From Sommer Carter
AMP President

January 2023

The end of one thing brings the beginning of another. The seasons, the years, carry on. We lean on these cycles, we trust changes will come, relatively on time, and we get to be surprised by the particular unfolding of this season.

AMP is entering its seventh year of amplifying local music. We’ve held multiple music festivals each year, showcasing Anacortes’ beautiful parks and heritage buildings as the venues. We gather and celebrate our always changing music scene. It is a joy to see what music bubbles up. It is exciting to collaborate with artists throughout our town and region, strengthening AMP’s reputation as a champion of local music with and for community.

For a few years now we’ve been talking about our dream of having a building/venue/workshops/recording space of our own. The process of dreaming this in is a major practice. We’ve built out a sample schedule that begins to materialize the myriad of goings-on in this downtown, community run, vibrant home. We’ve commissioned drawings to visualize what it may look and feel like. Our business plan is feeling more and more real.

The endeavor to create a Cultural Arts Center together with Anacortes Arts Festival, Fidalgo Dance Works and Anacortes Community Theater is a serendipitous development. This collaboration, bolstered by decades of community art, is a profound platform for AMP to join and stand on. The process is underway and we are asking for support in all ways. These pages in Show Chime are outlining our work and how you can participate as we move forward. Anacortes arts culture is strong and getting stronger and the door is open for all who want to join in.

Together,

Sommer Carter

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AMP SPACE
A Place of Belonging for All
by Sommer Carter, Andrew Velin, and Laurie Racicot

AMP is first and foremost a place of belonging, for the purpose of building community through creative endeavors. It happens to be music that is our primary form, but the goal is to draw people together of all ages to learn and explore their creative expression. Family members, teachers, co-workers, neighbors, classmates, and visitors are all part of an experience that is culturally, uniquely Anacortes. In this safe space is where folks can try their hand at something completely unfamiliar, with teachers and mentors to nurture along the way.

The physical AMP space we envision is a hub for musical creative gatherings. Find musicians and book rehearsal space for your band. Play an intimate set of new music with musicians and book rehearsal space for your hub for musical creative gatherings. Find mentors to nurture along the way.

We are dreaming of all this and so much more and we will need all hands on deck to make it a reality. In the coming months, we’ll be reaching out and asking for help from all corners of our community. Come teach a class, be a mentor, help us build out a beautiful and glorious space for musicians, artists, and music lovers to gather. Dream this dream with us and watch this space for exciting ways to get involved!

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As a parent, hearing the summary of daily activities at AMP Camp, watching the kids perform at the end of the week, and hearing the mentors talk about their experiences from the week, I get a bit weepy!

The atmosphere seemed like such a sense of belonging for the kids. I was so grateful to Anacortes Music Project for putting this together and for all of the hard work and love each mentor poured into the hearts of these young musicians.

Experiences like this are priceless. And they are important.

—Sarah Meyhoff
AMP Camp Parent
After a recent interview for The Guardian with Beat Happening, I thought about how we self-hypnotized a positive kind of “suspension of disbelief” to make room in life for our creative project. Saying “what the heck, I’m gonna do it” and then someone sees your efforts and says “what the heck do they think they’re doing.”

My avenues for independent self-expression in the 1980s were fanzines and mixtapes and magical gatherings of friends and strangers at unlikely venues … more of a moonlit path than the information super-highway that sped us into the 21st century. Isolation back then left room for movement into the mundane, navigating the stresses of doubt and locally-sourced imagination. Harder to choose the dull route today when it’s so easy to fill any void with entertainment via voice command. Swept up in a dreamlike flood of information omnipotence/omnipresence, relatively … when a few decades past it seemed like wandering through deserts in hope of someday finding an oasis.

Our interests in social conjuring led to a loose collective being formed near Anacortes. Know your own derived its name from an altered states guessing game. It suggests maritime “local knowledge” of navigational hazards, or when and where to find a certain kind of mushroom, or simply to always bring along a flannel shirt for when the clouds inevitably block the sun. The name naturally fit as a “label” for short-run, raw-fi, DIY creations emanating from islands in the Salish Sea and inspired by the K cassette revolution, Sub/Pop audio fanzine and Op Magazine. All of these were rooted in Olympia’s KAOS-FM green line policy (requiring DJs to air 80% non-major label music), sustainably fertilizing the grassroots in Puget Sound’s backyard. These organizations demanded that independence in music be a functional principle rather than symbolic camouflage. Sound Out Northwest! Let’s Together. “We will make this world a place for us.”

