From Clarity Miller
AMP Vice President

April 2023

Spring is new life unfolding. Slumbering bulbs wake and push their way above the surface to bloom. Trees burst to life in vivid green. Symphonies of birds start up again. Skunk cabbage...is present.

Newness is what we’re celebrating at AMP — with the opening of our new space in the Buxton’s building and the launch of our camps and after school programs. It’s all new and it’s all happening, not just for our organization but for the community — the opportunities emerging are limitless. Learn an instrument, form a band, help with our events, take lessons, be a mentor. Bring something new into your life.

It is symbolic to me that a 125-year-old building will be teeming with sound, art, culture and excitement. This AMP space has been our dream for several years, and it’s finally blossomed.

So go outside, soak up some sunshine, dig in the dirt, smell some flowers (not the skunk cabbage), and then come down to Buxton’s and see what the future holds for you.

Love to you all,
Happy Birthday, The Business!

The Evolution of Our Local Record Store

This year The Business, an Anacortes institution and cultural hub, turns 45. It has always been a mecca for those seeking local music. Its current and former owners reflect on its birthday.

2010-Present

Happy Birthday, The Business. You are 45. It’s more than a little unusual for a store like this to be able to exist anywhere, let alone Anacortes. From humble beginnings to global acclaim, we are immensely pleased with how much our project has helped the independent music landscape. We’re not miracle workers, we’re not solving huge problems, but we are chipping away at the mechanisms that drive most people away from this work. We are humbled daily by the excitement that is palpable on someone when they stumble upon the shop or make a pilgrimage. I still get pumped up when any of our distro-/mailorder family has a new title we get to work on, and my favorite day of the week is when I get to sit down and pay a bunch of our friends and found family for their craft. It all seems really simple (though occasionally stressful and back-breaking for two people) to me still. I don’t have complicated answers when people ask how we do it. We just do. I wish to thank everyone who has supported this endeavor in my thirteen years at the helm, my partner in everything Evie without whom this project is nothing, and all of those who came before and are yet to come (unless I take this thing to my grave with me).

— Nick Rennis and Evie Opp
Current Owners

2005-2010

Growing up, The Business was integral to many of my fondest formative adolescent experiences. In my 20s, as the co-owner for nearly six years, it laid the foundation of my community engagement with the arts, housing, promoting peace and inclusivity, and as a fierce advocate for the restorative and stabilizing power of local entrepreneurship and creative hubs. I’m so proud to be a part of The Business’ history.

— Liz Lovelett
Former Owner

1988-2005

When I was a teenager in late-1970s Anacortes, one of the few places you could go to experience weird things was this store called The Business. When I went there, they had used books, they had used pianos, they had stained glass, they had birdseed, and they had photographs on the wall and a dark room and a bunch of cameras. It was like some countercultural dry goods store where I went to browse for books. And oftentimes, owner Glen Des Jardins would just give me the book that I wanted. It might be Kerouac’s On the Road or whatever I was picking up as a teenager. And he’d say, “for future consideration.” And little did I know a vision was formed that lured me into coming back to this store and working there. Initially, I was working in the darkroom, completing an independent contract at The Evergreen State College where I was researching family history through oral histories and photography.

I moved back to Anacortes after college. I was walking by the store one day to see about getting a job at the local newspaper and Glen said, “Well, why don’t you start a newspaper here.” The newspaper project never quite fit into the budget but I still kept on there and brought music in, started doing shows there. It was one of those rare places where old and young gathered. We put in a coffee shop, started having art shows, set up a recording studio in the back. A musical and artistic cross-pollination between Anacortes and Olympia friends naturally developed through endeavors under the Know-Yr-Own Records banner with friends at K Records. It became an epicenter for the community that would go on to tour the world while still rooted locally to ventures like Magic City, What the Heck Fest, and the Department of Safety. I really value all of the fun and enriching events that we got to host and watch and participate in.

