From Brian Tottenham
AMP Board Member

October 2022

“I hear a Barred Owl sing
I’m here for you, I’m here for you”
—Pearl Tottenham, Barred Bard

Lying in bed early this morning, listening to the owls bantering. Each sings a similar song but each in their own unique voice. Just as we sing a similar song of feelings, emotions, fears but through our own unique voice and perspective.

I used to think of music as an escape from reality but now I see it as the most human attempt to be real. To communicate and connect. To listen for that shared beat and common ground. To call out to others, to share yourself, in hopes that someone will call back and echo your sound.

I find myself drawn to music that expresses emotion in ways and words I cannot, at least not yet. Music that lets you know that you are not alone, in whatever you are experiencing or feeling. From songs of loss, longing, to songs of hope and joy — music moves us with its message of shared understanding.

So today, listen to, dance to, or make your own music and connect. Like the Barred Owl, call out, “I’m here for you, I’m here for you. I hear you” and let those who understand call back.

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Back in Business
AMP Fest Returns with Renewed Energy

by Todd Young, Images by Burn the Box

The anticipation for this year's AMP Fest was palpable. So many people were asking about AMP Fest over the summer. Were we for sure going to have it? How many bands were there going to be? Exactly who was gonna play? What food vendors? And just basically were we ready to get back to business as normal?

Let's note that AMP Fest 2021 was a weird one as it was still Covid time and people were timid, understandably, about going out in crowds. It was noticeable in terms of somewhat lower turnout, but also was the first time AMP held this annual September festival on Fidalgo Island rather than across the channel on Guemes. Additionally, in 2021 AMP decided to make the festival free so anyone could wander in and out and be a part of the festivities regardless of their pocketbook issues. So change was afoot.

Therefore it was with a bit of uncertainty that we threw AMP Fest 2022. Would we have a return to the strong turnouts of the past or was the location change partly why attendance was a bit smaller in 2021? Would attendees be okay with not paying for a ticket but still support our efforts by making donations to help AMP continue the good work we've been doing for Anacortes music? In addition to all our live events we've developed AMP's Instrument Lending Library, AMPCamp for teens, and the release of AMP's first compilation of local music, to name a few.

Well, from the first round of drumming by our perennial opening act of Saeed Aabas and his crew, it was clear that AMP Fest 2022 was exactly what the community needed. The drums ring out like a siren call to the entire town — “Music is happening and you need to get there now!” Boy, did you ever come out. So many people came it was intoxicating.

Two stages for the first half of the day kept the music coming nonstop. As the sun set all eyes focused upon the main stage for the last few bands — beautiful lighting for some incredible sets by favorites Pearl Tottenham and The Enthusiasts and a generational shift too as some new bands took the stage and their younger fans came out to support in droves! It is quite energizing to see the teens and twenty-somethings get involved in creating and supporting the music and musicians of Anacortes! (Which is, of course, the mission statement of AMP.)

AMP Fest also drew about 50% of the attendees from off the island, expanding the fan base, the artistic growth, and the valley-wide community building that the Arts need to stay vibrant, growing, and exciting.

If you attended, thank you! If you didn't, mark your calendar for next year!
Meet the Band:
Pretty Much Nothing

by Ricky Vance

A powerful funk rock trio from Concrete, Pretty Much Nothing plays a variety of music, from hard rock, dance, funk, and country to metal, pop, blues, and soul. The band is comprised of Miguel Garibay on guitar and lead vocals, Gibson Fichter on bass and vocals, and Spencer Duffy on drums, synthesizer and vocals. The three seasoned musicians graced the stage at AMP Fest for the first time last month and we caught up with them afterwards to get to know them better.

Just wanted to let you guys know you absolutely blew the roof off of AMP Fest and Bandcamp, was totally not expecting that amount of sheer rock! Speaking of shredding, where do all of you pull your musical inspirations from?

Everything from the blues to metal, jazz, grunge, and funk. Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, Hendrix, Queens of the Stone Age, Primus, Bob Marley, Sublime, Metallica, SOAD, Johnny Cash, Herbie Hancock, Leadbelly, Fats Domino. You guys definitely have a drive and heaviness behind your sound, is that intentional or is that just what comes out of you and your writing process?

We love Rock & Roll and metal. Spencer on the drums is our number one in keeping things moving. If he's not loud, we aren't either. It's completely natural. If things aren't driving the whole song feels off.

For those who don't know, how long have you been playing together?

We've been playing together since high school. Pep band, school concerts. We had a killer school band back then. Dennis Dorgan from Whiskey Fever played guitar in that band as well. Me (Miguel) on bass, Gibson on sax, Spencer on drums and a whole horn section. We were small but mighty.