Back in 1987, Sore Optimists was the first compilation tape on the “hyphen-happy” Knw-yr-own project, with a snarly liner note declaration: “Anacortes was founded about a hundred years ago and nothing much happened until 1981 when a band called The Spoiled got together & began assaulting teenage ears and small-town complacency with a barrage of punk rock hits & otherwise rebellious antics.”

Why dismiss history in the name of punk? Even at the time it was written as a lie … a humorous poke at poses of tradition. It was an exercise in refocusing … shifting the burden of the past/inertia to allow creative expressions from those afraid of their own voices. Fertile ground for the earthly, profane, and vulgar senses of the word mundane. Ordinary too, but odd below the surface. So much to gain by caring to listen and attempting to understand. The next KYO anthology tape used a Pounding Serfs song for its title: “To Go Nowhere” is an anthem of the staycation ethic.

When I was a kid hanging out at the library, I somehow wandered into the basement room where they stored the old copies of the town’s newspapers. I later learned that the room was literally the morgue of the old Anacortes Hospital, a resonant atmosphere for the imprint of history. Now these publications and many more are available online, and I’m still in the habit of going downstairs to the morgue.

“Did You Know That?” I’m a sucker for stories of other kids from the past with weird interests, like Harry Smith, or his family friend, Geoffrey Venables. Geoff was a preacher’s kid in Great Depression Anacortes, who had “a unique hobby of collecting odd bits of information from newspapers all over the globe,” and created a column in the Anacortes American by that name: “Did You Know That?” Yet interspersed with interesting facts about luxury liners and the Great Wall of China were neighborhood offerings like this in the spring of 1936:

“A bantam belonging to Mrs. Robert Smith of 1610 Sixth Street laid two eggs on the same day.”

Flip the switch between the different senses of “mundane” and “morgue.” Give yourself the permission of “what the heck.” With our every contribution to creative community we may fear that an egg has been laid. Punk is debunked. We are going nowhere fast. Welcome the yolk of history. ■


To Go Nowhere tape. Photo courtesy of Phil Elverum.
Live Music Calendar
January 2023

Wednesday, January 4
6:00PM
Rockfish Grill
Whistle Lake Jazz Quartet
Jazz Standards     All Ages

Thursday, January 5
8:00PM
Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent     21+

Saturday, January 7
7:30PM
Anacortes Public Library
Manieri Second Sunday Jazz
Beset Tafesse Quartet
Jazz Trombone     All Ages

Wednesday, January 11
6:00PM
Rockfish Grill
Mike Fast & Samish Bay Swing
Jazz Quartet     All Ages

Thursday, January 12
8:00PM
Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent     21+

Saturday, January 14
6:00PM
Guemes General Store
Three For Silver
Aggressively Original     All Ages

Rockfish Grill
Pacific Twang
Lively Country     All Ages

Brown Lantern
Goodtime Hustle
Folkadelic Jam     21+

Thursday, January 18
6:00PM
Rockfish Grill
Christina Atteberry
Soulful Vocals     All Ages

Thursday, January 19
6:00PM
Anacortes Public Library
Manieri Jazz Lecture Series
Jazz and Race
Jazz History     All Ages

Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent     21+

Wednesday, January 25
6:00PM
Rockfish Grill
Fidalgo Swing
Django Jazz     All Ages

Thursday, January 26
8:00PM
Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent     21+

Saturday, January 28
7:30PM
Rockfish Grill
Powerhouse
Northwest Trio     All Ages

Saturday, January 29
7:30PM
McIntyre Hall
Family Concert & Children’s Music Fair
Family Fun     All Ages

Lincoln Theater
The Blind Boys of Alabama with Charlie Musselwhite
Gospel Legends     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.
Burn the Box is, in their own words, a media production collective. "We’re creators. We create stuff." And it’s true. Everything that they do is artful. From websites to documentary films, Burn the Box has taken the world of media production and molded it to fit their artistic vision. For these three, this can look revolutionary: "It’s a new age of artistic and advertiserial expression, and we’re here on the front lines doing that kind of work and helping people who don’t have those same kinds of skills. We’re warriors on the digital landscape."

More than warriors, they act as guides. The business started as a way for Will and Corin, fresh out of high school, to pursue their passions in film making by tapping into their inherent innovation and drive for independence. It has transformed into a community-centered project aimed at promoting the work of fellow creators, be it musicians, business owners, or even the city Mayor. In the summer of 2021, Liam joined the duo, and Burn the Box as an official company was born.

Working as a team of collaborating creators, Liam, Corin, and Will each bring skills and talents to the table that make the business what it is. "We all bring not just one specialty to the table, but knowledge of a lot of different creative outlets. Any one of us could produce a fantastic video all on our own and when combined we really are even better." This wealth of skills creates a finished product that tells the story of each client in a beautiful and honest way.

