

Show Chime

June 2026

Brought to you by Anacortes Music Project

A. GRASH 15





TRISTEN VAIL
AMP BOARD MEMBER

June 2026:

Big things are happening down at 1904 Commercial Ave! The hinges on the doors are going to need to be replaced from all the comings and goings of people enjoying the space.

Our first ever fundraising gala for AMP was a huge success. We had a packed house, full of supporters who went above and beyond by participating in our auction to help raise money for AMP. Behind the scenes, there are countless people we are so grateful for who were there setting up for days prior to the event to make sure that everything ran smoothly.

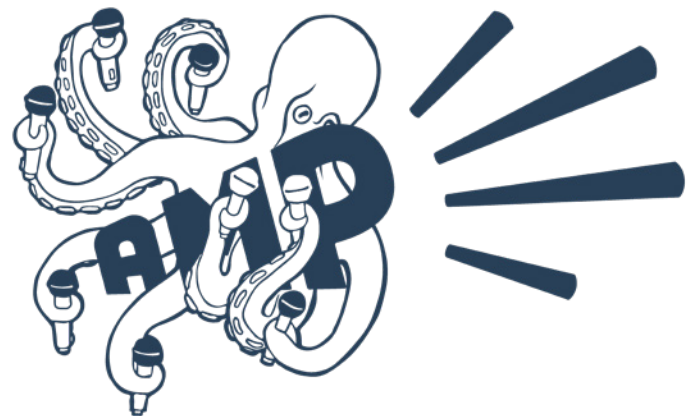
None of this could have been possible without the support of all of our people who believe in what we are doing and want to help make it happen. This goes to show, that with community, love and a shared vision, we can go a long way. And that, we are.

I'm very much looking forward to our summertime events and seeing all of our people. Thank you for being here with us.

Love always,

Table of Contents

Powered by Community <i>AMP Feels the Fundraising Love</i>	3
The Gift Machine <i>From the Anacortes Museum</i>	5
June Live Music Calendar	7
Happening at the AMP Space	9
Sponsor Spotlight <i>Amy Hong</i>	10
Verse Chorus Verse <i>Harmonica John Seibold</i>	11
June Cover Artist <i>Alex Grashio</i>	12
Manieri Jazz Events	13
A Heartfelt Thanks	14



Powered by Community

AMP Feels the Love at May 30th Fundraising Gala

by Steve Clarke, Photos by Jeff Albertson



Anacortes turned out in full force the evening of May 30th for the Anacortes Music Project's first major fundraising gala, packing Buxton's for a sold-out event that raised a whopping \$75,000 to help AMP expand its programming to support the community and its kids.

"You can tell this is our first big fundraising gala because we're all in heels," joked Katie Williams, AMP's Program Manger, who went on to summarize why the event was so important. "We want to expand all our programming, in part to make up for cuts in school programs like jazz and strings. Everyone deserves to have a space where they belong. We provide that space, we have the ideas, and we have the people to help. You're helping by being here to provide the funds to make it happen."

The event began with the doors opening to hundreds of people, many decked out in outfits inspired by Fleetwood Mac, the focus of Wild Rumours, the band providing entertainment for the evening. As people mingled they checked out the many auction items on display, highlighted by a seven-night stay for six at a luxury home in Honduras, a private party for 30 with a live performance by The Enthusiasts along with beer, wine, soda, and tiramisu, and a brewery tour and dinner for six with live music at Rockfish.

MCing the auction was TJ Fantini, an Anacortes City Councilmember, almost unrecognizable under a huge wig. His spirited repartee mixed well with a crowd clearly enjoying the atmosphere, buoyed by treats provided by Dad's Diner, Bufflehead Bakery, and Alabama Amey, a wide range of beverages,

and flowing dresses à la Fleetwood Mac's Stevie Nicks.

After the time ran out to bid on silent auction items, the crowd migrated into the music hall for the main event, which kicked off with AMP's Doug Cassidy summarizing the history of AMP and what led up to the fundraising gala.

It all began with local legend Karl Blau forming a proto version of the organization in 2015 called the Anacortes Music Channel, which broadcast songs from Anacortes musicians on internet radio. That radio presence has evolved over the years and will soon see the launch of KANA-LP at 102.3 on your FM dial. As Cassidy made the announcement of that launch, Huckleberry Kid, who has been broadcasting for AMP out of his upstairs office at Buxton's, hauled out the antenna for the new radio station onstage.

