

THE MUSIC IS OUT THERE

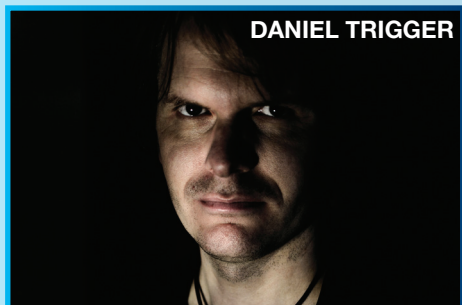
By Nicky Baldrian



PURE STAR MOVEMENT

'Arrival to Earth' is the breathtaking album from South Bend sensations PURE STAR MOVEMENT. PSM border on modern melodic/progressive rock influences and is rich in diversity and heartfelt musical passion. 'Unstoppable' is stunning commercial modern rock in style, with the vocals almost like Kip Winger in the high parts. Musically the song is progressive, modern progressive rock if you will. 'Give It All To You' is beautifully performed, a little like Lit crossed with Spock's Beard and Winger. Once again the vocals ooze Kip Winger/Peter Gabriel. There is so much going on its breathtaking, pure energy and power driven melodic rock with a modern slant. 'One Million Reasons' is another huge song, there's a lot of musical changes with the keyboards playing a huge part, the vocals are soulful and heartfelt making this a song you can get lost in. Lwan Easton has the most incredible voice, I hear so many styles from Kip Winger, Christopher Cross and James LaBrie, Jeff Scott Soto, Jimi Jamison to Robbie Williams to almost operatic sections here and there, the guy has so much soulful passion and power in his voice that I'm truly astounded at his ability, at all the bands ability.

The production is crisp and clear. 'Energy' rocks everything up in a Dream Theater meets Skillet style. 'More Of You (PSM Orchestral Mix)' is stunning, heartfelt and passionate, starting off with a beautiful deep piano melody, coupled with violin sections to give it that orchestral feel. Lwan comes across in the vein of Jeff Scott Soto and Christopher Cross — this is just sensational, the last time I heard a piece this good was when Fair Warning's Tommy Heart sang the classic 'Bridge To Heaven' with Uli Jon Roth. Where on earth has Lwan been hiding? PSM are slick and sophisticated and in Lwan Easton the band have themselves a star. www.purestarmovement.com



DANIEL TRIGGER

'Infinite Persistence' is the new album from UK artist DANIEL TRIGGER. Dan didn't have much interest in music until his teenage years. During the summer of 1989, he visited the London Planetarium and Europe's 'The Final Countdown' was played at ear-splitting volume. In the blink of an eye, he knew right there and then that he wanted to spend the rest of his life playing music. 'I have performed with many bands, my most note-worthy was melodic rock outfit Trigger, which I formed with my wife Sally.' Trigger went on to record four albums. 'I now operate as a solo artist, and have just released an album with the help of some session musician friends. The album is in a similar vein to Alter Bridge and Guns N' Roses, and offers crushingly heavy down-tuned guitar riffs combined with huge harmonies and anthemic stadium-filling choruses — just the way I like it,' he smiles.

Dan was lucky enough to work with some great musicians on IP, including drummer Jerry Sadowski and guitarist Dave D'Andrade. 'I have to thank these guys for their patience, as my attention to detail has driven many other musicians mad! Finally, I brought all our recordings together, and mixed the album myself. I then had to ensure my album stood up against commercial releases, so I sent it off to America for mastering, and I'm really pleased with the results. It's definitely my best work to date.'

Dan is currently pushing IP. 'My songs are getting great feedback from internet Rock DJs around the world, particularly in America and Germany, and the album is also attracting attention from various international rock record

labels. As far as live dates go, I'm looking for the right opportunities — it is still an ambition of mine to fill the 'special guest' slot for a professional band. I have also begun writing material for the follow-up to 'Infinite Persistence', which is shaping up nicely...expect more thunderous stadium rock in the near future!' www.danieltrigger.co.uk



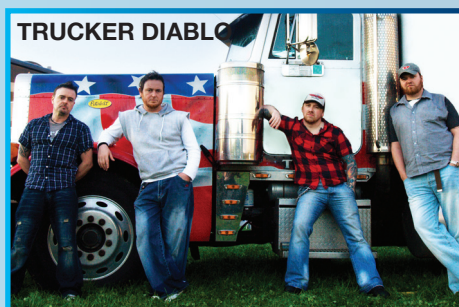
ALREADY GONE

'One Good Reason' is the new album from UK melodic rockers ALREADY GONE. Luke Maskery was brought up listening to country and country rock music. 'I became obsessed with the Eagles, their harmonies and songwriting inspired me to start writing. With Already Gone we try to use that influence and passion, and mix it with the other influences of the band members. So I picked up a guitar and taught myself, and taught myself how to sing, and went from there,' he says.

The band have been together for 3 years and have done nothing but work! 'From Glasgow to London, we've gigged all over the UK, stopping in at all sorts of venues, from the Liverpool Cavern, Manchester Academy, Stoke's Victoria Hall, and all the way down to the London 02. We're on the search for the real X Factor, that special thing that makes a band last forever, not for a year! Already Gone is catchy, melodic hard rock, which appeals to all ages of music lovers. So many people come up to us with different favourite tracks that they like — there really is something for everyone.'

