

MM ARTIST PROFILES



THE HEADERS

Buffalo based band The Headers are a true and authentic live rockabilly outfit. They have a great CD available which is also reviewed in this issue. The band is fronted by guitarist and songwriter Bobby Lebel. Make no mistake, Bobby is a great frontman and guitarist. He has played with legends such as Blues Giant Edgar Winter, backed up stars like Kelly Lee Gifford and opened up concerts for rare Earth, America, Three Dog Night, Twisted Sister and James Cotton. Bobby's influences are firmly set in the Sun Records era of Elvis Presley and Eddie Cochrane's Rockabilly style in juxtaposition with the smooth swing style of Bobby Darin, Dick Dale's surf wave and the picking of Les Paul and Merle Travis. Most people know of Les Paul via his Gibson Signature Guitar, a version of which just about every professional guitarist has owned or played throughout their careers. Few actually realise that this was probably the greatest innovator of electric style guitar the world has known. It's well worth you guitar freaks getting hold of some of Les's early recordings with Mary Ford and listen to his amazing technique. He also innovated over dubbing, multi track recording, tape delay and pioneered solid body electric guitars, without any of which, we wouldn't have a modern music industry.

Bassist in the trio is world renown vintage guitar expert, luthier and dealer Scott Frielich, who is a recent inductee into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame. He has supported Weather Report and Herbie Hancock, recorded with Ani di Franco and the Boinger Band. His animated style of playing provides the big bottom end sound of the headers. Finally, and to complete the trio is

Drummer Dan Stoll. Dan spent the last decade and a half playing with his brother in



the Stoll Bros band. His playing is crisp and tight as is always needed in a trio and he has a beautiful tenor voice which adds to the bands sound.

Their live stage show includes a fun and danceable mix of original songs, select covers and onstage antics that harken back to the days of sockhops, but propels the style onto the furniture by adding influences of country, jazz, chicken pickin' and rock. There is nowhere to hide in a three piece guitar, bass and drum outfit and therefore everyone involved has to work their socks off to make the whole thing sound full. It worked for such greats as The Cream, The Jimi Hendrix Experience and Led Zeppelin and to a smaller but no less greater extent for Johnny Kidd and the Pirates where Mick Green's guitar solos are legendary in the annals of British Rock Music and so it works out just fine for The Headers too. Simplicity has always been the key to great Rock Music down through the years and delivered in this format, it feels natural and real as opposed to the synthesized swamp that seems to submerge everything into unreality these days. I remember listening to Presley a lot when I was a kid and then later seeing him play in the Las Vegas Hilton when his career had faded somewhat. But the King knew how to work his loyal subjects and put on a fantastic show. I also remember working for RCA records when the news of his death was announced. The world suddenly went into mourning but the RCA Execs threw a party as they were relishing the catalogue revival and the unreleased tracks they had in the can. That's what separates the business suits from the music. The old saying, "One man's meat is another man's poison" sprang to mind and certainly one band's music can be forever appreciated down through the years in recorded format by a host of new listeners. The Headers are one such band that certainly deserve a much wider stage in order for listeners across the world to enjoy their particular brand of High Octane Rockabilly.

www.theheaders.com

Bobby Lebel is also a Gretsch Guitar endorsee

Paul Brett



CATHRYN CRAIG & BRIAN WILLOUGHBY

American singer-songwriter **CATHRYN CRAIG** and accomplished British guitarist **BRIAN WILLOUGHBY** create an intimate atmosphere with songs about life experience, coupled with amusing anecdotes. March finds the duo on British roads once again delighting 'live' audiences with their unique musical partnership, dipping into their shared and solo recorded catalogues –

Their 'Anglicised Americana' blurs music boundaries, showcasing Cathryn's voice and Brian's guitar and their intricately crafted songs in a unique and dynamic way.

Brian's strong British Folk Rock influence mixes well with Cathryn's Roots, blurring boundaries and showcasing her voice, his guitar and their intricately crafted songs in a unique and dynamic way.

Guitarist Willoughby and respected singer-songwriter Craig, composed three songs for his well-received solo recording **BLACK & WHITE**, including the title track and Alice's Song, later released by Strawbs in support of the National Autistic Society's Year of Autism Awareness. Cathryn was the featured vocalist



Guitarist Brian Willoughby began his professional career with Mary Hopkin in 1971 and has recorded and toured with a range of artists, including Monty Python, Sweet's Brian Connolly, Joe Brown, Jim Diamond, New World and Roger Whittaker. Joining Strawbs in 1979, he played lead guitar

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on Ringing Down The Years, Don't Say Goodbye, Halcyon Days, Greatest Hits Live (CD/VCR/DVD), The Best Of British Folk Rock, The King (featuring Maddy Prior), The Complete Strawbs (CD/DVD), Blue Angel and the boxed set A Taste of Strawbs

In 2001, Cousins, Willoughby and Dave Lambert as Acoustic Strawbs, produced Baroque & Roll and toured internationally until August 2004. Their historic Strawbs documentary DVD, Live In Toronto, was released in 2005, followed by the Canadian album Full Bloom.

