From Steve Clarke  
AMP Volunteer  

August 2023:

Don’t get me wrong – I have nothing against playing air guitar. But after doing it for a while, kids should have the opportunity to try playing the real thing, making their own sounds on the real McCoy.

When I was a teenager the only chance we got to play on a decent guitar was at a music store, where the owner would invariably ask us after a few minutes whether we intended to buy. The fact we only had loose change in our pockets meant our foray into rock stardom was over.

Those memories go through my head when I volunteer at Buxton’s on Fridays, listening as local teens get better week by week, not just at coordinating their fingers and voices, but also listening to each other and forming a cohesive sound. They work together in the afternoons during open AMP hours and then take turns at AMP’s weekly open mics, where their friends and other Anacortesians can hear them sing and play. Some students have gone on to open at weekend shows at Buxton’s and the applause they get there is both authentic and well-deserved.

When I was the age these kids are, sure we saved up and bought an instrument here and an amp there, but we had no place to put it all together and take it to the next level. That involves putting in hours of rehearsal, learning how to operate sound systems from experts, and then playing in front of an appreciative crowd.

As a lot of you know, today’s AMP is not inventing the strong and supportive music scene that’s alive here now. Today’s iteration owes much to the scene at the Department of Safety that was home to young musicians in the early 2000s and continues to inspire. It’s a great feeling for me to volunteer at Buxton’s and donate to today’s AMP and realize that the kids now developing their chops are likely to be standing in my shoes in the future, doing what they can to help the next generation catch the bug that is local music.

May the bands play on...

Table of Contents

AMP Camp 2023  3
Building Musical Community

Meet the Band  5
King’s Aces

August Live Music Calendar  7

August Cover Artist  9
Yma Lovelett

Happening at the AMP Space  10
AMP Camp, Strings, Open Jam

Verse Chorus Verse  11
Karl Blau

Shipwreck Music Fest  12
An Anacortes Tradition

New Releases  13
Opal Eskar, Kaisson, Desolation Sound

A Heartfelt Thanks  14
AMP CAMP 2023: Building Musical Community

AMP Camp is back for 2023 with two week-long sessions full of fun and educational activities, workshops, and lessons — including workshops by AMP staff and hometown heroes like The Lonely Forest and Karl Blau. These include lessons on songwriting, stage presence, and also classes on dealing with mistakes and how to overcome hurdles in writing and performance.

According to lead instructor Pearl Tottenham, “The Best part of AMP camp isn’t even the music, it’s seeing all of these kids connecting and building community with each other.” Students will form bands, rigorously learn, and practice instrumental technique while working on writing original music to perform at the end of camp.

AMP Camp Instructors and Volunteers

PEARL TOTTENHAM
Child of the Anacortes music scene, veteran of Rain City Rock Camp, and accomplished singer-songwriter and DIY recording artist. Pearl created our camp curriculum and is a lead instructor.

TOM SAVAGE
Passionate about bringing music to kids, Tom teaches music year-round and is an active gigging musician. He brings his deep understanding of guitar, keys, and vocals to the lead instructor role.

TUSCAN HARPER
Self-taught piano virtuoso, graduate of AHS choir and jazz programs, and Music major at WWU, Tuscan will be assisting students with keyboard instruction and band mentoring.

KARL BLAU
AMP founder, accomplished independent musician, and world-touring artist, Karl has returned from Philadelphia to be a leader in all things AMP Camp. He brings his boundaryless creativity.

KATHY MOORE
Recently moved to Anacortes from Seattle, Kathy is a guitar shredder who fronts several rock bands and teaches guitar, piano, and voice lessons. She will be teaching guitar and mentoring bands.

BRIAN TOTTENHAM
A fixture in the Anacortes music scene, bassist and guitarist, and current AMP president, Brian brings his commitment to community, culture, and belonging to his work at AMP Camp.

SOMMER CARTER
Heartful singer-songwriter, vibrant performer, and former AMP president. Sommer is committed to AMP’s ethos of all-ages musical participation. Sommer is a workshop leader and a band mentor.

KATIE WILLIAMS
AMP Camp Director, year-round programs director, and director of all things magical and organizational at Buxton’s. Katie holds the whole AMP Camp experience together.

DOUG CASSIDY
A life-long fixture in the Anacortes music scene, Doug is an active musician and is AMP’s primary sound engineer. He brings his expertise in sound engineering and bass instruction to camp.

GABE SODL
Freshman at WWU, former AMP Camp student, and leader of multiple local bands, Gabe brings a deep patience and love of music. He is assisting as a band mentor and guitar and bass teacher.