Spencer and I played in a rock band in those days too and later on as an acoustic duo playing folk songs and jazz standards.

Pretty Much nothing has been a band for just over a year now.

If you had any advice to give to the younger musicians, or people who might be interested in starting a band, what would you tell them about your experiences and what to watch out for?

Don't give up. YOU CAN WRITE A SONG. You're stories ARE worth telling.

Meet as many people as you can, play with as many musicians as you can. Embrace your fans and build relationships.

This is a total cliche, but with a bit of a twist. If you could only pick three albums for your band mates if they were left on a deserted island what would they be?

Spencer: Are You Experienced by Jimi Hendrix, Because of the Times by Kings of Leon, Sargeant Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band by The Beatles
Miguel: The Clown by Charles Mingus, The Black Saint and the Sinner Lady by Charles Mingus, Manchild by Herbie Hancock
Gibson: The Wall by Pink Floyd, Abbey Road by The Beatles, The Brown Album by Primus

Tell me about your most embarrassing story involving a stage?

Spencer: An old band mate smashed a piano with a cricket mallet and got us kicked out of the venue.
Miguel: Sang a song with a friend at a Christmas concert in our hometown. The song included a cuss word and people lost there minds. We were cut off and scolded. I was laughing my ass of the whole time. We were just teenagers then.

Gibson: Sang Wagonwheel for a school concert. It was my first time singing solo in front of a crowd. Screwed it up!

Not that I think any music should be considered a “guilty pleasure” but what musician/band would you maybe not want the general public to know that you listen to on the regular.

Spencer: Justin Bieber
Miguel: Benee. A new Zealand pop star
Gibson: Ed Sheeran

Where can our readers find pretty much nothing playing this fall and winter? Do you have any plans, or ambitions of touring?

Shows!! We’re playing Skagit BigFoot Fest at Eagle Haven Winery on Sunday, October 16th. And at Rockport Bar and Grill on October 22! We might tour if this world allows us.

If you could play with any band, any era, who would it be and why?

Spencer: Bob Marley. I love Reggae drums!
Miguel: Albert Collins. That guy rips.
Gibson: Guy Clark. It’s where it all started for me.

What’s one thing you want people to know about your band?

We wanna play everything! Not just rock and roll!

What local bands have had an impact on your band and what does local music mean to you?

Barefeet, Whiskey Fever, Jack Mattingly, Lazy Acres. It all starts local! It’s how we connect with the people around us.

Thanks so much again for your time and dedication to music! You guys are ripping the valley up and we at AMP can’t wait to see what’s next for you! Cheers from Ricky Snaxx and AMP! •
Live Music Calendar
October 2022

Saturday, October 1
- Rockfish Grill
- Queen’s Bluegrass
- Bluegrass     All Ages
7:30PM
- The Brown Lantern
- Min Far
- Psychedelic     21+
9:00PM

Thursday, October 6
- The Brown Lantern
- Open Mic Night
- Local Talent     21+
8:30PM

Saturday, October 8
- Rockfish Grill
- Jim Basnight Band
- Blues Rock     All Ages
7:30PM
- The Brown Lantern
- Lion of Judah
- Dance Blend     21+
9:00PM

Tuesday, October 19
- Rockfish Grill
- Danny Aloha
- Funky Fusion     All Ages
6:00PM

Thursday, October 20
- Anacortes Public Library
- Manieri Jazz Lecture Series
- Syncopated Rhythm: Jazz and Dance
  with Dmitri Matheny     All Ages
9:00PM
- The Brown Lantern
- Open Mic Night
- Local Talent     21+
8:30PM

Thursday, October 27
- The Brown Lantern
- Open Mic Night
- Local Talent     21+
8:30PM

Saturday, October 8
- Rockfish Grill
- Free Harmony
- Classic Rock     All Ages
9:00PM
- The Brown Lantern
- Lion of Judah
- Dance Blend     21+
7:30PM

Wednesday, October 19
- Rockfish Grill
- Danny Aloha
- Funky Fusion     All Ages
6:00PM

Sunday, October 9
- Buxton’s
- Manieri Second Sunday Jazz
  Cal Trio
- Chamber Jazz     All Ages
2:00PM

Thursday, October 13
- The Brown Lantern
- Open Mic Night
- Local Talent     21+
9:00PM

Saturday, October 15
- Rockfish Grill
- Free Harmony
- Classic Rock     All Ages
9:00PM
- The Brown Lantern
- Lion of Judah
- Dance Blend     21+
7:30PM

Fright Night with AHS Bands and 67 Seconds to Breath
Halloween Party     All Ages
7:00PM

安然的 2022 年 10 月音乐日历

周六，10月1日
- Rockfish Grill
- Queen’s Bluegrass
- Bluegrass     All Ages
7:30PM
- The Brown Lantern
- Min Far
- Psychedelic     21+
9:00PM

