From Sommer Carter, AMP Board President

May 2022

Anacortes Music Project is proud and super excited to be collaborating with our artist community to create a cultural arts center for our town. We’ve been tending this dream since our inception six years ago and it is no surprise that others in our community have been doing the same. Anacortes Arts Festival- the reason we have an after school arts program, Fidalgo Dance Works and ACT Theater, all non-profits, and AMP are teaming up to amplify access, opportunity and visibility of the arts in Anacortes.

We’re inspired by programs that have done this in other cities: a hub which centralizes creative work (lessons, classes, studios) and showcases the outcomes (live performances, gallery installations, curated film showings). We are dreaming big to hold such a space. The easiest part is that artists, musicians, actors, dancers, film makers, designers, writers- are all here, already doing this good work. All we need is a beautiful, dignified place to gather. This is an investment in culture in our town. It is an investment in current and coming generations who will have a place to grow and share.

You’ll be hearing much, much more on this including an invitation to join in the dreaming. This is a community project. A place for all of us.

Keep keeping an eye out!

From Sommer Carter, AMP Board President
Local Musician Gavon Leo Performs at Sound Off! 2022

by Corin Noronha

Anacortes native Gavon Leo has been busy. If you’ve been following along on our socials you would have heard about Gavon and his music with his debut EP Fellow Dreamer. The following Saturday, after the release of the EP, he was performing at the Museum of Popular Culture in downtown Seattle for their Sound Off! event.

Sound Off! is MoPop’s premier youth music showcase that gives a platform for up and coming artists from the PNW. Gavon is the third artist from Anacortes to be showcased (David’s Van and The Lonely Forest being the other two).

The setup for the night went like this: 4 performers playing 20 minute sets to a crowd of nearly 200 people from varying fan bases of each of the artists. Gavon is used to playing in front of crowds but this was his first performance as a solo artist. To set the stage for his big day, he was only allowed a single sound check before the live performance. This helped break the ice as he previewed his first couple of songs to random visitors touring the museum.

After sound check however, things took a turn for the worse. A “gnarly cold” started to develop for Gavon. Certainly not ideal timing as the show was just hours away and Gavon was first up on the bill. Once the show started however, Gavon was able to rise to the challenge.

“It ended up being the best live performance that I’ve had,” says Gavon. Any nerves and second guessing from earlier were not going to stop him from giving his all. “It was weird, I totally fazed it out 5 minutes before and I wasn’t thinking about anything. It was like, ‘I got this’ and I’m gonna go up there and just do it.” Setting the tone for the night, Gavon gave an energetic performance hyping up the crowd for what was to come.

All in all, Sound Off! 2022 was a success for Gavon and his budding music career. Gavon hopes any artist that reads this is inspired to apply for future Sound Off! events. Because of this showcase, he was able to network with Seattle-based artists — something that he hadn’t done before as he felt like an outsider to the scene before the performance. “Networking is probably 60-70% of you making it in the industry.” Through his time talking with the other people at the event, he was able to secure another show at KEXP just a few weeks later. Beyond the community that was there, MoPop also provided mentors to critique each of the artists’ performances. For Gavon this was exactly the kind of exposure he needed.

“All I want is to just be hungry for criticism to improve on myself. To push myself to be better. Sound Off! did just that.”

Check out the recap of this year’s show on the MoPop YouTube channel.
Photos courtesy of the Museum of Pop Culture.
Sounding for Harry Smith: Early Pacific Northwest Influences

In his latest book, Pacific Northwest musician-historian Bret Lunsford (Beat Happening/D+) unravels a string of mysteries to reveal the avant-garde shards of a 20th century alchemist in his hometown.

Harry Everett Smith (1923-1991) was a boyhood resident of Anacortes, Washington for ten years of the Great Depression. Sounding for Harry Smith: Early Pacific Northwest Influences is a visually compelling oral history-based biography that immerses the reader in Salish Sea traditions and discord to explore the myths of a countercultural shaman whose strange impacts on art, music and film resound from studies of place to beat improvisation, through brain paintings to a Grammy Award for his folk music bible.