HUCKLEBERRY KIDD
An AHS alum, drum-line leader, and bass player for beloved local bands, Huck is passionate about engaging kids in music. He is a lead bass and guitar instructor and band mentor at camp.

ANDY BROWN
Multi-instrumentalist and backbone of multiple successful bands throughout Skagit Valley, Andy brings decades of rock band experience. He is our lead instructor and a band mentor.

KATIE WILLIAMS
AMP Camp Director, year-round programs director, and director of all things magical and organizational at Buxton’s. Katie holds the whole AMP Camp experience together.

JADON VAN ZANDEN
Since AMP opened its doors, Jaydon has not left. An AHS student, wicked drummer, and passionate performer, he hosts AMP’s weekly open mic. He is assisting in sound tech and instrument instruction.

PAUL TAPPA
An accomplished decades-long player of the keys and recent enthusiastic addition to the AMP family, Paul is a patient and insightful teacher. He is our lead keyboard instructor and a band mentor.
by Rick Vance

In this month’s Meet the Band we have an energetic, dynamic and soulful four piece band called The King’s Aces hailing from the almighty Marysville Washington. They will be hitting the stage this labor day weekend at our beloved AMPFest! I caught up with the guys to get a bit of information on them before they hit the stage.

First let’s get a little introduction and tell me how long you’ve all been playing together.

The King’s Aces is a rock band formed in 2020 in Marysville, WA. We are a traditional 4-piece band with two guitars, vocals, bass and drums. We started this project as an outlet to bring original ideas to the table and turn our feelings and emotions into wholesome music. This has been the staple in our musical catalog, as we have all played covers and miss the originality.

As a band who would you say you guys take inspiration from for your sound?

The Foo Fighters and Alice in Chains with a little bit of Blink 182 thrown in there.

Will AMPFest be your first time playing in Anacortes, if so what do you want folks to know about you before you hit that stage?

This will be our first time playing in Anacortes, however our guitarist Pat and drummer Graham grew up in Anacortes and were involved in local music through the school district band program, as well as outside in rock bands. I’m Keith Wlita, lead vocals and rhythm guitar. I met Pat Moody, lead guitar and backup vocals, back in 2014 when I filled in on bass in a project he was in. When that was over we stayed in touch and eventually put this project together with Thomas Calderwood, bass guitar and backup vocals, whom I head met at an old job we both had years back, maybe 2013. We added Graham Thompson on drums, whom Pat knew from being involved in Anacortes music. Our first album dropped on the 21st of July. It’s eight all-original songs that we have spent the last three years dialing in.

Are you guys gearheads, what are you all playing? If you could afford any instrument, or rig what would it be and why?

We definitely all have our quirks. I feel like I currently have the rig I would have dreamed about as a kid. I now have it, which is a Peavey Valve King 100 with a 4x12 cab that I have swapped the speakers out of. Thomas likes digital rigs due to their ease of use. He plays an Ibanez Egodyne four string bass.

Graham is most definitely a gear head and has created his beat lab which is a haven for electronic music and solo looping fun. He never thought he would have something so cool. The thing is packed full of synths, guitars, amps, drum machines, drums, loopers, effects and of course lights, fog and lasers. He drums on a 7-piece Gretsch Maples with Samsun cymbals and a Trick Brass Snare which resides in Pats recording studio.

Pat has a professional grade recording studio at his house that is loaded with gear. This is also where we recorded our album. He runs a stereo rig through a fender hotrod deluxe and a Marshall JCM 2000 with four 12 inch speakers. Multiple rooms and isolated amps/ drums and vocals make this a dream studio to record in, as well as rehearse. Individualized in ear mixes allow us to hear exactly what each member wants.

What was it that made you all want to pick up instruments and get involved in the scene?

We all got into music in general at young ages and eventually decided to see how far that would take us. The fact that the four of us work so well together is a huge bonus.

It says you all are based out of Seattle, what’s your favorite venue? Back in the day it was the El Corazon for me.

We haven’t played enough shows to say from an artist’s perspective but we really love seeing shows at the Showbox Market, Crocodile, and Neumos.

How is the Seattle scene these days?

It has changed for sure, it’s easy to find a tribute band coming out but original artists are becoming harder and harder to find.

Love the band name, real question is how are you all at poker? Got some card sharks in the band or what?

We all play a little, but definitely not sharks in any way, shape, or form.