周四，10月6日
- The Brown Lantern
- Open Mic Night
- Local Talent     21+
8:30PM

周六，10月8日
- Rockfish Grill
- Jim Basnight Band
- Blues Rock     All Ages
7:30PM
- The Brown Lantern
- Lion of Judah
- Dance Blend     21+
9:00PM

周二，10月19日
- Rockfish Grill
- Danny Aloha
- Funky Fusion     All Ages
6:00PM

周四，10月20日
- Anacortes Public Library
- Manieri Jazz Lecture Series
- Syncopated Rhythm: Jazz and Dance
  with Dmitri Matheny     All Ages
9:00PM
- The Brown Lantern
- Open Mic Night
- Local Talent     21+
8:30PM

周四，10月27日
- The Brown Lantern
- Open Mic Night
- Local Talent     21+
8:30PM

周六，10月29日
- Guemes General Store
- Ebb Slack & Flood
- Annual Costume Party     All Ages
5:30PM
- Anacortes Depot Art Center
- Fright Night with AHS Bands
  and 67 Seconds to Breath
- Halloween Party     All Ages
7:00PM
- Rockfish Grill
- The Atlantic
- Infectious Pop     All Ages
7:00PM
Under the Jellyfish Moon

A new album from Chris Aiken

by Liam Poor

Chris Aiken’s sophomore album, *Jellyfish Moon* is a deliberate maturation of his art. In talking to Chris about his debut album, *Breadwinner*, he sees it as a compilation of songs all treated as their own projects. With *Jellyfish Moon* he wanted to try something new — choosing to work with a single producer to weave a “common thread” throughout the album.

Geoff Stanfield was the man for the job. Working closely with Chris, Geoff recorded, engineered, and played bass on the record. In their first recording session, working with a renegade setup at the height of lockdown 2020, Chris and Geoff recorded four songs in a day in the basement of Victory Studios in Seattle. Those four songs were released as an EP, *Onward*, in May of the next year. Chris then returned in November to record the other five songs which appear on the record. Working with a gearhead producer like Geoff gave Chris access to top-of-the-line recording equipment, which contributed to a new vocal sound, according to Chris. Combining that with his new songs and Geoff’s instincts as a producer gave *Jellyfish Moon* the matured sound he was searching for.

“Jellyfish Moon,” the title track of the album, came to Chris during a camping trip at Bayview State Park. Looking up at the moon, inspiration hit him, “It was basically a half moon, but sort of faded on one side and it just reminded me of a jellyfish in the sky.” Playing with themes of attachment and loss through the lens of tides rolling in and out, but never losing sight of the shore, Chris croons through the first half of the song in a buttery baritone range. Then after the instrumental break, colored by Geoff’s Beach-Boy-esque harmonies, Chris has what he calls his “Roy Orbison moment.” Breaking from his baritone range into a tenor register to deliver the last few choruses with a new energy. While recording the track, the band played to a “machine-ish” sounding backbeat, instead of a conventional metronome click-track. If you listen closely with some good headphones you can hear it in the mix under the acoustic drum set. “We did a mix where we stripped it out and it was like, “what happened?” The song sort of deflated. So we left it in.”

Listening to *Jellyfish Moon* feels like coming home. It’s nostalgic and bursting with familiar imagery from the Pacific Northwest. At the same time, it’s an obvious attempt to progress his craft. Be it the sense of space captured in “One Thin Thread,” or the psych rock instrumental break and backing vocals in “Banking On Us,” Chris has refined his sound. For Chris it’s all about, “songs that resonate with people and that sound like something you’ve heard and something totally new.”

*Jellyfish Moon* was released on August 13th, 2022. Find the album on all major streaming platforms.

Second Sunday Jazz Concert

Cal Trio

October 9, 2:00 PM

Join us for an afternoon of live jazz featuring Cal Trio, a chamber jazz trio playing the rich compositions of guitarist Brian Cunningham. Joined by bassist Tom Anastasio and drummer Joel Litwin, the trio is emphatic in their playing, always supporting the lyrical and melodic creations. This concert is LIVE and FREE for all. Sponsored by the Anacortes Public Library Manieri Endowment.

at Buxton’s

Manieri Jazz Lecture Series

Syncopated Rhythm: Jazz and Dance

October 20, 2:00 PM

Explore the shared history of jazz and dance in this entertaining talk, featuring guided listening to classic recordings, photos, video clips, and lively discussion. Given by west coast based and nationally acclaimed jazz flugelhornist, historian, and educator Dmitri Matheny. This lecture is FREE for all. Sponsored by the Anacortes Public Library Manieri Endowment.

at the Anacortes Public Library

October Cover Artist

Clyde Peterson

On the cover this month we have artwork from Clyde Peterson of Guemes Island. Clyde is a Northwest artist, working in film, animation, music, installation, and fabulous spectacle. Find out more at: www.clydepetersen.com
Verse/Chorus/Verse

I Just Needed Some
Lyrics by Kellen Murphy

I used to wake up every morning and wish I hadn’t. 
And I’d drag my feet just far enough to shower.
I hardly ate any food at all, 
Either that or too much for me to feel okay.
I used to sit and exist for hours each day.
And I’d ignore my friends enough to wanna die.
I stopped doing all the things I loved, 
Except for music ‘cause it’s what kept me alive.

