February 2023

February is finally here! Get in your mountain time before the weather changes and get rested up as this is going to be an amazing year to be a part of the AMP community!

For the last six years, AMP has been proud to bring to Anacortes many different events to support the music and musicians of our town. From opportunities for those who want to learn about music — like AMP Camp and the AMP Instrument Lending Library — to events to enjoy music — like AMP Fest, Punk Prom, Yule Bazaar, and Shipwreck Music Fest — we work hard and appreciate your support.

This year, as you will read inside, a dream is coming together — the long envisioned AMP physical location is close to reality. It will only take a little from all of our supporters, supporters like YOU, to help push it over the finish line!!

Help us however you can, donations of time, money, energy, well wishes, and smiles are all welcomed. More hands make less work and more music makes happier communities. Be a part of AMP in whatever way works for you.

Sign up for email updates at AnacortesMusicProject.org today. And tell all your friends!
Rock the Island 2023
Six High School Bands Show their Fire in Annual Battle-of-the-Bands Tradition

On Friday night, January 27, the line to get into Brodniak Hall stretched out the door and all the way to the street. Inside the hall, the energy was electric — the air filled with music and the aisles filled with people dancing. Rock the Island, an AHS tradition, was in full swing with six bands gracing the stage with energetic live performances.

The show this year was hosted by Kayla Strandberg and Grace Johnston and broadcast live by the AHS Broadcasting Club. The panel of judges, consisting of Todd Young, Alexandra Lockhart, Nick Rennis, and Evie Opp, were supportive and enthusiastic. They showed their appreciation for the many original songs and unique cover arrangements. They recognized the skills of each band in playing together as a group and also praised the strengths of individual musicians.

The winner this year, as chosen by the judges, was Floodlights and Fools, who wowed the room by opening their set with an original song that was technically and creatively spectacular. Their great stage presence and matching outfits didn’t hurt either. Metanoia was chosen as the audience favorite and Fully Funktioning was the runner-up in both categories. Keep an eye on Show Chime for and interview with the winners and see them live on stage at AMP Fest in the fall.

2023 Rock the Island Bands

JUDGES’ CHOICE WINNER
Floodlights and Fools
Floodlights and Fools is an indie-rock band, heavily influenced by The Lonely Forest and Car Seat Headrest. The group was born out of an impromptu improvisation session with AHS Band members Ashlyn Solowey, Kellen Murphy, Gibson Groenig, Zachary Weaver, and Darren Bunker. They are excited to take part in the tranquility of the music world.

AUDIENCE FAVORITE
Metanoia
Kendal Spurgeon, Hailey Claridge, and Kellen Murphy are an alternative rock band under the name Metanoia. They are presenting an acoustic set this year, including songs you’ve heard with a mellow, acoustic twist.

JUDGES & AUDIENCE RUNNER-UP
Fully Funktioning
Sometimes known as “The Combo,” Isaac, Kellen, and Wolfie got their start as the instrumental section of AHS Jazz Choir. Joined by featured guests Lucy Price on vocals and Sean Dyer on trumpet, they seek to expand beyond their jazz roots in newly formed fusion band Fully Funktioning.

67 Seconds to Breathe
With Garrett Hull on vocals, Jonah Jeter on guitar, Isaac Briefer on keyboards, and Kellen Murphy on drums, 67 Seconds to Breathe is bringing exactly what the world needs: thrash metal, fleeting guitar solos, and Metallica-esque performance. Prepare for the island to be rocked.

My Bad
Composed of freshmen and one sophomore, My Bad was created on a whim after the members discovered a mutual love for music. Rock the Island is Xianna, Wren, Amelie, Caspian, and MJ’s first time playing together in front of a crowd.

Enslave the Mollusk
Going to see Enslave the Mollusk is self-described as “slowing down to look at an accident on the highway.” Frontman Jonah Jeeter says “you never know what we’re going to do next because we don’t either.” Their Rock the Island set is sure to surprise and keep listeners on the edge of their seats!

Show photos courtesy of Jacob Smith and Sophia Dunton.
AMP SPACE
Let’s Make it a Reality!

by Sommer Carter, Andrew Velin, and Laurie Racicot

Calling all volunteers, music enthusiasts, supporters, thinkers, writers, builders, teachers, mentors, students, doers, and dreamers. We are gearing up to turn our dream of a community music space into a reality! We’re looking for anyone who has ideas, enthusiasm, or skills to lend to this endeavor.

