August 2022

I got goosebumps when the first round of photos came in from AMP Camp yesterday. The first AMP Camp ever. This concept has been on the table through years of planning and pandemic delays and now it’s actually happening. Young people are gathering around to listen and play. They’re picking up instruments and trying their hand. They’re forming relationships with bandmates and mentors, people who will cheer them on in their musical journeys and their lives.

The Anacortes music scene is full of serendipity and surprise connections. Just last month we had an artist interview with Anna Fahey and, randomly, on the facing page was a photo of Anna attending Anapalooza almost three decades before. In a small town like ours these connections happen naturally and organically for some. The goal here at AMP is to make this kind of magic and connection available to everyone. AMP Camp is just one way we do this.

There are lots of big ideas in the works at AMP these days. Stay tuned and stay connected! It’s going to take all of us to make these dreams come true.

Laurie Racicot
Show Chime Editor

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“We Neesha It Up.”

The collaborative songwriting process of Neesha Blanchett

By Liam Poor

Neesha Blanchett’s debut album, Nice Blanket, is a songwriter’s feast of vulnerable lyrics, catchy melodies, and dynamic instrumentals. Most eloquently described by Mia Starner as “a patchwork quilt of emotions and experiences.” Songs woven with themes of the ocean, dreams, and the sleeping mind, tackle “feelings of regret abutted with wholesome warm memories.”

Brought together by the invitation to appear on the women’s compilation, Terribly Quiet, (featured in Show Chime June 2022) the album features Sarah Wight, Mia Starner, Jordan Ignacio, and former drummer Ryan Taitano, whose contributions on the album should not be overlooked. All multi-talented musicians, they trade off instruments frequently with Mia focusing on bass, Sarah on rhythm guitar, organ, and synth, and Jordan on electric guitar.

“We Neesha it up,” Mia said, describing the songwriting process of bringing a song to her collaborators and “adding the band flavor.” Mia’s particular process starts “from the bass up,” adding a melody, then bringing it to the band to give it the Neesha touch.

This can be seen on the 4th track on the album, Mia’s opus, ‘Sleepstate.’ “It starts out sort of dark and creepy and then climbs into this crescendo that feels like a storm,” she described.

The 3rd track, ‘Faceless Man,’ one of Sarah’s songs, is striking in its complexities. Listening to what she had come up with already for the song on her headphones she had a moment of creative clarity. “It was really weird, I could hear all the parts to the song but the biggest parts I could hear were the organ and synth parts.” Not only was this the final song to be added to the album but it was also a departure for Sarah – “It’s the only one of my songs that’s a love song on the album.”

Sarah and Mia worked together on ‘Bruises.’ Mia brought in the bassline and bones of the song and Sarah whipped out a hook which they sang together. The song has a raw intensity and strength to it, combining Mia’s rhythmic bass and verses with Sarah’s haunting vocals on the chorus.

“How women, we’ve gone through a lot and experienced a lot,” Sarah waxed as Mia continued, “It’s about getting hit, but I keep coming back and all those experiences make me who I am.”

Recorded at Brett Baird’s home studio over the course of a weekend, and produced by Dylan Hanwright, Nice Blanket is set to release July 29. Find the album on all major streaming platforms.

Catch Neesha Blanchet live at AMP Fest on September 3rd!
AMP Camp in Action!

Monday, July 25th kicked off an epic first day of week-long AMP Camp! We created AMP Camp as an inclusive, happy space for kids 12-18 to come and learn about music, form bands, and play a showcase performance at the end of the week, on stage, in front of a live audience.

We want to give a special shout-out to Buxton’s, the Anacortes Women’s Giving Circle, and the Anacortes Noon Kiwanis Club for helping make this camp possible. We have had such a positive response from the community and we would like to host AMP Camp every single summer!

Thank you to our incredible musicians!

Photos by Corin Noronha.

Clockwise from top: Students gather around to offer their ideas about lyrics and genre for Karl Blau’s “Song From Scratch” workshop; Chance Hanson shreds his guitar while M3 Anderson chills in the background. Students receive a lesson on different kinds of stage presence from Pearl Tottenham. Photos by Katie Williams.

