FROM BRIAN TOTTENHAM
AMP PRESIDENT

July 2023:

“It’s like a giant living room but outside and it’s full of friends and everyone is merry and everything is good for a solid 8 hours. And my belly hurts from laughing, and you can eat all of the cookies you want. And losing your kids but not worrying about it too much.”
– Anonymous

Yeah, that is the Shipwreck Music Festival in a nutshell. It’s free there, like running through the sprinklers free. Chasing the shade across the steps until there is no escape from the sun. A space where time seems to stop, which is rare, for me at least. A space to wrap yourself in the things that make us special and draw us together.

During family gatherings my dad would always watch from afar, something I never quite understood, but I think I get it now. Watching people doing what’s most important – connecting with one another – he lived for these moments. I live for that too. I am immeasurably honored to have a hand in giving these moments life in this park.

Causland Park has drawn me in for over twenty years of summer music. I’ve grown up there. My children have grown up there. Many of my favorite musical moments have happened there, on and off stage. Some really amazing performers have graced that lawn.

But the real magic happens on those steps.
UR Girls are a three-piece punk rock outfit hailing from Mount Vernon, Washington. They feature a ukulele played by Laurie Cummings, bass guitar played by Jade Paris, and Mr. Juan Flores on the drums. They will be hitting our neck of the woods for Shipwreck and AMP Fest this year! Look for them on Bandcamp and give them a listen — you won’t be disappointed!

So you have a real punk rock feel and attitude to your sound, are there certain bands that opened up that world to you?

The three of us all have different music tastes, but as far as punk rock goes, we all were pretty influenced by the “classics”, especially in our younger years. Bands like Blink-182, NOFX, Green Day, the Dead Milkmen, Rancid, etc.

Are you familiar with the band Tilt? They were an early 90’s female-fronted punk band that I feel vibes in your style. Not to pigeon hole you as a “female-fronted” band, I just hear and feel the Tilt energy from you all.

We’re not familiar with Tilt, but we’re definitely going to check them out and hopefully get some pointers.

I thoroughly enjoy that three-piece sound. Do you ever find that a three-piece hinders you from writing anything more progressive? If so what would you like to see added to your band/sound?

Funnily enough, being a three-piece has been difficult for us because we are all playing instruments that wouldn’t be our first choice. Our drummer, Juan, prefers to play bass or guitar. Our bassist, Jade, would rather play guitar. Laurie on the uke would love to play drums and sing but hasn’t quite mastered either one separately. We would love to add a dedicated drummer to the band to really be able to expand and explore our sound.

Dream tour scenario here — any bands from any era, dead or alive, that you could hit the road with. Who would they be?

What a tough question! Jade would love to tour with the Dead Milkmen, Juan thinks NOFX really knows how to party, and Laurie would have to say Mitski.

Speaking of touring, have you done any this far in your career? If not are you planning anything?

We have not been on tour yet, BUT there are rumors that there might be something in the works next year with Whidbey Island’s own Potbelly!

If you could have people walk away from Shipwreck or AMP Fest saying (insert quote here) — what would it be?

Well, we would probably hope it would be something like, “Gee whiz, that looks like fun, we should start a band!”

Okay, cliché question here, but are there times where you feel you are treated differently, or not taken as seriously as a female-fronted band in the punk scene? I know it’s touted as super inclusive, but we’ve all heard the stories. If so, what would you like to say to those who have preconceived notions?

In our experience thus far, we feel like we have been incredibly fortunate because we haven’t experienced as much discrimination in that way as we were kind of expecting. A lot of it is hugely credited to our friend Jason Potbelly (of Potbelly fame) because he has really been so supportive and genuinely invested in creating an inclusive space for music and musicians in general. Huge shout out to him for everything he’s done for us and the community as a whole.

What’s the writing process like for you all? Is there a main songwriter, or do you all bring something to the table?

Thus far, Laurie and Jade have written most of the music but as we progress together it has become more of a collaborative effort from all three of us.

Do your parents enjoy your music?

I don’t know if they enjoy our music per se, but they are definitely supportive of our endeavors.

So far what’s been your favorite show you’ve played and why? How about your worst?