The CD was recorded at Summerbank Studios in Tunstall, Stoke. 'We wanted to stay local and get the hometown feel; stay true to our roots. The producer, Paul, was a big help to us and knew exactly what we wanted to create — a rock album. Next time we'd like to spend more time in the studio, and just live breathe and eat the album every day. For the next album we'd like to experiment a bit more, really push ourselves and turn the heat up, see what we're really capable of.'

The band have a brand new music video out now for their new single 'Stop Drop Rock and Roll'. They plan to start writing for the next album. 'During all of this we will be finishing off the tour to go with our debut album 'One Good Reason', from Scotland, to all cities of the UK including Leicester, Crewe, and of course, Stoke! What's next for the band?? More hard work! Hope to see you all on the road.' www.alreadygone.co.uk



TRUCKER DIABLO

'The Devil Rhythm' is the fantastic album from Irish rockers TRUCKER DIABLO. I caught up with vocalist/guitarist Tom Harte. Tom got into rock through his brother. 'He's a massive rock and metal fan and we shared a room living at home. I grew up on Maiden, Metallica, Anthrax and loads of great rock bands. Picking up a guitar just seemed to be the next natural step.' The band have had two amazing years on the live circuit here in the UK playing the likes of Download Festival, supporting Black Stone Cherry and gaining new fans around the world. The album was recorded in Einstein Studio's in Northern Ireland and was produced by Trucker Diablo and Frankie McClay. 'We love the recording process, it gives us the chance to give the songs their real identity. Next we are going we be more time diligent and work harder at making the songs the best they can be,' says Tom. Next up the lads will be working on a few small tours in the UK this year and a tour next year in the states. 'We will be playing a showcase to support the

Foo Fighter this month and concentrating on recording the second album at the end of 2012.' www.truckerdiablo.com



ETERNAL

'Chapter 1' is the new album from Swedish melodic rockers ETERNAL, with a slick crisp production and it baffles me as to why bands like Eternal remain unsigned. 'Cross The Line' is sprinkled in keyboards and is a catchy melodic dream. Christer comes over sounding like Anders Eklund from House Of Shakra crossed with Mark Boals and David Readman from Pink Cream 69, while the song itself is maybe a little Axel Rudi Pell in style. The Europe meets Masterplan crispness of 'Dead Or Alive' is a good melodic, while 'Human' is a little tighter with a punchy chorus and solid guitars in the vein of Domain and PC69. 'Ray Of Light' is another catchy ditty, a faster paced song, a little Royal Hunt meets Yngwie in style with a very catchy chorus. 'Start Of A New Era' begins in an epic manner, lots of atmosphere throughout this song, deeply melodic with a chugging beat, and reminds me again of Axel Rudi Pell. 'Stay The Night' is another belter of a song. 'The Thing' again shows that atmospheric epic feel thanks to its keyboard intro, the song then slides into a superb catchy melodic number that has a big sound and vibe, almost symphonic in places with forceful vocals. 'You Can't Break Us' is built around spacious keyboards and is superb, with its strong Europe meets Yngwie feel. I chatted with Pelle to find more about the band.

Pelle was introduced to music very early in life, to bands such as The Sweet and Sparks. 'After that I knew that I wanted to rock. When I saw a clip on Swedish television when Mick Tucker of The Sweet twirled his sticks, I was hooked,' he says. Pelle got his first drum kit at the age of ten. 'I think that me and some friends started a band almost immediately. And since then I've been playing.' Back in 2007 Pontus contacted Pelle and said that he's been writing some new songs that he wanted to try out. 'At this time we all played in different tribute and cover bands. We all knew each other pretty well. After rehearsing for a couple of weeks, we felt like we had a blast playing hard rock again. That summer we were contacted by Boomtown, a music school in our region. They wanted to have us in a bandboost project with five other bands. They picked us because we knew how to play, but knew nothing about promoting ourselves. All the other bands couldn't play, but knew everything about promoting themselves. In '08 we thought about recording, and we thought we would try another studio and producer this time. We spoke to Peter Tagtgren of 'Pain' and 'Hypocrisy' and also the owner of the great studio Abyss, and he was willing to help us. So we released the self financed EP 'Start of a New Era', and we got fantastic reviews from around the world. Then we got to do live shows at some of Sweden's biggest festivals. In March '11 we decided it was time for us to do a full length album. After the recordings were done, it was time to seriously try to get a label that could help us with distribution and so on. A little Swedish indie label called HGM were willing to help us out. We have released our album 'Chapter 1' only in Scandinavia so far, but it will be released in Europe in August or September. We have got some reviews from outside Scandinavia, and it seems we have made a great melodic metal album,' says Pelle.

