

Still Fumin' News



WINTER NAMM 2010 COVERAGE!!

Still Fumin' Records

Spring 2010

DECEMBERCHILD 2009 REPORT

The 7th Annual Decemberchild Benefit Concert was another great success, with concertgoers filling Don Quixote's International Music Hall to see three great bands, Sweet Jam, Superior Olive, and It's A Beautiful Day on Sunday December 13th, 2009. By the end of the fun-filled evening, which also produced a generous donation for Valley Churches United Missions, excited fans were screaming for more.



*Jacob Save, Scott LaMantia, Tom Savell,
Phillip Mobley & Joel Savell*

Disregarding the rainy weather, many people even arrived early and enjoyed a delicious Mexican dinner while the crew was setting up for the show. Master of Ceremonies Philip Mobley of PLM Productions started the night just after 7:00pm with his charismatic engagement of the crowd. He has a way of drawing people in and keeping their attention, and he kept everyone focused on the fact that it was a benefit while making it fun!

Santa Cruz locals Sweet Jam were the first band, playing a set of acoustic rock from their recently released debut album. Their soft flowing melodies along with interesting instrumentation such as a wooden recorder provided a fitting opening to the event.

The second act was Superior Olive, playing selections from their past and upcoming albums plus a few favorite covers. They even played a song from front man Tom Savell's solo CD with young 14 year-old drummer Chris Wakeland sitting in. During "Threshold," a song from the upcoming album, David LaFlamme of It's A Beautiful Day surprised the crowd by sitting in on violin. Fans were even more thrilled when Tom picked up his violin and soloed along with David, their complementary styles interweaving and answering each other.

Between each band, MC Philip Mobley presided over the raffle giveaways. The raffle prizes started smaller and grew larger throughout the evening, culminating in the grand prize Epiphone Les Paul electric guitar. The grand prize winner Coral Brune (pictured right) was very happy about her new acquisition.



*Coral Brune poses with
Tom and her new guitar!*

After the final raffle, It's A Beautiful Day took the stage. They even graced the event with their own rendition of "Happy Birthday" while the Decemberchild Birthday Cake was cut. Filling the dance floor with classic favorites like "Girl With No Eyes" and "Wasted Union Blues," It's A Beautiful Day made it a truly beautiful evening. Then David called Tom up on stage to play violin for the last two songs, "White Bird" and "Time Is", ending the evening with a huge bang.



It's a Beautiful Day: Rob Espinoza, Tom Savell, David LaFlamme, Val Fuentes, Linda LaFlamme, Toby Gray, & Gary Thomas

Still Fumin' News

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Winter NAMM 2010

The Winter NAMM show is the world's largest annual music trade show, held every January at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, CA. Closed to the general public, entry to NAMM is limited to music industry professionals such as instrument manufacturers, retailers, distributors and artists.

All four stories of the Anaheim convention center are filled up at the NAMM show. In addition to the ground floor where the massive main halls are, there is also a smaller downstairs "basement" hall where many of the smaller companies and new products can be found. Upstairs on the 2nd and 3rd floors, meeting rooms of various sizes hold most of the piano and organ companies, as well as popular guitar & amp companies like Fender & Line 6.

Still Fumin' Records recording artists Tom, Jacob and Joel Savell of the rock band Superior Olive have been going to the NAMM show for 14 years, and have pretty much seen it all. Being grizzled veterans of the NAMM show experience, the novelty might have slightly worn off for them, but it's at that point that having specific goals becomes more important when going to NAMM. In other words, it helps to have a reason to go there other than to just "look around." Tom, being an important board member of the MIDI Manufacturers Association (MMA), had a big reason to go to NAMM 2010; to attend the series of MMA meetings held every year at NAMM.

In addition, the Savells had several other goals, including looking for instrument tuners, a new violin shoulder rest for Tom, as well as touching base with endorsee companies like Muse Research Inc, Line 6, and Ampeg.

One of the first stops at NAMM was the Muse Research booth. Muse is a Bay Area based music technology company known for making the Receptor, a versatile sound processing unit. Bryan Lanser and Matt Christiano, musicians and close friends of the Savell bros', are also important members of the Muse Research team.