In 2017 the non-profit Anacortes Music Project was formed, focusing in large part on three yearly events: AMPfest, the Yule Bizarre, and Shipwreck Fest. In 2023 the organization expanded significantly when it moved into Buxton's, in collaboration with Anacortes Arts Festival, to create Buxton Center For the Arts. AMP moved into the second and third floors of the building, where it created a space for musicians of all ages to hang out, play music, borrow instruments from the lending library,

and make new friends. AMP also launched AMP Camp, two weeks each summer when kids of varying musical experience form into bands, write songs, and learn about a broad range of skills that bands need, from connection to stage presence and beyond.

Next came the formation of the Community Choir led by Anacortes musician Kathy Moore, which has grown to over 60 members and performs at events that Anacortesians line up around the block to attend and enjoy.

All was going well until mid 2025 when it was announced that Buxton's was up for sale. For several months it appeared AMP would lose its home, and no other comparable facility was available. Then late in the year, "Our community saved us," as Williams put it, referring particularly to the owners of Dad's Diner who teamed up with Bufflehead Bakery to purchase the building and make it all available to AMP. "We are particularly grateful to Fletcher and Neil of Dad's Diner and Matt and Kira of Bufflehead Bakery. They saw the culture and the need to help people create art and create music, and that's what we do," Williams said.

Concluding his talk, Cassidy announced that the name of AMP's home will soon change from Buxton's to The Globe, much to the audience's delight.

Then Wild Rumours hit the stage with a massively crowd-pleasing performance, with AMP's own Kathy Moore sharing lead guitar and backup vocals. The group's set included guests who had bid for the opportunity to sing with the band, and the crowd voiced its boisterous approval for the winners: Doug Cassidy and Bryn Patton.

Before the event, Moore spoke with Show Chime about her love for music and being a part of the AMP experience.

"Can you imagine if you're a young person and being able to go into a building and practice with your band — for free? That's crazy. When I was young, someone needed a garage and parents that didn't hate loud music, or you had to pay like a hundred fifty dollars to rent

a space. That is ridiculously cool, and then they've got a radio station, you can talk to Huck about engineering, the list just goes on."

When the news came that Buxton's would remain the home to AMP, Moore was thrilled, especially when she learned she would get a room in the building where she can give lessons and record and play music.

"Think about all the things that Katie and Sommer and Andrew and Clarity and Doug and Huck do all the time. They care about the kids; they're doing this because they believe in the program, and they want to do good work in the world."

After Wild Rumours' performance and the announcement that the event had raised \$75,000, AMP board member Sommer Carter expressed her gratitude for the outpouring of support and provided some background on how the funds will help AMP expand its services to the community.

"When we first moved in we were sharing the space, so we were very limited in the time and space that we had to use. Now we have the space, but our rent doubled. In order to expand our mission, the positions are all in place but we need rent money and staff money. That's the heart of it. We have people who are paid half time. To keep this building open and engaged and available for all our programming and to expand that, especially our after hours for kids, that costs money. This ask at this time is what we had to do to move forward."

For those who missed the event and want to help, Carter encouraged them to visit the AMP website (anacortesmusicproject.org) to donate, especially if you can make your donation recurring so AMP can count on a monthly income.

While she and Williams expressed gratitude to all who give to AMP, they called out thanks to the volunteers and organizations who made the fundraising event possible. Heading up that list is Barrett Financial, followed by Wellness for Life, Quantum Construction, Equity Solutions NW, and Cookie Fox. ■

MUSIC of ANACORTES



"...don't turn me off" by the gift machine was released in 2002 by Kww-yr-own.

The Gift Machine Spews Gifts For All Ages

Brent Stavig reviews an Anacortes album release party at The Business in 2002

On Saturday, Sept. 7th, [2002] I was witness to one of the most brilliant shows ever to grace the scattered backroom stages in Anacortes; of course it was The Gift Machine CD release party, held on the makeshift stage that hovered between Walgreen's and the fate of the Anacortes music scene. The late summer evening was beautiful, warm, and serene, and the stars hovered over the stage as witness to what was to be a special evening in the local music scene.