Our favorite show thus far has to be when we played at the Machine Shop’s last-ever show in Langley last October. That venue was super fun and it’s a shame it shut down. Our worst show was probably one of the times we played at the Roller Barn in Oak Harbor last year, I think it was our 3rd show maybe ever. But the good news is, we can only go up from here, right?

PBR or Rainer? This may be the most essential question of all. I know you all like your beer.

If we HAD to make a choice, arms tied, we’d have to go with Rainier! Shh, don’t tell PBR!

Catch UR Girls live at Shipwreck Music Fest on July 15th and AMP Fest on September 2nd!
AMP is stoked to present another festival in Causland Park on this treasure hunting Saturday in July. Music you love! Picnics! Bubbles! Come spend the day in Old Town with people you love.

**FANNY ALGER**
Charming snake handlers who just came from a pogo revival. Quinn K Thompson, Shane Gildines, Jerry Steamer, Tim Fischer, and Blind Lemon Pledge deliver energetic Devo-inspired punk rock.

**ENDURO**
Five legendary northwest powerhooks, Bryan Elliott, Bob Vaux, Sid Olsen, Brian Tottemham, and Jonn Lunsford. Enduro was schooled on this salty island where creativity abounds.

**SWORD FEARN**
Sword Fearn is a songwriting and sound-making project led by Anacortes native Liam Poor. Sword Fearn’s third single, ‘Stoner’ releases July 14th.

**UR GIRLS**
UR Girls are a three-piece punk rock outfit hailing from Mount Vernon. They feature Laurie Cummings on ukulele, Jade Paris on bass, and Juan Flores on drums.

**THE GIFT MACHINE**
The gift machine is an indie pop psych-rock quartet currently based in North County San Diego and also with a long history in the Pacific Northwest.

**KARL BLAU**
A homespun hometown singer, songwriter, and maker of musical magical concoctions, Karl Blau is back in town for Shipwreck Music Fest.

**THE COMBO**
A group of high school jazz musicians, with Ashlyn Solowey on trumpet and vocals, Isaac Briefer on piano, Wolfie Strohschein on bass, and Kellen Murphy on drums.

**FRIENDSHIP TRAIL**
Friday, July 14, 6:00 pm
Causland Park
Join Anacortes Music Project for a walking tour of musicians throughout downtown. It’s a parade through allys, trails, backroads, front stoops — each spot reveals a new act. Come along for the ride!
Saturday, July 1
Anacortes Farmers Market
Sean Bendickson
Singer Songwriter  All Ages
Guemes Island Store
Lazy Acres, Enthusiasts
High Energy Rock  All Ages
Heart of Anacortes
Janie Cribs
& the T.Rust Band
Sultry Blues  All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Mark Dufrene
Blues Harp  All Ages
Lincoln Theatre
Jonathan Richman
Singer Songwriter  All Ages
Brown Lantern
Tom Savage
Soul Blues  21+

Monday, July 3
AMP Space @ Buxton’s
Toddler Sing-Along
Wiggly Rhythm  Toddlers

Tuesday, July 4
La Conner Marina
Chris Eger, Powerhouse Horns, The Enthusiasts, Randy Weeks
July 4th Celebration  All Ages

Wednesday, July 5
Guemes Island Store
Ben Starner
Piano Master  All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Whistle Lake Jazz Quartet
Local Jazz  All Ages

Thursday, July 6
Anthony’s Cabana
Aloha Danny
Singer Songwriter  All Ages
Guemes Island Store
7:20 String Band
Island Strings  All Ages
Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent  21+

Friday, July 7
AMP Space @ Buxton’s
AMP Open Mic
Local Talent  All Ages
Guemes Island General Store
Aloha Danny
Singer Songwriter  All Ages

Saturday, July 8
Anacortes Farmers Market
Aloha Danny
Singer Songwriter  All Ages
Heart of Anacortes
Mama Dirty Skirts
Classic Rock  All Ages
AMP Space @ Buxton’s
Collins Beach & Checker Bloom
Local Talent  All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Suze Sims presents
La Rocca Boom
Blues Funk  All Ages
Brown Lantern
Min Far
Psychadelic  21+

Sunday, June 11
Heart of Anacortes
Manieri Second Sunday Jazz
Dmitri Matheny & Holly Pyle
Brazilian Jazz  All Ages

