Escher’s Enigma, From me to There

By Skype  
October 23, 2013

It’s funny how music can change. It’s so malleable; you could hear it in one setting and hate it, sowing to never again let such filth invade your eardrums again. I’m referring to sonic pop by the way. Then, you could hear it at a different time, in a different situation, a different artist and see something in it that you never considered. It’s not just to down to peer pressure, either. You could be listening to a song on repeat in the morning that by night time you can’t stand. Basically, music isn’t just a meal in itself, to really enjoy it you need to be in the right frame of mind, as well as a situation where you can enjoy it. Today the latest 90s alternative rock sounds with lush acoustic pop arrangements, these songs are about the relationship between self and world – lovers past and present, fate, and fantasy. Escher’s Enigma is a project currently comprised of father-and-son duo Russ and Brian Miller. They produce original acoustic pop, arena rock and contemporary rock music as well as covers of classic rock and pop songs. When I turned on Escher’s Enigma I actually did not expect what I heard. I probably wasn’t giving them the best chance for success as I must be honest. Some more music incorporations of contemporary Pop artists are a bit over the top about their sonic mixing and in your face sound quality and cheesy writing style. Not that there’s anything wrong with modern Pop, it just feels as if they are selling something under a false pretense lacking a real and genuine sense of musical inspiration. They are going through the motions. How ironic music lacks inspiration. Where am I going with this? None of the above applies to Connecticut based Escher’s Enigma. As I drifted in and out of uncomfortable sleep, hazy static and sporadic bursts of music punctuated my dreams I realized this artist believes every note he played, wrote and sang. I played this EP probably 4 times and despite the brutal sludginess of the Brooklyn traffic there was something on many of this 5 track collection that soothed my inner skepticism. On the second listen, slightly more conscious this time, I began to pick out the sounds between Alternative greats like Deep Blue Something, R.E.M., Talking Heads, Barenaked Ladies, and They Might Be Giants. However there is also a pop quality to the pieces as well. Bending elements of Classic Pop, Singer/Songwriter and Alternative Rock one can’t help but fall madly in love with Escher’s Enigma. To Top Tracks: Drowning in Time, and Choice. Criticism: Some vocal lessons may not hurt either. From me to There by Escher’s Enigma delivers a crisp sounding EP teaser. No matter what state you’re in the songs will make a lasting impression. From me to There manages to satisfy on all accounts. The mix of instrumental precision and concentrated themes meshed with heartfelt vocals, amazing guitar, guitar solos, piano, organ and strings making for some top quality Pop-Rock that’s soothing to the soul. Escher’s Enigma will free your mind. I was sold on Escher’s Enigma during the first few seconds of ‘Choice’. This EP is about freedom folks. It’s these types of artists that make it all the way to the top of our hearts and charts. Having said that From me to There by Escher’s Enigma is not far from groundbreaking. Not far at all.

Rating 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10

Bethany Page edited by Janne Zawa  
Review comments: jannezawa@gmail.com
NEW SINGLE BY ALEX GAUDINO

By Skope

Filled with strong kick-drumns and a pulsating bassline, "REWIND" begins a deep but big progressive anthem that quickly grabs your attention. It's not long...

WIRE: DEEP SEA ARCADE LAUNCH "BLACK CAT" VIDEO

By Skope

Having just completed a blistering run around Australia, DEEP SEA ARCADE blew audiences away with some killer new tracks crafted during their nine-month sojourn...

B.E.N.E.F.I.T CTN VIDEO "HEAVY"

By Skope

Heavy-hitter, B.E.N.E.F.I.T CTN's new video, "Heavy" is already capturing the attention of music insiders. The video, from his forthcoming album, "The Executioner Of Time"...

LASTO AND POP SINGER SOLOMON SPEAK OUT AGAINST EMINEM

By Skope

Openly gay rapper LastO and out pop singer Solomon respond to Eminem's latest single, "Rap God" where the rapper rapidly raps, "I'll still be...