I'd been hovering around town at various weddings and bars before I arrived. My Budweiser was warm in my pocket, and the first band onstage was Button Happy. They played a familiar brand of music that seemed to be positive and alternative at the same time. Nice background music. More "everything is cool and pretty" than "everything really sucks so you should crawl into a hole and die" type of music. I really appreciated that and enjoyed talking to old friends while they were playing.

This isn't actually a "slam" at Button Happy; my favorite music is stuff I can throw on and completely ignore while I do stuff around the house. In fact, I have a hunch that I could throw on the Button Happy CD and clean my stove with no sudden neanderthal urge

to change the CD. Believe me, this is a compliment of the highest order!

Bret, the owner and proprietor of The Business, was outside the gated area of the stage and greeted me as I approached. We discussed the ramifications of having a band as brilliant as The Gift Machine in our midst. It's a strange thing to have a band, destined for greatness, coming out of a small town like Anacortes. Would they snub their collective noses at the town, once they hit the big time? Or would they relinquish ego for a dose of modesty and gratefulness at the support they received in their formative years? If, like most successful bands, they just move on and occasionally mention their hometown during interviews, would we feel slighted?

I looked around the gathering crowd, which by now numbered around 80, and searched for a beverage to enjoy while The Gift Machine performed. While, as most of you know, there is a coffee shop in The Business, it was closed at this gig. I looked around and saw teens with cups of Starbucks coffee, or just braving the show without a beverage. Being from the "old school" of concert attendance, I decided that I needed some sort of "performance enhancing" beverage to carry me through the rest of the evening; especially considering that so many whipper-snappers were gathered to see The Gift Machine, who would make me feel like the salty fan that I was.

I decided to make the trek over the The Food Pavillion and buy a couple of beers before the band hit the stage.

The Food Pavillion was bright and open, as you would expect at 10:00 on a Saturday night. People roamed around with the intent to fill their baskets with toilet paper and beef jerky, but, instead, threw in containers of MSG and ice cream to take back to their subtle homes, nestled in the invisible parts of town.

I wandered back to the beer aisle and plucked out two 24-ounce Buds and walked back to the check-out counter. You would think that buying two beers wouldn't merit an attitude or any kind of confrontation. Well! The check-out girl was full of venom, which she spewed at me via "IS THAT ALL?!!" I was quite taken aback and replied in hushed and embarrassed tones, "yes".

I slithered out the store and made my feeble way back to the stage at The Business.

By the time I got back, a stream of fans were approaching Dave (songwriter and singer of The Gift Machine) paying the \$5.00 admittance which included the brilliant CD by The Gift Machine: possibly the best \$5.00 these people ever spent.

Finally, it was time for The Gift Machine to amble onstage. Darrin (the bassist) claimed his space on the small stage and checked his tuning. Smiling at the crowd, which by now was close to standing-room-only, he gazed down at his massive Fender bass and knew that this would be a great night.

Eric adjusted his drum stands and nervously tipped his cymbals in preparation for out-

and-out slamming and finesse.

Bryce re-checked his keyboard placement and adjusted his chair: almost knowing that when The Gift Machine started playing, that chair would be as blown-away as most of the people in attendance.

And Dave; Dave tuned and re-tuned his Les Paul Standard like it was the key to an attack on a hostile country. The few lights that shone on the stage caught Dave's mischievous grin, and let us all know that this Gift Machine show would be a winner!!

After a brief hello, The Gift Machine launched into what has become their "signature song": the first song on the CD, "Cinderella's Shoes". I can't even tell you what a thrill it is to hear The Gift Machine in all its glory. The blend of music, lyric, passion, and promise, is enough to send any poet digging for inspiration in Robert Frost's walk-in freezer.

They went on to enthrall the crowd with selections from its hit CD, *...don't turn me off*. In the summer air, the songs hung like sparrow's notes that were meant for morning harvest. The Gift Machine were happy and alive! Happy to be playing in a venue free of judgmental bartenders and careless passers-by. Free to be the fantastic band that they are, without the pretensions of big city crowds and unrealistic expectations. Happy to be playing in front of teenagers with dreams of starting their own rock bands, without limitations or rules.

The Gift Machine were a lesson in freedom at their gig at The Business. Four young men doing what they love best, given a venue to do it, with an audience of people who yearned for a taste of local creativity and passion.

The Gift Machine have given Anacortes something to root for; four good guys with future and promise, without any help from corporate structure or academic hogwash.