Next Eternal are busy doing promotion for the album both in Sweden and the rest of Europe. 'We really would like to do some gigs outside Sweden, this far we never have done any shows outside Swedish borders, so now we hope the time will come. We were contacted recently by a worldwide industrial company, who wanted us to do a song for them so they can use it in a commercial video, and promotion for the company. The song is finished, and we will enter the studio to record it in June. I can't reveal the company yet though. That's gonna be exciting I think, cause we've never done a song for that purpose before.' www.eternalsweden.com

Electric Boys, Naughty Boys and now the STICKY BOYS. 'This Is Rock 'N' Roll' is the band's new album. Whilst everyone is raving about Crazy Lixx, Reckless Love and Steel Panther etc this band from Paris are being overlooked and it's bloody not on music fans. SB have hit home with a massive fun album that rocks, crisp slick production, catchy, fist pumping, energetic sweaty hard rock music. 'Bang That Head' will get you doing just that, although it hurts a bit now at 40 years old. Very catchy with lots of AC/DC influences. 'Big Thrill' hits hard, purring guitars and gussy vocals give the song an LA Guns feel. 'Fat Boy Charlie' is insanely catchy, everything clicks together. It's a raspy and fun song, a little swagger here and there with



STICKY BOYS

thumping drums, a little like Raging Slab meets Ted Nugent. 'Girls In The City' is so damn catchy and melodic. Gritty vocals give it a Ratt feel with a punchy gang style fist in the air chorus. 'Miss Saturday Night' is a fun rocker in the vein of L.A. Guns, Ted Nugent and Ratt. This is just so catchy and fun with awesome guitar work. 'The Way To Rock'n'Roll' is all fun, an insanely catchy track coming at you like Kiss. 'The World Don't Go Round' continues to capture your attention with its irresistible hooks and chorus. There is so much to enjoy from this album — it's huge and a lot of fun. www.stickyboys.eu



FAIR OF FREAKS

'The More I Want' is the new CD from Swedish rockers FAIR OF FREAKS. The band are guitarist Lars Boquist (ex Pole Position), drummer Hampus Landin (ex Miss Behaviour), vocalist Sean Sanders and bass player Oscar Jonas. 'Beautiful Ice' is a sturdy grooving song that is a little like Lynch Mob and Dokken. Everything slides together perfectly and Sean Sanders sounds awesome. 'Changes' is a more upbeat catchy rocker with raspy vocals and superb guitar work, a little Scorpions in style. 'Different Situation' holds the record together and comes over like Gotthard and Bonfire. 'Holy Disguise' is more anthemic based and again comes over like Scorpions. 'Now You're Gone' is a solid mature melodic track. This is one of my favourite tracks and has a really good melody, a little like Fair Warning with soaring vocals from Sean. 'On and On' is another upbeat anthemic fun ditty and 'Winterbound' is a storming rocker. I caught up with guitarist Lars Boquist.

Fair of Freaks started in 2008 due to Lars' desire to have a physical band. 'Not just a band that recorded songs and released albums, which of course is nice to make records. So when we started FoF we decided to start out as a Van Halen tribute band. I just wanted to play music that I liked and we had no finished songs. After a year and several gigs I wanted to try original material, so we started out with the song 'Changes' and it sounded real good. About a year later we had ten songs finished.'

The band produced everything themselves. 'Then everything was handed over for mix in Milk Studio in Norrköping, Sweden. Magnus Jonsson who mixed it did a fantastic job.' Next up the guys are looking for new management to help them with gigs. 'Living in Sweden it's not easy to get gigs where you can play your own music unless you're In Flames or Europe maybe. So we need to spread our music all over the planet.' www.fairoffreaks.com



ELECTRIC EARTH

Sweden's ELECTRIC EARTH have a new album out called 'Touching The Void' which is the bands third record. I chatted with guitarist Tommy Scalisi. Kiss were a major influence on the young guitarist. 'They opened up my eyes to this wonderful world of music back in '75 when my older brother bought 'Alive' and 'Dressed To Kill'. Later on I fell in love with Ozzy and Randy Rhodes. I have released records world-wide with bands like Rat Salad, Gooseflesh and now Electric Earth. EE started off out of the ashes of Gooseflesh and was formed with the mission of playing music that

the guys loved. 'Finding inspirations from a wide array of bands like Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath, KISS through Testament, Grunge, Nu-Metal and genuine Kick ass Rock 'n Roll. Formed and based in Trollhättan north of Metal city of Gothenburg the band have released three full-length albums and an EP.

The album was recorded in Magasin 15 studios in Trollhättan, and produced by Jonas Urna Beijer. 'The recording process was very chaotic since Peter's wife just had died in cancer and bass-player Lyris just had undergone an operation for cancer-related issues and was so full of medications that some days he even wasn't aware that he was in the studio! I played bass on some tracks and we were just fighting to get along with reality at the time. Our engineer Martin Klem was the one holding us together since the producer also separated with his partner at the same time and also acted a bit disillusioned at times. It's obvious that just not having that stuff around will make some improvements but we will also need a longer pre-production period so we can make sure we end up where we want regarding the songs and the arrangements.' The band are currently writing material for their fourth album that will be recorded in early November. 'We will hit pre-production and also make some few gigs in Sweden in late summer and early September,' adds Tommy. www.electricearth1.com



DOUG VARTY BAND

'Feel Free' is the new album from Ontario's THE DOUG VARTY BAND. 'Kickin' Ass' does what it says on the tin, with raspy vocals and crispy guitars, a little Segar/Hagar feel, crossed with Aerosmith and Cold Chisel. The grooving 'Feel Free' has a strong Bad Company early Foreigner vibe, good time classic boogie rock with great vocals from Doug. 'Make My Day' is bluesy and melodic, think Mr. Big and early Foreigner. 'Now You're Talkin' is catchy like a mix of ZZ Top and Bad Company, maybe even a little Status Quo boogie woogie in there for texture. 'Paid' is a razor sharp, very melodic and moody song. I really loved this track, the vocals are soulful and the whole vibe is excellent. Check out that Steven Tyler style screech mid way through. 'I Wanna Fight About It' is another fun rocker in the Bad Company/Mr. Big vein.

