

September 2005

LIVE MUSIC ON TAP

ISS Concerts in September and October

Next Workshop

Halloween will be here before you know it, but first, the ISS October workshop on Oct. 3

Pedro Pereira Live on Sept. 19

The ISS Newsletter editor will be the featured performer at Urban Coffee in Huntington. The performance is part of an open mic series hosted by luthier Scott McDonald.

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Feeling Sideways? Here's a Cure

Bill Goldsmith's band, The Sideways, is working on three CDs. These guys don't mess around.

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By Pedro Pereira

Two ISS member concerts are in the works for this month and next, one at the Sea Cliff Coffee Co. in Sea Cliff and another at the University Café in SUNY Stony Brook.

The lineup for the University Café is not yet final. ISS Director **Sonny Speed** said a vote will take place at the monthly workshop in September to pick the performers. The Stony Brook show is scheduled for Oct. 20.

The lineup for the Sea Cliff show, scheduled for Sept. 22, is locked in. **Tony Tedeschi** and I have put together what we believe will be a great show. This is the second in a series of shows he and I are organizing at the venue, where Tony also hosts a weekly open mic on Tuesdays.

Sea Cliff show: 7:45 p.m. Sept. 22

Stony Brook show: 8 p.m. Oct. 20

Performing at Sea Cliff will be **Tornado Alley**, which includes Sonny and ISS members **Tim Huss** and **Vinny Crici**, as well as percussionist **Robert Langley**. Also scheduled to play are ISS members **Frank Gambino** and **John Flor-Sisante**, both of whom have recorded CDs and likely will have them available for sale at the show.

Also on the bill is local act **John Taylor and Phil White**. If you haven't seen these guys play, you're in for a treat. John sings and plays rhythm and Phil plays lead. Their music is reminiscent of the best of the traditional Country and Western stuff that made people like Johnny Cash famous.

Tony and I have high hopes for this show, especially in light of the tremendous feedback we received after our first concert in July. The performances were top-notch, the house was packed, and the venue's management was very pleased.

The Sea Cliff show starts at 7:45 p.m. on Sept. 22 and will wrap up by 10:30 p.m.

As for the Stony Brook show, it will be the second of a semi-annual series at the University Café. Sonny collected nominations for performers at last month's ISS meeting and will use those to make the final selections.

Whichever nominees get the most votes will get a slot at the show, which is scheduled to begin at 8 p.m. on Oct. 20.

Acts that will most likely play because they received the most votes are Tornado Alley, **Universal Dice**, **Steve Robinson** and Frank Gambino. Also nominated were Rusty Lugs, **Sonny Meadows** and Sonny Speed (the sometimes-duo known as **Sonny Squared**), **Tim Huss**, **Suzanne Ernst**, **Bill Goldsmith**, **Walter Sargent**, **Andrew Kirschner**, Sonny Meadows solo, **Estelle Henrich**, **Fred Bredfry**, **Bob Campbell** and **Sarah Haddock**.

In addition, a special-guest artist will play. Nominated for this slot were **James O'Malley**, **Jim Tepe**, **James Yarsky** and **Cathy Kreger**.



Music Store Fixes

SATISFACTION AND INHERENT DANGERS

Writer's Choice

By Gerry Dantone

In complete disproof of the saying "Nice guys finish last," this month's winner of the coveted Writer's Choice Award is Certified Nice Guy Walter Sargent with a very nice song, "Easier to Love."

Winner: Walter Sargent

In fact the song is not only nice, it's imaginative and original, giving the listener much more to chew on than usual, both musically and lyrically. Though the song starts off typically enough with two verses, the bridge is an extended affair that builds and entrances at the same time.

The insightful message leads to a passionate conclusion: "If you knew what I know/All those judgments wouldn't stand a chance/It's because you're good that you are hard on yourself/You don't know you're easier to love."

"Easier to Love" is another in a string of fine efforts by Walt, who is perfecting a particular adult contemporary singer/songwriting style that suits him well.

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By Tony Tedeschi

The New York Times recently ran an article about music stores as a place guitar heads could go for a play fix. That really resonated with me. While, as the piece pointed out, staffers in Manhattan office buildings could pop into Sam Ash on 48th Street for a noonie with a Martin or a Taylor, my fixes come on the road, where there is no guitar waiting in my hotel room at the end of the day to soothe away my troubles in a sequence of minor 7ths.

Given that I am traveling to the far reaches of the realm regularly in my work as editor of NaturalTraveler.com and for Audubon magazine, before each journey I scan online yellow pages for guitar stores at my destinations, then run map programs to see where exactly they are located vis a vis where I am spending the night. Yeah, that may be over the top, but as those Taylor ads assert, how can anyone possibly go for more than a day or two without picking or strumming?

I gave myself 15 minutes, this year, to strum again a Pimentel, then move on. Ouch. I have moved on all right . . . to a Pimentel. One of the sons, Robert, is building mine.

Aside from the therapeutic effects of this process, there is also the potential for discovery, and that can be exciting, even if at times unrequited. In Canada, for example, I have found even the better music stores have mostly lower-end instruments; they must be shipping all the best Larrivees and Godins south of the border. In Central American cities, I have played any number of no-name guitars, none of which ever made it into the overhead rack on my return trips.

Then there was Pimentel & Sons in Albuquerque.

The Pimentels I found via a small ad in the yellow pages of a phone book in a hotel room I was sharing with my wife, who teaches a healthcare course every spring for the Indian Health Service. I wasn't expecting much . . . it was a small, relatively inconspicuous ad. Ah, the joys of lowered expectations. The sheer beauty and obvious craftsmanship of the instrument I held in the small showroom of these master craftsmen was outdone only by the sound of the guitar. It was an experience so compelling, I wrote about it in last June's edition of the newsletter.