If you love Anacortes, and all that it stands for in this world of greed and misinformation, you'll enjoy The Gift Machine. ■

Originally published in 2002, this article was re-published in 2025 on an Anacortes Music History Substack curated by the Anacortes Museum, as part of the ongoing Music of Anacortes history exhibit. You can find more fascinating articles about the music of Anacortes on the Substack page: anacortesmusic.substack.com/

Anacortes Museum

JUNE 2026 Live Music Calendar

Ringing the Bell for Anacortes Music /// Brought to you by Anacortes Music Project

Tuesday, June 2

5:00 PM Dad's Diner
Ben Starner
Piano All Ages

Wednesday, June 3

Buxton's
Toddler Sing-along
Joyful Noise Toddlers

6:00 PM AMP Radio
That Reminds Me Of...
Live Radio Show All Ages
anacortesmusicproject.org

6:00 PM Rockfish Grill
Trish Hatley
Jazz Vocals All Ages

Thursday, June 4

6:00 PM Farmstrong Brewing
Savanna Woods
Singer Songwriter All Ages

7:00 PM Buxton's
Acoustic Jam circle
All Welcome All Ages

8:30 PM Brown Lantern
Open-Mic
Local Talent 21+

Friday, June 4

7:30 PM Rockfish Grill
First Friday Art Walk
Bluesfish
Blues All Ages



Saturday, June 6

10 AM Anacortes Farmers Market
Manieri Jazz Presents
Dog Tail Swing
Hot Jazz All Ages

All Day Anacortes Waterfront Festival
Various Musicians and Bands
Local Music All Ages

6:00 PM Bastion Brewing
DCO Music
Nostalgic Rock All Ages

6:00 PM Farmstrong Brewing
Soulfire
70's Tribute All Ages

6:30 PM Guemes Island General Store
Tony Furtado Duo ft. Luke Price
Americana All Ages

6:30 PM Rockfish Grill
Mark Dufresne
Blues All Ages

9:00 PM Brown Lantern
Michele Show
21+

Sunday, June 7

ALL DAY Anacortes Waterfront Festival
Various Musicians and Bands
Local Music All Ages

Tuesday, June 9

5:00 PM Dad's Diner
Ben Starner
Piano All Ages

Wednesday, June 10

10:30 AM Buxton's
Toddler Sing-along
Joyful Noise Toddlers

6:00 PM AMP Radio
That Reminds Me Of...
Live Radio Show All Ages
anacortesmusicproject.org

6:00 PM Rockfish Grill
Wayne Hayton
Americana All Ages

Thursday, June 11

6:00 PM Farmstrong Brewing
Sandy Rowe
Singer Songwriter All Ages

7:00 PM Rockfish Grill
Manieri Jazz Presents
Jun lida
Jazz Trumpet All Ages

8:30 PM Brown Lantern
Open-Mic
Local Talent 21+

Friday, June 12

6:00 PM Guemes Island General Store
Natural Israel, Cascade Cody,
Chad Henry
Local Rock All Ages

6:30 PM Buxton's
General Mojo's Band, Natalie
Colvin, Kathy Moore Band
Psychedelic rock All Ages

Saturday, June 13

10 AM Anacortes Farmers Market
Eric Kosart
PNW Folk All Ages

6:30 PM Guemes Island General Store
Karl Blau w/Jon Hyde on pedal
w guest Frank Hurricane
Indie Rock All Ages

7:30 PM Rockfish Grill
The Fat Fridays
Rock Tribute All Ages

8:00 PM Arcadian Public House
Honestly No, Collins Beach
and The Opines
Local Rock 21+

Sunday, June 14

2:00 PM Heart of Anacortes
Second Sunday Jazz
Greta Matassa Group
Jazz Quintet All Ages

6:00 PM Buxton's
Manieri Jazz Jam
All Welcome All Ages

Tuesday, June 16

5:00 PM Dad's Diner
Ben Starner
Piano All Ages

Wednesday, June 17

10:30 AM Buxton's
Toddler Sing-along
Joyful Noise Toddlers

6:00 PM AMP Radio
That Reminds Me Of...
Live Radio Show All Ages
anacortesmusicproject.org

