From Clarity Miller, AMP Vice President

July 2021

The Return of Hope

I never thought I'd title something as cheesy as “The Return of Hope,” but that’s what summer 2021 feels like. Pandemic-induced feelings of impending doom subside as people are widely vaccinated and things start returning to normal.

Here’s why summer is my hands-down favorite season. A warm glowing light floods in my room starting super early and the birds have already started singing. I sleep with the windows open so fresh air is always moving and fragrant flowers like sweet peas, Rugosa roses, mock orange, and honeysuckle waft in. It’s warm and I don’t need pants. I hate pants. I don’t love shoes either. The Anacortes lakes are warm and welcoming and there is live music around every corner.

Summer brings us Shipwreck Fest (although this year, no Shipwreck garage sale), Friendship Trail, Ampulance tours, and AMP fest. Here at AMP, we’re enthusiastically scrambling to book music so that we can share these summer experiences with you.

Now, especially now, we need to hug each other (remember hugging!?) and find gratitude in all the snippets of summer that we get to have, after a harrowing 18 months of isolation. Open those windows. Smell those flowers. Swim in those lakes. And take in all the wonderful local music Anacortes has to offer.

Clarity Miller
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THE NEXT SHOW
w/ DJ Todd
& special guest Karl Blau

Present the Quarantune Report
The idea of The Quaran-tunes Report came to me when I heard that The NeXt Show was going on hiatus in mid 2020. I knew that, like me, lots of people would be using their songwriting and recording as a coping mechanism during the pandemic. What kind of music would come out of this unique time? I figured it would be a fun to do a “What’s Been Going On?” type of a show featuring Anacortes recording artists.

DJ Todd was excited about the idea and after a couple meetings we solidified our framework and decided that, in addition to Anacortes musicians, we would include some artists from Skagit and Island Counties as well as some Anacortes ex-pats (self-included of course). We asked around and we were not disappointed. After a couple months of reaching out to the music community and asking “who else is making songs,” we had amassed enough for a great show. By the time we recorded the first episode, our list had grown to at least 20 songs, enough for two fantastic shows chock full of original music.

This first episode is a stunning set of inspiration and emotion. It features some short interviews and really runs the gamut with music styles. It includes the local likes of John Van Deusen, The Crabs, New Issue, Your Heart Breaks, Hoop, and The Enthusiasts. Born and bred musicians Stephen Steen and Mike Ferrario grace our show with a new track from their Seattle band Megadose (yes named after a D+ tune). You’ll hear a new track from Julia Laws aka Ronboy that will melt your mind, a classic Gift Machine track called “Back In the Broth,” and an intimate cell phone recording by Alex Niedjalkowski (of the Department of Safety Days) with her recording/performing project Cumulus. We couldn’t be more pleased with the incredible energy that we discovered again, for the umpteenth time, when we took the time to ask “What’s going on in Anacortes music?”

This 45 minute journey is the first of a two-parter. The second will go to different places still--I’ve got a song on that one that I wrote about some inner feelings of the pandemic, we will celebrate the life of Geneviève Elverum with some songs off of the tribute album O, you’ll hear Pearl’s latest, and we’ll enjoy some other gems DJ Todd and I uncovered just for you.

Tune in on or after the 1st Thursday of July by executing the latest The Next Show podcast wherever you listen to your podcasts or by going to http://www.anacortesmusicproject.org and clicking on “podcasts.”
Karl, Jacob, and the Crane Truck Circus

July 10, 5:30-9:30 PM // $25 All the Fun $10 Circus only

It’s time to get back to what matters! Music, food, family, friends, and community. Guemes Island General Store is pleased to announce the much anticipated return of two of Skagit’s very own—Jacob Navarro returning to Guemes after a long Pandemic break, and Karl Blau returning for a visit to the islands of his youth from his new home in Philly. If you know these two great musicians then you know either of these solo performances are worth the trip! But both artists on the same bill with the Crane Truck Circus? You know this event is not to be missed. If you don’t know these two artists, this is your opportunity, so don’t let yourself down. And remember “It’s Worth the Swim.”