- We want to make connections with community members and dream together. In last month’s issue we shared some images and a possible schedule for the new space—this is just a starting place for the dream. We need you to help us flesh out the reality of this space. What kind of musical encounters do you want to have in town? We want to hear your ideas. Help us fill our space and schedule with events and programs that you love.

- We’re looking for volunteers to bolster our eclectic and energetic team of music supporters. If you have time to give, love to collaborate with others, want to learn something new, or want to teach what you know, we have a place for you at AMP.

- We’re looking for creative professionals to partner with. We’re developing programs for musical education through workshops, classes, and camps. We’re dreaming of a co-working space for creatives. We’re envisioning studio space, practice rooms, and recording and broadcasting set-ups. Rent a space from AMP! Be hired by AMP! Teach lessons at AMP! We’d love to talk with you about the possibilities.

- We are looking for people to help build out the functional spaces we need. Once we have a space we will need people who are interested in designing and building the space of our dreams. If you have skills in this department we would love to start the conversation now.

- We are looking for financial support at all levels. Leasing, launching, and staffing a physical space will require broad community support to guarantee access to programs and sustainable growth.

All are welcome in this endeavor! The only prerequisite is an interest in working together to build a creative community around music. If you’re excited about a vibrant space for music, connection, and community, join us! We’ll be holding a community meeting on March 28 for all who want to connect and learn more. We want your input. We want your help. Let’s do this together. We need YOU!

From a young age, AMP has provided so many opportunities to me as a musician. I know that my life and my music is better because of all the wonderful musicians I’ve had the pleasure and privilege of experiencing and working with because of the abundance of musical events AMP has been able to provide our town.

It means so much to me to be a part of this community that is so welcoming, supportive, and creative. It means even more to be able to share that joy and connection with young people through the work we’ve done at AMP camp.

—Pearl Tottenham
Musician and AMP Camp Instructor

AMP is important to me because it helps me gather the audience that I want. Whenever I have an event coming up, I make sure that AMP helps me advertise it and get the word out. The same is true with music releases. This not only helps get people aware, but it always creates a very positive environment to display my passion.

—Kellen Murphy
Musician and AHS Student

Call to Action:
AMP Community Meeting!

Do you want to get involved in the AMP Space project? We’d love to hear from you. Join us next month for a community meeting. We’ll talk about where this dream is heading and listen to your thoughts and ideas. All are welcome. You can also reach out to us directly at info@anacortesmusicproject.org.

Save the Date!

Tuesday, March 28, 6pm
Location TBD
Cumulus is the creative outlet for musician Alexandra Lockhart, whose past two albums have won wide-ranging praise from the likes of Stereogum, Interview, Consequence, PASTE, KEXP, Brooklyn Vegan, Seattle Weekly, The Stranger, and NPR Music’s All Songs Considered. Alex’s newest project, *Something Brighter*, has brought her continued recognition for her beautiful songwriting and artistry even though she has done no touring to promote the project. The Seattle Times named *Something Brighter* as its #5 release of 2022! Alex herself was a winner of the Sonic Guild Patron of the Arts Grant Program, winning one of over 100 nominated creatives.

There’s nothing wrong with awards and recognition but, as Alex puts it, “I try and put myself in the head space of ‘Now that I have finished climbing the mountain (this song, this release), then I can keep creating.’ The lists and things, while nice, kinda suck the accomplishment out of it. I am continuing to create more music, that’s cool and that is what I strive for. I want to keep making music all my life — if people like it and write about it that is a bonus. If I think about it any other way it is unhealthy and drives me crazy.”

Sometimes Alex is more in tune with her musicality and sometimes less. Like everything in life, creativity can ebb and flow. Alex has traditionally used music to process the things in life, creativity can ebb and flow. Like every song, this release with both Rock and Pop releases tinged with that Pacific Northwest indie sound. If the muse speaks just right, Alex might make this next one with more of a stripped-down, back-to-basics, Americana-infused sound. Or not. Keep tuned to find out!

Support Alex and Cumulus by purchasing music at cumulus.bandcamp.com. Purchase on the first Friday of the month for 100% of proceeds to go to the artist!

Check out the July 2019 episode of The NeXT Show to hear Alex play her previous release “Comfort World” while discussing aspects of her career up to that point. You can find it at: AnacortesMusicProject.org/podcasts.