6:00 PM Rockfish Grill
Tod Kimbro
Theatrical Piano All Ages

Thursday, June 18

6:00 PM Farmstrong Brewing
Jermey Abbott
Reggae Fusion All Ages

8:30 PM Brown Lantern
Open-Mic
Local Talent 21+

Saturday, June 20

10 AM Anacortes Farmers Market
Mark Collen Trouble Monkey
Lively Guitar All Ages

6:30 PM Guemes Island General Store
Scott Pemberton's Soulstice
Review, Tom Savage
Soul Jazz All Ages

7:30 PM Rockfish Grill
Dana Osborn Band
Rock Tribute All Ages

9:00 PM Brown Lantern
To & From
Original Rock 21+

Tuesday, June 23

5:00 PM Dad's Diner
Ben Starner
Piano All Ages

Wednesday, June 24

10:30 AM Buxton's
Toddler Sing-along
Joyful Noise Toddlers

6:00 PM AMP Radio
That Reminds Me Of...
Live Radio Show All Ages
anacortesmusicproject.org

6:00 PM Rockfish Grill
Janette West
Jazz Vocals All Ages

Thursday, June 25

6:00 PM Farmstrong Brewing
Glitterbilly Hexbomb
Folk Rock All Ages

8:30 PM Brown Lantern
Open-Mic
Local Talent 21+

Friday, June 26

5:30 PM Guemes Island General Store
Tenderpile's Smile Aisle
Solo Jazz All Ages

Saturday, June 27

10 AM Anacortes Farmers Market
To & From
Original Rock All Ages

11 AM-10 PM Windjammer Park, Oak Harbor
System Crash
Alternative Music Festival
14 Local Bands! All Ages
Free and All Welcome

7:30 PM Rockfish Grill
CC Adams Band
Blues Rock All Ages

9:00 PM Brown Lantern
Keith Howard
Guitar & Voice 21+

Tuesday, June 30

5:00 PM Dad's Diner
Ben Starner
Piano All Ages

Anacortes Waterfront Festival Lineup

Saturday, June 7
10:05 AM
Anacortes High School Choir
10:10 AM
To & From
11:15 AM
The Shifty Sailors
12:25 PM
Ebb Slack & Flood
1:45 PM
Soul Fire
3:15 PM
John Kessler

Sunday, June 8
10:00 AM
Anacortes High School Choir
10:10 AM
Casaundra May & James,
Roots Blues Duo
11:15 AM
Bluesfish
12:40 PM
A'Town Big Band
2:10 PM
Jim Basnight Band
3:40 PM
The Fat Fridays

But wait, there's more!
For the full calendar of local music events in the Anacortes area, please see: anacortesmusicproject.org/calendar

Did we miss your event?
We strive to publish all Anacortes music shows! Send information about your event to theshowchime@gmail.com by the 24th of each month.

Happening at the AMP Space!

SIGHT & SOUND
With Kathy Moore

6/9	Tuesdays	Learn ear training
7/21	6-7:30 PM	& sight reading music
8/18	\$60 fee	
9/15	Ages 12 +	1904 Commercial Ave

AMP Space Spring Open Hours!

Thursdays 2:30 - 8:00 pm
Fridays 2:30 - 8:00 pm

Join us in the AMP Space for practice spaces, instrument lending library, impromptu jam sessions, new friendships, and general good times. All ages welcome!

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

Toddler Sing-Along

Moved to Wednesday mornings! Join Huckleberry and Lyssa for a joyful sing-along for ages 1-3! Older siblings welcome.

Every Wednesday, 10:30 am
\$5 donation

Manieri Jazz Jam

Join a professional backing jazz band on stage in a round robin fashion. Bring your song to play, or come to watch!

Second Sundays, 6:00 pm
Next Session June 14

Acoustic Jam Circle

Led by Kenny Holzemer. All ages, all experience levels, all instruments welcome.

First Thursdays, 7:00 pm
Next Session June 4 By donation

AMP Radio

anacortesmusicproject.org/tune-in

That Reminds Me Of...

A weekly radio show hosted by Liz and Spencer Duffy, featuring Pacific Northwest music, musicians, and more.

Every Wednesday, 6:00-8:00 pm

June Event

Kathy Moore Band, Natalie Colvin, and General Mojo's Band

Join us for a fantastic June show at Buxton's! Local guitar hero, Kathy Moore, will open the show with her band's original music. Then, Natalie Colvin and General Mojo's Band will follow, both psychedelic retro rock!