To help give a demonstration of the Receptor, Tom got a violin from the Wood Violins booth (which he called the best violin he had ever played on) and together with Joel on bass & drummer Chris Ryan of Muse Research, played Superior Olive's trademark rendition of Black Sabbath's War Pigs on violin, bass and drums. By the end of the song, a large crowd had gathered around the booth to listen! Visit *Muse Research* online at www.museresearch.com.



The legendary "Weird" Al Yankovich, signing autographs at NAMM



Matt Christiano, Tom, and Jacob hanging out at the Muse Research booth.



Drummer Chris Ryan, Tom & Joel jam through Muse Receptors at the Muse Research Booth



Winter NAMM 2010 Continued: Photo Exclusive



Batgirl jamming on a "Wing-Bat" guitar next to the classic Batmobile (from the 1960's Batman TV series) at the Hallmark Guitars booth.



If the lone black amplifier could talk, it might say "What am I doing here?!" (to reference a quote from a classic Woody Allen movie) Looking slightly out of place at the Orange Amplifiers booth.



The Video Guitar, by Visionary Instruments. This actually has a video screen built into the body of the guitar. It can be hooked up to a computer to control the video being displayed



"Sir Paul of Livermore", a McCartney Look-alike, hanging with Tom and Jacob at the Hofner booth. Hofner is the original bass guitar choice for the real Paul McCartney, who like Still Fumin's own Joel Savell, is a lefty. The symmetrical body shape of Hofner basses makes them easy to turn upside-down, re-string, and play left-handed.



The spectacular Lowrey 'Legend' Organ on display in one of the many piano and organ rooms upstairs



And for those ambidextrous players, here's a guitar that's both right and left handed at the same time!



NAMM 2010: Kenny Sara and the Sounds of New Orleans



Kenny Sara and Tom Savell

Staying at Disney's Paradise Pier Hotel has it's advantages. Not only is it just around the corner from the NAMM show, but it's also right next to Disneyland (no duh?) and Disney's adjacent outdoor shopping/restaurant mall, known as Downtown Disney, which happens to be where we saw one of our favorite bands and good friends, Kenny Sara and the Sounds of New Orleans.

In what has become a yearly tradition, on Friday night we went back to Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen at Downtown Disney to see Kenny and the band. An authentic New Orleans original,



Kenny Sara and the Sounds of New Orleans, with special guest Tom Savell live at Ralph Brennan's Jazz Kitchen in Downtown Disney

they play an impressive repertoire of classic Jazz, blues, Rock and New Orleans boogie, effortlessly blending the styles together to make an entertaining and varied, but cohesive show.

This night was extra special, because Tom Savell guest-starred on violin with the band, much to the delight of the crowd, who howled and hooted their appreciation for the violin-tinged renditions of classic songs like "Summer Time" and "Just a Gigolo/I Ain't got Nobody."

For more info on Kenny Sara and the Sounds of New Orleans, visit www.kkaremusic.com. To see video of the concert, go to www.youtube.com and enter "Tom Savell" and/or "Kenny Sara" into the YouTube search box.



Johnny Turner



Richard Taylor



Woody Woodford



Tom Savell and Kenny Sara



L-R: Richard, Woody, Johnny, Tom, Kenny, and Joel



Winter NAMM 2010 Continued



Jo Dudderidge of the Traveling band with guest violinist Lily McCabe. Jo's guitar is taped up because it had just been severely damaged!



Joel & Hutch Hutchinson, bassist for Bonnie Raitt, at the Ampeg Booth

On Saturday, Tom had meetings with the MIDI Manufacturers Association (MMA), of which he is a prominent member. He would be busy for much of the day, so Jacob and Joel checked out a few key booths on their own, including Ampeg, Joel's bass amplifier of choice. While at the Ampeg booth, they talked to a few world class bass players, including Darryl Jones of the Rolling Stones, Eva Gardner of Pink, and Hutch Hutchinson (above right) of Bonnie Raitt fame.