I caught up with Doug to find out more. 'I Found out playing in a band was a great way to meet girls. It was all downhill from there,' he laughs. The album was recorded at Bunker Studios by Bob Breen. Bob and Doug co-produced the album. 'The studio was small but very well put together, and we recorded this album through an old analog mixing console onto a 24 track tape machine. There were virtually no computers involved, even the delays were tape generated. Most of the basic tracks were performed live, we recorded bass, drums, guitar and lead vocals all at the same time. Bob figures it was these elements that brought that feeling of live performance to the tracks.'

The band are currently excited by the response they have been getting in Europe. 'We're looking at touring Europe before the end of 2012. Canada and the U.S. are wide open as well, so things look good for live shows in general. I'm starting to sift through ideas, notes, and home recordings for the next album. I've been thinking it might be more British Blues oriented, like Free or Cream perhaps, it's hard to say. I do know there's a lot of good material in the backlog, and we're itching to kick out some new jams and bring full band ideas into the mix. Guess you'll know the answer to that just shortly after we do!' www.dougvarty.com



MORRE

'Out There' and 'Contrast' are the fantastic recent releases from Toronto rock band MORRE who are signed to Melodic Revolution records. I caught up with vocalist/guitarist Fuser. 'We like to bring in different instruments and vintage keyboards/sounds to accentuate the fact that

we are not trying to sound like anyone else out there on the market. So it's a strain of classic rock style of music with altered formula and approach. From day one we wanted to sound original and we have achieved it,' says Fuser. 'Contrast' was recorded at Chalet Studios north from Toronto. 'We had the pleasure of working with a great engineer at Chalet and his name is Ian Bodzasi. Some of the later stages of the recording were met at Voodoo Records in Toronto where we worked closely with one of our good friends, engineers/producers and over all one of the best I have ever worked with, Sean Gregory. All the tracks were mixed by Larry Fricke and Morre in Germany. In terms of the production, I would like to proudly say that it was something we took upon ourselves to do.'

The recording process was long and slow 'We are doing all the right steps during the recording process and we are blessed with a keen eye for details and the 'big picture'... that is something really important for a band to have. So what I am trying to say is that we will keep doing what we are doing because it seems that it's working well,' he adds.

Next up the band have a few plans in operation. 'We are always moving so fast and getting so many things done. One thing for sure is expansion throughout the world. For example, playing in Asia because it has a great market for original rock and people appreciate good music there as well. We are also currently working on more video clips for our deserving fans. This summer/fall of 2012, Morre will be on tour throughout Europe for an extended time frame of over three and a half months, setting aim to over 60 concerts in 12 countries.' www.morremusic.com



WALLNER & VIVIEN VAIN

New enjoyable album from California rocking duo WILL WALLNER & VIVIEN VAIN. Will and Vivien have managed to rope in a stellar cast of veterans including: Carmine Appice, Vinnie Appice, Brian Tichy, Rudy Sarzo, Tony Franklin, Jimmy Bain, Derek Sherinian and Toney Carey all drafted in and add excitement to a great album with Vivien handling the vocals and Will the guitars. The problem with projects like this as that more often or not the CD doesn't come over like a full band and misses that edge, however it's fair to say that there is no such issues here. If you didn't know who was involved it would not really matter as the music stands up. 'All That I Want' is totally awesome melodic rock, with Tony Franklin, Carmine Appice featured throughout. The whole track builds into a killer song that is catchy and firing on all cylinders. It has a strong Rainbow and Dio feel, great stuff. 'Soul Monster' has modern Europe feel mixed with a retro seventies vibe. I love this track for its density, the guitar work is solid and catchy and the whole song rocks. As I said it has a little modern Europe feel mixed with Winger, Dio and JSS. Watch out for Will Wallner & Vivien Vain. www.wallnervain.com.



JESSIE GALANTE

Some older Fireworks readers may recall solo artist JESSIE GALANTE from back in the day when she released shit hot demo that got raved reviews, especially from Kerrang with her band FIRE which was produced by Michael Wagner. Jessie has a new solo album now called 'Spitfire', and it's bloody good. 'I wasn't involved in the music scene at all at that time but I was raised in a Sicilian household and music was infused into my body from the day I was born. I went for an audition for Actor and after a few rehearsals, the guys had a management company come in to listen and that's when it all started. Within a few months, we had a song released on Buffalo's 97 Rock radio compilation album and that was the start of my music career,' she explains.

Actor became popular very fast and the band had a lot of media attention and a big gig calendar playing 5-6 nights a week along the East Coast and Canada. The band later changed management and they released a six song EP and

had interest from A&M Canada. New management created a lot of tension in the band and led to Actor breaking up. Jessie was crushed about it and decided to get out of town and hang out in LA. 'At a party, I met fashion designer Ray Brown and we signed a management agreement. He formed a band around me and Fire was born. We had a lot of media attention and live performances and were voted one of the top bands in LA. With the attention of Michael Wagener, who produced the Fire four song demo and our publicist Paul Sutter at the time, we also got a lot of recognition in Europe,' she tells me.