Friday, June 12, 6:30 pm \$15, Youth Free

Visit our website to register for programs and purchase tickets for events!

AMP CAMP

- FORM A BAND!
- WRITE AN ORIGINAL SONG
- LEARN & HAVE FUN!
- PERFORM ON STAGE!

- AGES 12-18
- CAMP ONE: 7/6-7/10
- 1904 COMMERCIAL AVE
- CAMP TWO: 8/3-8/7
- TUITION \$475
- SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

NO MUSICAL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY!

REGISTRATION & MORE INFO: [QR Code]

YOUTH strings camp

- Ages 8-13
- Beginner & intermediate
- Violin, cello or viola
- Buxton's
- 8/17-8/21
- M-F 9-12
- \$275
- Instrument included

[QR Code]

MEMBER OF THE STATE SYMPHONY

Sponsor Spotlight: Amy Hong of Barrett Financial

by Andrew Velin

We could not do what we do without the partnership and support of our Anacortes business community. We caught up with longtime supporter and AMP Gala main sponsor, Amy Hong, to learn more about her and why she supports AMP's mission.

ANDREW: How did you originally get connected to AMP?

AMY: My son Dex is a high school musician and composer who participated in the AMP strings summer camp. Through him, I got to directly see what AMP was doing in the community.

ANDREW: Please tell our readers about your business and how you help the community in Anacortes and beyond?

AMY: Barrett Financial is an independent wealth management firm based in Anacortes. We've been serving individuals, families, educators, and retirees in this community for more than 35 years. We help people build financial roadmaps and provide peace of mind!

ANDREW: What does supporting AMP mean to you and your team, and why did you choose to align with our mission?

AMY: We believe that music education is a serious investment in kids, and we take that to heart, because access to music shouldn't depend on what neighborhood you grow up in or what your parents can afford. AMP closes that gap.

ANDREW: What impact are you most hoping to help us achieve in the community?

AMY: More kids in Anacortes with a real relationship with music. The research on what music does for kids developmentally is hard to argue with. We want AMP to have the resources to make that happen.

ANDREW: On behalf of the entire Board, we want to thank you, Amy, from the bottom of our hearts! ■



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 or poem with a unique Anacortes connection. This month we have original lyrics from "Harmonica John" Seibold, who will be playing at the Rockfish on Friday, July 3 with his band Bizzozo Shaft.

Dr. Hugo

by "Harmonica John" Seibold

*To be or not to be, that is the question
Talk about a train without a track and no direction
I hear that train whistle blow And I wanna know who's running the show?
Tumbling dice Saw a man in a garbage can with the sugar and spice
I hear the dog bark in the alley way
I talk to Hugo, he say:*

*"People gotta know how your feeling, oh-yeah, you gotta let it show"
People gotta know, says Dr. Hugo: "You gotta let it flow"*

*Head on into a faceless crowd
"A-beep-op-a-diddly" talking to myself out loud
Just dancing to the beat as I spin around and I fall down
Just kickin' my hands and feet as I listen to the sound
Talk about a derail, Talk about a boat without a sail
Mama says I look at life in a different way
I talk to Hugo, he say:*

*"People gotta know how your feeling, oh-yeah, you gotta let it show"
People gotta know, says Dr. Hugo: "You gotta let it flow"*

*Advertising signs they try to con me
What you get ain't always what you see
Wanna be what I wanna be and it might be self destruction
As the train conductor says there will be no more conduction
Talk about a hurricane, Talk about a country gone insane
I can't believe what I read in the papers today
I talk to Hugo, he say:*

*"People gotta know how your feeling, oh-yeah, you gotta let it show"
People gotta know, says Dr. Hugo: "You gotta let it flow"*

June Cover Artist Alex Grashio

by Laurie Racicot

Our cover artist, Alex Grashio, grew up in the Pacific Northwest, surrounded by beautiful beaches, ocean views, and dramatic skies. After some years in California working in the fashion industry and the corporate world, her sister gifted her a set of paints that changed the course of her journey.

Tell us about your journey as an artist.

My journey has been deeply personal and honestly a little unexpected. Even though I'd always been creative, I spent many years disconnected from that side of myself while pursuing a more traditional career path. Eventually, I reached a point where I knew I needed to make a change, to take a chance and reconnect with the artist in me that I had neglected for so long.