A little while later, Jacob and Joel went next door to the Marriott to check out some of the booths and stage setups over there. In the lobby, Taylor Guitars had set up a concert stage, so Jacob and Joel decided to hang out for a bit and watch some of the music acts (above left.) There were lots of cushy chairs set up in front of the stage, which made it nice to kick back and relax for a bit after the hustle and bustle of the trade show. While in the lobby, they also met Mary Alice (below right), who was being towed around in her wheelchair by her friendly if outspoken English Bulldog, Roncalli. At that point Tom, who had just gotten out of his MMA meeting, walked up and was ready to get back on the convention floor and see more of the NAMM show booths.

After getting back on the floor, the brothers discovered the Kazoobie Kazoo booth (below left) which specializes in all kinds of kazooos, including one with a horn for extra acoustic volume, as well as an electric kazoo for those times when you need serious kazoo power. To learn more about Kazoobie, please visit www.kazoobie.com.



Tom and Jacob get a refresher on proper kazoo technique from Rick Hubbard & the experts at the Kazoobie booth.



Fellow NAMM attendee Mary Alice and her faithful bodyguard, Roncalli.



Winter NAMM 2010 Continued



Tom with Santa Cruz's own Derek Mather, who played with his band Almost Chaos on the 'WannaPlay?/Lennon Bus' stage at NAMM

Derek Mather is a talented young guitarist heavily influenced by classic rock and blues players. The Savells first met Derek a couple years back when he saw Superior Olive at a Santa Cruz gig. In addition to practicing at Still Fumin' Records' Stone Crest Studios and sitting in on guitar with Superior Olive for a few gigs, Derek has his own band, Almost Chaos, which he formed with his classmates Jose Picazo and Mack Hesson.

Almost Chaos made it all the way to the finals of the Schooljam USA band competition! The finals were held at NAMM, on the "Wanna Play?/Lennon Bus" stage just outside the Anaheim Convention Center. It was definitely an exciting time for Derek, who was attending his first NAMM show!

Check out Almost Chaos on Myspace at www.myspace.com/josederekmack.

Hook's Pointe Grill

On Saturday night, Japan's Association of Musical Electronics Industry (AMEI) hosted a dinner for MIDI Manufacturer's Association (MMA) board members, including Tom, at Hook's Pointe Grill by the Disneyland Hotel pool. Jacob and I had earlier plans at the same restaurant, and we were already eating when the AMEI and MMA board members arrived.

We both ordered a bowl of clam chowder to start with. Tabasco Sauce as a condiment for chowder should be a no-brainer. But we had to ask for Tabasco after they had brought out the chowder. Then Jacob asked the waitress for a paper napkin. He needed one for his beard while eating chowder, because paper absorbs much better than the scotch-guarded restaurant napkins. Well, he waited and waited, but she never brought the napkins. He finally just gave up and finished the chowder. When we complained, she made excuses, saying the place was filling up fast and the bartender (who presumably had the napkins) was backed up. But at the time the request was originally made, the place was hardly filled up at all. And besides, there is no reason why she couldn't have gone around and grabbed the napkins herself if the bartender couldn't get to it.

The salad came as whole lettuce leaves. Cut up would be preferable, in our opinion. The saving grace was the lobster, which Jacob called the best he had ever eaten.. It was very high quality meat and perfectly cooked. For \$36.99, it better be great!

The AMEI/MMA group sat just 2 tables away from us. Fortunately, their waiter was much more on top of things, and they had a great dinner experience.

-Joel Savell



The joint AMEI / MMA dinner at the Disneyland Hotel's Hook's Pointe Grill. Clockwise from left: Tom Savell, Mr. Kamikawa, Chris Grigg, Mr. Mizuno, Mr. Kawashima, Mr. Tanaka, Mindy Cohen, Rick Cohen.



Winter NAMM 2010: More Pics From the Show!



Los Angeles Unified School District All City Band marches through the Anaheim Convention Center



Jacob, with members of the Los Angeles Unified School District All City Band.