See The King’s Aces live at AMPFest on September 2nd!
Main Stage at the Anacortes Arts Fest
Anacortes Music Project and Anacortes Arts Festival present local music all weekend long! Come see your favorite local musicians at the Arts Festival!

Friday, August 4
11:00 am  Fidalgo Danceworks
11:45 am  Tom Buenger
1:30 pm  Desolation Sound
5:30 pm  Geoffrey Castle

Saturday, August 5
11:00 am  Gavin Leo
2:30 pm  Global Heat
4:40 pm  Beatdown Saints
6:30 pm  Mama Dirty Skirt

Sunday, August 6
11:30 am  Marcia Kester
1:30 pm  Kelly & Joe
3:30 pm  Stilly River Lockdown

FREE and all welcome.

Main Stage at 3rd & Commercial

AMP Stage at the Anacortes Arts Fest
Anacortes Music Project and Anacortes Arts Festival present local music all weekend long! Come see your favorite local musicians at the Arts Festival!

Friday, August 4
12:00 pm  720 String Band
1:30 pm  Pearl Tottenham Band
3:00 pm  John Van Deusen Band
4:30 pm  Karl Blau Band

Saturday, August 5
12:00 am  Mann Road
1:30 pm  Collins Beach
3:00 pm  Fanny Alger
4:30 pm  Kathy Moore Power Trio

Sunday, August 6
12:00 pm  The Combo
1:30 pm  Jacob Navarro
3:00 pm  Savage Blues Band
4:30 pm  Ebb, Slack, and Flood

FREE and all welcome.

Port Stage on the dock at north end of Commercial

AUGUST 2023 Live Music Calendar
Ringing the Bell for Anacortes Music /// Brought to you by Anacortes Music Project

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<th>Tues, August 1</th>
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<td>Singer Songwriter  All Ages</td>
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<td>Chill DeVille</td>
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<td>Anacortes Farmers Market</td>
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Who are your inspirations for making art?
I don’t exactly have inspiration, but one of my favorite artists is Yoshitomo Nara! Some artists in my life who inspire me are Luuk Honey for his portraits and Geneviève Castrière for her beautiful graphic novels that she used to make.

How about music? Do you listen to music while you draw?
Yes, I usually do. :) My favorite artist is the Microphones! But right now I have to listen to an audiobook of Huckleberry Finn for a summer reading project.

What is your favorite thing you’ve ever drawn?
Oh man, it’s hard to pick a favorite. Usually, my favorite art that I make is the projects I make in Dellutri’s class, the art teacher at the high school.

How does it feel to have your octopus drawing printed on t-shirts and worn by people around town?
It definitely feels strange! Seeing a lot of my friends wearing AMP shirts with my design on it is weird.

Such a fabulous design though! One last question. Other than drawing and listening to Huckleberry Finn, what have you been up to this summer?
Well, my birthday was a couple weeks ago and my family and I are planning to go to Wild Waves later this week!

Happy birthday to you! And thank you for sharing your art with us! 😊

Get your 2023 AMP t-shirt at any AMP event or get one at the AMP Space at Buxton’s during our Open Hours!

From August Cover Artist Yma Lovelett

by Laurie Racicot

Our cover artist this month was born and raised in Anacortes and will be a junior at Anacortes High School in the fall. At the age of sixteen, her work has already graced the cover of Show Chime twice. When she’s not drawing she enjoys playing her electric guitar. Yma created the piece on the cover to be the artwork for our 2023 AMP t-shirts so keep an eye out for it around town! We chatted over text about her drawing process and her inspirations.

Is drawing the type of art you do most? What other mediums do you like to work in?
Yes! I mostly sketch and do digital art, but I hope to improve my painting skills.

Oh cool! Tell me about your digital art.
Well, I usually make art of people in shows or original characters. I use an iPad and an Apple Pencil to draw. The art program is called Procreate. My process is creating a rough sketch, and then a sketch, and then I do line art, and then I color it. The great thing about digital art is you can have different levels of the art on separate layers, so when you no longer need the sketch you first made, you can delete the sketch layer and be left with line art. If that makes sense.

It does! How did you get into digital drawing? And when did you start making art?
Heavily influenced by art YouTubers at that age and really wanted to try making art on a computer.

Was it hard to transition from drawing on paper to drawing on a tablet?
Yes, I remember having a very difficult time figuring out how to use all of the brushes and the layers.

Happening at the AMP Space in August!

AMP Overture Strings Program
July 31st-Aug 4th  9:00 am - noon
Participants will choose violin, viola, or cello as their focus and will experience the fun of making music with their friends as they learn the basics of performing as an ensemble!