Jessie is currently writing new songs and is out on the road. 'I've been playing in Hungary, The Netherlands and Belgium. It's a great record with a mix of different flavors. I will always record this way, spicy and pleasing to my palette and hopefully listeners feel it.' The CD was recorded in Budapest, New York City and Los Angeles. It was produced by Larry Swist and mixed by Mick Guzauski. 'NYC guitarist Rob Bailey also produced some of the songs. My current new project is being recorded and produced in NYC and Germany. Right now, I'm writing with Rob Bailey and Jack Daley who I've worked with on the 'Spitfire' CD and I'm writing with Dutch guitarist Joop Wolters who I also play live with. The new songs will be a little different ... more soul, more funk, more blues, and always rockin'! In addition, I'm working on songs with Tommy Denander and have another musical project waiting for release in Italy.' www.jessiegalante.com



JOEY SUMMER

JOEY SUMMER returns with an excellent new album called 'One Bite from Paradise' through Perris Records. The album also features Fredrik Bergh (Street Talk), Frederic Slama (AOR) and Tommy Denander. Joey grew up listening to great songs of both worlds, pop and rock and roll. 'I really loved artists like Air Supply, Chicago, Queen, Journey, Peter Frampton, Kiss, Def Leppard, neo classical artists such as: Vangelis, Yanni, Loreena McKennitt and also disco artists like: Sylvester, Tavares, P. Lion, Gazebo. You see? Actually the good music inspires me more than a particular style itself. But I am a rocker before of anything, no doubt about it! My very first vinyl was 'Creatures Of The Night' from Kiss,' he tells me. Joey has been working in several projects over the years. 'I found my keyboardist Daniel Lamas about ten years ago and I started to write songs and produce for several projects so far. Before Daniel, I found the bassist Markcell playing in Clubs, we became good friends, brothers indeed. He played on my last album 'Written On the Horizon'. On this brand new record, I have a friend of mine Geraldo Abdo, playing the drums.' Joey produced the album and it was recorded in three different studios. 'I created all the arrangements in my own studio and I did the guitars, a few keyboards, some basses, vocals and backings on my own place. The keyboards and backing vocals, was recorded in Daniel's studio and the drums in Geraldo Abdo's own studio. So I took back the whole material for my own studio for the mix sessions to get the final result.'

'I think that a good record must to start with good songs,' he explains. 'So you can point your music to the right direction of a good production. It doesn't need to be more louder than the most of records or more heavier too. You just need to find the balance between music and ears.'

Ever the busy musician, Joey never stop working on his studio and is involved in a lot of different projects. 'I used to spent hours in some kind of productions for other independent artists in my country or in anywhere. Recently I was asked by my friend Frédéric Slama if I would like to sing a song in his new AOR album, 'Colors of LA'. So I definitely said yes'. Currently Joey is setting up a small tour. 'I have four productions running at the same time right now and I really need to find the time for the rehearsals with my band and all. I used to travel a lot playing for other artists but since I decided to stop with all of that and start only producing, I contracted too many works, productions that holds me in the studio and keeps me off the stage more than I would like. But let's see what the future brings.' www.joeysummer.com

'Separate Ways' is the final album from California's WORLDS APART. It's their fifth album and well worth exploring. I caught up with bassist Jeff Silva. 'Well since this is the last Worlds Apart record, I'll tell the truth. My dad was a business dealer when I was a kid so when some of his customers would owe him money they would often bring him different instruments like guitars, drums, amplifiers etc. to cover their debt. Naturally I would jam on all of the different instruments. I didn't really get too



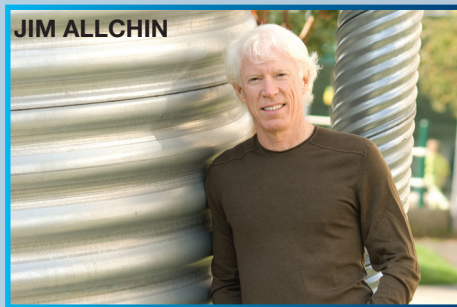
attached to any particular instrument until I got my first bass when I was fifteen, which I paid for with myself. I can't say that I was a natural at first. I actually only bought the damn thing because my brother Keith was a singer in a local band which just so happened to have my best friend Noel Plaugher playing lead guitar and they needed a new bass player. They practically begged me to join and when I said "yes" the chicken shits told me "great, now call our bass player and let him know he's out of the band." Too funny! Anyway, I knew the bass player somewhat, so I called the guy and fired him. True story. So after that we started jamming or so I thought. I wasn't very good and after a while my brother and my best friend quit the band to join another more popular band. I think they quit to save themselves from actually firing me, once again chicken shits. Needless to say I was absolutely devastated! The first thing I did was decide I was going to show those fuckers and everyone else that they made a mistake. I bought every progressive record from bass heavy bands like Iron Maiden, Yes, Rush etc. and learned every note and from there, developed my style and actually learned how to properly play the bass. During the process, I fell in love with the instrument. Not long after that I started Worlds Apart and we became one of the most popular bands around playing the California club scene and releasing five albums which have sold well throughout the world.'