Monday, July 10
AMP Space @ Buxton’s
Toddler Sing-Along
Wiggly Rhythm  Toddlers

Wednesday, July 12
Rockfish Grill
Michael Dayvid
Adventure Folk  All Ages

Thursday, July 13
Anthony’s Cabana
Aloha Danny
Singer Songwriter  All Ages
Lincoln Theatre
Leo Kottke
Acoustic Guitar  All Ages
Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent  21+

Friday, July 14
AMP Space @ Buxton’s
AMP Open Mic
Local Talent  All Ages
Guemes Island Store
Karl Blau & Jacob Navarro
Local Heroes  All Ages
Lincoln Theatre
Robert Cray Band
Soul Blues  All Ages

Saturday, July 15
Anacortes Farmers Market
One-Eyed Cat
Old-time Fiddle  All Ages
Heart of Anacortes
Pacific Twang
Eclectic Country  All Ages
Deception Pass State Park
Los Flacos
Latin American Folk  All Ages
Lincoln Theatre
Greg Koch and the Koch Marshall Trio
Blues Rock  All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Nick Vigarino
Volatilde Blues  All Ages
Brown Lantern
Low Hum
Wild Rock  21+

Sunday, July 16
Guemes Island General Store
Up Up Up Inc Crane Truck Circus
Aerial Joy  All Ages

Monday, July 17
AMP Space @ Buxton’s
Toddler Sing-Along
Wiggly Rhythm  Toddlers

Wednesday, July 19
Guemes Island General Store
Ben Starner
Piano Master  All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Aerial Joy
Blues Harp  All Ages
Lincoln Theatre
Susan Roberts
Singer Songwriter  All Ages
Brown Lantern
Low Hum
Wild Rock  21+

Thursday, July 20
Anthony’s Cabana
Aloha Danny
Singer Songwriter  All Ages
Lincoln Theatre
Albert Lee
Country Guitar  All Ages

Friday, July 21
AMP Space @ Buxton’s
AMP Open Mic
Local Talent  All Ages
Brown Lantern
The Pine Hearts
Americana  21+

Saturday, July 22
Anacortes Farmers Market
River
Singer Songwriter  All Ages
Heart of Anacortes
The Fabulous Roof Shakers
Rhythm & Blues  All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Savage Blues Band
Hometown Blues  All Ages

Wednesday, July 26
Rockfish Grill
Fidalgo Swing
Django Jazz  All Ages

Thursday, July 27
Anthony’s Cabana
Aloha Danny
Singer Songwriter  All Ages
Brown Lantern
Open Mic
Local Talent  21+

Saturday, July 29
Anacortes Farmers Market
Skagit City Slickers
Keys, Horns, Drums  All Ages
Heart of Anacortes
The Atlantics
Dance Band  All Ages
Rockfish Grill
Michelle D’Amour
and the Love Dealers
True Blues  All Ages

Did we miss your event?
We strive to publish all Anacortes music shows! You can help us out by sending information about your event to theshowchima@gmail.com by the 20th of each month.

Ringing the Bell for Anacortes Music ///
Brought to you by Anacortes Music Project
From July Cover Artist
Luuk Honey
by Laurie Racicot

Our cover artist this month, Luuk Honey, has been creating artwork for Show Chime since its inception nearly ten years ago and he continues to leave his creative mark on our community in the form of music, murals, and community connections. I spoke with him about his (many) current projects and why he creates in multiple mediums.

It's great to have you back on the cover, Luuk. What have you been up to lately?

So musically, I'm active with Ceras in Bellingham — a post-rock, Doom Shoegaze band (music on Spotify/Bandcamp). We are opening for Seattle rock legends, Earth, for a sold out show on Saturday. Our next show is July 21st at Make.Shift with the group Terminator. Hoping to release our full length album in October — all recorded right here in the Anacortes Unknown Recording Studio.

Artistically, I'm building up a new body of paintings and poetry to assemble a new book, hopefully completed by the fall and assembled by winter of this year. Naturally, I'm hopeful to do more murals or collaborative designs. This Saturday I'm releasing my first beer can design with Boundary Bay Brewery in collaboration with local hip-hop artist, The Rhetorician. As a part of his music video series with Walking Distance Media, I'll also be featured in the music video premiere for my actorial debut. Check out The Descendent of Zack Taylor: Episode 3!