The Crane Truck Circus show is chock full of acrobats, live music, illusions, the world’s largest wedgie, an opera virtuoso, a 99 year old flying piano, a human ceiling fan, and many other circus feats to leave your jaws dropped, your heart strings plucked, and your bellies aching with laughter. You’ll be razzled and dazzled by the music, strength, movement, and comedy of this all-star cast of circus artists. This event is suitable for all-ages and mostly word-free.

Bring a blanket or lawn chair and stake out a cozy spot for you and your pod! For the safety of everyone, please follow Guemes Island General Store, local, and CDC guidelines regarding masks and social distancing while watching the show.

Karl’s Kickstarter

Karl Blau is coming to Anacortes in July to record his magnum opus at The Unknown studio in town. He’s got a crack pot team organized (pretty much the same band as his fan fav Introducing) and to get all of the musicians and studio paid, etc he’s started a Kickstarter fundraiser/pre-sale. You can order the LP, cassette or digital album by going to kickstarter.com and searching “Karl Blau.”

Crane Truck Circus GoFundMe

This summer the Crane Truck Circus is presenting a tour of socially distant shows for outdoor gatherings, small farms, campesino and immigrant communities, dinner parties, nursing homes, women’s shelters, and more, to bring joy and levity into the air! The majority of their shows are by donation or free. This year has been quite a doozy for people and communities everywhere and their goal is to bring the joy of circus to anyone and everyone, regardless of money. You can support their efforts by going to GoFundMe.com and searching for Crane Truck Circus Show!” Learn more and see their full tour schedule on their website at upupupinc.org.
July Cover Artist Laurie Racicot

Laurie is an art director, artist, and graphic designer committed to using design as a force for good. She believes in the power of art to build movements, create connections, and strengthen our communities. She is also the Show Chime editor and designer. She sat herself down for a rare and searching interview. You can see a bit of Laurie’s work at laurieracicot.earth.

This year was a doozy, how did you make it through?
I made it through with some good friends and a lot of tears. Life fell apart, work slowed down to a snail’s pace, but now I can see that I’m coming out the other side with more resilience, greater awareness, and a new perspective. We’ve all grown, for better or worse. I guess those things aren’t usually born from being safe and comfortable.

While Show Chime was on hiatus, what did you do with all of your spare time?
Very funny. I worked with a team from the AMP board of directors on communications strategy and AMP’s vision for the future. It was an fruitful time and I’m super excited about some of the projects that are coming down the pipe! We were able to identify the essence of why AMP exists.

So don’t leave us hanging, what is the essence of why AMP exists?
AMP exists because we believe that creating our own culture is the most important work we can do as a community. We’re the only ones who can create it so we might as well make it beautiful. This has always been the ethos behind projects like the Department of Safety, Anacortes Music Channel, and now AMP. It’s a mindset that has created so much beauty and wonder right here in our town and it will be the framework for everything we build going forward.

So, tell the people about this new format for Show Chime.
I thought you would never ask. When SC went on hiatus this winter it was the perfect time to do a little rethinking and redesigning. We were inspired by zine culture and indy publishing and we decided to aim for a more portable format and a more intimate reading experience. It will be an evolving design over the next year or so, so feel free to share your ideas and let us know how it’s working for you.

So, self, what’s next for you?
Swimming. My kids and I agree, 2021 is going to be the summer of swimming. This hot weather has helped us get off to a good start.
Live Music Calendar
July 2021

Friday, July 2
9:00 PM
Brown Lantern
Min Far
All Ages  No Cover

Saturday, July 3
10:00 AM
Anacortes Farmers Market
Diane Keene
All Ages  Free
Rockfish Grill
Stacy Jones Band
21+

