From Todd Young, AMP Board Member

April 2022

Spring is here! Well, it is in Austin, TX, which is where I am as I write this. She will return to Anacortes as soon as she is ready. Two years ago SXSW was canceled, like everything else, because of the pandemic. But SX is back this year! It is so inspiring and invigorating to see all the humans making music and playing to real audiences, knowing that the same energy is about to return Anacortes. The energy AMP’s board has for this coming year is palpable. Plans to bring back beloved events, launch new events, record new editions of The NeXt Show with the AHS Media kids as crew, plan for AMP’s soon-to-come physical space, and so much more! Please hear this as a specific call to you - Get Involved!!!!!!

» Sign up at AnacortesMusicProject.org with your email so you know what we have going on.
» Volunteer to help us; more hands make less work.
» Buy a t-shirt, hoodie, or some other cool stuff in our online store.
» Become a monthly AMPlifier with a recurring donation of any size.
» Or just send us some love and energy if you can’t do any of those things!

AMP—Amplifying the Music and Musicians of Anacortes. Keep your ears open for lots of amazing things to come!

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In the Studio with Karl Blau

Recording Love & Harm at the Unknown

Writing and Photos by Jon Hyde

Doug Cassidy reached out to ask if I was interested in reviewing the new Karl Blau record, Love and Harm / Scream Time. Sensible request, as I’ve been involved with Karl-related projects for years, finally joining him in to play pedal steel and guitar on his amazing 2016 album Introducing Karl Blau and to take that record on tour. What Doug didn’t know was that I also played on Love and Harm. Classic conflict of interest – this record is amazing! 5 stars. Review done.

Doug suggested perhaps we rotate the perspective of this review and bring rather an inside take. So here is a brief studio diary:

The record began with Karl sending out phone memo-style versions of songs so that each of the players (myself on pedal steel and timpani, Andrew Dorsett on drums, Aaron Othiem on keyboards) could get a feel for the songs and the structures.

A date was set for July 2021 to assemble in Anacortes at the amazing Unknown recording studio. Our bass player was unable to join so we carried on as a quartet, recording primarily live for the basic tracks: no headphones, and vocals added after the fact. The Unknown has a fantastic collection of instruments and we all fell in love with the vintage AceTone organ. The sound of that organ interacting with the pedal steel became a defining sound of the record.

Each arrangement was built on the studio floor song to song. We started with “The Reins,” a song we had all played many times live while on tour with Karl. Nice way to get comfortable. Others we adapted and morphed as needed on the fly. One thing I found amazing about Karl is that once he finds the take he likes, he deletes the other takes! Makes the decisions right up front and sticks to them. “Comes from being a 4-tracker,” he tells me.

On day three we were visited by Steve Moore and Johanna Kunin who added transcendent piano, trombone, vocals, and flutes. Once we wrapped these basic tracks, Karl went on to finish the vocals, adding a plethora of great players to broaden the arrangements.

I love this collection of songs. Some standouts: “Philadelphia” with its deep soul, and “Natural Limit” bringing country flavors to the mix. (Perhaps my favorite moment on the record is Poppy Jean Blau’s backing vocals on this song.) “The Shoreline” came in under the wire—Karl wrote it the night before the last day of recording. It was the perfect end to an inspiring week of creativity and the perfect wave for the record to ride out on.

Please do the world a favor and check out this record and please support Karl and other great artists by buying these records. Very much looking forward to playing these songs out in the world for you. Hope to see you out there.

Join Karl and friends on Sunday, April 3 for a concert celebrating the release of Love & Harm and raising funds for Doctors Without Borders to assist in their efforts on the ground in Ukraine. Purchase tickets at Pelican or www.andcoffeehouse.com.
Young Composer Calls for Strings Program in Anacortes Schools

by Andrew Velin

Anacortes has a new composer in town, and he’s only eleven years old! Declan Hong (Dex) was working on a school writing project over the COVID lockdown when the idea came to him of writing a soundtrack to accompany it. Dex is an accomplished pianist and also performs viola with Fidalgo Youth Symphony.

“I like music and writing, and their perfect combination is in a symphony.” His favorite composers are Beethoven, Brahms, and Chopin. He regularly regularly performs pieces on piano and viola. I asked him what he enjoys most about playing music: “Being able to express myself creatively, and then listening and critiquing to try to hone my craft.” Dex is working on a second symphony and several other pieces, and his Symphony 1 in Eb was just performed by Fidalgo Youth Symphony and Mt Baker Youth Symphony last month.