PSA: JEWS AND MUSLIMS WANT PEACE NOT HATE

By Skope

There is a widely accepted piece of conventional wisdom that Muslims and Jews are enemies and will always remain so. In fact, nothing could...

KENDALL SCHMIDT TAKES ON HEFFRON DRIVE

By Skope

Heffron Drive, actually founded by Kendall Schmidt prior to his joining Big Time Rush, was born of a chance meeting. After chatting at an...

WIRE: MELODIC CARING PROJECT RELEASES INFECTIOUS VIDEO

By Skope

"Hey Hey," the catchy lead track from the newly-released fund-raising album, RAISE A RECORD, benefitting the Seattle-based Melodic Caring Project, is the basis for...

HOPSIN NEW VIDEO "HOP IS BACK"

By Skope

4k comments, and the video, co-directed by Hopsin and frequent Funk Volume collaborator George Orozco, and produced by Moses Israel, is one of Hopsin’s...
GREATER FORT LAUDERDAL SETS THE STAGE FOR LIVE MUSIC IN SOUTH FLORIDA

By Skope

As part of a campaign to establish Greater Fort Lauderdale as a live entertainment hub, a new music festival, Lauderdale Live will debut along...

WIRE: MAGNET PREMIERES ENGLISHMAN'S NEW TRACK “MORE THAN INSECTS”

By Skope

Unsafe & Sound began as a feeling that the ways in which we participate in the human experience are changing too rapidly to process. ...

JARANIMO “I DON'T GIVE A F##K” MUSIC VIDEO

By Skope

Milwaukee’s Jaranimo drops new a new video featuring slick flows and a high energy backdrop. As an affiliate of Money Made Music expect to...

NEW VIDEO BY PHENOM

By Skope

Phenom releases some new visuals today for “Ain’t Shit Free”, directed by Stereo Breed Media. The record was produced by Kajmir Royale. Be on...

NEIL YOUNG TO RELEASE LIVE ALBUM NOVEMBER 26TH

By Skope

Neil Young will release Live At The Cellar Door, the latest in his Archives Performance Series, on November 26th on Reprise Records. The album...

BAD RELIGION SHARE A CHRISTMAS SONG

By Skope

Revered punk rock legend Bad Religion is releasing a Christmas album, Christmas Songs, on October 25. Christmas Songs features 8 new studio recordings of...

WIRE: THE CREEPSHOW PREMIERES “BORN TO LOSE” AT USATODAY.COM

By Skope

Canadian punk rock 'n' roll band The Creepshow has premiered a newly new song called “Born to Lose” today at USAToday.com. The song is...

WIRE: IMAGINARY PEOPLE DROP VIDEO FOR “FRESH ON”

By Skope

New York-based Imaginary People are elated to drop their debut video for “Fresh On” which appears on their self-titled debut EP available now. The...

http://www.skopemag.com/2013/10/23/eschers-enigma-from-me-to-there
On January 28, Hospitality will release Trouble, the follow-up to their 2012 self-titled Merge debut. Hospitality was met with universal praise, appearing on year-end... 

HUKA Entertainment is pleased to announce Early Bird tickets to 2014’s Tortuga Music Festival on the beach in Fort Lauderdale, FL have sold out... 

“Go Hard” is the latest rap jam to release from budding rap star G2 who lays down sultry Plies-style rap verses to a very... 

Vancouver quintet The Belle Game have premiered the video for their single, “River”, today via Pitchfork. The stunning video was directed by Kheaven Lewandowski... 

From A Fountain, led by songwriter Douglas Kirby, has released their second full-length of 2013, Milky Mile Two today, offering up the album to... 

The Boston Red Sox are headed to the World Series and many fans are anxious to cheer them on. In the midst of all... 

Multi-platinum, Grammy-nominated Goo Goo Dolls have unveiled the video for their new single “Come To Me.” The clip premiered today on VH1.com and will... 