Clockwise from top:
Saeed Abaas
Gems & Genies
Pearl Tottenham
Jack Mattingly
Crushing
Collin’s Beach
Enduro
Atomic Rust
Live Music Calendar August 2022

Tuesday, August 2
Farmstrong Brewery
Leo Boots
Blues Rock All Ages
9:30 PM

Wednesday, August 3
Guemes General Store
Ben Starner
Ragtime Piano All Ages
10:00 PM
The Business
Jeffrey Lewis w/ Karl Blau
Urban Indie-folk All Ages
Rockfish Grill
10:00 PM
Joan Penney
Jazz Vocals All Ages
Rockfish Grill
10:00 PM
Seafarers Park
Cascadia Big Band Jazz Swing All Ages

Thursday, August 4
Brown Lantern
Open Mic Local Talent 21+

Friday, August 5
Anacortes Arts Festival
Manieri Jazz Stage Jazz Showcase All Ages
Brown Lantern
Min Far Pschedelic 21+

Saturday, August 6
Anacortes Arts Festival
Manieri Jazz Stage Jazz Showcase All Ages
Guemes General Store
Scott Pemberton O Theory Original Guitar All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Red House Seasoned Blues All Ages

Sunday, August 7
Anacortes Arts Festival
Manieri Jazz Stage Jazz Showcase All Ages

Tuesday, August 9
Farmstrong Brewery
Chase Rabideau & Conrad Gruener
Original Rock All Ages
9:30 PM

Wednesday, August 10
Rockfish Grill
Deep River Blues, Blues Bluegrass All Ages
6:00 PM

Thursday, August 11
Skagit County Fair
Karl Blau, The Enthusiasts, Young Hunks
AMP Concert Series All Ages
Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent 21+

Friday, August 12
Seafarers Park
The Stacy Jones Band Roots Rock All Ages
Farmstrong Brewery
Brittany Collins Album Release Concert Soulful Americana All Ages

Saturday, August 13
Edgewater Park, MV
Lazy Acres, Fanny Alger, Baby Cakes
Brewfest on the Skagit 21+
Heart of Anacortes
Randy Weeks and the Silent Treatment Country Rock All Ages
Guemes General Store
Andy Coe Band Psychedelic Jam All Ages

Sunday, August 14
Heart of Anacortes
Manieri Second Sunday Jazz Holly Pyle Jazz Vocals All Ages
2:00 PM

Tuesday, August 16
Farmstrong Brewery
The Chris Eger Band Real American All Ages
6:00 PM

Wednesday, August 17
Rockfish Grill
Daniel Pellegrini Vintage Flavor All Ages
6:00 PM

Thursday, August 18
Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Brown Lantern Local Talent 21+

Friday, August 19
Seafarers Park
Santa Poco Underground Country All Ages
Guemes General Store
Yogoman Burning Band Eclectic Dance All Ages

Saturday, August 20
Heart of Anacortes
Newton's Law Nu Jazz All Ages
Guemes General Store
Eli West Trio & Jacob Navarro Northwest Roots All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Pacific Twang Dance Americana All Ages

Saturday, August 21

Sunday, August 22

Tuesday, August 23
Farmstrong Brewery
Zach Michaud Troubadour All Ages
9:30 PM

Wednesday, August 24
Rockfish Grill
Janette West Jazz Vocals All Ages
9:30 PM

Thursday, August 25
Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent 21+

Friday, August 26
Seafarers Park
No Rules Tight Covers All Ages
9:30 PM

Saturday, August 27
Heart of Anacortes
The Enthusiasts Homegrown Rock All Ages
Anacortes Public Library Poetry Night Open Mic All Ages Musician sign-ups at 6:30
Rockfish Grill
Michele D’Amour and the Love Dealers Blues All Ages
The Brown Lantern
Ebb Slack & Flood Funky Fusion 21+

Tuesday, August 30
Farmstrong Brewery
Zach Michaud Troubadour All Ages
9:30 PM

Wednesday, August 31
Rockfish Grill
Janette West Jazz Vocals All Ages
9:30 PM

Anacortes Arts Festival Manieri Jazz Stage

Friday, August 5
12:00 PM Cascadia Groove
2:00 PM A’Town Big Band
4:00 PM Jerry Steinihlber Trio
6:15 PM Cambalache Salsa