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**Live Music Calendar**

**February 2023**

**Wednesday, February 1**
- Rockfish Grill
- Joan Penney
- Jazz Vocals - All Ages

**Thursday, February 2**
- Brown Lantern
- Open Mic
- Local Talent - 21+

**Friday, February 3**
- Downtown Anacortes
- Manieri Jazz Walk
- At First Friday Art Walk
- Six Jazz Stages - All Ages
- Lincoln Theater
- Gina Touché and Friends
- Live Vocals - All Ages
- McIntyre Hall
- Tony Furtado Acoustic Trio
- World Class - All Ages
- Brown Lantern
- Min Far
- Psychedelic - 21+

**Saturday, February 4**
- Guemes General Store
- Milo Matthews
- Layered Bass - All Ages
- Lincoln Theater
- International Guitar Night
- Touring Guitar Fest - All Ages
- Rockfish Grill
- The Fat Fridays
- CD Release - All Ages
- Anchor Inn
- Fanny Alger
- Rock - 21+

**Sunday, February 5**
- Lincoln Theater
- Laura Veirs
- Indie - All Ages

**Wednesday, February 8**
- Rockfish Grill
- The Colonel
- Guitarra Flamencas - All Ages
- Brown Lantern
- Desolation Sound
- Island Rock - 21+

**Thursday, February 9**
- Brown Lantern
- Open Mic
- Local Talent - 21+

**Saturday, February 11**
- Guemes General Store
- Cardova
- Soul Trio - All Ages
- Concrete Theater
- The Enthusiasts, Jack Mattingly, Aida Miller
- Local Rock - All Ages
- Rockfish Grill
- Red House
- Blues Funk - All Ages

**Sunday, February 12**
- Anacortes Public Library
- Second Sunday Jazz Concert
- Kelsey Mines
- Jazz Bass - All Ages

**Wednesday, February 15**
- Rockfish Grill
- Heron and Crow
- Bluegrass - All Ages

**Thursday, February 16**
- Anacortes Public Library
- Manieri Jazz Lecture Series
- Jazz & the Orchestra
- Sonic Tour - All Ages
- Brown Lantern
- Open Mic
- Local Talent - 21+

**Saturday, February 18**
- Rockfish Grill
- Free Harmony
- Cover Mix - All Ages

**Monday, February 20**
- Lincoln Theater
- Blues Harmonica Blowout
- Harp Masters - All Ages

**Thursday, February 23**
- Brown Lantern
- Open Mic
- Local Talent - 21+

**Friday, February 24**
- McIntyre Hall
- Lusana
- Irish Acoustic - All Ages

**Saturday, February 25**
- Rockfish Grill
- Randy Weeks and the Silent Treatment
- Americana - All Ages

**Sunday, February 26**
- McIntyre Hall
- Starry Night Chamber Players
- Classical - All Ages

**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, to be published in the following month’s edition.
Meet the Band:

The Combo

A three-piece jazz/rock ensemble featuring drums, trumpet, and a piano to boot!

by Rick Vance, Photos by Burn the Box

Hello and welcome to another edition of Meet the Band. This month’s issue features a local three-piece musical group called The Combo, which is made up of a shifting group of talented Anacortes High School students. They turned in a unique and energetic performance at Yule Bizarre this year. I caught up with drummer Kellen Murphy, trumpetist Ashlyn Solowey, and pianist Isaac Brief to see what they’ve been up to since the show.

First off a little introduction from each of you and what you do in the band.

Kellen: I play the drums for the Combo.
Ashlyn: I’m a junior at AHS and I sing and play trumpet for The Combo.
Isaac: I play piano and miscellaneous keyed instruments.

I know some of you have been performing music for some time, is that the same for everyone in the group?

Kellen: I’ve been performing live since ninth grade.
Ashlyn: I’ve been doing music since I was in elementary school but I’ve been in jazz band since my freshman year. I’ve only been performing for about four or five months outside of band concerts.
Isaac: I’ve been playing and performing piano for thirteen years, in the last couple of years shifting my focus from classical to jazz and other improvisational music.

Everyone loves a good origin story, so let’s hear yours.

Kellen: I was taught how to play the drums by Braydn Krueger of the Lonely Forest and I have been pursuing music as a passion ever since.
Ashlyn: The Combo has mainly been the rhythm section in our high school jazz band. They usually grab a couple players here and there and do gigs outside of school events and I just happened to be a pulled player for Yule Bizarre. Unfortunately The Combo’s bass player, Wolfgang Stroehc, couldn’t attend Yule this year.
Isaac: The Combo’s origins date back to our shared experiences in jazz band, where each of us developed a passion for the flexibility and spontaneity of jazz. It was really an honor to get to perform with such talented musicians at Yule Bizarre and finally get to expand our jazz playing outside of school.