The collaboration never stays internal. A foundational goal of the company is to let their clients directly inform the kind of story that is being told. Corin described the process as “very personal — we want to display what they envision their brand to be.” Media production offers a medium to display what they envision their brand to be. "We all bring not just one specialty to the table, but knowledge of a lot of different creative outlets. Any one of us could produce a fantastic video all on our own and when combined we really are even better." This wealth of skills creates a finished product that tells the story of each client in a beautiful and honest way.

The collaboration never stays internal. A foundational goal of the company is to let their clients directly inform the kind of story that is being told. Corin described the process as “very personal — we want to display what they envision their brand to be.” Media production offers a medium through which anyone’s work can be amplified or re-imagined. As noted by Liam, “video is an art form...[it can] be a way of spreading [another] person’s art, giving it another avenue to reach people. As artists, all you want is for other people to see what you’re doing and to connect with them. Media production in general, what we do, spreads someone else’s art, message, product in a way that they couldn’t without us.”

And how they do this is an art form of its own. The idea is encapsulated in the name. For Will, the concept of building a company to live by doing what you love was an act of thinking outside of the box. Through this project, the three wanted to push it even further — to burn the box. "When we were thinking about the name and the logo, we had in mind a bit of skater punk aesthetic in terms of branding and self-identification. The business is kind of an experiment in capitalist business making and punk DIY artistry. We thought, 'what if you didn’t just think outside of the box, what if you went even further and actually burned it?' In many ways, this is what they are doing. It isn’t just a production company. It isn’t just a business. Through this project, Burn the Box has become a place where anyone can come and be seen by fellow creators, whether they identify as “artists” or not. And that is some of the magic of it.

When asked how they see their role in the community, Will likened the business to an old-school town staple. “When you think about an old village, you have the shoe-maker who makes the shoes, the baker who makes the bread — our provision to the community is media production. We’re the local guys who make media. It makes me feel like someone who is needed and respected and is part of the community as a whole.” And because they are the “local guys,” they have fostered particular freedoms in their craft that are not always guaranteed when working in media. “We are part of the community, we’re not a corporation. We are the employees and the employers, so we don’t have to worry about cutting corners. We just do the best work that we can and use our talents and skills to amplify those around us. What makes us unique is that we can truly shape the vision of any project to be whatever we (and the client) want it to be.”

They’re not a corporate thing, but they are also not too artsy. The goal is consistently to tell the story of the client. But beyond that, it is a space for community. “The sense of community is something that we’re always striving for — we want to promote everybody.” So, if you have a project or a product or an inspiration of any kind, go find Burn the Box. More likely than not, they’ve got exactly what you need. ■

Partner Spotlight: Burn the Box

Media production by the people, for the people.

by Jade Carter, Photo by Burn the Box

You may know Burn the Box as that well-dressed, rag-tag crew with cameras, inconspicuously drifting around AMP events since 2019. Their website lays the groundwork: inspired, innovative, award-winning. National Film Festival for Talented Youth (NFFTY), Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF), Guerrilla Film Festival, the list goes on. But who and what is Burn the Box, really? On a snowy day in December, I sat down with BTB’s founders and staff, Will McCracken, Corin Noronha, and Liam Poor, to find out.
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 Jack Mattingly, formerly of the band Whiskey Fever:

Birdcage
Lyrics by Jack Mattingly

What you gonna do about it
You don’t really have a choice
Blink twice and walk away slowly
If you can hear my voice

Smoke from somewhere on the east side
Means the days are getting short
Comin’ down like a hammer on a thumbnail
Order in the court

I’ve got a lot on my mind
But I still make room for you
Sometimes when the room gets dark
I pretend that you’re here too

Tell me all about your boyfriend
And do you think it’s gonna last?
Turnin blue like the face of the future
Choking on the past

You wrote your name on my windshield
Then the rain made it run
But I can still see it sometimes
When I’m driving at the sun

I’ve got a lot on my plate
But there’s always room for more
Morning light hugs the living room
And kisses your footprints on my floor

And I just can’t seem to find the gear
To shift from good to fine
And I just can’t seem to back things up
Enough to tow the line
And it’s not that I’m unhappy
And it’s not that I’m unwell
I can withstand bullshit
But I just can’t stand the smell

What you gonna do about it
You don’t really gotta choose
If you wanna learn to lie like a pro
Try turning on the news

There was never any question
There was never any doubt
I was living in a bird cage
While you were breaking out

October hit hard
And the fun came to a halt
Sometimes when I see you smile
I pretend that it’s all my fault

And I just can’t seem to find the gear
To shift from good to fine
And I just can’t seem to back things up
Enough to tow the line
And it’s not that I’m unhappy
And it’s not that I’m unwell
I can withstand bullshit
But I just can’t stand the smell

What you gonna do about it
You don’t really have a choice.