Also coming out later this year is my first collaboration with local sci-fi-fi author MC Schulman creating the cover art for their first novel. More to come!

You've certainly been busy! It seems like you're working in many mediums at all times. How do these different creative endeavors play off of each other? How does your music relate to your painting relate to your poetry etc?

I'm all about cross-pollination when it comes to multiple mediums across various platforms. My music is often collaborative and more community oriented, whereas my art is more time process based and often more solitary, although I often write or draw when I am out in public spaces, or even shows. Drawing or writing can help me focus on my thoughts, especially when listening to lectures or being in uncomfortable spaces. Perhaps the micro movements help calm my mind and body but they also connect my feelings and emotions I am experiencing at that time into words or images. There is definitely some synesthesia crossover in my art and music but it's all in the experience of the senses, the natural world around us, and how we interact with it. Art and music are my means for cultivating community as much as they are my passion, catharsis, and therapy. All the same, I am grateful for and love all the projects I am working on.

Your latest album is in the works at the Unknown, correct? Tell us about your recording experience.

Working in the Unknown is always a unique experience. It always provides a certain magic that you just can't find anywhere else. Grateful to have good friends who have kept me involved with this majestical place. The fire tiger, the Japanese tiger, was born in 2023 which is the year of the water rabbit according to the Chinese zodiac and 2022 was the year of the fire tiger so, appropriately, I made these two paintings in duality to one another as opposing elements symbolic. Well balanced in opposition to one another and now two sides to the same printing of this publication. There's some emotion here, but also cathartic and very healing, especially in how they flow. They were very natural paintings to create and a joy to make.

Tell us about the two pieces on the cover.

2023 is the year of the water rabbit according to the Chinese zodiac and 2022 was the year of the fire tiger so, appropriately, I made these two paintings in duality to one another as opposing elements symbolic. Well balanced in opposition to one another and now two sides to the same printing of this publication. There's some emotion here, but also cathartic and very healing, especially in how they flow. They were very natural paintings to create and a joy to make.

You can see more of Luuk's work on his website www.luukhoney.com or follow him on social media @luukhoney.

Happening at the AMP Space in July!

AMP Space Open Hours

Mondays 2:00 - 5:30 pm
Wednesdays 2:00 - 6:00 pm
Fridays 2:00 - 8:30 pm

Upstairs in the Buxton’s building
1904 Commercial Ave
info@anacortesmusicproject.org

Song Writing Circle

Join a supportive community of like-minded individuals who share a passion for songwriting. Come together to listen, collaborate, and offer feedback. Bring your ideas, projects and dreams to the table and let’s embark on an exciting musical journey together!
July 5th & 19th  7-8 PM

Toddler Sing-along

Looking for a fun and engaging activity to do with your toddler? Look no further than the Anacortes Music Project’s weekly toddler sing-along program! Geared towards children ages 1-3, our program is designed to provide a safe and interactive environment for toddlers to develop their social skills, explore their creativity through free play, and sing along to popular children’s songs. Come join us for a morning of music, fun and socialization!

Mondays, July 3rd, 10th, 17th
10:00 AM - 10:45 AM
Suggested $5 drop-in fee

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

AMP Overture Strings Program

July 31st-Aug 4th  9 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!
Registration at anacortesmusicproject.org/education
Verse/Chorus/Verse

Bug in the Amber
by Dave Matthies

A bug in the amber
what was it that you were even after?
push the button nothing happens faster
it’s a long way it’s a long way

you’re right on the cusp
but if you wanna do your own stunts
sometimes it’s gonna get rough
it’s a long way it’s a long way

if you weren’t haunted by what you wanted
what would you get done?

a difficult calculation
you crashed your car right into the station
but still you got up and walked away from it
it’s a long way it’s a long way

sweaty brow and shaky knees
maybe the gods are not pleased
or are in need of a different kind of offering
it’s a long way it’s a long way

stranded second handed ripped and torn
if you weren’t haunted by what you wanted
wouldn’t get you bored?

abated desiccated
left in the sun
if you weren’t haunted by what you wanted
what would get you done?