Saturday, July 10
10:00 AM
Anacortes Farmers Market
Sean Bendickson
All Ages  Free
Heart of Anacortes
Mama Dirty Skirts
Anacortes Arts Summer Celebration
All Ages  Free
Guemes Island General Store
Karl Blau & Jacob Navarro
with Crane Truck Circus
All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Sheri Roberts Greimes and Da Boyz
21+
Brown Lantern Ale House
Cozmic Sauce
21+  free

Saturday, July 17
12:00 PM
Causland Park
Shipwrecked Music Fest
Local Music Showcase
All Ages  Free
Heart of Anacortes
Janie Cribs and the T.Rust Band
All Ages  Free
Rockfish Grill
Cascadia Groove
21+

Saturday, July 24
10:00 AM
Anacortes Farmers Market
No Tonic Press
Warren Newton’s jazz combo
All Ages  Free
Heart of Anacortes
Badd Dog Blues Society
All Ages  Free
Guemes Island General Store
Sway Wild
All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Suze Sims Presents La Roca Boom
21+

Friday, July 30
6:00 PM
Seafarers Memorial Park
Chris Eger Band
and the Powerhouse Horns
All Ages  Free

Saturday, July 31
6:00 PM
Heart of Anacortes
The Atlantics
All Ages  Free
Rockfish Grill
Powerhouse
Blues Rock  21+
SHIPWRECKED!
MUSIC FEST

SATURDAY, JULY 17

RETURNER
ENDURO
GIFT MACHINE
FIELDBOATS
REPTILE AUTHORITY
KARL BLAU
LAZER ZEPPELIN III
EBB, SLACK & FLOOD
YOUNG HUNKS
THE ENTHUSIASTS
FANNY ALGER

CAUSLAND PARK
ALL AGES – FREE
NOON TO 8PM
Verses

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, we can 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.

Katie Jennings is an active creator with the Anacortes Community Theater, a singer and songwriter. She has lived in Anacortes since 2010 when she came here to be in a band that no longer exists. Her song, Alone, will be on the AMP compilation, Terribly Quiet. This is her first recording of one of her own songs since about 2012.

Alone

written by Katie Jennings

Carried so long by mother the writer
To a house in the trees my father built
Emma was born in forgiving midwinter
Though nothing remains, through change we are still

We fell asleep in early evening
Before the light could fully fade
Awoke to grey skies, though our blue day was dawning
Ten years you’ve been gone, neither could I have stayed

Arms as wide to wrap all around you
Ribs so deep you’ll fall straight through
Below, below where each door stands open
In love we can be alone
AMP Presents:

Terribly Quiet

Songs from Women of Fidalgo Island

AMP set out, when Covid set in, to create a recorded compilation of women artists from Anacortes. It has never been done and, as isolation goes, it was a great time to write and record individual songs to highlight some of the female artists of our community. The record will be available late fall, until then, we will be highlighting the women who participated. The songs are originals and we’re thrilled to present it to you.

Pearl Tottenham
Carole Leander and Tina Franulovich-Martin
Elizabeth Baker Bishop
Mariah Barrett
Gillian Francis

Elizabeth Dirks
Katie Jennings
Mia Starner
Sommer Velin Carter
Caitlin Roberts
Allyson Foster

Album cover artwork by Clarity Miller.
AMP Plans New All-ages Venue

By Katie Reyerson

The Anacortes Music Project is planning a new community space for live music, said AMP director Sommer Carter.

“Anacortes Music Project Board of Directors are planning and anticipating our vision of an all-ages physical space as the seat of our community work,” said Carter. “We have been and continue to use this pandemic to hone in our plan to include partnerships throughout Anacortes. We accept that there may be permanent change to how we share music and build cultural connections, and we are committed to charging on with these most human creative longings: making music and sharing it.”

Anacortes’s thriving music scene came to a standstill at the onset of the pandemic as live music became a health hazard. Quarantine left many local musicians separated from their creative community and cut off from their means of income. “It felt like a real loss not being able to play shows or go to shows,” said prominent Anacortes musician Pearl Tottenham. “It really makes you miss and appreciate the supportive and collaborative community so many people have worked so hard to build. A lot of people, myself included, have had a hard time making money without having shows.”