— Bret Lunsford
Former Owner

1978-1998

I decided to do something on my own and open my own store — we sold anything for money. We were the Western Union agent. My former wife wanted to do stained glass and I had a ton of used books. I added the photography, cameras, film. I never really made any money. I let my employees write their own checks. One day I realized that I could rent the building for the same amount I was paying myself, so I told Bret that if he wanted to keep working there, he had to take over. I started the Business, I set the atmosphere, but Bret made it what it is, brought in the music.

— Glen Des Jardins
Founder

This year The Business, an Anacortes institution and cultural hub, turns 45. It has always been a mecca for those seeking local music. Its current and former owners reflect on its birthday.

Happy Birthday, The Business. You are 45. It’s more than a little unusual for a store like this to be able to exist anywhere, let alone Anacortes. From humble beginnings to global acclaim, we are immensely pleased with how much our project has helped the independent music landscape. We’re not miracle workers, we’re not solving huge problems, but we are chipping away at the mechanisms that drive most people away from this work. We are humbled daily by the excitement that is palpable on someone when they stumble upon the shop or make a pilgrimage. I still get pumped up when any of our distro-/mailorder family has a new title we get to work on, and my favorite day of the week is when I get to sit down and pay a bunch of our friends and found family for their craft. It all seems really simple (though occasionally stressful and back-breaking for two people) to me still. I don’t have complicated answers when people ask how we do it. We just do. I wish to thank everyone who has supported this endeavor in my thirteen years at the helm, my partner in everything Evie without whom this project is nothing, and all of those who came before and are yet to come (unless I take this thing to my grave with me).

— Nick Rennis and Evie Opp
Current Owners

Growing up, The Business was integral to many of my fondest formative adolescent experiences. In my 20s, as the co-owner for nearly six years, it laid the foundation of my community engagement with the arts, housing, promoting peace and inclusivity, and as a fierce advocate for the restorative and stabilizing power of local entrepreneurship and creative hubs. I’m so proud to be a part of The Business’ history.

— Liz Lovelett
Former Owner

When I was a teenager in late-1970s Anacortes, one of the few places you could go to experience weird things was this store called The Business. When I went there, they had used books, they had used pianos, they had stained glass, they had birdseed, and they had photographs on the wall and a dark room and a bunch of cameras. It was like some countercultural dry goods store where I went to browse for books. And oftentimes, owner Glen Des Jardins would just give me the book that I wanted. It might be Kerouac’s On the Road or whatever I was picking up as a teenager. And he’d say, “for future consideration.” And little did I know a vision was formed that lured me into coming back to this store and working there. Initially, I was working in the darkroom, completing an independent contract at The Evergreen State College where I was researching family history through oral histories and photography.

I moved back to Anacortes after college. I was walking by the store one day to see about getting a job at the local newspaper and Glen said, “Well, why don’t you start a newspaper here.” The newspaper project never quite fit into the budget but I still kept on there and brought music in, started doing shows there. It was one of those rare places where old and young gathered. We put in a coffee shop, started having art shows, set up a recording studio in the back. A musical and artistic cross-pollination between Anacortes and Olympia friends naturally developed through endeavors under the Know-Yr-Own Records banner with friends at K Records. It became an epicenter for the community that would go on to tour the world while still rooted locally to ventures like Magic City, What the Heck Fest, and the Department of Safety. I really value all of the fun and enriching events that we got to host and watch and participate in.

— Bret Lunsford
Former Owner

I decided to do something on my own and open my own store — we sold anything for money. We were the Western Union agent. My former wife wanted to do stained glass and I had a ton of used books. I added the photography, cameras, film. I never really made any money. I let my employees write their own checks. One day I realized that I could rent the building for the same amount I was paying myself, so I told Bret that if he wanted to keep working there, he had to take over. I started the Business, I set the atmosphere, but Bret made it what it is, brought in the music.