Regular AMP programming is on hold to accommodate summer music camps. AMP Space Open Hours will resume on August 14th and Beginner Open Jam will resume on August 18th. Songwriting Circle and Toddler Sing-along programs will resume in September.

AMP Camp Session Two
Aug 7th-11th  10:00 am - 4:00 pm
A week-long excursion into playing as a band, making friends, building confidence, exercising inclusivity, expanding creativity and learning how to rock! This camp is designed for ages 12-18 and all levels of experience are welcome.

Kaisson Album Release Live at Buxton’s
August 1st, 9:00-11:00 pm
$10.00 admission at the door
No entry under 17

Call for Workshop Leaders!
Do you have interest in leading a music related workshop? Please reach out to us at info@anacortesmusicproject.org and tell us about your ideas!

Private Music Lessons
The AMP Space is now available for hosting private music lessons! We have a growing number of talented instructors ready to help you hone your skills. See our website for more details! anacortesmusicproject.org
Verse/Chorus/Verse

A Song About Songs
by Karl Blau

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 Karl Blau, who is back in Anacortes this month to be an instructor at AMP Camp. In Karl’s words:

“Here are some lyrics I’ve written on this trip staying in Anacortes. It’s a song about songs.”

Music is for me
Music is for all
Through music I have a voice
when I am feeling small
A song can ground me
When my head is swirling
A lyric with a sound starts to peel back
a great unfurling

I’ve got a funny feeling
When I’m walking a trail
I’m syncopated with my breath
My heart, my steps
And it gets proggy on the slopes
I have so many songs I have yet to meet
And so many folks

My trail has boundaries
For my own good
But I enjoy the swerving
As much as I may
Any kernel can pop a song
A little heat and a bit of time
I watch the words
Like dunlin turn
And flash some meaning in their play

Shipwreck Music Fest
An Anacortes Tradition

by Hazel Rain

Shipwreck Day means two things in Anacortes: the massive downtown junk sale and Shipwreck Music Fest, the all-day music festival at Causland Park. The Fidalgo Island Rotary Club hosted an amazing Shipwreck Festival this year with over 200 booths selling their secondhand wares. The sale began 40 years ago with commercial fishermen selling their used gear on Commercial Avenue.

Over the years, several music festivals have co-existed with the sale on the third Saturday in July: What the Heck? Fest, The Unknown Music Festival, and AMP’s Shipwreck Music Fest.

This year’s festival, hosted by AMP and organized by Clarity Miller, had many wonderful performances, such as Fanny Alger with their energetic set (who could forget “Mert’s Taxi”?) and AMP’s own Pearl Tottenham, who gracefully filled in at the last minute for Enduro with beautifully honest songs.

Mount-Vernon based punk band UR GRLS played their first Anacortes show and blew everyone away with their poppy punk. The park was full of people enjoying and dancing to sets by Karl Blau, The Gift Machine, Sword Fearn, and The Combo.

As someone outside of Anacortes, it was incredible to show up to this magical event I had never heard of until the day before and see such a close community where everyone is familiar with each other and people want to involve themselves in music in all the ways that they can.

Shipwreck Music Fest will be back next summer! Show Chime will share all the essentials when the time comes, and the beautiful live music in Anacortes will continue all year long.

If your band is interested in playing, please contact Clarity Miller at info@anacortesmusicproject.org.
New Releases

from Opal Eskar:

**Opal Eskar EP**

Opal Eskar is the latest convergence of some of Philadelphia’s busiest indie musicians. Their first release captures the blissful sound of a group of musicians with their own thing going on, but whose mutual respect for each other’s work inspires a creative curiosity that makes it to tape (yes, the EP is an analog recording!)

Released May 19, 2023

Opal Eskar is Karl Blau, Heyward Howkins, Chet Delcampo, Charlie Hall, and Robbie Bennett. Released via Spiral Valley Records.

from Kaisson:

**Ghost Best Friend**

A critique of celebrity gossip culture and the morality of breakup albums as a whole, exploring parasocial relationships and the question “What if Taylor Swift wrote a breakup song about somebody you actually know?”

Releases August 1, 2023

Kaisson is Riley Thomas. Featuring vocal interludes from Amanda Celine Miller and Dan Avidan with Kellen Murphy on bass for one song. Special thanks to Mason Bakke and the Young Hunks. Art by Gabriel Burnett.

from Desolation Sound:

**Silver Rain**

The message of this record is that purity can still exist is an environment of filth, love can exist in an environment filled with fear and hatred. That even in this insane world one can still find truth and beauty among the chaos.