As a somewhat eclectic grouping of instruments and talents, where do you all pull from stylistically when writing for The Combo?

Kellen: I stylistically pull from Joe Morello and Max Roach in terms of my jazz drumming.
Ashlyn: The Combo doesn’t really write songs, it’s just jazz arrangements that we have access to. And no, there’s no music from The Combo on streaming platforms. I don’t think we have any plans of releasing anything in the future, it’s just mainly for fun.
Isaac: As far as our music goes, at Yule Bizarre we definitely stuck to a fairly conventional style of jazz combo playing, but I think all of us are very willing to try to extend our unique instrumentation to other styles of music.

Do you have any plans for any upcoming gigs, if so when and where can our readers catch you?

Kellen: An alternate form of The Combo will be performing at Rock the Island under the name Fully Funktioning.
Isaac: We’ll be playing with Wolfie Strohschein, our bassist who was unavailable for Yule Bizarre, and a few guest artists.

What inspired each of you to start playing music and what is it that makes you want to continue?

Kellen: I’ve been inspired by a lot of different sources, such as just wanting to better myself and listening to a lot of new music.
Ashlyn: I was first inspired to make music by soundtracks in films. I had a fascination for the Pirates of the Caribbean soundtrack when I was younger. Being in band has really helped me stick with music. I find myself trying new things all the time, especially in jazz. Since I was little, I was always singing too. This year has only really been the year where I’ve been able to show that to people. Seeing other people perform really boosts my inspiration as well.
Isaac: I was inspired to start playing music because of its ability to communicate emotion and beauty, and even though my focus has shifted towards improvisation and jazz, this continues to be my main motivation. Also, it is so rewarding and inspiring to play live with the amazing musicians we are blessed to have in our community.

Okay, final question here people. What do you want to be when you grow up?

Kellen: I want to be a history teacher.
Ashlyn: What I want to be when I grow up is so many things. I want to be a singer/songwriter, but I also want to keep up my French horn studies. At the same time, I want to study in psychology or criminology because I’m doubtful of how music will turn out. But I think I’m going to take my chances with music production. Maybe I’ll get somewhere, who knows. Being in a band outside of school is really just little me accomplishing her dreams. Whether it’s the jazz combo or an indie rock band. It’s just up to future me now.
Isaac: As for the future, right now my plan is to get a double major in mechanical engineering and jazz performance. My dream is definitely to continue to pursue playing, performing, and producing music, without necessarily going all in and feeling the pressure to make a living on music alone.

Thanks for letting us get to know you guys! We here at AMP appreciate you getting it rocking at the Bizarre and hope to see you all on a stage near us very soon.
Isaac: Huge thanks to AMP for everything you do in our community!
Verse/Chorus/Verse

Rain in the River
by Adam Greenberg

Verse
Dress shoes flooding the city streets
They walk like salmon running
Soles lie under every pair of feet
Their footsteps can’t be followed
Interstates and brake pedals
And red faces lit by tail lights
So many lives can slow the flow
Of five o’clock’s release into the night
It’s strange but it’s alright but still

Chorus
It feels so strange to know
that I’m just a drop of rain in the river
I’m just a drop of rain in the river
It feels so difficult
To find me a drop of rain in this river
Til cupid pulls an arrow from his quiver

Verse
While I see a sea of people before me
The sea sees me as itself
Of all the many sentences to read
I’m just another book upon the shelf
And my cyclical emotions
rise and fall with the weather
A dreary city on a dreary day
Does every droplet feel the need to feel this way
It feels strange but it’s okay

Chorus
But it feels so strange to know
that I’m just a drop of rain in the river
I’m just a drop of rain in the river
It feels so difficult
To find me a drop of rain in this river
Til cupid pulls an arrow from his quiver

From February Cover Artist Mary Staley

by Laurie Racicot

Our cover artist this month is Mary Staley, a supporter of AMP from the very beginning and a longtime champion of the arts in Anacortes. I spoke with Mary about her personal art practice and how art and music can bring us all closer together.

What inspired you to start making art?
I have always wanted to play with art and have dabbled in several mediums, but had always put it on the back burner. During the Covid lockdown I started ordering art supplies for myself and the grandkids and found pastels! They are so fun to work with and I love that I can blend and make colors, different definitions, soft blending, hard lines etc. Sometimes things just turn out completely different than I envisioned — usually a very pleasant surprise!