Tom's classic 1966 VW bus, which he owned back in the 1980s. One day on the way home with our friend and his Kawasaki motorcycle in the back, the fuel line leaked onto the engine and caught the carburetor on fire, an all-too-common problem with these old VW's. The van was completely burned out when the fire department arrived, but the firemen helped us push it home, where Tom is pictured cleaning out the charred interior. For many years after the fire, the asphalt pavement where the fire occurred was marked with a bright spot of aluminum where the carburetor had melted off the engine.

After restoring the bus with features such as burlap seat covers and a built-in bed, we moved out and lived in it for the next two years, having fun touring and playing music.



A beautifully painted, classic VW Bus at the Two Old Hippies booth



School for Creative and Performing Arts Alumni Day

The 2009-2010 school year marks the end of an era for the School for Creative and Performing Arts (SCPA), the school that Tom attended from 6th through 9th grade before his family moved to California. The school has been in the same 100 year-old building since 1976, and this year they will move to a newly constructed facility. The old building on Sycamore St. in downtown Cincinnati first opened as Woodward High School in 1910 and still uses old-fashioned steam radiators for heating.



The School for Creative and Performing Arts in Cincinnati, Ohio.



Nick Gulacsy & Tom performing at Hofbräuhaus

The next day started with an open house at the Woodward building, where hundreds of alumni met to share memories and catch up on the latest happenings. There was even the re-creation of an old photograph taken by fellow alumnus Mike Husman. The photo (see right) was taken by Mike after an orchestra concert with Tom and then-girlfriend Cathy Haggerty in front of one of the school's ornate water fountains. The new photo was taken in front of the same fountain by the same photographer!

After the open house and a number of performances in the old auditorium by both current students and alumni, Tom and a group of friends headed down to a Cincinnati favorite, Skyline Chili, for lunch. Tom hadn't eaten a classic "5-way chili", that's chili served on spaghetti with beans, onions, and cheese, since he left Cincinnati after 9th grade.

(continued on next page)



Cathy Haggerty and Tom Savell, before and after



SCPA Alumni performing "Fame"



School for Creative and Performing Arts Alumni Day Continued

The evening culminated with another set of performances and then an after-party at a local nightclub. By the time he returned to the school parking lot, Tom's car was covered with about an inch of freshly-fallen snow.

Tom had to return to California the next day, but he had so much fun at the Hofbräuhaus, he stopped there to play another set on violin on the way to the airport. "Seeing so many friends, and even some favorite teachers, after all these years is a memory I'll never forget," said Tom when asked what he liked best about the trip.



Lunch at Skyline Chili: John Teller, Mike Husman, Lisa Wittenbaum Arvanaghi, Lisa Mann Wolf, Tom Savell, Keith Cassidy & Greg Courtney

Rock Music Creative Centers: 1990's

The last 4 issues of Still Fumin' News, we have shown you the major creative and recording locations in the rock music world, decade by decade. Starting with the 1950's and the birth of Rock 'n Roll, New York and Nashville were hotspots and continue to be important music hubs. In the 1960's, Detroit and Motown came to prominence along with the San Francisco psychedelic sound. In the 1970's, Kingston, Jamaica saw a lot of attention with the popularity of Reggae and Ska. Last issue, we talked about the 1980's hardcore punk scene in the nation's capital, Washington D.C. Finally, we arrive at the 1990's. In the early '90s, several hugely popular rock bands came out of Seattle, WA, including Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Alice in Chains, & Soundgarden. These bands came to be associated with "Grunge", a gritty, hard-edged style of rock that developed in the Seattle area.





Science or Screwy? "Overweight People Have Less Brain Tissue"

By LiveScience Staff posted: 25 August 2009 09:59 am ET



Big man, small brain?

A new study finds obese people have 8 percent less brain tissue than normal-weight individuals. Their brains look 16 years older than the brains of lean individuals, researchers said today.

Those classified as overweight have 4 percent less brain tissue and their brains appear to have aged prematurely by 8 years.

The results, based on brain scans of 94 people in their 70s, represent "severe brain degeneration," said Paul Thompson, senior author of the study and a UCLA professor of neurology.

"That's a big loss of tissue and it depletes your cognitive reserves, putting you at much greater risk of Alzheimer's and other diseases that attack the brain," said Thompson. "But you can greatly reduce your risk for Alzheimer's, if you can eat healthily and keep your weight under control."