Releases August 10, 2023


Monthly Amplifiers:

- Neil Racicot
- Patti Pattee
- Clay Chrisiofferson
- Eric Mithen
- Justin Williams
- Tracy Rogers Thompson
- Paul Sherman
- Beth Bell
- Jenny Heltzner
- Don Bird
- Paul Sherman
- Henry Rose
- Peter Delaney
- Jessica Redman
- Brenda Treadwell
- Jenn White
- Camie Velin
- Lisa Jackson
- Jensen Lovellet
- Meyhoff Family
- Sodl Family
- Perschbacher Family
- Chris Terrell
- Andy Stewart

Partner Organizations:

- Anacortes Arts Festival
- Fidalgo Dance Works
- Anacortes Community Theater
- Rick Epting Foundation for the Arts
- Manieri Jazz Endowment
- Burn the Box Creative Washington State Arts Commission

Major Donors:

- Anacortes Rotary Club
- Barrett Community Caring Project
- Darren & Jennifer Lewis
- Woolsey Family Foundation

Show Chime Business Sponsors:

- Guemes Island General Store
- The Red Snapper
- The Brown Lantern
- Farmstrong Brewing Company
- Barrett Community Caring Project
- Total Home Services
- Anacortes Food Coop

One-time Donors:

- Jeremiah Harju
- Victoria McNeill
- Steve & Stella Clarke
- Patti Pattee
- Eric Hinton
- John & Diane Guynn
- Jonathan Cargill
- Joan & Keith Magee
- Karla Williams (in memory of Jenny Heltzner)

Instrument Library Donors and Volunteers:

- Daddy Treetop
- Mark Croft
- Mark Reilly
- Anacortes Harmonaire’s Cassie Henry
- Brent Stavig
- Brian Tottenham
- Kenny Holzinger
- Sarah Wright
- Tom Skinner
- Don Bird
- Brian Hanrahan
- Treva King
- Kathy Moore
- Brian Gagliardi
- Maryn Johnson
- Randy Weeks
- Jadon Van Zanden
- Aaron Howle
- Ben Goe
- Paul Tappa
- Bob Richardson
- Rick Epting Foundation for the Arts

Shipwreck Music Fest Volunteers:

- Lulu Gee
- Popy Blau
- Becca Hyman
- Jeremiah Harju
- Patti Pattee
- Annette Woolsey
- Lois Cassidy
- Camie Velin
- Jeff Elliott
- Ava Martin
- Emma McIntyre-Roth
- Rosie Cayou and her team

AMP Camp Team:

- Katie Williams
- Pearl Tottenham
- Karl Blau
- Tom Savage
- Kathy Moore
- Brian Tottenham
- Sommer Carter
- Tuscan Harper
- Jadon Van Zanden
- Andy Brown
- Huckleberry Kidd
- Doug Cassidy
- Gabe Sodl
- Paul Tappa

Show Chime Team:

- Laurie Racicot
- Rick Vance
- Steve Clarke
- Dave White
- Nicole Conti-Anderson
- Yma Lovelett
- Sommer Carter
- Clarity Miller
- Katie Williams
- Hazel Rain
- Gabe Sodl
- Karl Blau
- How It Works

August Show Chime Team:

- Laurie Racicot
- Rick Vance
- Steve Clarke
- Dave White
- Nicole Conti-Anderson
- Yma Lovelett
- Sommer Carter
- Clarity Miller
- Katie Williams
- Hazel Rain
- Gabe Sodl
- Karl Blau
- How It Works

Thank You for Your Support of Local Music

Here at AMP we have big plans for the future. In addition to the promotion, publication, and distribution of the Show Chime music zine, 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. Your support amplifies the music and musicians of Anacortes.

Go to [anacortesmusicproject.org](http://anacortesmusicproject.org) and click on the sponsorship button.

Become an Amplifier!

Becoming a monthly donor is easy! 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 keep our doors open!

Stay in Anacortes

Coming to Anacortes for a show? Stay the night! We are supported in part through Lodging Tax grants and every stay contributes to that. Check out the range of options at [Anacortes.org/stay](http://Anacortes.org/stay)

Get in Touch!

Do you want to be part of the fabulous Show Chime team? Show Chime only happens because of people like you. We would love to hear from you! [theshowchime@gmail.com](mailto:theshowchime@gmail.com)

Are you interested in getting involved with AMP Space programs and events? Email us for opportunities! [info@anacortesmusicproject.org](mailto:info@anacortesmusicproject.org)
HOW IT WORKS