I became completely obsessed with painting almost overnight. I can't say I was immediately good at it — in fact, there were many moments early on where I wanted to give up. But something kept pulling me back to it. The more I painted, the more I realized this was what I had been searching for all along. Painting has been such a gift. It allows me to quiet the noise and truly feel free, hours pass like minutes and I'm at peace with the world again.

How did you end up in Anacortes?

My connection to Anacortes started through family. My parents moved here from Seattle a few years ago while I was living in California. I began traveling back and forth often to spend more time with them. Around the same time, I was searching for a place where I could get high quality prints of my artwork. My parents told me about a local fine art reproduction shop in town called How It Works. On one of my trips home, I brought in several pieces to have scanned. Over time, I kept bringing more of my original paintings there and eventually became friends with Zack and Keith, who are now the owners of the business. I loved the creative environment they had built, eventually I told them that if they ever needed help, I'd love to be part of the team. The rest is history. Anacortes quickly became a place that felt deeply inspiring to me. Between

the natural beauty, the creative community, and the connection to the water, it feels very aligned with both my artwork, who I am, and the path I'm on.

How are you connected to the Anacortes music scene and AMP?

I was first introduced to AMP through my coworkers at How It Works and through our monthly printing of Show Chime Magazine. Being around the publication and the local creative community has given me a greater appreciation for how vibrant and supportive the Anacortes art and music scene really is. I love seeing how interconnected the creative community is — artists, musicians, makers, and small businesses all supporting one another. There's something really special about that.

Besides painting, what are your hobbies, passions, or creative outlets?

Outside of painting, I love spending time finding inspiration in nature. Hiking, walking near the water, and quietly observing the landscape are some of my favorite ways to reset creatively. I've learned so much just from paying attention to small moments — how waves break, how colors shift in the sky, or how light reflects in the water.

I also really enjoy cooking and creating beautiful meals for family and friends. Exploring new places and decorating spaces. For me, creativity isn't limited to painting — it finds its way into so many parts of my life.

More than anything, I feel grateful for my faith, my relationship with God and the creative path he has led me down. This has brought so much meaning into my life. One of the most rewarding parts of sharing my work, is encouraging others to reconnect to their own creativity, to share their gift with the world. It deserves to be seen.

Where can people see more of your artwork, and support you as an artist?

My artwork can be seen and purchased at Pelican Bay Books, one of my favorite stops in Anacortes! My work is also part of the 98221 Gallery at City Hall, June 6th - November. If you're in La Conner you can stop by the MoNA Gift Shop.

My website is alexgrashioart.com. Additionally, if you'd like to connect, you can follow me on Instagram & Facebook @alexgrashioart. ■

Manieri Jazz Events

June 2026

Sponsored by the Manieri Endowment.
Free and all welcome!

Jazz at the Farmer's Market Dog Tail Swing

Saturday, June 6, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Enjoy live jazz music on the first Saturday of the month at the Anacortes Farmer's Market. This month's band is Dog Tail Swing.

At the Depot Arts Center

Special Jazz Performance Jun Iida

Thursday, June 11, 7:00 PM

Award winning trumpeter, composer, and educator Jun Iida is known for his dynamic and versatile contributions to the jazz and contemporary music scenes. With an impressive array of performances at renowned venues and festivals across the world, Iida has built a reputation as a skilled performer and a dedicated educator.

At Rockfish Grill

Second Sunday Jazz Greta Matassa Group

Sunday, June 14, 2:00 PM

Greta has been a dominant fixture on Northwest stages for decades and with more recent touring in New York, Russia, Singapore, Hawaii, and Japan, Greta's sound is continually reaching new audiences. The group includes Greta Matassa on vocals, Brian Monroney on guitar, Clipper Anderson on bass, Mark Ivester on drums, and Alexey Nikolaev on tenor saxophone.

At the Heart of Anacortes

All Ages Jazz Jam Sunday, June 14, 6:00 PM

Join us on the Second Sunday of the month at Buxton's for an all-ages, all-abilities, Anacortes jazz jam! All are welcome. Bring something to play if you want, or just show up to learn something new. Listeners welcome.

At the AMP Space at Buxton's

The Jazz Lecture Series is on hiatus for the summer and will return in September.

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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

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