Then I went to a glowing bright field.
It was too hot for me to think.
But I saw you and I knew I had to yield.
I just needed some,

Love (It had been too damn long)
Comfort (It had been too damn long)
Love (I just needed some)
Oh won’t by my,
Won’t you be my brass princess?

I used to go on autopilot with my friends around,
‘Cause I didn’t know how to focus anymore.
And I felt as though the world blamed me for its problems,
Like I’d been shoved out the door.

Then I went one day to a glowing bright field.
It was too hot for me to think.
But I saw you and I knew I had to yield.
I just needed some.

Sponsor Spotlight:
Total Home Services

by Katie Williams

Meet AMP’s newest sponsor. Total Home Services is three men in a truck; Marcus Carr, Quinn K Thompson, and Rick Vance. They are a full-service, family-owned and operated landscape, pruning, irrigation and backflow preventer testing company. They pay attention to every detail. We caught up with Ricky to find out what inspires them to support AMP in the many ways they do.

Will you tell us about Total Home Services, and what you offer our community?
Total Home Services is a landscape, pruning, irrigation, and backflow testing company. We offer over 20 combined years of experience and we are personable, respectful, hardworking and family run.

What has been your experience as a business owner in Anacortes?
It’s been pretty good so far. There is a definite demand for our expertise in the landscaping field and we only hope to grow so we can help more of our neighbors.

I know the THS family has deep roots in music, can you share a little background?
Quinn K Thompson is our foreman, my father-in-law and resident badass bass player in Fanny Alger. I moonlight with him in Fanny Alger and was in a band of my own for 13 years called Heroes Among Thieves and later known as We Were Heroes. I’ve been able to tour most of the west/midwest states in the ol’ US of A. It was really an amazing time and something most people never get to experience and I’m forever grateful for it and for Tristen who let me pursue my dreams.

THS was a major donor for 2022 AMP Fest, can you tell us who or what encouraged you to be a sponsor?
We love this community and AMP is such a stalwart of it. What you all do is so amazing, most people from here probably don’t realize that the music scene we have here is totally not the norm in other towns. Without AMP and it’s continued push to bring music and community together we’d be just another average boring town, albeit with some amazing views.

Your family volunteers at every AMP festival, can you share what is rewarding about giving your time to help?
Myself personally I just love to see people smile and it’s pretty hard not to smile while enjoying some sweet tunes, amirite?? It also helps that the love of my life Tristen Vail and all of my brothers and sisters from different misters are board members.

Do you have any funny stories or experiences that have come along with being a local business owner?
Well we enjoy pranking Quinn on the job. One day my old co-worker Tampa Jeff hid in a yard waste bin and proceeded to jump out and terrify Quinn. Love ya Quinn.

Need some of what Total Home Services has to offer? Call them at 360-927-2613.
New Releases

from Desolation Sound:
Salish Rock

The eleven songs on this debut record are strongly influenced by living on an island in the beautiful San Juan archipelago, but we hope that the feelings we touched on are universal. Living on an island in the Pacific Northwest sets a mood and a mindset.

Released July 28, 2022

The band is made up of Friday Harbor locals; Scott Sluis on Drums and Vocals, Darvis Taylor on Bass and Vocals, Tom Henry on Lead Guitar, and Daniel Day on Lead Vocals and Rhythm Guitar. Produced by Adam Kasper and assisted by Jon Auer. Released on Robo Jack Records.

from Cumulus:
Something Brighter

Gratitude and the bittersweetness of learning from the past are in the undercurrent of every song on Something Brighter. What a beautiful thing to make mistakes and learn from them; to heal wounds, to love deeply, and to dance in your underwear. Despite being written and recorded during some of the scarriest and darkest of times, these songs unequivocally reach for the light.

Released October 21, 2022

Credit to William Cremin, Andrew Vait, Tom Fitzgibbon, and Sebastien Deramat. Cover artwork by Elizabeth Krause.

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Represent!

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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, Ricky and Tristan at Total Home Services, 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 October cover artist Clyde Peterson. Thank you to Laurie Racicot for editing and design. This October 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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