Jeff is the only original member of Worlds Apart. 'But the lineup of Rich, Jay and Gary have been the most solid and consistent members whom have contributed to all of the peak successes of Worlds Apart throughout the years. With the exception of the album 'Day Job' in 2001, which featured guitarist Jason Grannucci, the lineup of Rich, Jay, Gary and I have appeared on every record. Most fans would consider us four to be the original because it has been the most successful lineup and I must agree as I too consider this lineup to define who and what Worlds Apart is.'

This record was recorded in the bands own in San Jose, back in the 90's yet never officially released. 'We recorded it on a 16 track Tascam MSR16 analog tape machine. The recording was done great but the final mix and mastering lacked what we needed to officially hand it over to our record label. We instead pressed a few CD's for our closest fans, friends and family because we thought it would be cool to share. We decided to shelve the record because shortly after we were finishing recording our guitarist Rich quit the band. We immediately hired our longtime friend, local guitarist Jason Grannucci and without hesitation recorded a bunch of new songs and put out 'Day Job'. A few years later Rich came back and we released the album 'Clean Slate' in 2010. Not long afterward I got the great idea to call up my good friend, producer and solo artist Johnny Lima and asked him if he would be interested in remixing 'Separate Ways'. Once he was on board we contacted Anthony Fox who did our last album 'Clean Slate' and who's worked with Aerosmith, Metallica, Rod Stewart etc. to master the record. The final result is the new (old) album 'Separate Ways' which sounds amazing and we are extremely proud of.'

I ask Jeff what is next for him musically. 'Honestly, other than the right offers for a live show reunion, nothing. We are officially retiring Worlds Apart as a band with this last record appropriately titled 'Separate Ways'. We are all very proud of our accomplishments and have enjoyed some of the greatest times of our lives recording and performing together as lifelong brothers for our fans. We sincerely thank all of our family, friends and fans throughout the worlds for their support and hope they have enjoyed the journey of Worlds Apart as much as we have. On that note go out and buy the new Worlds Apart album 'Separate Ways' you will not be disappointed, we promise! So there you go folks, the final album from the ever excellent Worlds Apart is upon us, and you can find out more at: www.facebook.com/worldsapartband

'Overclocked' is the beautiful album from Washington guitarist JIM ALLCHIN. 'I became proficient, but when I heard Jimi Hendrix I decided to play guitar. And that was a life changing move, I have played guitar ever since,' he tells me. Jim grew up in a one-room house on a dirt farm in the Deep South. 'I was poor but very happy. After living the life of a starving musician, I left to earn Masters/Doctorate degrees from Stanford University and Georgia Institute of Technology. I became a world recognized leader in Computer Science and software. I guess it's not very typical for musicians! And I loved my work, but after being diagnosed and treated for cancer I decided I wanted to play guitar full time. I had always been playing, but I wanted to spend full time on it. I still love math and



science, but today my life is focused on music.' Jim has been influenced by a whole ray of styles and artists. 'My style has been influenced by many people, certainly blues greats such as Albert King, Shuggie Otis, Eric Clapton, Etta James, etc. were huge influences. Also rock players such as Jimi Hendrix, Eric Johnson, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Carlos Santana. Finally, growing up in the South the Allman Brothers were also a big influence on me.'

The album was recorded in Seattle and produced by Jim and Glenn Lorbecki. 'I learned a few big lessons. First, I need to be prepared with about one and a half times the amount of material than I think will go on the album. Why? because I want the option of choosing which songs I think are the best once the recording sessions are done. I had to write new material in the middle of doing 'Overclocked' because I didn't like the way certain songs turned out. Second, I know what I want in the band, doing engineering, singing, etc. on the next album. I auditioned a lot of people for 'Overclocked' and now I know exactly who I want to work with. Third, I know that I need a very supportive environment doing the recordings because I am a harsh critic of myself and without some encouragement I would think nothing was good enough. I hear issues with most everything and I know if I did it 'just one more time' I could do better. But in case, it is best to have someone just say 'it's great the way it is Jim, let it go'. I need that or things would never get finished.' Jim is in the process of writing new material for his next CD. 'I learned a lot from 'Overclocked' that my style has continued to evolve and my playing/singing has improved as well. I'm excited to get more material done.' www.jimallchin.com



'Clean Slate' is the new album from Illinois rockers GOAT MOTOR, a storming record that cruises with glorious melodic hard rock and southern styles with hints of blues. 'Don't Ask Me To Lie' is melodic, moody and very catchy, laced with crispy guitars and warming soulful vocals. Vocally they sit alongside Danny Vaughn, Jack Blades, Bob Seger and Neville MacDonald from Skin. This is a gorgeous song that drifts along perfectly, a little southern textured with lush melodic melodies. The catchy 'Better Than Nothing' is solid and retro styled, the whole track has a Molly Hatchet, Bad Company, Lenny Kravitz vibe. 'Hold Me Back' is a more gusty foot stomping hard rocker with a slight blues edge a la Rival Sons and Gov't Mule. Love the chorus and the guitar work is full frontal with a very solid live feel. 'Stand Up' continues the vibe and is a fun rocker with a slight retro vibe. www.goatmotor.com