When I joined my wife again this year in Albuquerque, I was sure the sound that had stayed with me during all the intervening months was simply a figment of my imagination, growing more imaginary with time and distance. I gave myself 15 minutes, this year, to strum again a Pimentel, then move on. Ouch. I have moved on all right . . . to a Pimentel. One of the sons, Robert, is building mine. It will take most of year, until I return next spring. It will take me all that time and disposal of some items on eBay to amass

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SIDEWAYS PROJECTS

By Pedro Pereira

Most recording artists are content with going into the studio to lay down 10, 12 tracks, enough for a full-length CD. Some will even stop at four or five songs so they can have something to show for their efforts, be it to a venue booker or to a coffeehouse audience.

But ISS member **Bill Goldsmith** is slightly more ambitious. His band, The Sideways, is working on not just a handful of songs for release, but actually three, count 'em, *three*, CDs.

Granted, as Bill announced at the Sea Cliff Coffee Co. open mic last month, two of the CDs are best-of compilations. The third one, Bill said, is an album of new material.

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Volumes One and Two of previously released songs, tentatively titled "Strong Suit" and "Hand-Drawn X-Rays," will include alternate takes and remixes of such ISS Writer's Choice winners as "The Woodland Marauder," "Superheated Sunshine," "You Know What I Hate About Award Shows," "This Rave's A Bore," "Four-story Building" and "Corner."

The record jackets will be designed by ISS mainstay and webmaster **Walter Sargent**, who did the band's last sleeve in 2004, Bill said.

The collection of new material remains untitled.

Bill has been working with long-time bandmates **Amy Leonard** and **Richard Lehmann**, and will also be collaborating with such ISS stalwarts as **Vincent Crici**, **David Cook** and **Michele Frimmer**, the aforementioned Walter Sargent and ISS troubadour **Bob Campbell**.

Tracks already started include "Skeleton Key," "All The Way Downtown," "Coffeebreak Hotel," "Robot Of The Year," "Greek Chorus," "Maybe So" and "Motherland & Fatherland." Bill says another ten or so are intended for the CD.

Look for the new albums to start rolling out before Christmas and into the new year, assuming, as Bill says, the world still exists.

Music Store Fixes

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the \$2,700 it will cost. Many Pimentels cost considerably more, but how much is perfect tone worth?

Jokingly I asked Robert Pimentel what would happen if I didn't like the sound of the guitar he is making for me.

He looked at me quizzically. "No one ever doesn't like the sound of a Pimentel," he answered.

So, there you have it.

Now I approach those out-of-town music shop fixes with a high degree of trepidation . . . but I can never stay away.

Who Played What

Here's the list of songwriters and songs from last month's ISS workshop:

Andrew Kirshner

Late Night

Steve Lieberman

Midnite Buttons Ha Ha
Punkrock Beat

Estelle Henrich

Nothing Can Beat
Percussion

Mike Svezia

Annabelle

**Bill Goldsmith &
Richard Lehmann** -
Skeleton Key

Walt Sargent

Easier to Love

Frank Gambino

Nuff Said

John Marrantini

Never-Ending Peril

Guy Pezzullo

Lost in Thoughts

Lois Morton

Reflections

Fred Bredfry

Unknown

Bill DeZego

Rock Tonight

Steve Robinson

A Little Bit of Heaven



What's Doin'

ISS members are always out and about. Check your local listings for appearances live, on the radio or even on TV. Go to www.islandsongwriters.org for gigs and links to member sites with information about CD releases, shows and MP3s. Here's what's happening in the coming weeks. (*Check with the venue first because dates and times may change.*)

ISS Workshop

Test out your songs in front of fellow musicians, who provide constructive feedback. The workshop is on the first day of each month at **Five Towns College, Burrs Lane**, Dix Hills. Run by ISS Director **Sonny Speed**, It starts at 7:30 p.m. Bring a guitar to perform your song live, or you may choose to play a CD or tape. A piano is available for keyboardists. Be sure to bring 25 copies of your lyrics so other workshops attendees can follow along and provide feedback.
Next workshop: Oct. 3

New Open Mic at Urban Coffee in Huntington

Pedro Pereira to Be Featured Sept. 19

Local luthier and long-time ISS member **Scott McDonald** is hosting an open mic at Urban Coffee, the café inside the Book Revue bookstore in Huntington. The event runs from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Mondays.

Each week a songwriter alternates with a poet as the featured artist. On Sept. 19 the feature is ISS Newsletter Editor **Pedro Pereira**. "Urban Mic," as Scott has dubbed the weekly event is "a relaxed, respectful and friendly open mic for poets and songwriters" meeting on the second floor of the Urban Coffee.

Check it out soon.

Writer's Choice

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There's a lesson for other songwriters in this: Be yourself, and do not be what you think or others think the market demands that you be.

Gerry Dantone wonders who we think we are.

Open Mics

Borders, Jericho Turnpike, Syosset, hosted by Bill Ryan or Vincent Crici, first Thursday of the month. Sign-up at 7:30 p.m. *Next gig: Oct. 6*

Urban Coffe, Book Revue, Huntington, hosted by Scott McDonald, 8 p.m. Mondays

Sea Cliff Coffee Co., Sea Cliff, hosted by Tony Tedeschi, 7 p.m. Tuesdays

The Cooke's In, Huntington, hosted by Gary Ivan, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays

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