

Albums

From folk and fusion to classical and prog rock, *Musician* offers you a chance to catch up with the latest releases by fellow members

GET YOUR CD REVIEWED

Send recordings to: Reviews, *Musician*, 60-62 Clapham Rd, London SW9 0JJ

You should enclose supporting PR material and artwork or photo. The latter can be sent by email to: keith.ames@musiciansunion.org.uk Please also supply details of how people can find out more about you, ideally via your own website or email.

Reviewer: Keith Ames

Copies of the recording must be available to MU members, the industry and the public.

ATMOS JAZZ

MO FOSTER LIVE AT BLUES WEST 14



Having kicked off with progressive jazz/rock

group Affinity in the mid-1960s – a group that effortlessly stand the test of time as shown by their currently available *Origins* album – Mo is now a highly respected bass player, producer, composer and author. On stage, he has worked with Jeff Beck, Phil Collins, Van Morrison, Dusty Springfield and George Martin, while his session credits include Gerry Rafferty, Ringo Starr,

Gil Evans, Gary Moore, Scott Walker and Peter Green amongst numerous very notable others. His numerous film sessions include *For Your Eyes Only*, *Octopussy* and *Revenge Of The Pink Panther*, and this CD, recorded live in West London, displays a rare breadth and imagination in both the choice of material and the skill in which it is delivered. Cleverly piecing together a series of live performances, the atmospheric jazz fills the air and carries you away to a better place, thanks to the free-spirited performances of the brilliant Ralph Salmins, Gary Husband, Ray Russell and Ian Bellamy. Class throughout.

www.mofoster.com

SMOOTH ANTHEMS

ALONEME SKETCH



This release is AloneMe's first full album, which follows their

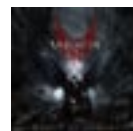
many live performances since starting out in 2003, and they have created a confident and instant collection. Produced expertly by Nigel Stonier, and with support from Arts Council England, the core pairing of vocalist Sarah Springett and guitarist David Booth are joined by percussionist Simon Edgoose who adds punch to their acoustic, edgy reflections upon life and love. *Start Again*,

in particular, points a commercial way ahead for the Essex-based trio with Sarah's vocals proving especially appealing. Able to smoothly move from stripped-down fare (*Hungry Someday*) to a fuller anthemic style (*Find What Lies*), mainstream radio awaits. Extremely promising.

www.aloneme.com

BIG METAL

VENDETTA TYRANNY OF MINORITY



Barricade-storming metal from the North's kings of killer rock with guitarists Edward Box and Pete

IN FOCUS

Tim Renwick Privateer

Sensational session guitarist turns his hand to songwriting

■ Tim is a consummate guitarist who has played with an incredible array of artists since making his initial mark with David Bowie circa *Space Oddity*, including Sutherland Bros & Quiver, Al Stewart, Lazy Racer, Elton John, Procul Harum, Mike Oldfield, Roger Waters, Eric Clapton and Pink Floyd. He has now written, recorded and produced a 13-track set of instrumentals, which vary from the melodic harmonic rock of *Gridlock*, to a classic and uplifting blues of *Blue Monday* with Alan Glen's superb harmonica to the fore, and the emotive acoustic-based *Polly's Song*. Also featuring a crack session team of Guy Pratt (bass) and Henry Spinetti (drums), the years of experience pour out to offer a work of depth and clarity with Tim's versatility and six-string mastery to the fore. *Musician* caught up with Tim as he worked on promotion for the album...

What is your earliest musical memory?

Going to concerts with my father, who played the double bass with Cambridge Symphony Orchestra. I played the clarinet then, switching to guitar at 14.

What was the first record you bought?

Jivin' The Vibes with Lionel Hampton and his band. That man knew how to swing!

Who would you most like to collaborate with now?

I've been very lucky to have had the chance to play with many of my guitar heroes, David Gilmour, Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck etc. I actually find it easier to create by myself as otherwise I tend to adopt a supportive role. It's my natural default approach, having been a sideman for so long.