— Glen Des Jardins
Founder
Volunteers Show Up with Enthusiasm to Support Local Music

by Katie Williams

AMP’s Community night on Tuesday, March 28th was a huge success! The house was filled to the brim with volunteers, musicians, and supporters who came together full-force, cheering on the board members who spoke passionately about AMP’s inspiring new space at Buxton’s.

It was rewarding to see our attendees of all-ages wander upstairs and take in the beauty of this cultural hub and get to see the place where musicians and music enthusiasts can come together to create, collaborate and connect. Classes and camps are starting and can be found at anacortesmusicproject.org.

Couldn’t make the meeting but still want to get involved? It’s never too late! You can stop by our new space at Buxton’s, email us, or give us a call.

info@anacortesmusicproject.org.
(360) 726-3076

Volunteers Show Up with Enthusiasm to Support Local Music

New Music from Your Heart Breaks

In the summer of 2022, the Your Heart Breaks studio band, made up of Clyde Petersen, Eli Moore and Ashley Eriksson from the band LAKE, and Katherine Paul from Black Belt Eagle Scout, gathered at the Unknown Studio in Anacortes, Washington with producer Nicholas Wilbur to record the songs that would eventually become The Wrack Line.

Your Heart Breaks is the indie-pop vision of Pacific Northwest musician, artist, and filmmaker Clyde Petersen. Love, friendship, late-night adventures, obscure films and literature, queer identity and self-conceptualization come up often in Petersen’s work.

On planet Earth, the wrack line is a collection of organic material and debris left behind on the shore after a high tide. Walking the wrack you’ll find kelp, seagrass, shells, driftwood, dead sea creatures, agates, remnants of humanity and, once in a while, secret treasures thrown overboard from a container ship caught in a storm. Clyde Petersen’s The Wrack Line holds true to this natural phenomenon — a summation of the past few years, a lifetime of friendships, feelings and memories, broken free of a gyre and left upon the artists’ shoreline.

The Wrack Line will be out July 7th via Kill Rock Stars. In the mean time, Petersen has shared the single “Wesley Crusher,” featuring Kimya Dawson, complete with accompanying music video. You can find them on Bandcamp.

“Anacortes Music Project in its new space (shared with ACT and Fidalgo DanceWorks) is the kind of place where dreams aren’t just born, they are nurtured and launched. As I toured the ideally delineated spaces decorated with care and flair for the comfort and inspiration of creative young people (and artists of every age), I was overwhelmed with gratitude for the individual and collective efforts that created this gift for our community. What an absolute honor and pleasure to witness this labor of love coming to fruition. My son is looking forward to after school programs and summer camps where he can explore his own artistic expression in a space created and safeguarded by those who recognize and celebrate the power of music to transform an afternoon, a kid’s high school years, a small seaside town, or even the world.”

— Rachel Macmoran
Community Night Attendee
**Live Music Calendar**

**APRIL 2023**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Performer/Event Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6:00PM</td>
<td>Farmstrong Brewing Co.</td>
<td>Britanny Collins, Mike Frazier &amp; Kate Dinsmore Americana All Ages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Did we miss your event?**

We do our best to publish all Anacortes music shows! You can help us out by sending information about your upcoming event. Email details to theshowchime@gmail.com, by the 20th of each month.

**MANIERI ENDOWMENT**

**Ringing the Bell for Anacortes Music /// Brought to you by Anacortes Music Project**
A Luminary Tradition

Earth Day Luminary Light Parade Kicks Off a Season of Events and Community at the Guemes Island General Store

by Karen Everett

Mark your calendar for a night of enchantment — Saturday, April 22nd at the Guemes Island General Store (GIGS). It’s a FREE community event celebrating Earth Day and features the 5th Annual Earth Day Luminary Light Parade. This event launches the start of the summer outdoor music scene at GIGS, spotlighting two bands, Tapwater & Brasscadia.