Colt 45 introduces “Keep It Colt 45,” a new message spearheaded by Snoop Dogg. The global entertainer hand selected four rising new artists that...
REVOLT TV, presented by Sean "Diddy" Combs, is making its on-air debut today on Comcast’s Xfinity TV and Time Warner Cable. The new multi-platform,...

WIRE: RENE LOPEZ VIDEO ON PASTE
By Skope
Rene Lopez is a musician that draws upon a wealth of influences and inspiration from rock, soul and salsa as well as artistry of...

CLOCKWORK TO RELEASE NEW SINGLE “BLITZ”
By Skope
Following the success of his massive single “Surge”—highlighted as one of the ‘40 Best Dance Tracks of 2013 So Far’ by Spin—producer/DJ CLOCKWORK returns...

SEEKER PREMIERE NEW MUSIC VIDEO
By Skope
Not for the faint of heart, head to Decibel for the premiere of SEEKER’s new music video for the track “When Hope Fails”, from...

WIRE: MINOR ALPS DEBUT NEW MUSIC VIDEO
By Skope
Minor Alps, the collaborative vision of Juliana Hatfield and Nada Surf’s Matthew Caws, have premiered the Clyde Petersen directed music video for “I Don’t..."

SMOKE MUSIC RELEASES “THE ROAD”
By Skope
Smoke Music, founded by music/publishing veterans Bob Moses and Matt Hendrickson, is proud to release “The Road,” a single-theme music magazine for tablet. Smoke...

WIRE: FRENCH HORN REBELLION “CAAALIFORNIA”
By Skope
French Horn Rebellion premiered Caaalifornia via This Song is Sick and they’re offering it as a free download in exchange for a tweet (+..."

TOPHER JONES NEW SINGLE “TALK ABOUT IT”
By Skope
English vocalist Katie Sky might not want to ‘Talk About It,’ but the rest of the EDM world won’t be able to get Topher...
SGT. OVER NEW SINGLE “BLACK DEATH”
By Skope
This time around Sgt. Over enlists the help of fellow Jersey City native Ransom to deliver a chilling message and put the industry on... Read More »

PROTEST THE HERO RELEASE LYRIC VIDEO FOR “A LIFE EMBOSSED”
By Skope
Due to the overwhelming response to the lyric video for the track “Clarity” from their forthcoming album Volition, Protest The Hero today release a... Read More »

HBO USES DARYL HALL AND JOHN OATES SONG FOR NEW SERIES
By Skope
Hit-making duo Daryl Hall and John Oates have proven over the years that they know a little something about the ladies. So when Emmy®-winning... Read More »

WIRE: THE COMPANY WE KEEP NEW SINGLE
By Skope
The Company We Keep, who recently announced the release of their new album, Sound / No Sound, has just premiered a brand new song,... Read More »

WIRE: SO MANY WAYS RELEASE SEER EP ON NOVEMBER 19
By Skope
Chicago-based band SO MANY WAYS today announce the release of their fourth EP and first for Staple Records due out on November 19, 2013.... Read More »

EVERLAST DOES “JUMP AROUND” ACOUSTIC
By Skope
Grammy award winner Everlast has premiered his new video for the acoustic version of the House of Pain classic “Jump Around” online at http://youtu.be/nZmhQSNpTJM.... Read More »

WIRE: UPSET SHARE “YOU AND I” MUSIC VIDEO
By Skope
Upset have shared a music video for the track “You And I” via Rookie Magazine. In the video you can watch rich privileged kids,... Read More »

WIRE: THE CREEPSHOW DEBUT MURDEROUS NEW VIDEO FOR “THE DEVIL’S SON”
By Skope
Toronto based punk rock ’n’ roll band The Creepshow has premiered a wicked new video for their song “The Devil’s Son” today at AllPress.com: ... Read More »
SOLOMON NEW SINGLE “SWIM NO MORE”

By Skope

Solomon surprised more than 50,000 fans on Twitter with the release of his latest single “Swim No More.” Premiering exclusively with EQMusicBlog.com, the lead... Read More »