Dex is passionate about starting an orchestra/strings program in ASD. “I just think it’s a great opportunity to play an instrument, have fun and make friends, work together as a group, and make music.” The challenge is finding enough kids in Anacortes to lobby the district to restart a strings program. Until then, Dex’s message to Showchime readers: “If you have children that are interested in music, want to learn an instrument, or already play an instrument but not in an orchestra yet, Fidalgo Youth Symphony is a great opportunity. There is a place for all skill levels”

We at AMP look forward to opportunities to support and promote orchestral music in Anacortes, especially for the youth! Please get in touch with us if you are interested in getting involved as a participant or mentor in this genre.

Laminar & Turbulence
From April Cover Artist Ora Mae Petersen

Anacortes rocks. I am grateful to live in this hometown of mine, where my husband and I chose to return to raise our daughter. Our community supports the arts and works hard to protect our forestlands and beaches. We have a long, deep history of quirky artists and musicians whose energy still resonates. Read Bret Lunsford’s masterpiece Sounding for Harry Smith: Early Pacific Northwest Influences! The introduction by Phil Elverum describes this resonance perfectly. We grew up with bands that freed the turbulence in our yearning young hearts. The Depot, the Business, the Department of Safety—all sacred sites to us.

Artist’s Statement:

Water is endlessly fascinating. Witnessing the vortices in Deception Pass has led me to investigate fluid dynamics over the years. This painting, entitled Laminar & Turbulent,* is one manifestation of my ongoing obsession with how water moves and what water symbolizes in our lives.

The image arose from a unique piece of paper given to me by my mentor Anne McCracken. The paper was embossed with the woodgrain & knots of a plank of wood. I traced the lines of woodgrain with blue ink, formed circles over the knots with red gouache and added white to enhance contrast. I invented the swirls & eddies, but they are based on real photos of turbulence in water.

Laminar flow is depicted here by smooth parallel lines. Their flow is disturbed by sudden obstacles, which creates unpredictable turbulence. Physicists & mathematicians have long studied turbulence and yet it remains one of the least understood parts of the physical world.**

We are currently moving through yet another time of awful turbulence. During such upheaval & uncertainty we feel the whirlpools widening. I believe that in such times music is a gift and a guide to us. It flows in real time & moves through our bodies in a way that other arts cannot. Since time immemorial we as humans have been joined together by music in all its variety of forms. Whether by the orderly beat of a drum or the wild turbulence of a mosh pit, we are moved by music.

* Laminar flow: Movement of a fluid in which the motion is very orderly and all particles move along straight lines in the same direction.

** Turbulent flow: Movement of a fluid in which its velocity at any point varies rapidly in an irregular manner.

“Turbulence is everywhere, yet it is one of the most difficult concepts for physics to understand…It is a problem that gives physicists and mathematicians more trouble than you might think. On the physical side, turbulence happens when a smooth fluid flow starts to split into smaller eddies and vortices. These swirls then break into smaller swirls, with those swirls begetting ever-smaller whirls, an unpredictable cascade that dissipates the energy from the original smooth stream. These whirls all affect one another, making it impossible to precisely predict what is going to happen to any particular particle in the fluid you’re measuring. On the large scale, energy dissipates gradually and with a semblance of order. On the small scale, chaos abounds.” —Michael Moyer, Deputy Editor of QuantaMagazine.org
# Live Music Calendar

## April 2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Performer(s)</th>
<th>Genre</th>
<th>Age Group</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 6</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Rockfish Grill</td>
<td>Joan Penny</td>
<td>Jazz</td>
<td>All Ages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, April 7</td>
<td>8:30 PM</td>
<td>The Brown Lantern</td>
<td>Open Mic</td>
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<td>21+</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, April 12</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Farmstrong Brewery</td>
<td>Joe Pennell</td>
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<td>All Ages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, April 13</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Rockfish Grill</td>
<td>Cory Vincent</td>
<td>Grunge Blues</td>
<td>All Ages</td>
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<tr>
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<td>The Brown Lantern</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 15</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Lincoln Theatre</td>
<td>Maria Muldaur</td>
<td>Blues</td>
<td>All Ages</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, April 22</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>McIntyre Hall</td>
<td>The Sound of Music</td>
<td>Musical</td>
<td>All Ages</td>
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<td>Saturday, April 23</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Rockfish Grill</td>
<td>Randy Weeks and the Silent Treatment</td>
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Sponsor Spotlight: The Manieri Jazz Endowment