What advice do you have other musicians?

Try to keep an open mind as much as possible. There are good and bad examples of most musical styles, and you can draw on the positive elements and make your own use of them. With regards to session work – never turn anything down!

How has the MU helped you?

In my days as a fairly active session musician, they have been helpful in getting my fee paid on more than one occasion.

Your best experience to date as a live performer?

Band Aid with Eric Clapton in 1985 was a wonderful experience. Pink Floyd on the Live 8 Hyde Park concert 20 years' later was the cherry on my cake.

Your favourite recording to date?

Probably the title track from *Year Of The Cat* with Al



Tim has written 13 well-crafted tracks for his album

Stewart. I've been involved in seven albums for Al. He is very indulgent with guest guitarists, it's great.

What are your plans for the next 12 months?

I have a batch of media music to write and record. I've recently acquired a Pro Tools computer setup, which I aim to learn to use. A friend described this as "being dragged kicking and screaming into the '90s". www.timrenwick.com

ALSO OUT...

MAYBE MYRTLE TYRTL
Songs To Enjoy

Upbeat Bonzo- and Zappa-style fun with the fab Tyrtles, who are guaranteed to lift any sagging souls with their manic yet perfect festival-friendly escapades. Joyous, rabble rousing and inspirational, look out for the name and catch a rare glimpse of fire and ice in partnership. Triumphant. www.myspace.com/maybemyrtyrtle

CLAIRE MOONEY**Good As You**

Eleven earnest and potent performances of stimulating present-day protest material from Manchester-based singer/songwriter Claire. Fervent yet insightful in the ways of the human heart, this is both intense and memorable from the very start. www.clairemooney.co.uk

RICK CHRISTIAN & JULIAN MAY**Loose Association**

Twelve tracks of evergreen folk, country and rock and roll standards from the Maldon, Essex-based coupling who present a series of classics from Bye Bye Love to Buddy's It's So Easy, via Hello Mary Lou and Jambalaya. Great stuff. www.rickchristian.co.uk

NITA**Forever With You**

Soul sensation Nita is a star in the making, courtesy of a series of exceptional recordings that should generate major media attention in 2008. Already in demand by London-based production teams, this six-track release acts as a ground breaker for her much-awaited debut album. Sparkling. www.justnita.co.uk

BEV PEGG & HIS RAILROAD SKIFFLE GROUP**All Aboard!**

Eighteen wonderful cuts of skiffle, jugband and rent party music from Bev and his three-man group, who are supported here by violinist Pete Hartley and the blues harp of Big Jim Merris. From Midnight Special to My Old Kentucky Home, Goodnight, this compilation is simply marvellous and a reminder of why skiffle was so influential and inspirational in the 1950s. More! www.bevepegg.co.uk

Thompson, bassist Gary Foalle and drummer Mick Robson slamming down a dozen tracks of steel. All the essential headbanging ingredients are present and correct – incendiary riffs and ball-breaking rhythms – but *Plastic God* outlines why these guys have an extra-cutting, Phil Lynott-influenced edge that raises their flag some way above the usual standard. Allied to a willingness to mix in Wishbone-like twin lead on occasion, plus gritty vocals, and you have a forward-looking band with true potential. Tremendous. www.vendetta-theband.com

MYTHIC ROCK**ALBERT LEE AND HOGAN'S HEROES**
IN BETWEEN THE CRACKS

Legendary guitarist Albert leads the Heroes through a

blinding mix of originals and standards in his inimitable manner and with a freshness that belies his status as a pathfinder for UK country/rock and roll aficionados since the 1970s. Totally at home with the Everlys' *Brand New Heartache* and the speed trickery of *Pulling It Off*, Albert exhibits why he has been an in-demand player for so many major names. In fact, all of the Heroes show a potency and understanding of what it takes to make the best of British stand up with pride against their US counterparts. Gerry Hogan (steel), Pete Wingfield (keys), Brian Hodgson (bass) and Peter Baron (drums) blend to mould a fluid and dexterous force. Great stuff.