WIRE: NEW SINGLE BY TOTAL SLACKER ON STEREOGUM

By Skope

Total Slacker has a thing for Olive Garden. It’s not just a passing interest or something—next time you talk to Tucker Rountree, their towheaded... Read More »

NEW SINGLE BY THE DUST ENGINEERS

By Skope

Brooklyn twangmasters The Dust Engineers present melty new dreamscape, “Pb” for free download. This recording began last year with studio time The Dust... Read More »

WIRE: MAGNETA LANE PREMIERE VIDEO FOR “LUCKY”

By Skope

Formed in the suburbs of Toronto by guitarist/vocalist Lexi Valentine, sister/drummer Nadia King and one-named bassist French, while still in their mid-teens, Magneta Lane... Read More »

WIRE: NEW SINGLE BY HIGH ON FIRE

By Skope

HIGH ON FIRE releases a brand new single titled “Slave the Hive” today. As part of the band’s upcoming Scion A/V-sponsored headlining tour, HIGH... Read More »

LIKE MONROE LYRIC VIDEO “THE ENEMY”

By Skope

Hailing from Houston, Texas, LIKE MONROE aspires to a sound unlike any specific band or genre in the scene. Today, the band is launching... Read More »

ZAGGA NEW SINGLE “MY DESTINATION”

By Skope

“My Destination” is the chosen title for Zagga’s latest release on Chimney Records’ new compilation called ‘Rising Sun Riddim’. This song was released on... Read More »

PAINTED ON WATER NEW EP NOVEMBER 19

By Skope

Now based in Chicago, PAINTED ON WATER return with a new EP of straightforward pop, delivered with panache and a dose of crunchy rock... Read More »
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<td>VICTORIA MONET COVER LORDE'S &quot;ROYALS&quot;</td>
<td>Skope</td>
<td>Signed to Atlantic Records, Victoria Monét is currently in the studio working on her debut solo album. Monét has been behind the scenes, writing...</td>
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<td>BIZZY CROOK POSTS &quot;NO REASON&quot;</td>
<td>Skope</td>
<td>'84 is a conceptually driven mixtape that chronicles Bizzy's journey from music industry rookie, to realizing his dream of becoming the &quot;Michael Jordan&quot; of...</td>
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<td>WIRE: FREE LP BY RILGOOD</td>
<td>Skope</td>
<td>Nigerian-born, Brooklyn-based emcee Rilgood has come together with The DJBooth to bring listeners his latest street release, the Kingdom LP. Executive Produced by the...</td>
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<td>WIRE: MOTÖRHEAD NEW ALBUM STREAM AT YAHOO</td>
<td>Skope</td>
<td>It might not be October 22nd yet, but the wait is over. MOTÖRHEAD graces their fans with an early full-album debut of their upcoming...</td>
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<td>WIRE: MATT NATHANSON TO PERFORM IN FIRST-EVER VH1 &quot;YOU OUGHTA KNOW IN CONCERT&quot; EVENT</td>
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<td>Acclaimed singer-songwriter Matt Nathanson has joined the esteemed line-up of artistes to perform in the first ever VH1 &quot;You Oughta Know in Concert&quot; Special...</td>
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<td>COLDPLAY TO RECEIVE THE &quot;HOLLYWOOD SONG AWARD&quot;</td>
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<td>Carlos de Abreu, founder and executive producer of the Hollywood Film Awards, announced today that Chris Martin, Guy Berryman, Will Champion, and Jonny Buckland...</td>
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Escher's Enigma, From me to There Skope Entertainment Inc

http://www.skopemag.com/2013/10/23/eschers-enigma-from-me-to-there
MATTHEW NEVES BRINGS US “YOU AND ME”