Local residents have long enjoyed the Jazz at the Library series, sponsored by the Manieri Endowment. The Anacortes Music Project is also grateful to have this organization as a continuing sponsor. I sat down with Vince Fejeran, who took on the committee leadership position with the Endowment last September. Vince is a long time Skagit County jazz musician and educator.

What can you tell us about Dominic and Patricia Manieri? Were they jazz fans or did they also perform?

He was an engineer, he played music, and he liked jazz. When I came on, I didn’t know anything about the family, just the allotment—and what could they do with this?

You started with the Endowment in 2007. How did that relationship begin?

I conduct the Skagit Community Band. There were members of my community band who found out about this and they were looking for people who had an interest in jazz. At the time I was teaching at Skagit Valley College, as well as performing. I had kind of a dual interest—one was education, but also the history of jazz. I suggested that we start sponsoring live performances—that would be the best way to get the public interested in the music.

So, I created a series called Second Sunday Jazz. We decided that if we did it monthly, then people would start expecting it. That’s what we have been doing ever since, the Second Sunday live jazz performances.

Has that been quiet during the pandemic?

It was a big hit to the program. The minute the library closed we shut down. We only started back up again in February. We had to look for another place. We’ll do shows at Buxton’s until May, when we go back to the Library. In the summer months, we do the series outdoors at the Heart of Anacortes. Last summer we were able to do a couple events out there.

Do you have any examples to share about the Endowment’s involvement with schools and local musicians?

We have sponsored a couple of events where musicians have come in to work with the high school students. They work individually with the students and then do a joint performance.

We’ve also helped sponsor the Jazz Choir students to go down to Jazz Alley and we’ve helped fund some of their festivals. We’ve been looking for a lot of ways we can work with the schools. We have a scholarship in the name of Ian Simonsen, looking for the students who are more music-based, either majoring in music or taking music on a continuing basis.

You played with [the late] John Savage often. Do you have any favorite stories?

I played in Dillinger’s Clambake together with him for many years. There are road stories. John would bring in some of his compositions, and there would be stories in them. “Front Door” was one of those songs we did. It’s a story about, they were playing at a gig, and the wind caught the front door as they were loading out, and it smashed the window. They kind of got out of there quick! I miss his musicianship.

What are your current music projects?

I teach an online music history class through Skagit Valley College. I play in the A-Town Big Band. I still play in a nine-piece combo called Herding Cats. These guys are good musicians.

We’re doing a performance in May, a fundraiser for the Fidalgo Dance Company.

We still have Second Sunday Jazz that’s happening. The Dominic Manieri Endowment has a stage that we’re booking for the Anacortes Arts Festival.

Every once in a while we have history lectures at the Library and we have one coming up in April. Brent Jensen is doing a lecture on the Women of Jazz, which is wonderful. You always hear about the men, but there are so many influential women.

The choir students are doing a performance in May, I think. We’re funding the rhythm section. The students do jazz standards and each one will have a professional rhythm section behind when they sing.

Long term project—we’re looking to sponsor a Jazz Walk. We could use several different venues in town, with a wrist band that would get you into each one. I worked at one up in Bellingham, and there is one in North Bend. We’re just investigating this, but hopefully in a couple years we’ll have an Anacortes Jazz Walk!

More information about the Jazz at the Library series and the Manieri Endowment can be found at jazzatthelibrary.com.

Upcoming Manieri Events:

Second Sunday Jazz Concert Nuages

April 10, 2:00 PM

Join us for an afternoon of live jazz. Nuages delivers you jazz from all over the world, like musical fusion cuisine. Nuages is rooted in the genre inspired by Django Reinhardt and blends Manouche jazz with American, Brazilian samba, Indian classical, French chanson and other incredible global sounds. As a listener you will enjoy a warm and engaging journey of high-level musicianship and a range of artistic expression.

This concert is LIVE and FREE for all. Sponsored by the Anacortes Public Library Manieri Endowment.