From January Cover Artist
Melanie Dugan

by Laurie Racicot

Local artist and teacher Melanie Dugan has been drawing animals since she was a child. She and her husband, Greg Dugan, who is also an artist, moved to Anacortes in 2015, attracted by the strong arts community here. Together they form Art Studio 2120. I spoke with Melanie to learn more about her artwork and her process.

Tell us a little bit about yourself and the art you create.

I am a Washington native. I was born and raised in Tacoma. I have been drawing since I was old enough to hold a pencil. My preferred medium is colored pencil. I also work as a Multilingual Specialist in the Marysville School District. When I was young and people would ask me what I wanted to be when I grew up, I would tell them “An Artist or a Teacher.” I get to do both.

Does music play a part in your creative process as a visual artist?

I am inspired by music in all aspects of my life. I feel there is a strong connection between music and the visual arts.

A few years ago you made a career change from teacher to full-time artist. How is that going?

I am back to working full-time as a teacher and part-time as an artist. I worked full-time as an artist for two years and plan to return to it in four more years. The transition was challenging as I needed to establish a name for myself and, to make it financially, I needed several venues. I drew pet portraits, sold originals, prints, cards, and sketches. I taught art classes out of our studio. Covid presented the biggest challenge and prompted my return to public schools.

Tell us a little bit about this piece on the cover. Is it part of a series?

This piece is the second of a series I am beginning of animals from the Bible. Animals are often overlooked. The reference is 1 Kings 17:6

Do you have any projects in process in your studio right now that you’d like to tell us about? Any projects planned for the future?

I am working on another raven. I will be drawing a wolf lying down with a lamb. People always draw a lion with a lamb, but nowhere in the bible is it a lion and a lamb, it is a wolf with a lamb. I also have two pet portraits on the table.

Where can people follow you, see more of your work, or purchase your art?

People can follow me on Facebook — Melanie Dugan at Art Studio 2120 — or on our website, www.artstudio2120.com. To purchase an original or print of my work, please reach out to me at artstudio2120@gmail.com. I also have a piece hanging in a museum in Salt Lake City in an international exhibition and would appreciate votes. You can find it under my name at history.churchofjesuschrist.org/museum/artcompetition/2022.

And I just can’t seem to find the gear
To shift from good to fine
And I just can’t seem to back things up
Enough to tow the line
And it’s not that I’m unhappy
And it’s not that I’m unwell
I can withstand bullshit
But I just can’t stand the smell

What you gonna do about it
You don’t really have a choice.
January 2023
Manieri Jazz Events

Second Sunday Jazz Concert
B瑟at Tafesse Quartet
Sunday, January 8, 2:00 PM
Join us for an afternoon of live jazz featuring the Beserat Tafesse Quartet. Jazz trombonist, Beserat Tafesse grew up with a wide array of musical and cultural influences, including traditional Ethiopian jazz. Tafesse has played with Birdland Big Band in New York City and has traveled the globe with groups such as Kings Kaleidoscope.
This concert is LIVE and FREE for all. Sponsored by the Anacortes Public Library Manieri Endowment.
Live at the Anacortes Public Library

Manieri Jazz Lecture Series
Jazz and Race
Thursday, January 19, 2:00 PM
From its inception, jazz was subjected to economic and racist exploitation wherein black musicians battled malignant forces dominating the music scene. In this lecture we will listen to recordings by Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Charles Mingus and others that focus on the issue of racism and discuss other historically important events involving the intersection of jazz and race in the United States. Presented by Brent Jensen.
This lecture is FREE for all. Sponsored by the Anacortes Public Library Manieri Endowment.
Live at the Anacortes Public Library

Support Local Music on Fridays!
On the first Friday of the month since March
of 2020, Bandcamp has waived their revenue share to help support the many artists who have seen their livelihoods disrupted by the pandemic. Over the course of 23 days, fans have paid artists and labels more than $84 million dollars, helping cover rents, mortgages, groceries, medications, and much more.
The next Bandcamp Friday is February 3rd, from midnight to midnight Pacific time. As always, isitbandcampfriday.com has the details.

Go support your favorite Anacortes musicians!

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!

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 Eiselt, 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 Tristen at Total Home Services, and the good folks at the Anacortes Food Coop.
Thank you Manieri board, Chris Terrell, and Keith Eyre at How It Works for putting us in print. Thank you to our January cover artist, Melanie Dugan. Thank you to Laurie Racicot for editing and design. This January 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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