Passion is a word that I rarely use to describe artists in this day of AutoTune and soul sucking corporate music, so it’s refreshing to hear an artist who’s not only passionate about his music, but is also more than capable of turning that passion into something almost magical. The songs are pure, honest and full of emotion, yet also layered, complex and really catchy. Matthew Neves is one of those musicians that makes others jealous at the sheer talent packaged into just one man. Think Dave Grohl if he weren’t as grunge and had an aptitude for harmony and elaborate guitar playing. Skope: Upon listening I hear so many influences from 60′s dream pop to Curt Cobain’s raspiness. Who are your influences for the album? Matthew: I am a big fan of the Beatles. Also, 90′s rock has always been my favorite era of music. You may hear a wide variety of influences throughout the album but I would say I have my own style. Skope: How would you describe “You and Me” to Skope readers? Matthew: The title represents songs about you and me. The general public can easily relate to the lyrics. The album is diverse and […]

BILLY RAY DEIZ SCORES AGAIN WITH “DADDY’S COMIN’ HOME”

Billy Ray Deiz (or Bill Deiz) has seen and done enough for several lifetimes. The making of music has been just one of Deiz’s many endeavors throughout the course of his colorful, action-filled years. As a journalist, Deiz has been in the thick of disasters, both natural (volcanos) and manmade (methamphetamine epidemic). He’s met some memorable characters, such as Robert Kennedy, with whom he hung out just one week prior to the man’s assassination. Perhaps even more stimulating was Deiz’s coverage of the “25th anniversary reunion of Playboy Centerfold models at the Playboy Mansion West.” Deiz has also worked as a professional actor and a feature writer for The Oregonian. Skope readers may be especially interested to know that Deiz was in a rising 1960s band, The Seven Souls, which included a young guitarist named Bob Welch, who went on to play for Fleetwood Mac. But that was a long time ago. As for the here and now, Deiz has released a new track called “Daddy’s Comin’ Home.” This song is cut 1 on the Anthology of Blues, Vol. 2, released by Blue Pie Records and available on iTunes: https://itunes.apple.com/us/album/anthology-of-blues-vol-2/id658037722 Skope recently tracked down Deiz to ask a few questions…[ ]
**INTRODUCING JODI WHATLEY BRAND**

What is Jodi Whatley Brand? It’s singer/songwriter Josephina Whatley’s performing name and her ‘brand’ of singing has a promising future. Think Beyonce or Rihanna and you get the idea. Her electro pop songs are getting a little buzz on ReverbNation and with a little hard work, it wouldn’t be surprising if she ends up doing great things. Skope: You began singing at an extremely young age singing in choirs and performing in talent shows. How has those experiences affected you as a songwriter? Josephina: I have learned to just go with my inner voice and being confident doesn’t mean perfection. Skope: Do you write from personal experiences or are you more of a storyteller? Josephina: I write from personal experience and tell lifes story. It is my motivation. I like to look around the world and write about who i see it. Skope: Do you write all of your music as well or do you work with a producer? Josephina: I work with producers and have co-produced many of my songs, building melody and harmonies and cords and so on. “Explode” http://youtu.be/c6j7azffQb8 Skope: Do you play any instruments, such as piano or […]

**ENTER TO WIN $20K IN GEAR FROM SWEETWATER, CD BABY, DISC MAKERS**

Win everything you need to record, mix, master, manufacture, distribute, sell, and promote your next CD. We’ve teamed up with Sweetwater, the world’s leading music technology and instrument retailer, to create a prize package that is every musician’s dream. We’re giving away high-end gear such as guitar and bass amps, a bass guitar, a stage piano, an electric drum kit, a digital mixer, a pair of powered PA speakers, microphones and stands, CDs, a design and mastering package, posters, worldwide distribution, and so much more. In one fell swoop you can get everything you need to outfit an entire band to record and sell a CD. It’s our biggest prize package ever and it could all be yours with the click of a button: SKOPE IT HERE!

