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A Thing, a compilation of 10 songs, some new, some old favorites, and some unreleased gems. The sound is a clear arc of their career with a clear influence from The Grateful Dead, The Allman Brothers Band, and Dr. John. The concept of the album came in the middle of a vacant concert, when it all went so well that each member of the band had the same 'ahh' moment. From that moment, the wheels started humming and they enlisted the help of their friend, John Aagaas (Dave Matthews Band, John Mayer, Ben Folds, Lukas Nelson and countless others) and his creative team was inspired to produce the project, tapping into the music scene roots they all share...
Introducing: Ann Gray – City of a Million

Ann Gray’s new single, City of a Million, captures the essence of what it means to be young and in love in a big city. As you listen to the lyrics, you can picture yourself and your partner walking around the urban environment, taking in all of the sights and sounds. You may even start to picture all of the places in the city where your relationship started or where it could potentially go.

But, as the song points out, there’s a less glamorous side to city life. The stress of balancing school/work and social obligations can take its toll on relationships, and it’s easy to get lost in the shuffle.

The production is clean and polished, and the melodies are catchy and earwormy. But it’s the punchy drums that give the song its kick, making it sound like a true indie Pop Rock track. Ann’s vocals are similar to those of Olivia Rodrigo, which is a good thing.

Lauren Waller – Nothing but Life

While Los Angeles-based singer/songwriter Lauren Waller released her new single “Nothing but Life” a little over three weeks ago, the witfully optimistic track just now landed in our inbox. We’re back from a little vacation up north and the pensive melancholic vibe resonates with us. In her catchy and utterly gorgeous song, Waller tackles feelings about love, loss, and life in general.

Listen to “Nothing but Life,” our Song Pick of the Day.
Lenni Revel paints a darkly intense portrait of Annabelle in her powerful new single — premiering exclusively on Tinnitist.

Boldly straddling the line between alt-country and indie-rock, the hard-hitting and emotionally unfurling track from the Sonoma singer-songwriter’s upcoming album Unbroken is about a girl lost in her head, numb to the world, and barely staying afloat with her looks and charms. The story swings into overdrive as the song’s dramatic arrangement sways and swells until climaxing theatrically, finally crashing into an uneasy and haunting ending.
Exclusive Premiere: eej explores her toxic past in the intimate “oh haha”

Revealing her true feelings after an end to an imperfect relationship, indie folk artist eej harnesses her soul in her latest single. Ako ho “oh haha” and the 22-year-old singer-songs Calvin in her past, but with such a beautiful perspective, the track, a humorous perspective to the toxic behaviors she’s lived by, “It’s only after time had gone by the clarity I needed all along did I realize how toxic I brushed off or dealt with under the heavy blanket of love and abuse,” she said.

Crediting the discography of Elliott Smith with getting her through that dark time, eej says it was her quest to bring light to her dark past, and that in the end, she’s Learnder her all about perspective. “Brandinging an acoustic guitar and layering her own intimate harmonies, the soft and simple atmosphere of ‘oh haha’ is an all-encompassing journey of breaking those rose-colored glasses and finally seeing the moments for what they were.”

Song Premiere: Vince Vanguard “Broken Bones”

Americana Highways brings you the premiere of Vince Vanguard’s song “Broken Bones,” from his upcoming release Spirit Bus, due to be released on October 7th. The album was produced by Chris Strachwitz and George Terry, and recorded, mixed and mastered by Chris Strachwitz at Silver Recording Studio in Boulder, Colorado. Music and lyrics on the album are by Vince Vanguard (Lyric, Vincent Hirtz.)

“Broken Bones” is a 4/4 12-bar blues in G Major with a 7/8 break, with a 12-bar B section, and a final 12-bar break. It’s a song about love, loss, and everything in between. The chorus is about the pain of losing someone you love and the difficulty of carrying on without them. The verse is about the struggles of finding love again and the pain of being abandoned. The bridge is about the beauty of love and the pain of losing it. The verse is about the struggles of finding love again and the pain of being abandoned. The bridge is about the beauty of love and the pain of losing it.

You can find the music here: https://vinchvanguard.com/broken-bones
Don't Miss AP Tobler's New “Eclipse” Music Video [Premiere]

Despite the grunge generation being well before their time, they respectfully harness those influences and put them into practice arguably better than those who are old enough to have grown up with Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and the like. The song itself deals with personal experiences that Tobler has had, dealing with anxiety and depression, and it features a pretty fantastic video for a production that was something of a family affair.