The Earth Day Luminary Light Parade is produced by Guemes artist Loalynda Bird and her Paper Birds Studio. On the parade route, participants hold glowing hand-sculpted creatures attached to long bamboo poles (harvested on Guemes). The majority of these creations were made on Guemes at Bird’s South Shore Road studio. The artful creatures “shine light on endangered species,” according to Bird. The march of lights has grown from around 100 people to more than 300 people in the past five years. This is one of the events that really highlights the social fabric of our Skagit County community. The artistry of the glowing lights reflecting along the water is a sight to behold.

Start the night at 5:30 pm with Tapwater, a Portland-based band that’s hugely popular at the store. Lead Rudy Slizewski, with his bluesy rock, sometimes arrives in a conga line and later ends with the audience doing the conga line! Brasscadia will then join Tapwater at 8:15 pm to begin gathering the celebrants to lead the parade with their jazzy brass instruments, in New Orleans/ Dixie marching band style.

For tickets and the summer music schedule, go to guemesislandgeneralstore.com.
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 with a unique Anacortes connection. This month we have lyrics from Daniel Day of the band Desolution Sound:

“Why does one choose to create art? Where do songs come from? What does it mean to be a creative? I do not know the answers to any of these questions. Not really.

I have noticed that some of the best art is made by people who don’t think they know what they are doing. Maybe they never took any formal lessons, or didn’t study in a conventional way. They approach their craft with the wonder of a child, not thinking that what they are creating will ever be seen by anyone.

The song is actually autobiographical, but I wanted to hide my own insecurities I suppose. So I changed the art form from songwriting to painting, and I changed the main character from me to the woman in her apartment with the paintbrushes and canvases on the floor.

I think it makes for a more interesting song in this context, the imagery more universal. It would be a gift to retain our sense of wonder and excitement like the artist in the story, and I sincerely hope that you see a little bit of yourself in the painter. After all aren’t we all artists?

I think so, I believe you are an artist, just waiting to be seen.”

The Artist
by Daniel Day

She never said she was an artist
Paintings stretched across the floor
Losing herself inside a creation
A key that opened up a door
She don’t know what she’s doing
Don’t know what she’s trying to say
There’s a world outside her window
It’s here that she can find a way
Will it be seen?

Didn’t try to fit in high school
Never really wished she did
Time moves on she’s getting older
She still feels just like a kid
She still don’t know what she’s doing
Don’t know what she’s trying to say
She opens the window to her apartment
A new work dries by the light of the day
Will it be seen?

She never said she was an artist
But you’ll still find her on her floor
She always knew what she was doing
She always had so much to say
There’s a world inside a painting
It’s here that she has found her way
Will it be seen?

From April Cover Artist
Cameron McCool

by Laurie Racicot

Our cover artist this month grew up in Anacortes, shaped by small-town arts programs and the creative influences of the Department of Safety. With a love of mark-making, a reverent spirit, and the human form as his primary subject, Cameron creates work that is alive and full of emotion. I spoke with him about his process and experiences as an artist.

Tell us a little bit about yourself as an artist.

I’m an observer of light and a student of human anatomy. Drawing has always been a huge part of my life, creating a powerful and solitary bridge to the world and from introverted emotions. The human figure plays a central role in the creative process as my artistic language, with the body’s ability to represent the human experience, all of its passions and tragedies and confusion, and reflect so much of that across the arrangement of a beautiful pose.

Since I started teaching and leading life drawing in recent years, my work has steered more and more towards pure observation, taking in and observing the patterning and behavior of light. There’s a lively feel to light – its predictability and playfulness across a pose and textures in a room. It’s like liquid noise that can be steered across a piece of paper or canvas with flowing crescendos to astound the eyes.

What is your connection to Anacortes?

I grew up in Anacortes and was enrolled in many of the small after-school art programs during my elementary years. I graduated from AHS in 2005 and studied Visual Arts at UW before moving to New York to continue with my art studies in 2010. In 2018, I moved to Boston, where I taught at the Museum of Fine Arts and ran a large life drawing group until the pandemic hit. With everything shut down I finally made the call to move back home to family and nature in 2021.