**CARRIBEAN GEM BRINGS HER TALENTS TO THE US**

Many recording artists have dreamt of coming to America to spread their talented wings. Yet many have not succeeded. Maxine Reyes is one who took the plunge and came to the shores of the US. She came from Jamaica as a teenager and settled in the sunny state of Florida. It was definitely not an easy feat and yet she managed to overcome the major hurdles before her. “It was a culture shock at first, but I quickly adjusted with the help of the students and teachers at my school. It was a little hard to understand the strong South Florida accents and slangs used. For example, “I’m fixin a go” or “I’m finna go” versus “I’m going to go”, etc. In addition, I had left my mom, brothers all of my friends and the people that I have always known in my homeland behind. I mostly missed my baby brothers Sean & Kev. At the time Kev was an infant and I longed to hold him. I missed the traditional fast food! Climbing trees and fetching fruits from the fruit trees on my property back in Jamaica was exhilarating! I used to ponder over the freedom to walk to […]

http://www.skopemag.com/2013/10/23/eschers-enigma-from-me-to-there
OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2013 ARTISTS TO WATCH

Welcome to another amazing month of music from the incredible musicians that make up the Sonicbids.com community. We have chosen a select group of amazing musicians that will be speaking directly to the Skope readers. As always we encourage readers to dig deeper and check out their EPKs.

Olivia Frances
www.sonicbids.com/OliviaFrances

Cold Kiss Casino
www.sonicbids.com/ColdKissCasino

Allan Rayman
www.sonicbids.com/AllanRayman2

Gibrish
www.sonicbids.com/Gibrish

Skope: Any plans for any holiday music from either Halloween or Christmas? No plans so far. But for Christmas 2011 we released our Christmas single “Klockorna i G:A” in benefit for homeless people in our hometown Sundsvall, Sweden.

Skope: Looking back on 2013 what are you most proud of and any goals for 2014?

Spring/summer 2013 we started the recordings of our next album. Five songs finished that we’re pretty proud of and will kick off our new album. During 2013 the band also expanded to six members, guitarist Niklas Karlsson joined us permanent. Summer 2012 Gibrish guitarist Daniel […]

HOW NOT TO MAKE IT IN THE MUSIC BUSINESS

I had the same dream as every other unsigned musician when the internet (supposedly) leveled the playing field. This is going to be great, I remember thinking. I can just do it on my own now! Who needs a label? All I have to do is put it out there, right? And so I did that. And that’s what we’ve all done for the past ten years at least, hoping for the best. But do you want to know a secret… do you want to know what happened? Nothing. That’s what happened, and I’m still pissed. Well, I guess I’m over it for the most part. But now the game has evolved into something even more elusive, like some online version of the emperor’s new clothes since nobody ever says anything. Because all you ever hear these days is that if you really want to be successful with your music career, or any other creative business venture for that matter, all you have to do is get more socially connected! So now that we’ve all been at it for a while, answer me this… are you on Myspark or Faceplant or Urube or Tweaker or Fumbler or Regurgitation Nation, or are […]

MUSICIAN ELIZABETH BUTLER WEARS MANY HATS

Georgia native and longtime Texas resident Elizabeth Butler is a marathoner, triathlete, mother of three, entrepreneur, and, oh yes, a musician as well. Skope recently tracked her down to ask a few questions… I read that you have some background with guitar. Do you compose or perform the guitar tracks? Yes, I play most of the rhythm guitar tracks on my songs, and I write the guitar parts for my songs. Occasionally, I’ll think a song will be better served by using a different guitarist, but most of the time it’s me. When I’m writing a song, though, I almost always write it a cappella, and add chords later. I think you get a stronger melody this way. How many hours do you think you’ve logged in playing at coffee shops and parties? I’ve certainly spent a fair amount of time in coffeehouses, parties, and playing at bars, but most of my musical experience is as a church
musician. I can’t even begin to count how many hours I’ve spend at services, or at weddings, funerals, baptisms, etc. It’s probably somewhere in the thousands, I think. I really liked being out in the community, playing for family events. It was […]