www.albertleeandhogansheroes.com

FIZZY JAZZ**ANDI HOPGOOD**
I COULD BE SO HAPPY

Andi is an effervescent young jazz singer with a bright future

who has already developed musical relationships of substance, having been able to call on matchless support here, namely Graham Harvey (piano), Matt Miles (double bass) and Matt Skelton (drums). Bright and vibrant during her take on Van Heusen/Mercer's *I Thought About You* and yet intimate and seductive on Legrand's *The Summer Knows*, Andi is clearly adroit at offering a range of jazz moods. Probably in her best light, however, during Dearie's *Shadowing You* when the gently uptempo swing lends itself perfectly to her high tones. Delectable from start to finish.

www.andihopgood.com

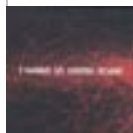
COSMIC RIFFERAMA**ALAN DAVEY**
HUMAN ON THE OUTSIDE

Hawkwind bass and multi-instrument player

Alan launches a powerful new album that continues his tradition of writing, performing and producing modern rock with touches of Pink Floyd and slithers of Killing Joke. Exhilarating keyboard motifs carry *Years Ago Miles Away* to a stirring conclusion and set the scene for the rewarding explorations on mood leveller *Marine Snow*. Rocker *World Of Fear*, meanwhile, is a straight-ahead, no-bull riffarama that could prove a tantalisingly interesting

cover for Motorhead, while closer *Glass Wolves* features a sandpaper vocal and intriguing lyrics: "Like sheep we roam with glass wolves, guided on by blind fools. Gods of tin and red clay, cosmic signs we obey." Out of this world.

www.alandaveymusic.co.uk

TECHNO DANCERS**T MINUS 50**
DIGITAL SCARS

Combining computer technology, guitar, bass, drums and

turntables to considerable effect come Bristol's own addition to that city's heritage for cutting-edge dance music, T Minus 50. The modern quartet, led by media writer Tim Baker, is one contemporary act that is equally comfortable on stage and in the studio. The foursome (Baker, Leuan Macey, Neil Watkins and DJ Name) can also claim the bonus of singing talents Georgie Pinn and Jane Orr, and this lends a commercial element in the Dido/Faithless mould. Perfect for soundtrack purposes such as *The Bourne Identity* series, T Minus 50 have their collective feet placed firmly in 2007. Benefiting from a superb production by Warne Livesey, the future promises great things for all involved. Intense and magnificent.

www.tminus50.com

WISTFUL FOLK/POP**MEGSON**
SMOKE OF HOME

Rising twosome Debbie Palmer (vocals/

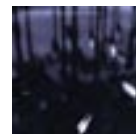
whistle) and Stu Hanna (guitar/mandolin/fiddle) carry on moving up through the busy ranks of folk/pop



Singer Andi Hopgood aims to get happy with her new jazz release

artists by presenting songs of sweet tunefulness via understated production values. Sufficiently established to be asked to play on Bob Harris's Radio 2 programme, the duo's constant gigging is ensuring them a growing fanbase – especially around the festival circuit. Alongside their professionalism, this bodes extremely well for the future. The CD relates a young girl's story as she leaves her Northern home only to find, in classic tradition, that the lights of the big city don't fulfil her dreams. Wistful tales of considerable poignancy. Exceptional.

www.megsonmusic.co.uk

JAZZ ADVENTURE**JOHN SURMAN**
THE SPACES IN BETWEEN

John has been composing ground-breaking

atmospheric music for several decades and remains one of the UK's top jazz musicians. A brilliant baritone saxophonist, he has played with a huge range of names, from Alexis Korner, Mike Westbrook and The Trio, to Alan Skidmore and Gil Evans. In recent years, he has turned to producing works in many settings and this CD continues by featuring the major talent of Chris Laurence (double bass) together with a first-rate string quartet: Rita Manning, Patrick Kiernan, Bill Hawkes and Nick