I hear you are an Art Battle Champion! How did you get into competing with art?

Art Battle is a very fun competition of speed painting that’s been taking place all around the world. It’s composed of multiple rounds of artists completing a work on canvas (anything they like), from start to finish, in 20 minutes flat. It’s exciting to watch the pieces seem to bloom before your very eyes in a flurry of action, and even more of a rush to participate in it. I first stumbled onto it in Brooklyn around 2017 and competed several times in New York, making many wonderful artist friends along the way. Tell us about this piece on the cover.

The piece on the cover is a 30x40” acrylic on canvas that I painted in 30 minutes for the final round to win nationals last year in Texas. I prefer to work larger-than-life, as there’s something stirring that happens when you approach a larger-than-human figure in an image. I wanted a composition that would draw upon the viewers’ emotions however they chose to interpret the figures.

Does music play into your creative process?

Absolutely. There’s a tempo to both the execution and the angular flow when drawing or painting. I would say much of my work has been a long collaboration with Radiohead, Nine Inch Nails, and Sigur Ros (to name a few). The mood has a strong effect on the subconscious while working, taking me to a realm without words and only emotion guiding the figures and composition as it emerges.

Do you have a special connection with the Anacortes music scene?

I was lucky enough to experience the D.O.S. (Department of Safety) holding regular music events and creating that dreamlike and inspiring atmosphere for my high school years. Most of my friends were musically-oriented, and I’d sometimes find myself sitting in the corner of a garage with my sketchbook while The Lonely Forest or The Oregon Donor were rehearsing. Good times.

You can see Cameron’s work on display this month at Pelican Bay Books, follow him on Instagram @yamchops, or check out his website at McCoolArt.com. He’ll be competing at this year’s Art Battle Nationals on April 1st in Daytona, Florida.
April 2023
Manieri Jazz Events

Swing Dances for Everyone
Skagit Swings
Saturday, April 15, 7:00-9:00 PM
The Manieri Endowment presents Swing Dances for Everyone. Put on your dancing shoes and dance the night away with Skagit Swings All Star Big Band. This dance is LIVE and FREE for all.
Live at the Anacortes Senior Activity Center

Manieri Second Sunday Jazz
Trío Sueño
Sunday, April 16, 2:00 PM
Trío Sueño is an instrumental jazz flamenco group featuring BJ Block on acoustic guitar, Tom Anastasio on bass, and Steve Jones on cajón and bongo. Their unique fusion of jazz and flamenco is reminiscent of the styles of Paco de Lucía, Al Di Meola, Ottmar Liebert, Jesse Cook & Gypsy Kings. This show is LIVE and FREE for all.
Live at the Anacortes Public Library

Manieri Jazz Lecture Series
John Gilbreath
Thursday, April 20, 7:00 PM
Seattle’s Earshot Jazz Festival has been hailed by DownBeat magazine as the region’s “most important annual jazz event,” and is respected for the broad scope and adventurous spirit of its programming. Earshot’s longtime executive director, John Gilbreath, will give a free, audio and video overview of recent Earshot programming and a listen to some of the exciting emerging artists on today’s scene. This lecture is FREE for all.
Live at the Anacortes Public Library

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: Heather Stanek, EJ Toohey, Don Bird, Paul Sherman, Henry Rose, Peter Delaney, Victoria McNeil, Sarah Sibley, Derek Eisler, James and Martha Harper, Steve and Stella Clarke, Patti Pattee, Eric Hinton, Jessica Redman, Brenda Treadwell, Jenn White, Camille 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 Farnstrom Brewing Company, Rick Star at Rockfish Bar and Grill, Barrett Community Caring Project, Ricky and Tristen 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 April cover artist, Cameron McCool. Thank you to Laurie Pacicot for editing and design. This April 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.

Share the Local Music Love!

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.