If rock and blues swagger is your thing then check out 'Wildman' from Boston's BRENT ENMAN. Brent used to sneak his older brother's Beatles and Hendrix albums and listen to them for hours. The drums got his musical interest flowing first. 'I used to beat on books in school and make up rhythms, the thick books like a science book was the bass drum and thinner books the toms and such. My folks finally bought me a beginner drumset.' Later on Brent

started playing in local bands doing covers and original music. 'My dad brought home a cheap no name yard sale electric guitar. I immediately put in a dimarzio pickup and started learning chords and lead. I've always had a virtual radio in my head and songs would just pop in complete with lyrics, harmonies, drums, lead guitars, choruses etc, so I had to have a vehicle to get them written or recorded somehow so I had to learn guitar or piano in order to do that. I work continually on my guitar, bass and drum chops, as for vocals I have always sung back up harmony vocals so singing has just been something I have always done. I would always sing along to records and the radio, singing the 3rd harmonies or a lower harmony whether it was on the song or not. My first real band Nightrider was where I really learned to play live and help construct original songs in a band setting. As they say, music is an itch that you have to scratch and I have keep at it one way or another ever since.'

Brent also recorded two albums with the highly praised southern rock band Preacher Stone. 'I had invested a lot financially in PS and unfortunately it was lacking the visibility and return that a business such as this should have to all its members. As they say it is the 'music business' and I learned that in order for me, as an artist to be in this business that I had to go out on my own and do my own thing. I am fortunate enough that I can play all the major rock instruments well enough to accomplish this and I had made a commitment to myself to record my solo record by a certain time frame and that time was now,' he explains.

'Wildman' was recorded at GAT 3 studios in Charlotte. 'Glenn A Tabor produced the record. I recorded the record in 15 days by myself, no studio musicians of loops or backing tracks etc. I had very comprehensive home demos and although I thought there was not much to improve on, Glenn proved me wrong adding his touch to several songs. He really listens and understands what the artist is going for. He has excellent gear, incredible knowledge and as a result we became good friends from the experience.'

Brent is currently promoting this release. 'It is doing well in the UK. I am always writing new riffs and melodies and would love to do a follow up in the future. The big news however is my first original band Nightrider has plans to finally record a album in the fall at, you guessed it, Gat 3 Studios. It will be a monster record of melodic hard rock. So we will look for a 2013 release for that one.' www.brentenman.com



'Up 2 Zero' is the new album from Toronto blues artist ANTHONY GOMES. Gomes never lets up for one second making for a blinding album that should set him up for tons of live gig action. The songs literally burst out of the speakers, everything is built to a high standard. The catchy 'Back To The Start' is massive. This lies somewhere between Kyf Brewer, Joe Bonamassa, Glenn Hughes and Bad Company. Smoking guitars with raspy vocals coupled with vintage keyboards. The smooth 'Darkest Before The Dawn' reminds me of Rod Stewart and Shannon Noll, Americana in style. The Gospel tinted 'Last Bluesman Gone' is a track I can imagine Eric Martin performing, it also comes across in the Southern blues vein. The acoustic guitar playing is excellent. The vintage blues rocker 'One Last Time' turns the album up with a cool guitar jam slant, so much energy pouring out on this one, a little Walter Trout and Robin Trower influenced. The catchy 'Room 414' is another fun song. I love the groove and super smooth guitar work. The funkier 'Up 2 Zero' also has a vintage feel, the guitar work is awesome, so much going on with this track. You can hear a little Clapton meets say a looser Mr. Big, Chickenfoot feel. Quite melodic in stages but blues based and energetic. The laid back, ultra sexy 'Voodoo Moon' has a strong retro feel, and is quite heated with stunning vocals. Listen to the lyrics on this one, they carry the song against the music - it's sharp and instant, possibly the most mature track on the album. www.anthonygomes.com

Out of Ohio come rockers MOJO RIZIN. The guys have a new CD coming out by the time you read this called 'Hat Trick'. I caught up with singer Chris Will. Chris grew up rocking with his older brother Rick who played in bands and went on to be a Grammy nominated Producer/Mixer/Engineer known for mixing the Incubus records 'Make Yourself' and 'Morning View'. 'I grew up listening to Led Zeppelin and having Kiss concerts with my brother in our bedroom when we were kids. When I heard Van Halen's first album in 1978, I picked up the guitar and taught myself how to play,' says Chris. He started the band with his best friend Tim Ramos back in college. 'Tim and I grew up watching his brother's band practice, and jumping on their gear and



playing when they were not around. We both are the kind of guys who can pick up any instrument and just play it, so we often switch instruments when we play live. We spent several years doing acoustic covers at local bars until I started recording my own songs, most of which had been in my head since college. A few years ago I met Jim Murphy and threw him a CD of my originals, and he called me weekly about getting together to jam them. About six months later we actually got together to jam and Jim showed up knowing all my songs and blew me away. Naturally he was added to the lineup. Jim then brought in Randy for an audition and he knew all of our songs as well. Geoff was added to lineup to round the Mojo sound which is lots of loud guitar. This band has amazing chemistry - we are the are all high energy guys with a common love of all music and having fun which makes for a great stage show. We grew up listening to everything from Van Halen to The Beatles, which is why our songs are all of the map from acoustic to hard rock. If I had to pick the biggest influence, I would have to say Van Halen, but I believe we've created our own style of guitar driven rock with catchy riffs, hooks, and harmonies.'

