



FREE

Still Fumin' News

Winter 2005

# DECEMBERCHILD BENEFIT 2004!!



Raffle prizes included a leather jacket and a Greg Bennett Designs electric guitar by Samick

We want to thank all those who came out for the Decemberchild Benefit Concert on Dec 16th. This year was the most successful so far. We managed to raise \$750 for the Valley Christmas Project, which helps hundreds of needy families every year. It is a project of Valley Churches United Missions, a year-round charity in Santa Cruz County. The Valley Christmas Project provides needy families with holiday meals and gifts for their children.



Double Chocolate Birthday cake was a big favorite

Lisa Leuschner was the darling of the show, bringing shouts of "We want more Lisa!" from the audience. The Tom Savell Band also impressed with a wide variety of styles, including a set of music from The Beatles featuring Tom's brother Joel on lead vocals with Tom on violin and some of the best musicians in Santa Cruz backing them up.

The evening's highlights included a raffle for an electric guitar, and a couple of wonderful birthday cakes baked by Hoffman's Bakery in downtown Santa Cruz. Before the final raffle of the electric guitar, Tom played it on stage to "Birthday" by the Beatles. There were birthday gifts scattered throughout the concert hall, including stuffed animals and toy cars.

The many Decemberchildren attending shared common childhood experiences of birthdays overwhelmed by the holidays. And the comments after the show ranged from "Great music" to "The most fun I've had in years." Still Fumin' Records looks forward to making this annual event even better and more fun in the years to come.

## WINTER NAMM SHOW REPORT 2005

Every January at the Anaheim Convention Center, thousands of music companies demonstrate their latest products at the Winter NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants) Show. Famous musicians often demonstrate the products, providing opportunities for up-close and candid conversation with some of the best musicians in the world. This giant trade show, which is not open to the public, is in its 103<sup>rd</sup> year and is only getting bigger and more advanced.

We ran into our friend and colleague Denis Lebreque, who has worked in the music industry for decades and has attended NAMM shows since the late 1970's. Denis recalls, "Back then, it was held at the Disneyland Hotel and then it moved across the street to the Anaheim Convention Center. It was made up almost entirely of piano manufacturers who, interestingly, all made grandfather clocks as well. So it was a trade show for pianos and clocks! It only took up 1 or 2 halls of the convention center."

Now the convention center is bursting at the seams every year when NAMM comes to town. Every imaginable musical product can be found somewhere



Tom, Denis & Jacob

Still Fumin' Records P.O. Box 66813 Scotts Valley, CA 95067 (831) 460-9837

www.stillfumin.com



## Tony Levin: Bassist, Stickist



*Joel Savell & Tony Levin*

Tony Levin, the legendary bass player is most remembered for his virtuosic work with Progressive rockers King Crimson, and as the longstanding bassist for the iconic Peter Dinklage. He's also recorded with Alice Cooper, Dire Straights (on their famous "Brothers in Arms" album), Pink Floyd, John Lennon, Don McLean, Paul Simon, and countless others.

In addition to the bass, Tony also plays the Chapman Stick (see below), a 10 stringed instrument played entirely by tapping. In the early eighties, King Crimson allowed him to show his skills with the unusual instrument to the world, tapping out complex rhythms on the Stick's

many varied and deep tones.

We managed to catch up with Tony at the Ampeg Amplifiers booth at the NAMM show and he confided in us, "Yes, I still play the stick, but haven't recorded with it for a while. There's such a long delay between recording and releasing an album, I don't know which records are coming out next." Lately he's been producing and playing bass with the California Guitar Trio, a progressive rock band with a slight surf music influence. They've been getting some rave reviews on their latest album "Whitewater", undoubtedly due in no small part to Tony's influence.

## Tom and the 15-foot Full Stack

At right, Tom's playing through a 15-foot tall full stack made by Crate Amplifiers. This is a real guitar amp featuring two speaker cabinets totaling 32 speakers in all! It cranks, but it's a little pricey at \$10,000 each for the speaker cabinets plus \$10,000 more for the amp head. That's \$30-grand for the amp stack as pictured!