Consolation Prize
A New Album from The Gift Machine
by Pearl Tottenham

The Gift Machine, an indie pop psych-rock quartet from San Diego with a long history in Anacortes, dropped a new album on April 14 of this year, their first since 2018.

Made up of husband and wife duo Dave Matthies on guitar and vocals and Andrea Gruber-Matthies on drums and vocals, they are now joined by Matt Lawson on guitar and Alanna Cassidy on bass. Their new release, Consolation Prize, also featured Scott Barrett, Darrin Matthies, and John and Josette Vineyard. Matthies says of the album “Some of this record was recorded live with friends, and everything else was trying to match that spirit! We were listening to a lot of late 70’s and early 80’s indie stuff from England and New York so this record has a little different feel than our older stuff, I think...”

As I try to describe the sound of this album, the word I keep coming back to is full. Full, rich, and balanced. The layers of playful surf rock and driving indie guitars surround you, everything is brightened and lifted by dreamy harmonies, and grounded by Dave’s strong baritone voice and the steady heartbeat of Andrea’s drums. Lyrical, this album is woven with themes of perspective that can only be gained and grown with time. With lyrics like “if you weren’t haunted by what you wanted, what could you get done?” (Bug in the Amber) there’s an introspective quality to the work as a whole.

It’s hard to pick a favorite track from Consolation Prize, because each of its fourteen songs are so strong lyrically and musically on an individual level, and even stronger as a cohesive unit of songs that flow together to create a large and multifaceted artistic work. Though “Back in the Broth” and “Root for Me Now” were some stick-in-your-head standouts for me.

This summer The Gift Machine will be back in Anacortes. It’s a rare treat to have them in town — catch them at Shipwreck Music Fest on July 15th. And if you haven’t listened to Consolation Prize yet, go check it out on Bandcamp or your preferred streaming platform!
**New Releases**

from The Gift Machine:

**Consolation Prize**

"Some of this record was recorded live with friends, and everything else was trying to match that spirit."

Released April 14, 2023

Dave Matthes on guitar and vocals, Andrea Gruber-Matthes on drums and vocals, Matt Lawson on guitar, Alanna Cassidy on bass. Also featuring Scott Barrett, Darrin Matthes, and John and Josette Vineyard.

from Your Heart Breaks:

**The Wrack Line**

On planet Earth, the wrack line is a collection of organic material and debris left behind on the shore after a high tide. 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 artist’s shoreline.

Releases July 7, 2023

In the summer of 2022, the Your Heart Breaks studio band, made up of 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.

from Sword Fearn:

**Stoner**

This song has immaculate vibes, sonically, it glimmers like a yellow summer. If you like fun songs or know what it’s like to be too high, you’ll love this one.

Releases July 14, 2023

Liam Poor wrote and arranged, on vocals, guitar and percussion. Noah Masten on bass, organ and piano. Issac Strom on saxophone and clarinet. Nich Wilbur and Alex Huebel produced, Alex arranged the choir of Liam.

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**Monthly Amplifiers:**

Justin Williams
Tracy Rogers Thompson
Paul Sherman
Beth Bell
Jenny Heitzner
Don Bird
Paul Sherman
Henry Rose
Peter Delaney
Jessica Redman
Brenda Treadwell
Jenn White
Camie Velin
Lisa Jackson
Jensen Lovelett
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:**

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Barrett Community Caring Project
Darren & Jennifer Lewis
Woolsey Family Foundation

**Show Chime Business Sponsors:**

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The Red Snapper
The Brown Lantern
Farmstrong Brewing Company
Barrett Community Caring Project
Total Home Services
Anacortes Food Coop

**In Kind Donors:**

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Domino’s Pizza

**One-time Donors:**

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

**July Show Chime Team:**

Laurie Racicot
Rick Vance
Pearl Tottenham
Dave White
Nicole Conte-Anderson
Luuk Honey
Sommer Carter
Clarity Miller
Katie Williams
Brian Tottenham
How It Works

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**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 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.

**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

Are you interested in getting involved with AMP Space programs and events? Email us for opportunities!

info@anacortesmusicproject.org