The last single on the EP Walk Talk Dance Sing, called “Singing Along for the First Time,” was released in conjunction with the EP. It’s about on musical discovery within ourselves and the celebration of this discovery. It is an examination of what music can do to our hearts and souls and bodies, through this new yet familiar path of wanderlust and discovering our own selves and what it means to be part of the larger community of humanity.
Norine Braun releases 13th album, Songs For Trees

By Jesse Methven on May 5, 2022

Braun states,

"Originally I had planned on devoting a song to each type of tree but as I began to read and research I wanted to instead draw upon the global properties of trees in general as well as certain trees. The listener will still embark on a journey through the forest but with more thought as to the interconnectedness of all things. It is clear the album had clear intentions. It was both inspired and overwhelmed by the wealth of information and the number of people from so many disciplines from around the world working hard to bring awareness to save the trees, planet and ourselves. This was a benefit as there was much to draw upon for writing."

Check out Songs For Trees below, and stay up to date with Norine via her socials.
Looking Sideways provides a late-album moment of jazz before the album is closed by Home. A return to folk rock, it ends the album's story with a sense of optimism and acceptance. Love is re-found and the future, though unknown, feels bright. It's a beautiful finish.

The Company You Keep is a wonderfully realised album from a songwriter who clearly knows what she's doing. The musical composition are spot on but what really makes this album special is how much of herself Elizabeth has put into it. The vulnerability she shows in its lyrics make her story feeling utterly relatable.

You can check out the whole album below.

Chet Lam’s new album... “Back to the Stars Again”

Storytelling singer Chet Lam spent his childhood in Hong Kong's gritty, inner city housing complexes with very little resources. As a gay kid growing up in a humble environment while trying to figure out where he fit in, he found solace in the poignant and poetic outlaw and brokenhearted narratives of 1970s Americana and country artists. Chet also saw in USA roots music similarities with Chinese pop, as both brimmed with strong melodies, sensitive stories, and careful attention to lyrical detail. Now, after becoming a highly-respected artist in the Asian market, Chet hopes to bring a heartfelt fusion of East-West pop sensibilities to the Western Hemisphere.
PODCASTS

BTB Ep 341: Bill Boulden stops by; we interview comedian Jeff Hilliard
Break the Business Podcast

TOPICS: We talk about the “Winnie the Pooh: Blood and Honey” and Weird Al biopic movie trailers; Bill "Downright" Boulden stops by to talk about their latest Kickstarter campaign; we interview musician and comedian Jeff Hilliard about his music video projects. You can find out more about our guest’s work by visiting www.jeffhilliard.ch.
Check out Bill’s Kickstarter campaign for the “We’re Doomed, We’re Dancing” album at tinyurl.com/billboulden.

thecommentary.ca

Celia Berk
6 December 2021

The award-winning cabaret and jazz vocalist Celia Berk discusses her new album Now That I Have Everything (Grammy Nightingale 2022), with Joseph Planta.

Text of interview by Joseph Planta:


Celia Berk greets me now. The award-winning cabaret and jazz vocalist has a new album out, Now That I Have Everything. It’s 13 songs of the Great American Songbook, songs that we know and love, and other gems that we might not have been familiar with. And in Ms. Berk’s hands, or voice really, they’re rendered moving, charming, delightful, and often beautiful and powerful, and that’s not just in the changes of keys.

The author and journalist Will Friedwald says of Celia Berk’s artistry on this album: “It’s less a performance than an intimate dialogue between two close friends.” And that it is with this conversation with Celia that we taped one week ago. I’ll ask her about the song selections, the process working with the musicians that directed and arranged the music, and the craftsmanship and artistry of the music and lyrics. There are songs on the album written by Sammy Cahn, Hoagy Carmichael, Evin Drake, Hugh Martin, Cary Simon, Billy Strayhorn, James Van Heusen, and Steve Wonder. From Grammy Nightingale, this is her third album. Her first two albums were Manhattan Serenade and You Can Roast Spring; she’s made memorable appearances at Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Birdland Theater, The Town Hall, and the National Arts Club. For more information visit www.CeliaBerk.com. Please welcome to the Plants On the Line program, Celia Berk, Ms. Berk, good morning.