Tell us a little bit about yourself as an artist.
Art is a vulnerable piece of yourself that you somehow find the bravery to share. I am all about sharing love, so that’s why I create hearts. I hope when someone looks at my art it speaks to them and helps them find a warm spot to feel happiness and love and a little extra to share with others. I also have pieces that are very dark and sad because we all experience sadness and darkness within our hearts. But there is always hope!

What role does art-making play in your life?
Art makes me happy and content, joyful really, and that feeling will stick with me for days, even when I’m not able to sit down and create for a while.

Do you have any ideas for creative projects in the future?
Yes, I am gathering different mediums to play with and see how they work. I also just purchased a variety of canvases to try my work on. I’ve been using different weights of paper with different “teeth” surfaces. But I want to start creating larger pieces and play with different mediums. I want to see how things blend. I want to see how different mediums react on different surfaces.

Where can people see more of your work?
I have posted some images to Instagram. I have been asked to package my cards and have them available for retail, but I’m not there yet. I’ve been approached by a couple of art shows, but I chickened out. So there you go — you will just need to wait and see.
February 2023

Manieri Jazz Events

March 3rd Jazz Walk in Anacortes

By Steven Dolmatz

The Manieri Jazz Endowment of the Anacortes Public Library presents six stages of live jazz on Friday, March 3rd from 6-10 pm in tandem with March’s First Friday Art Walk. The venues are all clustered in the downtown core of Anacortes and are an easy walking distance from the galleries and from each other.

The schedule features Seattle jazz vocalist Kelley Johnson at the Rockfish Grill from 7-9 pm. She is performing with John Hanson on piano, Michael Glynn on bass, and Victoria horn player Kelby MacNyr. Seattle vibraphonist Susan Pascals is at Pelican Bay Books from 7-9 pm. Her band consists of Brian Monroney on guitar, bassist Jeff Johnson, and drummer John Bishop. Performing at the Brown Lantern from 7-10 pm is Deep River Blues Band, a three piece band featuring acoustic blues, ragtime and hokum from the 1920’s to the 1950’s. Hot Club style jazz is presented by Dogtail Swing at Johnny Picassos’s from 6-8 pm.

Admission is free at all six venues, and volunteers will be at each site selling Jazz Walk buttons for $10 to help defray the costs of producing this event. The Manieri Jazz committee hopes that this can become an annual event. Come out and dig how Anacortes can sound like Manhattan’s 52nd Street in the 1950’s and check out the great art while strolling through town.

Second Sunday Jazz Concert

Kelsey Mines

Sunday, February 12, 2:00 PM

Join us for an afternoon of live jazz featuring Kelsey Mines, a performer, composer, and bass instructor from Seattle. In 2018, Kelsey released her debut album of entirely original music, February, and currently co-leads the bands EarthToneSkyTone and Here to Play. Mines is highly sought after in and around the greater Seattle area for her versatility and high level of proficiency on both upright and electric bass.

This concert is LIVE and FREE for all. Spon- sored by the Anacortes Public Library Manieri Endowment.

Live at the Anacortes Public Library

Manieri Jazz Lecture Series

Jazz & the Orchestra

Thursday, February 16, 2:00 PM

“How do ya get to Carnegie Hall?”

For over a century, composers the world over have been inspired by the most American of all musical styles — jazz. Join Dr. Michael Wheatley, Music Director and Conductor of Skagit Symphony, as he takes us on a whirlwind sonic tour, including music of Claude Debussy, George Gershwin, Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Leonard Bernstein, and more.

This lecture is FREE for all. Sponsored by the Anacortes Public Library Manieri Endowment.

Live at the Anacortes Public Library

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.

Represent!

Here at AMP we have big plans for the future. In addition to the promotion, publication, and distribution of the Show Chime music calendar, AMP is committed to creating events that feature local musicians, developing a scholarship and mentoring program, continuing the development and collection of archives past and present, and shaping exciting visions for the future, such as a physical space for our community’s very own radio station and music space. Your support amplifies the music and musicians of Anacortes.

GO TO anacortesmusicproject.org AND CLICK ON THE SPONSORSHIP BUTTON.

Become an Amplifier!

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

Stay in Anacortes

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

Thank You!

Thank you to our generous community donors: Don Bird, Paul Sherman, Henry Rose, Peter Delaney, Victoria McNeil, Sarah Sibley, Derek Eisel, James and Martha Harper, Steve and Stella Clarke, Patti Petree, Eric Hinton, Jessica Redman, Brenda Treadwell, Jenn White, Camile 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 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 February cover artist, Mary Staley. Thank you to Laurie Racicot for editing and design. This February 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.