink. Consider making a good habit out of supporting your local centers for the arts in 2021. It’s easy, it’s good for you, and it’s good for your community—not unlike washing your hands! ■

This Month on The NeXt Show:
Gillian Frances!

For your regular fix of local music discussion and artist interviews, tune into The NeXt Show, the live show where you hear the music and thoughts of artists from Anacortes and beyond. Streaming live on the first Thursday of every month. For our first show of 2021 we will talk with singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist, Gillian Frances. Her first full-length album, Miles Away From Myself, was released in September. See Verse Chorus Verse in this issue for more about Frances. ■

Thursday
January 7
7:00-9:00 PM

Go to anacortesmusicproject.org to listen live and access podcasts of past shows.
Chime Chat with Cherry

In the tradition of the great personal advice column, Show Chime presents Cherry Chat with Cherry. Do you have a problem you need help with? Are you wondering who you could talk to about your problems? Cherry does not 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,

Every year for Christmas my dear sweet grandmother gift me a copy of her favorite music. I love it all though, I don't share the same taste in music I love the same because she knows that brings her joy. The problem is that her favorite album hasn't changed since she started it, and I have yet to even find copies on CD. Perhaps Love by Placebo Diameter or Black and John Denver. When do I tell her I have enough copies? —Metalhead

Dear Metalhead:
The world needs more sweet grandmothers, so keep accepting her kind gifts. When she passes on, you can gift the 34 CDs you have already to people you don't like.

Dear Cherry:

Ever since the pandemic began my dad has been singing in the shower, loudly, with the window open. He thinks it's a service to the neighborhood to provide free, live entertainment but I'm sooooo embarrassed! How can I make him stop? —Tone Def

Dear Tone Def:

Are you fortunate enough to have the kind of plumbing where the flushing toilet makes the shower ice cold? It seems like a few strategically placed floaters might curb his public warbling. Also, air horns are a thing.

Dear Cherry:

I would like to make 2021 a musical year! Do you have any suggestions for New Years resolutions for music? —Looking Forward

Dear Forward:

If you'd like to make this the year of music, why not learn to play an instrument? AMP is working on building a free instrument lending library, and when they roll it out, you'll be able to learn to play any instrument of your choosing! Stay tuned to show Chime for further details.

Breadwinner: A Debut Album From Chris Aiken

Born and raised in Washington State, Chris Aiken has been playing and recording music from his earliest years. When the Pacific Northwest in his bones. While living on Lopez Island, Chris's band, The Breadwinner enjoyed a meteoric rise and was featured on the cover of the Pacific Northwest in his bones. During this time, Chris Aiken's music was featured on various radio stations and was heard on the San Juan Islands. In 2015, The Breadwinner released their first album, A New World, which included some of Chris's earliest work. In 2018, Chris released his second album, Breadwinner, which was recorded at Anacortes's Unknown Studio. The album features a mix of rock and roll, blues, and folk, with a focus on storytelling and social commentary.

Reviewed by Karl Blau:

On his first solo recording, Breadwinner, frontman of Lopez Island's The Breadwinner, Chris Aiken takes a mighty leap in recording production quality and self-re- alization as a folk songwriter. As well as songwriting, Chris Aiken possesses a gift for wrangling NW talent to flesh out this incredibly self-contained sound. The result is a beautifully crafted record with a mix of classic folk and contemporary pop sounds. The album features a variety of musical styles, including folk, rock, and country, and is sure to please fans of both traditional and contemporary folk music.

Town Talk by Correspondent Nick

The historic Keystone Building, built in 1909, is known as the historic waterfront location for sale. Part of the roof and skylight recently collapsed during a storm. Hopefully the new owners will keep the current diverse mix of businesses. Aiken's Breadwinner is recorded at Anacortes's Unknown Studio. The album features a mix of rock and roll, blues, and folk, with a focus on storytelling and social commentary.

Fancy People Adventures by Phil Elverum


Kennelly Keys Music

Kennelly Keys provides instruments, supplies, rentals, Lessons, repairs and for jazz streaming services. ■

Stay in Anacortes

Coming to Anacortes for a show? Stay the family and even longer! Ask about the options of a Show Chime stay near us. At the show, you, community member sponsors; Laura Spangle of The Garden Bar and Grill, Barrett Community Caring Project. Thank you Manieri board, Chris Ter Horst, Chris Aiken, and Barrett Community Caring Project. Thank you Manieri board, Chris Ter Horst, Barrett Community Caring Project. Thank you Manieri board, Chris Ter Horst, Barrett Community Caring Project. Thank you Manieri board, Chris Ter Horst, Barrett Community Caring Project. Thank you Manieri board, Chris Ter Horst, Barrett Community Caring Project. Thank you Manieri board, Chris Ter Horst, Barrett Community Caring Project.