Albums continued

Cooper. A stunning six-minute opener, *Moonlighter*, steps out with adventurous spirit, preparing the listener for a challenging but most rewarding experience.

www.johnsurman.com

STRIPPED ROCK

THE COLLABORATORS GIVING IT ALL AWAY

The sound partnership of East Sussex's singer/guitarist James Morris and drummer Andy Coote is founded on a love and deep understanding of classic English pop/rock and live performance. Released on the independent label, Automix, the 12 songs creditably reveal their influences but highlight why good songs played in a stripped-down format maintain an eternal appeal. The duo's background of playing the great British artists live has paved the way for an album of straightforward south coast



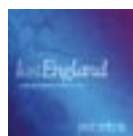
rhythm and melody. This is encapsulated in the excellent Nick Lowe-like *Getaway* with its mid-tempo musings on escaping everyday trappings, and the Costello top line of *This Is What It Is*. Timeless.

www.thecollaborators.co.uk

JOYFULLY LIGHT

KENT SINFONIA LOST ENGLAND

Established in 1962 by Béla de Csilléry, the Sinfonia achieved professional status in 1995 and is recognised for its exemplary aims of striving to make live classical music accessible to all, especially where there are no regular venues. The chamber orchestra consists of up to 40 musicians – all connected to Kent – and is recognised for the admirable work it undertakes with its partners in education. This album throws light on two composers whose talents



were lost as a result of conflict: George Butterworth (died, the Somme 1916) and Walter Leigh (died, near Tobruk 1942). The two shared a lightness of touch and the sympathetic promptings of conductor Malcolm Riley bring out the best in the works of both, also in the accomplished performers of the Sinfonia. A joy throughout.

www.kentsinfonia.com

CLASSICAL CHARM

WHITEHALL CHOIR ANTON BRUCKNER: MASS IN E MINOR & PAUL SPICER: THE DECIDUOUS CROSS



A sumptuous hour-long CD that features two complete works, namely Bruckner's emotional Mass and Spicer's idiosyncratic work, performed by this prodigious choir who mark their 65th year with this release. While the wonderful choral music of Bruckner

is universally recognised, Paul Spicer is a homegrown talent with a burgeoning reputation and the pairing of the two works appears a natural combination to his credit. *A Blackbird Singing* is a particularly delightful item exhibiting a lightness and warmth in melody and arrangement. The Choir is accompanied expertly here across the 12 individual pieces by The Brandenburg Sinfonia, who are regularly to be found in concert halls throughout the UK, and who remain in great demand in numerous countries abroad. Charming.

www.whitehallchoir.org.uk

COUNTRY CLASS

DAVE SHERIFF OVERWORKED & UNDERPAID



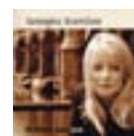
Prime British country from Midlands-born Dave, who has worked his way up from playing sessions on TV shows, performing with a

multitude of name artists at the Wembley Country Music Festivals, to his debut CD album *One Man Band Extraordinaire* – which was awarded Best Album at the 1993 UK Country Music Radio Awards – and forming his own recording/publishing company Stomp Music. Dave has also appeared at the mecca for traditional country, the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, where he was invited to perform in June 2000 by Porter Wagoner. He has now released this striking album with an imposing set of originals, from the title track to closer *Boogie With My Baby*. Three singles have already risen to the top of the British Country Music charts. It's easy to hear why Dave is so popular, with his ear for a good melody, a matching lyric and a storming arrangement. Simply great.

www.davesheriff.com

TRUMPET LOVE

GEORGINA BROMILOW 'TIL THERE WAS YOU



Already recognised as a first-class lead trumpet player, Georgina also possesses a warm, distinctive voice and is equally at ease behind a mic with just her smooth vocals for company. Having impressed with the Andy Prior Orchestra and on a world tour with the musical *Chicago*, she continues to stake a claim as a superior big band leader in her own right. It's during the album's *East Of The Sun* that her melodic control and personality truly shine through. Highlights include the late-night, blues-orientated *What Are You Doing The Rest Of Your Life*, which contrasts fluently with the warm,