Brian featured as lead guitarist in Strawbs-associated bands High Society and The Monks, whose Suspended Animation won him a gold award in Canada.

Black & White is a record of Brian's songs, co-written with Nashville's Cathryn Craig, Michael Snow and Bill Lloyd, featuring Cathryn on vocals, with a guest appearance by Mary Hopkin.

Alice's Song, written by Cathryn and Brian, was released in the UK as a single by Acoustic Strawbs, in aid of The National Autistic Society.

As a Nashville session singer, **CATHRYN CRAIG** has worked with and recorded for artists as diverse as Mickey Newbury, Bobby Bare, Jorma Kaukonen and Shel Silverstein. Along with Tom Paxton, Emmylou Harris, Josh White Jr, and Dennis Locorriere.

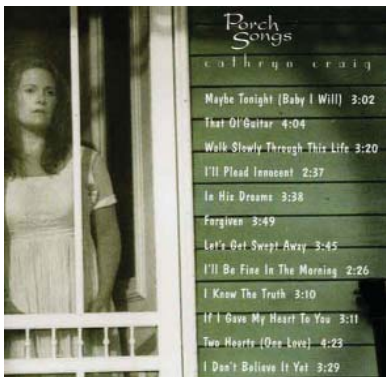
She sang on Bob Gibson's last ever CD MAKING A MESS .

Her early stage experience was with Bill Medley where she sang Bobby Hatfield's Righteous Brothers' duo parts and she is on the Bill Medley SWEET THUNDER ALBUM.

Cathryn can be heard singing 'Spring Always Comes' on the soundtrack of Peter Bogdanovich's movie A THING CALLED LOVE (River Phoenix's last film) and she appeared on television with her friend, the legendary Chet Atkins .

She has also written songs with notable writers such as Tommy Boyce, Dean Dillon, Richard Dobson, Sandy Knox and Shel Silverstein. Signing to Goldrush records in Perth Scotland,

her highly acclaimed debut album PORCH SONGS (GoldCD001) was actually recorded live on her back porch in Nashville, and is considered a classic in acoustic/roots circles.



THE MAYS

In the beginning

The Mays started out in 1975 as a four piece band of brothers known as Four-May-Shun

Band members

Michael May - Drums

Julian May - Lead Guitar/vocals

Peter May - Rhythm guitar/vocals

David May - Bass guitar/backing vocals
we played pop/rock n roll/country songs and were constantly in demand for bookings

Influences

our early influences were Rock n Roll e.g. Elvis, Cliff, The Beatles, Chuck Berry, Status Quo etc we later went on to write our own material

History

over the years we have supported a number of famous acts these include - The Batchelors, Gerry & The Pacemakers, Coast to Coast including a support slot for Darren Day. Our gigs have taken us all over the country i.e clubs, pubs, in concert, we've worked for cross channel ferries including a spell in Germany we've also done numerous radio appearance's and were recently featured by Look East for our latest single Tillingham Phone Box Blues this was to mark 30years in the music industry



The band as it is now

over the years there have been line up changes in the band this includes the departure of two brothers as they went on to pursue their own interests the band now boasts two

new members namely Tony Smith - Drums (who's been with us for ten years) and joining us recently on Lead Guitar to record our new single is Mr. Ian Cundy



The Mays - Their Roots

The Mays came from a farming background in South Wales, near Carmarthen, moving to Essex, their mother's home county in 1972 There was mum & dad, four brothers and three sisters.

The first music act they ever saw was on black & white television while in Wales, which was their mother Mary's favourite vocal group "The Batchelors"

Little did the family know at that point, that they would have their own group that would eventu-

ally go on to support this famous vocal act? Mother Mary would often record the TV shows featuring "The Batchelors" on an old grundig reel to reel tape recorder & the boys were forever asking if they could listen to the playbacks as it was dad's recorder, mum always said yes! Mary could be heard singing in and around the farm, this was the sound of music time, "Mary Poppins", "Chitty, Chitty, Bang Bang" etc. Dad played a bit of chop sticks on the old piano.

Music and singing was everywhere on the farm i.e. in the "Welsh Valleys". So it wasn't long before "The Mays" were alive with music.

Essex and Beyond

After moving to Essex their oldest sister bought an acoustic guitar from a catalogue also buying "Cliff Richard" & "Elvis Presley" rock'n'roll tapes from the same outlet, brother Peter was into "Chuck Berry" & "The Beatles"

But with the guitar in the house, it was not long before brother Julian was borrowing it and learning a few chords.

Peter had picked up a bass guitar by this time and with their brother Mike on his "biscuit tin drums they formed their own trio "Right, Left & Centre"

When younger brother David finally took over on bass guitar, the four brothers changed the name of the group to "Four - May - Shun" Watching local bands "Tread" & "T Bone Staek" among others, this helped to perfect their own unique sound & performance.

And so life on the road began, with their first gig, at the local Tillingham youth club in 1975. This led on to a number of talent competitions & youth spectacles in and around Chelmsford, Maldon & Basildon.

Their other two younger sisters Di & Jo were in the group from the mid 1990's for about ten



years, before moving on to form their own duo "Sweet & Sour" For more info contact "The

Mays"

www.themaysmusic.co.uk

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