The events of the past year have underscored the need for a place where the music community can connect, collaborate, and support each other. “We want to be ready, with our plan and our community sponsors as soon as possible. That said, what is possible seems to be regularly shifting. We are committed to following CDC guidelines and of course Washington’s phase restrictions/guidelines. Things remain tenuous, though,” Carter said.

For many Anacortes musicians, the return of live music would also mean a return to a close-knit community driven apart by quarantine. “I remember going to local shows three or four times a week as a teenager when the Anacortes Music Channel was open, and I can remember the faintest but coolest shows at the Department of Safety when I was a little kid, like, as old as 10 and as young as I can remember. And going to shows like that as a little kid where I was seeing a community that was almost like a family, and feeling so connected and together with all these people who I got to see making music really made me want to be a musician and be a part of something so incredibly fun and special,” said Tottenham. “I’m so thrilled there’s going to be a space where that can happen regularly again.”

AMP turned to streaming as a means of sharing the work of local musicians during the pandemic. Many of its staple events were adapted for remote viewing, including its annual Christmas event, the AMP Rockin’ Yule Bizarre. AMP’s lineup of pandemic-friendly offerings also included the AMPulance, a repurposed ambulance offering curbside live music delivery to Anacortes residents. AMPulance shows were free to attend, sponsored by local businesses. Hosting another AMPulance tour is one of the board’s priorities for the near future, Carter said. And on the horizon, a permanent space for all-ages Anacortes music culture.
Instrument Library Donor Spotlight

by Sommer Carter

This winter, in the throes of Covid uncertainty and the absolute shutdown of live music, AMP received a call from Kathleen Dickinson. A resident of Old Town Anacortes, Kathleen read about AMP’s burgeoning instrument library right here in Show Chime. Kathleén and her husband of 20 years, Ron McDowell are big music fans. Indeed, Ron was also a musician who played electric guitar in a band and was an avid collector of guitars and the gear that goes along with exploring the sounds of electrified music.

Several years ago, Ron died tragically in a scuba diving accident. I met with Kathleen this spring, after we’d been vaccinated, after our library team had filled a truck with Ron’s music gear. She told me that music held a significant role in her life and relationship with Ron. She said music was a gift. Ron gifted music to her and the community they shared. She has passed that gift on to our community.

It has taken some time to let his things go and there are a few pieces she’ll always keep. But, to know that the gear he used and loved will be used and loved to inspire new musicians is a significant comfort.

As for AMP, we are awed and humbled by the donations we have received. There is a story to every piece. Because of the generosity and thoughtfulness of our community, more music will be made and the stories will keep coming.

Please have a look at our instrument lending library on the AMP website.
Fancy People Adventures
by Phil Elverum

Share the Local Music Love!

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.

Call for Band Bios
The AMP archive of Bands, Venues, Shows, Compilations, Events, and Players is just getting started! We are compiling photos, videos, and music, along with details of each artist/band. We need help from the community to build out this amazing resource. If you want to have your band included, just fill out our Archive Questionnaire!

Call for Contributors
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.

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? Show Chime only happens because of people like you. We would love to hear from you! THESHOWCHIME@GMAIL.COM
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. 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, Mark and Willy at Guemes Island General Store, Rick Star at Rockfish Bar and Grill, Barrett Community Caring Project, and the good folks at the Anacortes Food Coop. 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 Terry Velin. Thank you to Laurie Racicot for our July artwork, editing, and designing our new zine format. Thank you to all of our beloved local venue owners who are navigating the complexities and uncertainties of reopening with live music. We love you! This July issue of Show Chime was printed by How it Works and made possible by a grant from the Anacortes Public Library Manieri Endowment. Getting the Show Chime to you each month is a community effort! This issue was written, edited, printed, distributed, and probably read on the traditional lands of Samish, Skagit, Swinomish, and Puget Sound Salish people.