Excerpts from the book

“Growing up in Anacortes is interesting. Lots of people do it. Harry Smith did it, Bret Lunsford did it decades later, I did it another decade after that. To me it felt like being present for the monumental human shift from the ancient and eternal to the modern and marketable. There’s something about the place; located on the far edge of a recently colonized continent, at the cusp of many poles, wrapped in layers of simultaneous living histories... It’s a place of coexistence, though not usually harmonious or acknowledged. Living in this place where the elements of nature demand one’s attention, and the evidence of the people that came before us still juts out of the sand, the songs still audible, it felt impossible to ignore some deeper truths, hinted at but not spelled out. Harry Smith clearly was tuned in to this too, following the thread all the way out of town.”
— From the Preface by Phil Elverum

“What’s striking about Bret Lunsford’s portrait of Harry Smith is that it brings to the forefront what most arts biographers ignore or treat as scenery: the community in which the artist first emerged. This book is the fullest vision of Smith’s early years we’ll ever likely see. Lunsford writes as a native who knew people in Smith’s life who were still alive. As a local artist, he fathoms the deep history of the arts in Anacortes. Again, acting as a local historian he found documents, newspapers, pictures, scrapbooks, yearbooks, and letters that illuminate Smith’s childhood and also give us a biography of the city.”
— From the Foreword by John Szwed

Purchase the book at The Business or soundingforharrysmith.com.

4th Annual Earth Day Luminary Parade Lights Up Guemes Island

The weather was amazing and a beautiful night on April 23rd for our 2022 Guemes Earth Day parade. Milo Mathews played music before the parade at our Guemes Island General Store on an outdoor stage on the patio while paraders and friends enjoyed dinner and danced, followed by the band Brasscadia. They also played on the patio until time for the parade to start and then played and walked and danced with the paraders on the parade route with us creating a beautiful parade of light and music as we walked the parade route along the water.

The parade was presented by Paperbirds Studio who created many luminaries as well as taught classes in their studio for the community to have fun and participate. Studio owner and Luminary artist Loalynda Bird is the inspiration behind this Guemes tradition. Loalynda led the parade this year with a luminary of a winged mermaid followed by salmon, jellyfish, and orca luminaries. These were followed by eagle, heron, owl, swans, and even a dragon and cosmic butterfly.

Photos courtesy of Loalynda Bird.

Karl Blau and Crushing Play at the Depot for Album Release

The weather was amazing and a beautiful night on April 23rd for our 2022 Guemes Earth Day parade. Milo Mathews played music before the parade at our Guemes Island General Store on an outdoor stage on the patio while paraders and friends enjoyed dinner and danced, followed by the band Brasscadia. They also played on the patio until time for the parade to start and then played and walked and danced with the paraders on the parade route with us creating a beautiful parade of light and music as we walked the parade route along the water.

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Photos courtesy of Loalynda Bird.

Karl Blau and Crushing Play at the Depot for Album Release

Photos courtesy of Katie Williams.
Live Music Calendar
May 2022

Sunday, May 1
2:00PM
McIntyre Hall
The Sound of Music
Musical     All Ages

Tuesday, May 3
6:30PM
Farmstrong Brewing Co.
Odd Mood Jam Band
Jammin’ All Ages

Wednesday, May 4
6:00PM
Rockfish Grill
Conrad Gruener
Americana     All Ages

Thursday, May 5
7:00PM
The NeXt Show with Bret Lunsford
Listen live at anacortesmusicproject.org
The Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent     21+

Friday, May 6
5:30PM
Guemes Island General Store
Ben Starner
Piano     All Ages
9:00 PM
The Brown Lantern
Min Far
Psychedelic     21+

Saturday, May 7
10:00AM
Anacortes Farmers Market
The Enthusists
Local Rock    All Ages
7:30PM
McIntyre Hall
Celebrating in Song
Skagit Valley Chorale
Choral Delight     All Ages
Rockfish Grill
The Atlantics
Dance Mix     All Ages