The findings are detailed in the online edition of the journal *Human Brain Mapping*.

Obesity packs many negative health effects, including increased risk of heart disease, Type 2 diabetes, hypertension and some cancers. It's also been shown to reduce sexual activity.

More than 300 million worldwide are now classified as obese, according to the World Health Organization. Another billion are overweight. The main cause, experts say: bad diet, including an increased reliance on highly processed foods.

Obese people had lost brain tissue in the frontal and temporal lobes, areas of the brain critical for planning and memory, and in the anterior cingulate gyrus (attention and executive functions), hippocampus (long-term memory) and basal ganglia (movement), the researchers said in a statement today. Overweight people showed brain loss in the basal ganglia, the corona radiata, white matter comprised of axons, and the parietal lobe (sensory lobe). "The brains of obese people looked 16 years older than the brains of those who were lean, and in overweight people looked 8 years older," Thompson said.

Obesity is measured by body mass index (BMI), defined as the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in meters. A BMI over 25 is defined as overweight, and a BMI of over 30 as obese. The research was funded by the National Institute on Aging, National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering, National Center for Research Resources, and the American Heart Association.

Our editor in chief, Jacob, first saw this report on a TV news show- and the ironic part was that the reporters talking about it were all on the large side! So Jacob said "Hey Tom, is this B.S. Or what?" Tom's response: "Yep, my B.S. Meter is definitely going off!"

Which Instrument Do People Want to Play?

In a recent poll, people were asked to choose which of the following is the instrument they'd most like to play: Guitar, bass, or drums. Among those polled, drums was the most popular answer. That's probably because they think drums are easy to learn, but they quickly find out how wrong they are! Like any instrument, mastery of the drums takes many years of dedication and hard work. However, unlike guitar or bass, playing the drums requires coordination of both the arms and legs.

True or False: Weather Trivia- From Live with Regis and Kelly

Trailer Parks attract tornadoes= False. Trailer parks are flimsier than well built homes, and are more likely to be really badly amaged by tornadoes, but not more likely to get hit by one.

No two snowflakes are exactly alike= True

Weighting a car down will give it more traction on ice and snow= False.

Lightening never strikes the same place twice=False.

You should pump your brakes when driving through snow= False





Celebrity Name Game



Continuing on with an old favorite: The Celebrity Name Game. In show business, it is often desirable or even necessary to take what's called a "Stage Name". Sometimes the stage name sounds "cooler" than the performer's real name, sometimes it protects the celebrity by providing a double-identity, and sometimes it's just plain-old easier to pronounce! So anyway, the object of the game is to match the Celebrity Name on the left with their actual name on the right. Good luck!

Answers below.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) David Bowie | A) Frank Castelluccio |
| 2) Snoop Doggy Dogg | B) David Thomas Jones |
| 3) Frankie Valli | C) David Robert Jones |
| 4) Davy Jones (The Monkees) | D) Jiles Perry "J.P" Richardson |
| 5) The Big Bopper | E) Calvin Broadus |

Did you know? The Platters, a famous doo-wop group from the 1950's, had their first hit in "Only You". But the "stuttering" part where the frontman, Tony Williams sings, "Uh- ohh. . . nly yooou" actually came about by accident, when they were practicing the song on a bus. The bus driver rolled over some bumps just as Williams was about to sing "Only you," and the phrase instead came out with the distinctive stutter. They liked that part so much that it became a crucial part of the song, and is remembered & imitated by multiple generations of fans.

Classifieds

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Answers to Celebrity Name Game: 1=C, 2=E, 3=A, 4=B, 5=D

Music & Video



Tom Savell Band CD
"You Just Gotta Love It"

\$15



Superior Olive's "Ziggurat"
Featuring Aynsley Dunbar. CD
Packaged inside full-size accompanying comic book."

\$15



Superior Olive CD
"It's All In The Mind."

\$10



Superior Olive CD
"Farewell To The Illusion"

\$10



Fetal Pigs In Brine CD
Punk/Alternative.

\$10

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