IN FOCUS

Simon Mayor and the Mandolinquents

Dance of the Comedians

Mandolins abound in this top offering

An instant delight, this is a superb CD of top quality musicianship and accompanying humour as writer and composer Simon – together with a very talented trio of performers – tackle an impressively wide range of material with genuine gusto and, when called for, tenderness. Any act that can move in a live setting from light-hearted performances of the *Dance Of The Sugar Plum Fairy* and the Brazilian gem *Apanhei-Te Cavaquinho*, to the delicacy of a gorgeous *Song Of India* merits an ongoing place in the limelight. Boasting the talents of Hilary James (vocals/mandobass), Gerald Garcia (classical guitar) and Richard Collins (mandolin, banjo, mandobass), this is a find of true class. It is highly recommended to anyone seeking a 21st-century example of British wit and skill www.mandolin.co.uk



Delightfully twangy: Simon Mayor and the Mandolinquents

brassy in-your-face impact of *September In The Rain*. Outstanding.

www.geoginabromilow.com

THINK ROCK

AMY NEWTON WHICH HAND?



Amy is a lauded singer/songwriter/guitarist and

commended for her superior gentle, introspective rock. The opener here, *Turn Things Around*, contains echoes of Joan Armatrading and has a contemporary rawness that benefits from the pure production values Amy applies throughout. Follow up *Do You Think About Me* acts as a great demo for a rock act to pick up on and highlights how Amy's writing warrants attention for its own merits in addition to her skills as a singer/musician. The lilting top line of *I Didn't Like You Anyway* has a timeless quality that hints at how Amy could stand above the competition in a crowded marketplace. A talent destined to go far.

www.amynewton.com

DEFT JAZZ

CRAIG SCHNEIDER / JONTY FISHER / DARRYN FARRUGIA TRIO



Eight tracks of smooth, classic small band jazz from

the fine London-based threesome

of Craig, Jonty and Darryn in which they display collective skills in composition, improv and performance. Opening with the beautiful *Wildflower*, the blend of Craig's melodic keyboard deftness, and the fluid mix of Jonty's double bass and Darryn's skins immediately shows why they are rising stars in their chosen format. Craig's original *Tell Me Why* opens up with a more considered, blues-orientated feel and allows the group to step out into more liberal, open territory via spacious soloing. This is a collective set that will generate many repeat plays, especially as a more enjoyable CD of trio jazz would be extremely hard to find.

www.craig-schneider.com

SULTRY STRUMMING

ESTHER O'CONNOR THE PLACE WHERE WE ARE



Acclaimed in her native Scotland as a star in waiting,

Esther's sultry acoustic rock stylings are instantaneous and wrapped in a winning formula. They are sensitive but underpinned with just enough fire to keep you hooked to her stories of life's little mysteries. *Move On* hits home with its briskly strummed guitar and layered background harmonic keys, although it's on *Nirvana Man* when

the most commercial

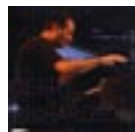
properties rise. It's

easy to understand why Esther has been likened to songstress Sheryl Crow or a funkier Delta Goodrem. An authentic voice that mainstream radio would welcome with open arms. One to watch.

www.estheroconnor.com

MULTI-GENRE BREW

GERRY RICHARDSON THIS... IS WHAT WE DO



Former Last Exit keyboard king Gerry

leads his various line-ups through a series of originals and choice covers that boldly mixes soul, jazz and drum'n'bass in addition to featuring his ex-bandmate Sting as special guest vocalist, plus renowned guitarist Rod Sinclair. The album incorporates tracks from Gerry's trio, quartet, quintet, sextet as well as full nine-piece, the best of which – such as Graham Bond's *Springtime In The City* and Gerry's own *Global Village Idiot* – bring his powerful Hammond to the fore. Elsewhere, the three brass and three reed instruments dominate with the saxes of Garry Linsley, Sue Ferris and Ray Dales being particularly strong. A brave and impressive blend of the old, new and unique.