Saturday, August 6
11:00 AM Herding Kats
1:00 PM Joan Penney
3:00 PM Dave Keim Sextet
5:00 PM Marina Christopher and the Dreamboats

Sunday, August 7
12:00 PM Dmitry Matheny Group
2:00 PM Pearl Django
4:00 PM Trish Hatley Trio

Save the Date!
AMP Fest 2022
Saturday, September 3
Noon-8:00pm Local Music Showcase All Ages! Free!
Hi, I'm Vince Jackson. I'm a student at Western Washington University, and I enjoy making art. My goal for most of what I make is to not state the obvious. I want the viewer to form their own interpretations of what my drawings mean and create stories based on that, or maybe just enjoy them because they look cool. I also like to make food. Sometimes, I listen to music. Spotify just recommended me an album called The Way of Ging by Frank Dukes and I've been listening to it a lot. It's not my favorite album ever but It's kinda starting to grow on me. Go give it a listen. You might like it.

Tell us about the art you create.

Yes, I always listen to music when I draw. It helps me focus and concentrate my thoughts. I enjoy all types of music, but I prefer to listen to instrumental songs when I'm drawing because they aren't trying to distract me with words. It helps keep my headspace clean and organized.

Tell us a little bit about this piece on the cover. Is it part of a series?

Yeah, kind of. I drew it and some others for my friends as a goodbye present when I went back home from college, so I guess you could call it a series of goodbyes. I posted a few of the others on my Instagram, so go check them out if you're interested.

What projects are you working on now?

Nothing major, but I am pushing myself to draw every day after I get home from work. I keep a sketchbook and I'm working to get it filled in by the end of the year. I'll post them on social media when I make one I'm really fond of.

What creative projects do you imagine working on in the next few years?

Right now, I'm going to school to get a degree in urban planning but I also might go into design. I want to try making pottery at some point and maybe work on more digital art instead of pen and paper. I want to pick up drums again too.

Where can people see more of your work?

Just Instagram right now, but if you see me on the street, I'll draw a little something on your sleeve for you.■

See more of Vince's work on Instagram @thelifeofvancejickson.

Music lover and longtime AMP supporter, Michael Vitale, passed away in July of 2022. My relationship with Michael is a continuation of how Chris Terrell of How It Works plugs people into the community as needed.

Michael came to Chris in the spring of 2014, asking how he could be involved in the Anacortes music scene. Chris pointed Michael across 3rd Street to the Olsen Building, where a new music space had opened — the Anacortes Music Channel. AMC was on Chris' radar as he had helped to mentor me on the process of running the space. The concept of AMC was a dedicated space for Anacortes music and to host touring indie/punk bands. AMC was asking for volunteers to help with shows and in general to help figure out how to best serve the music community and to plug into the community at large. Michael Vitale walked into the AMC and I remember his sincerity when he talked about wanting to be a part of the AMC community.

From then on, Michael dedicated himself to helping run shows, being there for some of the AMC content like the Moon Ra improvisations and the Free Choir. He would often flash a great big smile at events, his hair cut in kind of a Prince Valiant style, often wearing a black turtleneck. Michael Vitale was a unique character at the AMC, no matter the crowd. But he fit right in because he felt he belonged — and of course he did.

Among his contributions, he purchased wood for and constructed a stage for shows at the AMC. He took great care to glue the special black carpet, paint the stage black, and glue felt coasters on the feet. I believe it’s still in use today.

Michael Vitale showed up whenever Anacortes music needed him. I’m sure he would have loved to be a part of the new, budding projects with AMP. We are gonna miss him at our gatherings.■

Below: Michael Vitale, far left on drums, jams with musicians at the AMC.
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. Here we highlight the words of one song. Each piece of writing featured here has a unique Anacortes connection.

This month we have lyrics from Neesha Blanchet’s new album, Nice Blanket.