Sunday, May 8
2:00PM
Anacortes Public Library
Manieri Second Sunday Jazz
The Kate Olson Quartet
Jazz Saxophone     All Ages
McIntyre Hall
Celebrating in Song
Skagit Valley Chorale
Choral Delight     All Ages

Tuesday, May 10
6:00PM
Farmstrong Brewing Co.
Savanna Woods
Singer Songwriter     All Ages

Wednesday, May 11
6:00PM
Rockfish Grill
Whistle Lake Jazz Quartet
Jazz Standards     All Ages

Thursday, May 12
6:00PM
The Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent     21+

Friday, May 13th
5:30PM
Guemes Island General Store
Hookmeyer
Jazz & Blues     All Ages

Saturday, May 14
6:00PM
Farmstrong Brewing Co.
Lazy Acres
Release Party All Ages
Guemes Island General Store
Savage Blues Band
Classic Blues     All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Polly O’Keary
and the Rhythm Method
Blues     All Ages
The Brown Lantern
The Dolts
Local Rock     21+

Sunday, May 15
2:00PM
Anacortes Public Library
Manieri Second Sunday Jazz
The Kate Olson Quartet
Jazz Saxophone     All Ages
McIntyre Hall
Celebrating in Song
Skagit Valley Chorale
Choral Delight     All Ages

Tuesday, May 17
6:00PM
Farmstrong Brewing Co.
Jack Mattingly
Singer Songwriter     All Ages

Wednesday, May 18
6:00PM
Rockfish Grill
The Colonel
Spanish Guitarra     All Ages

Thursday, May 19
6:00PM
Anacortes Public Library
Manieri Jazz Lecture Series
A Country Blues Roadtrip
Blues History     All Ages
The Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent     21+

Friday, May 20th
5:30PM
Guemes Island General Store
Ben Starner
Piano Magic     All Ages

Saturday, May 21
Guemes Island General Store
Scott Pemberton O Theory
Funky Guitar     All Ages
Buxton’s
Enduro and Fanny Alger
AMF’s Punk Prom
Punk Rock     21+
McIntyre Hall
Thera and Back Again
Skagit Symphony
Classical     All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Joe T Cook Blues Band
Blues     All Ages
The Brown Lantern
Cozmic Sauce
Funky Horns     21+

Tuesday, May 24
The Brown Lantern
Enduro and Fanny Alger
Singer Songwriter     All Ages
Guemes Island General Store
Chris Eger
Americana     All Ages

Wednesday, May 25
6:00PM
Guemes Island General Store
Amanda Richards and the
Good Long Whiles
Outlaw Country     All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Fidalgo Swing
Swing     All Ages

Thursday, May 26
The Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent     21+

Friday, May 27th
5:30PM
Guemes Island General Store
Hookmeyer
Jazz & Blues     All Ages

Saturday, May 28
Guemes Island General Store
Amanda Richards and the
Good Long Whiles
Outlaw Country     All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Billy Appleton Band
Southern Blues     All Ages
The Brown Lantern
Tom Savage
Blues     21+

Thursday, May 5
7:00PM
Anacortes Public Library
Manieri Second Sunday Jazz
The Kate Olson Quartet
Jazz Saxophone     All Ages
McIntyre Hall
Celebrating in Song
Skagit Valley Chorale
Choral Delight     All Ages
Local Venue Needs a Little Help Bringing Back the Music!

by Mark Linnemann

As everybody in the music world knows, the last two years haven’t been easy, but despite the lost workforce and revenue, the Guemes Island General Store is still jammin’! We are poised to re-emerge as Skagit County’s most picturesque, waterfront, solar powered venue but we can’t do this without the support of Skagit artists and music enthusiasts. As we finalize our schedule for the 2022 Summer Music Season, we’re seeing that we will need a little more help from our old and new friends.

We’d like to propose a volunteer exchange for people interested in helping us put on some amazing shows this summer season. We are looking for a commitment of 2 longer or 3 shorter volunteer shifts at our music events in exchange for season tickets for the entire summer. Additionally, we will provide a shift meal and an end-of-shift drink for those 21 and older. We will be looking for assistance with set-up, tear-down, bouncing/security, bussing, and other similar jobs.