www.gerryrichardson.com

JAZZ INTRIGUE

SHAMUS DARK SONGS FOR SUICIDAL LOVERS



Shamus has an intriguing website that reveals a fascinating

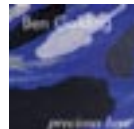
biography for our hero with references to his life as a virtual recluse, living in a run-down hotel in Malaysia with the mysterious Laura and performing jazz

standards. His story also includes encounters with American intelligence and the IRA, mind-altering drugs administered by the Romanian secret police, punk rock, life in a World War II air raid shelter and other incredible incidents. It is with prickly anticipation therefore that we approach the album that begins with a predictably atmospheric slow-paced burner, *Angel Eyes*, with its cool lead guitar and understated vocal. This is quickly followed by a series of laid-back, jazz-inflected songs, of which *The Party's Over* is a stand out with its Massive Attack-style string touches. Want to escape the humdrum of everyday life? Check out Shamus, he's definitely worth investigating.

www.shamusdark.com

FOLKY SOUL

BEN GOLDING PRECIOUS LOVE



South East London writer and musician Ben offers

up seven self-penned recordings of mature folk soul that put the focus squarely on his high and tender voice. With its relaxed and approachable production, *I Just Want You To Stay* alternates between scene-setting verses and a title-featuring reprise of considerable melodic strength. *When It Starts To Fall Down*, meanwhile, boasts a combination of arpeggio acoustic and confessional-style lead vocal through which Ben tells his story of love going regrettably wrong. Refreshing and heartfelt performances lift this above the competition, pointing to the fact that Ben is an artist to look out for in the months to come.

www.bengolding.co.uk

ALSO OUT...

HORSES BRAWL

Dindirin

Duo Adrian Lever (guitar) and Laura Cannell (recorder, fiddle and crumhorns) have made a considerable impact with their blend of early music and folk. This album is set to step their career up several gears as they hit the ground running with a refined balance of the plaintive (Fawrhor) and energetic (Shave the Donkey).
www.horsesbrawl.co.uk

RONNIE FINDON

Still Swinging!

A master musician and veteran of many great bands while in the RAF – with George Evans, Joe Loss, Harry Gold and Glenn Miller UK, as well as numerous other orchestras, groups and ensembles – Ronnie is a true gentleman of jazz and at 80 years of age still a stunning performer on clarinet, sax, oboe, bassoon and flute. This album is a 22-track gem recorded as a tribute to his career as an extremely fine player. Peerless.
More info: jfindon@t2s.com

THE MAYS

Tillingham Phonebox Blues

The four piece are celebrating 30 years of grand music making with this recording, which features an upbeat tribute to their local red phone box! Folk rock and roll that never appears to go out of fashion, simply drives along and should be enjoyed with a beer in hand on a sunny country evening.
www.themaysmusic.co.uk

CARLOS COGUL

Introduction

Baritone Carlos has released a beautifully produced album containing a series of 11 arias and four 'crossover' mainstream songs that portray his robust command of melody, dynamics and character vocals.
www.carloscogul.com

NEIL DUNNACHIE

Medieval Classic Melodies

Twenty-four charming and engaging pieces for solo guitar from skilled Renfrewshire musician Neil. Recorded in just four hours, this CD is proving sufficiently popular to demand regular reprints. As an introduction to British classical guitar, it is excellent.
Recommended.
www.neildunnachie.com

While *Musician* aims to offer everyone the opportunity for a listing here, if your recording has not been featured this time, please be reassured we will do our best to include an item about you in a future edition.

Georgina Bromilow pulls out all the stops on 'Til There Was You