Live at Buxton’s

Instrumental Women of Jazz with Brent Jensen

April 28, 7:00 PM

The rich tradition of women instrumentalists’ role in jazz has been criminally marginalized throughout the history of the music. While many female jazz vocalists are familiar to the public on a first-name basis (Ella, Billie, Carmen, Sarah), most people have never heard of such important figures as Lil Hardin, Mary Lou Williams, Mary Osborne, Vi Redd, or Melba Liston. Jazz educator Brent Jensen presents a lecture examining the historical and contemporary contributions of the instrumental women of jazz.

Anacortes Public Library Community Meeting Room
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. Each piece of writing featured here has a unique Anacortes connection.

This month we have a song from local artist and songwriter Gavon Leo. Gavon recently participated in MoPop’s Sound Off!, a program of mentorship and connection for up-and-coming musicians. We’ll hear more about that experience in an upcoming Show Chime issue but for now, enjoy some of Gavon’s original lyrics.

“I like bringing people together. I love seeing people’s reactions to me. My overall goal as an artist is to make people feel an emotion that they weren’t feeling before I interacted with them or sang to them. I don’t live for attention, I don’t need it, but it’s fun when I can make someone feel good, or just a smile. It’s huge to me.”

ATTENTION!
by Gavon Leo

Patiently waiting
Dayshifts and daydreams
All I know is I wished on a star
Just a kid wandering out with his voice and guitar

Do I have your attention
Are you listening? Are you listening?
I’ve got a question
Would you like to sing
Would you like to dream
Along
With a song
With a song

by Clarity Miller

Anacortes High School’s vivacious production of High School Musical was exactly what the community needed to kick off the return to live theater.

HSM was a heartwarming, fun, lovable show that was great for all ages. It is the story of popular jock Troy and brainy Gabriella, both of whom secretly yearn to be in a musical. All of the performers were fantastic, from the leads to the smaller parts.

Local Groups Join Forces to Bring Live Theater Back to Anacortes

A joint production between AHS, Fidalgo Dance Works, and ACT Theater, HSM was directed by T.J. Fantini and Abigail Hanson, and produced by my all-time favorite high school teacher, Scott Burnett. Music direction was done by Carole Leander. The musical featured a live band of AHS musicians including a number who have performed in bands at AMP events!

Fancy People Adventures
by Phil Elverum

It’s supposed to be the “OPEN MIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD” so I’m pretty pumped. I love attending open mics.

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by Gavon Leo

Patiently waiting
Dayshifts and daydreams
All I know is I wished on a star
Just a kid wandering out with his voice and guitar

Do I have your attention
Are you listening? Are you listening?
I’ve got a question
Would you like to sing
Would you like to dream
Along
With a song
With a song
Chime Chat with Cherry

In the tradition of the great personal advice column, Show Chime presents Chime Chat with Cherry. 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:
I have always wanted to go to a local open mic night and play some of my original songs. Unfortunately, I have paralyzing stage fright. A friend suggested I record myself and lip-sync to take the pressure off. Is this a terrible idea or a genius solution to my problem? —Scared soprano

DEAR SOPRANO:
Ask yourself, has lip-synching ever gone well for anyone? Remember Milli Vanilli? Neither does anyone else. I think a more logical solution would be some kind of ridiculous disguise, like a Sherlock Holmes hat, a Groucho Marx mustache, and a Santa beard. No one will recognize you, so if you’re not great, who cares?

HI CHERRY:
When I was in fourth grade I had to practice the recorder for music class. My mom wouldn’t let me practice after the sun went down because she said it would call all of the snakes into our house. Is this a real thing? —Asking for a Friend

DEAR FRIEND:
The recorder is the instrument of the devil, which is why small children are made to play it at home. Your mom is wise.

DEAR CHERRY:
My roommate has decided to spend this year listening only to music that was released in the year 1980. In fact, he’s aiming to listen to all of it. Needless to say, it’s starting to wear on me. Do you have any strategies that could help me get through the year? —Stuck in the 80s

DEAR 80s:
Well, my dear, put on your fingerless gloves, pile on leg warmers, pour yourself a Tab and a bowl of Mr. T cereal, and strap in. Cause Video Killed the Radio Star and Girls Just Want to Have Fun. ■

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. ■