*Tom with a monster Crate stack*

## Emmett Chapman & the Stick

Emmett Chapman, the inventor of the Stick still runs his shop, Stick Enterprises, Inc. in California. The stick is a fretted string instrument that is played by simply pressing or tapping fingers on the fretboard. Joel owns a very early model with a low serial number, similar to the one played by Tony Levin on King Crimson's "Three of a Perfect Pair" album. Emmett and Joel are discussing the benefits of sending Joel's Stick to Emmett for refurbishing and tuneup.



*Joel & Emmett Chapman with the Stick*

## NAMM Show Photo special: Some memorable sights from the show



*Tom with guitarist Ravi at the Samick booth. Ravi is demonstrating a Greg Bennett Designs guitar similar to the raffle prize Tom played at Decemberchild 2004 (see page 1).*



*Charlie Massey explains to Tom the many benefits of Big Bends Nut Sauce, while the pulsating rod tries to break the G-string. "Without Nut Sauce, the string breaks after only 1,200 bends, but with Nut Sauce, the string lasts for more than 10,000 bends."*



*Tom trying out a Togaman Guitarviolin, a guitar designed to be played with a bow. The bow is more like a German bass bow than a violin bow, and if you look closely, you can see Tom playing with a German grip. This is much different than the typical violin grip, but after a few minutes he grew more comfortable with it.*



*Tom plays a 7-string violin at the Jordan Electric Violins booth. "The neat thing about this violin is it can play notes deeper and lower than a cello", Tom relates. "It takes a little getting used to the different angle of the strings, but I like it!"*

# NAMM Show Photo special: Continued



*L to R: Chris Poland, guitarist for OHM;  
Robertino Pagliari, bassist for OHM;  
Amir Derakh, guitarist for Orgy & Julien-k;  
Ryan Shuck, guitarist for Orgy & Julien-k,*



*Tom sandwiched between Cabo-Wabo  
Tequila girls Brina(L) & Lisa*



*A better pic of Chris Poland,  
guitarist for OHM.*



*Dino Meneghin, guitarist for Liz Phair; Michael  
Herring, guitarist for Christina Aguilera &  
Anastasia; Phil Lipscomb, bassist for Taproot),*

# NAMM Show Photo special:

## Buds .....And duds:



Tom with keyboardist and E-mu Product Specialist Dan Becker at the E-mu booth



Tom looking less than excited about the Williams Keyboard Guitar. It seemed like a cool idea, but this is actually a pretty limited instrument



Tom & Jacob with musician and music industry colleague Alan Peevers (L)



Tom playing a Nord keyboard. After this photo was taken, he tried a keyboard that wasn't provided with headphones. The Nord booth rep rudely told Tom to turn it down, so he decided not to buy one.



Joel and a quality Yamaha Rep

### A note about Yamaha vs. Gretsch

At the NAMM show, we visited both the Yamaha and Gretsch booths while looking for a new guitar. Unfortunately, the Gretsch representatives were extremely rude, ignoring us, eventually telling us to grab a catalog from underneath/behind the table; not helpful at all. On the other hand, the people at the Yamaha booth were courteous and friendly, ready to answer all questions we had about the guitars. Not only that, the rep actually brought us catalogues and price lists without even being asked. Right on Yamaha!

## NAMM Show Photo special: Continued



*Jimmy Dale, "Prince of the Surf Guitar" 11 year old son of the legendary Dick Dale, whose signature surf licks can be heard on the TV show "3rd Rock From the Sun"*



*These custom guitars by Moser had some of the more innovative body shapes at the show. It's refreshing to see something other than clones of Stratocaster's and Les Paul's!*



*Degenero Guitars also makes some of the most unique and interesting guitar styles*



*Tom playing at the Stone Tone booth. These guitars are covered with a layer of stone, which adds to the guitar's sound. They have a unique character, unlike traditional wooden tops. So if you're searching for a different sound with the unique beauty of polished stone, consider a Stone Tone.*

# Restaurant & Music Review

**Restaurant: Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen**  
**Band: Kenny Sara & the Sounds of New Orleans**

Across the street from the Anaheim Convention Center is the Disneyland Hotel, a convenient, fabulous rest-stop located in the corner of the Disneyland resort. We and many other NAMM Show guests had the good fortune of staying at the Paradise Pier Inn, a recent addition to the Disneyland Hotel complex.