Podcast: Play in new window | Download (25.5MB)

Podcast: Americana Music Profiles

American Music Profiles

Vince Vanguard Interview

Soulful Americana musician Vince Vanguard has spent many years helping others realize their musical dreams - it's only fitting that it's now his turn to do so as well. On this edition of Americana Music Profiles, Vince joins us to talk about his life journey and realizing the joy of releasing his debut album, Spirit Blues.
Folk Singer/Songwriter Michael Gutierrez-May’s New Album Reveals the Depth in Humanity

That’s all changed now. Since 2020, Mike has presented himself as an empathetic and insightful folk songwriter. Today, he cements his reputation with his fourth solo album, ‘Drifting to the Night.’ This is Mike’s strongest and most serious collection of songs, and the 9-song album benefits from polished production, courtesy of veteran musician Stephen R. Martin, a former member of the soft rock band Orpheus. Drifting to the Night also boasts 11 special guests, including former Joe Cocker musical director and guitarist Cliff Gooden.

“My lack of confidence held me back in the past, but never completely gave up on myself,” the Massachusetts-based artist reveals. “Since I started writing songs more consistently, however, I felt like I could make my contribution to music and songwriting.” Mike is well on his way to making his hope for impact a reality. He is a singular and empathetic storyteller with a nylon string guitar and an endearingly playful vocal delivery. Mike’s post-essentialist tunes often burst with surrealism, grace, and characters benefit from a holistic perspective probably informed from Mike’s background as a mental health therapist. Mike’s index fingers pave social worker by vocation, writer and musician by evolution.

Listen to the Speaker Wars Perform ‘Never Ready To Go’

THE SPEAKER WARS (Stan Lynch & Jon Christopher Davis) - ‘Never Ready To Go’

9 TRACKS

- Michael Gutierrez-May - Drifting For Beginners
- Michael Gutierrez-May - Drifting To The Night
- Michael Gutierrez-May - In A Reveal

Copyright © 2007 The Speaker Wars
First up on this edition of the RGM Inbox we’ve industry veterans reeling it with seemingly ridiculous sense. The Spender Warz features Ian Lynch, Jon Christopher Davis (aka JCD) and Andy Timmenos and ‘It Ain’t Easy’ is a powerful introduction to the band. The relationship between drummer/producer/songwriter Lynch (Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers/Don Henley etc) and JCD, who has written songs for and collaborated with Steve Lukather (Toto), Timothy B. Schmit (Eagles), Vince Gill, Dolly Parton and The Go-Go’s actually dates back to 2009 so they’ve not actually mixed into a band situation but timing is everything as they say. ‘It Ain’t Easy’ and the other track released so far ‘Never Ready To Go’ are prime examples of classic rock/Americana that will feel instantly familiar yet fresh to fans of many of the acts mentioned in this feature. For ‘Never Ready To Go’, JCD enlisted the help of his neighbour, guitarist Andy Timmenos (Danger Danger, U2 Whisper, Olivia Newton-John etc) and a duet now looks like a trio and a fully formed band.

The new jazzy folk album, Take It Higher, from Happy For No Reason has arrived! I absolutely love this. Listening to this is an experience. Perfectly recorded, performed, and written. This feels like a classic album. If you love rich tones and great songwriting this is a MUST listen!
Life & Work with McKenna Rowe

Today we’d like to introduce you to McKenna Rowe.

Hi McKenna, thanks for joining us today. We’d love for you to start by introducing yourself.

I’ve been writing music and singing since a very young age. In 200x, I got my first music placement on a TV show, and I realized that if I did the research, made the connections and put in the work, music licensing could be an additional lucrative arm of business for me as a musician. I filed my LLC “Fydelity Girl” Productions that same week. For the last 15+ years, I have licensed music to over a hundred TV shows and commercials. I have also produced a number of soundtrack projects and have collaborated with a number of different theatre companies in Los Angeles, scoring music and sound design for their productions.

I continue to write music as a DJ/producer and singer/songwriter. My latest music project is my new band “Nature Loves Coverage”. We (not completed 12 new singles in 2022, releasing them on streaming platforms every few weeks. We’re in the process of booking small local shows and building our audience, no small task indeed!

Would you say it’s been a smooth road, and if not what are some of the biggest challenges you’ve faced along the way?