The CD was written, recorded, mixed, and produced entirely in Chris' basement studio. 'Recording in my home studio gives me the flexibility to record as the ideas come at any time of day or night. With the new album, we took the same initial approach of me laying down the basic tracks for everything. This enabled the band to get to know the songs and rehearse them, after which I brought everyone in to record their tracks - put their fingerprints on the record. The collaborative effort really was like adding the secret sauce to the album. There are so many great moments in the songs that would be missing had I not let everyone add their two cents to the tracks.' The band are currently finishing up 'Hat Trick' which is scheduled for release in June. 'We titled it 'Hat Trick' as it will be our third album release in a single year. We're all fired up about these songs and think it is our best album, so plan on checking us out live this summer.' www.mojorizin.com



Austria's ever busy BLACK SAND return this summer with their tenth studio album called 'Monsters'. I chatted with bassist Richard Pfanzer. For Richard music mostly played on the radio did not satisfy his personal tastes, and therefore singer Walter Weber and he began to write their own songs to express their emotions. 'The thing I like the most is playing live concerts and get in touch with the people and their emotions. With my friends Wolfi (guitar) and Ingo (drums) we have an excellent live band, I think the best I've ever played with,' he smiles. The songs for the new album were all written by Walter and Richard and recorded and produced in their own studio. 'Recording a new album is always a very creative and fulfilling process. For me, each album is a challenge because it represents a special period in my life. Concerning technical details I am a perfectionist, but I think there are always things one could have done better,' he tells me. 'I have many new songs waiting to be recorded in the studio. Furthermore, I am planning a video for a song from the new album and I also have several bookings for small clubs as well as festivals in Austria, Germany and Switzerland. We are looking forward to spending more time in the studio to give wings to our plans.' www.blacksand.at

'Blackness And White Light' is the latest CD from Austria's RUSTY PACEMAKER. Rusty started creating his music when his wife bought him an electric guitar. 'From the first moment I held the guitar in my hands I wanted to create my own music and to invent each and every tone by and for myself. Over the years I wrote my first songs, collected instruments and recording equipment and finally recorded, produced and released my debut album via Solanum Records. I tried my best to promote my album and achieved almost a hundred reviews from webzines and magazines



worldwide. Since then I feel like being part of the crazy world of music,' he says. The CD was recorded during Rusty's musical development. He also built a small home studio, the 'White Studio', where he recorded, mixed, mastered and produced the album. 'Every step in this process was a completely new experience for me as of course I had never ever written, recorded or produced any music before. I learned everything by myself and I did it with a 'just do it' attitude. Improvement feels naturally and permanently to me which is an immense motivation to keep on pushing the whole thing forward and to work hard,' he explains. Next Rusty is working on his second album which will be called 'Ruins'. 'The songwriting is finished and the recording has started. I hope to be able to publish the new album in autumn this year. This time the album will be mixed and mastered by the experienced Austrian producer Norbert Leitner. I am very proud on my new songs and I can't wait to listen to them and to introduce my music to this crazy world.' More info on Rusty's music at: <http://www.rustypacemaker.com>



'Prophecy' is the new album from Australia's DRAGONSCRAW. I caught up with singer Giles Lavery, who has been singing/gigging in bands dating back to the mid 90s. 'I took a break from music for a while but still in my mind it was always the dream to find the right people, make the right album and give it a serious go. I feel this way about this band and our debut CD. Our guitarist Ben Thomas and I wrote this album and really clicked as writers so here we are,' says Giles.

Ben was looking for a singer and through a mutual friend, producer Stu Marshall Giles and Ben connected and built the band from there. Ben's brother Aaron plays bass and on keys Ray Martens. 'Our influences vary, Ben's into a lot of modern power/symphonic metal bands where as I am proudly and staunchly stuck in the 70s/80s... I'm also a big fan of melody which we have plenty of, so both our influences came together and it works quite well.'

The album was recorded at Lewellyn Studios. 'Stu is our producer. Ben and Stu have known each other for years, Stu has always been very supportive of my voice and whatever I have been working on.' The album also features one Blaze Bayley, and I ask Giles how he got involved. 'I heard a part of a song that I thought suited him, I contacted his management and we worked it all out. It was very kind of him to make himself available to us, to me Blaze has always been the sort of character, a true fan of metal and someone who is totally real and committed to what he does and to his fans.'

Also guesting on the CD are Alessandro Del Vecchio. 'He's such an amazing vocal talent that really helped me out in a few areas where a different approach was needed to a few songs, sometimes it's best to recognize what suits your voice along with what doesn't and there were a few gentler areas I couldn't quite phrase vocally quite the way I wanted. Alessandro came on board and just knocked us out with his talents.' Next the band plan lots of gigs. 'I can't wait to get out there live and show people what this band can do! Then we will start writing the next Dragonsclaw album, but first we want the world to hear 'Prophecy' so the immediate next step is to promote our debut.' www.dragonsclawband.com

NICKY BALDRIAN'S PLAYLIST

1. Richard Marx - Inside My Head
2. Keane - Strangeland
3. Europe - Bag of Bones
4. Joe Bonamassa - Driving Towards the Daylight
5. Robin George and Victoria Perks - You
6. Hardline - Danger Zone
7. Sarah Jaffe - The Body Wins
8. Eternal - Chapter 1
9. Jaded Heart - Common Destiny
10. White Skull - Under This Flag