Also adjacent to Disneyland is an outdoor mall of restaurants and shops known as Downtown Disney. Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen is there, identified by New Orleans style decor and a giant saxophone on its banner. With Mardi Gras coming up in February, the place was in a festive mood.

I was very impressed by the food. The Sweet Potato Catfish was exquisitely gourmet, served on a bed of collared greens. The sauce was sweet, but



*David "Woody" Woodford & Richard Taylor*

the dish maintained a very good balance of flavors. Let me put it this way: my mouth is watering as I'm writing this.

The Shrimp Scampi was also quite worthy. Each shrimp was served on a mushroom, with delicious finger potatoes on the side. The whole dish was drenched in a creamy scampi sauce. Though keeping true to the scampi tradition, with plenty of garlic and butter, this dish was nonetheless a unique creation.

Well, you can't call it a Jazz Kitchen without a Jazz band, and the place certainly delivered on that end, too. Kenny Sara & the Sounds of New Orleans were tight, had a great sound, and were very fun to watch. They played some traditional jazz numbers while mixing in some straight



*Kenny Sara*

ahead Rhythm & Blues. They played a few instrumentals, and each player sang at least one song.

Kenny on drums had just the right touch for each part, which a true sign of a master. Johnny Turner, with his signature Epiphone by Gibson guitar, achieved an amazing variety of tone from his deceptively simple setup. Richard "Fats" Taylor chimed in with his Fats Domino style vocals and impressive command of the piano and keyboards. The sax player, David "Woody" Woodford is a rocker, playing with the aggressive tone and passion heard in fifties R&B sax.

Expect to spend some serious money if you eat dinner here. But if you're in the mood for world class food, good service, spirits, and front row seats to a quality Jazz concert, then the cost is well worth it.



*Johnny Turner*

## Leland Sklar: the Working Class Bassist



*Leland Sklar at the NAMM show*

Leland Sklar: For a while it seemed like every time there was a concert on TV, I would see this same guy always playing bass. He's a long haired, bearded figure, who humbly locks down the rhythm sections of some of the most famous acts on the planet. Most notably he is a mainstay of the Phil Collins band, though he has appeared with many other famous pop, rock, and country artists. With a commitment to holding down the "fundamental bottom end" and quality-over-quantity of notes, he has earned himself a permanent spot as one of the most sought after, respected, and admired bass players in the industry.

His no-nonsense blue collar philosophy carries over into his equipment. Lee doesn't need a lot of fancy gear, he prefers instead to keep it simple: "To me, the less amount of crap you put on here, the more you can focus on your job as a bass player."

While talking to Lee at the NAMM Yamaha guitar booth, I found out that aside from his many other projects, this fall he'll be going on tour with his old friend Phil Collins. I was surprised to hear that, because I was under the impression that Phil had retired from touring forever. Actually, Sklar says, Collins has only retired from playing large stadiums and concert halls. He will continue to play at more exclusive, intimate venues.

## Classifieds (Add \$3 Shipping & Handling on all orders)

### Music & Video



Superior Olive, "It's All In The Mind." \$8



Superior Olive, "Farewell to the Illusion". \$8



Superior Olive's Last Recordings with Jim Viele: "Max Random: Never Let Go." \$8



Superior Olive's latest album "Ziggurat", featuring Aynsley Dunbar. Packaged inside full-size accompanying comic book." \$15



"Fetal Pigs In Brine" New self-titled debut album. Punk/Alternative. \$8



Fetal Pigs In Brine video, "Live at Capitola Theatre" VHS \$12



"Father Of Satan" Dark Metal with a Christian twist. \$8



Dennis Jackson. "I'm not Dreamin' of a White Christmas" CD single \$3

Contact Still Fumin' Records for a free subscription to this newsletter.

Send all requests and payments to:

**Still Fumin' Records**  
**P.O. Box 66813**  
**Scotts Valley, CA 95067**  
 (Add \$3 S&H on all orders)

Still Fumin' Records P.O. Box 66813 Scotts Valley, CA 95067 (831) 460-9837

www.stillfumin.com