Our passion is to host and bring music to our wonderful neck of the woods - Skagit County, Anacortes, Guemes, and our greater island community. We love doing what we do and we want to continue, but it is hard work and we wouldn’t be asking for help if we didn’t need it. Like most artists, musicians are rarely paid their true value and we want to support them fairly with ticket sales that adequately compensate them for their performance. So, you may ask, why we do it at all and we can tell you it is all about the love of music, the building of community, and enjoyment of good food. This would be a great opportunity to support local, live music while being a treasured part of the GIGS community and we look forward to working together!

If you are interested reach out to us at: digs@dogislandgoods.com

Additionally, if you’d like to get even more involved, we have many paid positions available if you or anyone you know are looking for employment.

Lots of love and appreciation to the great people at AMP!

Sent from Guemes Island.

From May Cover Artist Lulu Goe

Lulu Goe is a 5th grader at Fiddlehead Montessori. She has 10 chickens, four cats and two rats. She likes volleyball, reading, cats, and art. Summer is her favorite season because she likes spending time with her friends and being outside. Her favorite book is Wonder and her favorite color is green. She likes living in Anacortes because it has lots of cool places like Causland Park and her school.

Frogs are Lulu’s favorite animal. The frog family in her art is a representation of her own family.

Upcoming Manieri Jazz Events:

Second Sunday Jazz Concert
Kate Olson Quartet
May 8, 2:00 PM
Join us for an afternoon of live jazz. music educator based in Seattle, WA. She can be heard performing locally in Seattle and Bellingham as well as internationally. She has appeared on stage with pop music icons Elvis Costello, Brandi Carlisle, and Sir Mix-A-Lot. In 2016 her band KO Ensemble was nominated as best NW Alternative Group and in 2020 the KO Ensemble won the Golden Ear Award. This concert is LIVE and FREE for all. Sponsored by the Anacortes Public Library Manieri Endowment.

Anacortes Public Library Community Meeting Room

Jazz Lecture Series
A Country Blues Roadtrip: From New Orleans to Chicago
May 19, 7:00 PM
Steven Dolmatz examines the growth of country blues in America 1900-1940 from the songster tradition in New Orleans and East Texas, to its development as Delta and Piedmont blues, culminating in its urbanization in Chicago. Learn about the history of the country blues and its distinctive guitar players and styles as demonstrated by Dolmatz on vocals and guitar and Charley Drake on piano and ukulele. This roadtrip visits Blind Lemon Jefferson, Robert Johnson, Mississippi John Hurt, Blind Willie McTell and Big Bill Broonzy.

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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 a classic from Enduro—handwritten lyrics from band member and writer, Bryan Elliott. Check out Enduro at AMP’s Punk Prom this month!

San Juan Motel

- Let’s take a stroll
to San Juan Motel
They got the gear, a place to rest
We have to know the tell

- We’ll spend the night there
on our way to hell
Forget all fear, pray for the best
at San Juan Motel

- Let’s take a walk there
No soul to sell
Just you and me on our way
To San Juan Motel

- You and Me, You and me
on our way, on our way...
To San Juan Motel

Well be lead break
Listening for
that ol’ porter’s bell
Forgetting the time, and the place
that we both fell

- We’ll take the last steps
maybe one more spell
You and me, on our way
To San Juan Motel

- You and me, you and me
on our way, on our way.
- repeat twice
- to San Juan Motel

AMP Punk Prom

MUSIC BY:
ENDURO
&
FANNY ALGER

Small Bites | Cash Bar | Photo Booth | Dancing

SATURDAY, MAY 21ST @ 7PM
BUXTON’S - 1904 COMMERCIAL AVE

SINGLE $45 ● COUPLES $75

BUY TICKETS!

https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5435640
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 McNeill, 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 Christoferson 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 May cover artist Lulu Goe. Thank you to Laurie Racicot for editing and design. This May 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.

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