I think the two big challenges with being a musician are:

1) Oversaturation: the market is absolutely flooded with so much talent nowadays. I heard a statistic recently that 20,000 songs are released on Spotify every day. That can be so discouraging. But I tell myself that even if nobody hears it, I contributed something to the world, and that’s something that gives me joy and gives my life meaning. I treated something and didn’t just spit out “consumable”.

2) Competition: with all the great talent out there, it’s hard to stand out. But I believe that as long as you have a unique voice and a strong vision, you can make it in this business. I’ve always been passionate about my music and have worked hard to develop my craft.

I think the biggest lesson I’ve learned is that persistence is key. It takes time and effort to build a career in music, but if you stay true to yourself and your art, you can succeed in this industry.
Gary Dranow and the Manic Emotions to Release Debut Album 25 Years In
The Making.

The blues rock band, Gary Dranow and the Manic Emotions, are unrestricted by the bounds of genre, but when you listen you will hear blues tinged Rock N Roll. A force to be reckoned with, Gary Dranow and The Manic Emotions will be releasing all tracks as singles leading up to the 2023 release of the full album Destiny Road.

Destiny Road was initially set for release in the summer of 1997, using Jefferson Airplane’s old 2 - 16 Track AMPEX recording machine. The band underwent multiple personnel battles and the music could not materialize. But now, having gotten back together with a new line up, the Manic Emotions are now ready to finally share their work.

Two singles are available now: “Fool Outta Me,” a heavy hitting pop rock song with a dream-like 80’s inspired quality to it, reminiscent of Pink Floyd meets Bon Jovi.

The second is “Twisted Minds,” a rock song with screaming guitar solos and a wailing keyboard. It has a softer Gary Osborne meets The Rolling Stones musicality.

The First Two Singles “Fool Outta Me” & “Twisted Minds” Are Out Now.
Ariel Arbisser Shares New Single ‘Bloodshed’

American singer and songwriter Ariel Arbisser has just shared her brand new single ‘Bloodshed’, a captivating electro-pop cut about embracing our own duality.

I am really enjoying the tone of Ariel Arbisser’s vocals and how they effortlessly command the listener’s attention to her relatable storytelling. It’s Ariel Arbisser’s powerful, confident vocal delivery that drew my attention to this song and I love the way they are backed by a polished electro-pop production. I am particularly fond of the intricate guitar riffs that are seamlessly intertwined with punchy drum beats and cool synths that create an overall energetic, feel-good atmosphere. Check it out below!

The Sound Cafe

Aspen Jacobsen’s Original Work Is A Modern Twist On Americana And Folk Music

Aspen Jacobsen inspires to make folk music more palatable to younger audiences while continuing to carry on the tradition of writing music of the people, for the people.
TESTIMONIALS

"CYBER PR GOES BEYOND A TRADITIONAL PR COMPANY"
- ELI LEV

"ARIEL HELPED ME PROMOTE MY MOST SUCCESSFUL ALBUM TO DATE. SHE GAVE ME ADVICE THAT I STILL PROFIT FROM IN MY CAREER."
- MANAFEST

"WORKING WITH ARIEL AND HER TEAM NOT ONLY GAVE ME A CLEAR GAME PLAN FOR RELEASING MY MUSIC AND CREATING A RELEVANT AND SUSTAINABLE MUSIC CAREER BUT ALSO GAVE ME CONFIDENCE."
- ATHENA BURKE

"WORKING WITH CYBER PR WAS ONE OF THE BEST DECISIONS I MADE FOR MY MUSIC CAREER. THE NUMBER OF RESPONSES AND LOVE I RECEIVED SURROUNDING MY EP WAS INCREDIBLE - I COULDN'T HAVE ASKED FOR A BETTER TEAM!"
- ZACK KING

"THE ENTIRE TEAM DID SUCH A WONDERFUL JOB. I SO APPRECIATED IT AND THE FEELING OF VALIDATION THAT CAME WITH THESE OUTLETS WRITING ABOUT OR PLAYLISTING MY SONGS."
- CARLOYN SHULMAN

"THEIR SKILL IN NAVIGATING A SIDE OF THE MUSIC BUSINESS I KNEW NOTHING ABOUT WAS INVALUABLE AND I'M THRILLED WITH THE RESULTS!"
- KIRA SMALL
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