Faceless Man
by Sarah Wight

This island gives me the creeps
Most dream while they sleep
Yellow raincoat
Only howls up my street

Why can’t I love a man
The way I happen to love the sea

Dead by December
Let’s swim and swim and scream
You never knew my body

Skin, skin, skin, skin

All the boats in the harbor on fire,
in the distance
God be with us, God be with us

This island gives me the creeps
Most dream while they sleep
Yellow raincoat
Only howls up my street

Dead by December
Let’s swim and swim and scream
You never knew my body

Pretend we’re all the same
Let’s swim and swim and scream

New Releases

from Neesha Blanchet:
Nice Blanket

Neesha Blanchett’s debut album is a songwriter’s feast of vulnerable lyrics, catchy melodies, and dynamic instrumentals. Songs woven with themes of the ocean, dreams, and the sleeping mind, tackle feelings of regret abutted with wholesome warm memories.

Released July 29, 2022
By Sarah Wight, Mia Starner, Jordon Ignacio, and Ryan Taitano.
Recorded by Brett Baird. Produced by Dylan Hanwright

from Kellen Murphy:
Staying In

Staying In is Kellen Murphy’s second solo album and the first of his to feature 100% original material. Stylistically, it is primarily indie/alternative rock, drawing inspiration from artists such as the Lonely Forest, Car Seat Headrest, and Billy Cobb. The lyrics depict typical topics of adolescent life, such as love, friendship, depression, and self-consciousness.

Released July 18th, 2022
Cover art by Ashlyn Solowey. Title by Joey Chonka.

from Dylan Fox:
Dylan Fox

Dylan Fox grew up in Anacortes but moved to Montana at the end of summer 2021. He had time on his hands and used it to record this album in the apartment he was living in. It was an opportunity to organize the songs he had written during the pandemic and to learn how to mix some as well.

Released March 11, 2022
Thanks to Alex Bautista for the help in mixing and Aiden Varsi for the help in recording. Thanks to Jack Goldman and Campden McClure for help on ‘Down the Line.’ Album artwork by Annika Danenhaur.

from Future Antiques:
Ocean

Central Skagit Valley is home to the Future Antiques, a thirteen-year-old musician who draws upon vintage influences to make modern music. Ocean, Future Antiques’ latest release, was recorded at the Anacortes Unknown during the end of Summer 2021.

Released September, 2021
All songs written and performed by Arlis Ulysses Sandstrom-Resetar. Drums on ‘Untitled’ by Brett Sandström. Drums and synth on ‘Star and Organ’ by Ogden Sandstrom-Resetar. Recorded by Nicholas Wilbur.
Share the Local Music Love!

**Call for Contributors**
Show Chime is looking for volunteer contributors to help us cover the local music scene. Cover one show or become a regular contributor. 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

**Anacortes Music Channel**
Do you know about the Anacortes Music Channel? One great pool of Anacortes music just churning away—24/7! 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!

**Represent!**
Here at AMP we have big plans for the future. In addition to the promotion, publication, and distribution of the SHOW CHIME music calendar, AMP is committed to creating events that feature 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 support amplifies the music and musicians of Anacortes.

**Go to anacortesmusicproject.org and click on the sponsorship button.**

**Become an Amplifier!**
Becoming a monthly donor is easy, you can scan this code with your phone and choose the amount you would like to contribute to AMP each month. Your donation helps us pay our musicians and artists, fund our events and festivals, offer AMP music camps, and move into an amazing new venue space for all to enjoy!

**Stay in Anacortes**
Coming to Anacortes for a show? Stay the night! Check out the range of options at Anacortes.org/stay.

**Thank You!**
Thank you to our generous community donors: Don Bird, Paul Sherman, Henry Rose, Peter Delaney, Victoria McNeil, Sarah Sibley, Derek Eisel, James and Martha Harper, Steve and Stella Clarke, Patti Pattee, Eric Hinton, Jessica Redman, Brenda Treadwell, Jenn White, Camie Velin, Lisa Jackson, and Jensen Lovelett! Thank you to our sponsoring businesses: Mugsy at The Red Snapper, Hal and Sheryl at The Brown Lantern, Nick and Carolyn at Bikespot, Mark and Willie at Guemes Island General Store, Clay Christofferson at Farmstrong Brewing Company, 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 for putting us in print. Thank you to our August cover artist Vince Jackson. Thank you to Laurie Racicot for editing and design. This August 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. ■