PHIVE REPS MORE THAN MUSIC BUT A LIFESTYLE MOVEMENT

Not just a production group, but also a “lifestyle movement,” GodBody is the brainchild of Orlando resident “Phive.” Since GodBody’s 2011 inception, Phive has been up to a fair amount of diverse activity. Skope recently tracked him down for a few questions… What’s the story behind the name “GodBody”? Well the name GodBody came to me in a daydream as I was sitting in my Medieval Humanities class. Started drawing about it in my Psych class. At the time, I was working on music and trying to find my way to express it to the world. And then the epiphany hit. GodBody “Muzik Group,” which soon led to GodBody Movement Group. Now GodBody is a lifestyle movement and multi-media production group manifesting through combined visions. What is the “lifestyle movement” that GodBody puts forth? GodBody is about bringing a positive, enlightened vibe to the masses. Living life to the fullest extent without living in the negative. Building a successful life amongst the people you love and trust. Living for each other just as much as you are living for yourself. Exploring the ancient and present knowledge in hopes for a better future and realization of life for everyone around […]

LOCAL SALES OUTLETS FOR YOUR MUSIC

The Music industry and its respective music buyers have not, yet, strictly endorsed a digital music file environment for sales. As such, musicians/recording artists are still expected to have CDs available for both representing their music and for sale, particularly during their live performances. The below list presents various types of local sales outlets and sources in your own home area that you may have never considered for selling your music but which may be interested in carrying your music for sale for their particular clients and customers while, simultaneously, increasing their business financial bottom line. In a number of the below outlets, the clients and customers are already “captive” audiences, so to speak, who are already waiting on a product or service, such as doctors’ offices, coffee houses, barber/beauty shops, nail salons, etc. So, why not work with these types of businesses in order to promote, publicize, and sell your music through them and to their clients and customers as they wait for their main service. You should treat this process much like “music consignment,” which is what it is. To be clear, you need to initially approach the business owner or manager with this proposal, offer to let […]

SCHOOL OF ROCK: HOW TO TAKE YOUR BAND TO THE NEXT LEVEL

So you finally have the band you’ve always wanted, everyone sounds good, everyone gets along, you’re playing pretty regular gigs, and people are starting to take notice… now what? All bands dream of pitching off the shackles of the 9-5 routine and making money doing what they
love, but how does one get started navigating the waters of life as a professional musician? Here are three things that should get you started on your new path... Get a manager: Assuming you're going to be making a living doing what you love you're going to need a manager; keeping up your chops, writing music, and fine tuning your performances are all necessary for a band to stay healthy and make money; they are also very time consuming. So where are you going to squeeze in time for details like writing contracts and ordering pizza for practice nights? A good manager will make it their mission to see that the band has everything they need to work and can focus on what's important: being a band. Find someone that has knowledge of your scene and truly enjoys your music. Your manager should be a person that the band comes to know as a...

MO BLISHEN'S WIDE AWAKE AND HIGHLY STRUNG

From New Zealand comes Mo Blishen, who has just finished recording her album "Wide Awake And Highly Strung" which should be available by the time this interview is published. I could describe her sound but I think it would be best if she told you in her own words. so without further ado... Skope: Tell us a little bit about yourself. How did you get into singing? Mo Blishen: I live in Wellington, New Zealand. My Dad was in a popular big band for over 20 years, and I used to jump on the tour bus with him as a kid. I always wanted to be part of something like that. Dad tried to teach me music but I have never really been able to pick up on the theory (Lazy). Singing was something I could do without really having to put in any hard work. I cut my teeth doing some backing vocals for a heavy rock band, then in a duo, then solo. I had to stop hiding behind people as there wasn't anybody left! Skope: You have a new album out "Wide Awake And Highly Strung", what's it about? Mo: Wide awake and highly strung is how...

SKOPE INTERVIEWS: 5IVE STAR

Armed with an arsenal of hit records, accompanied by impressive visuals and a verbal dictionary that omits failure or defeat, Chicago adoptee 5ive Star is ready to leave a lasting impression on the music timeline. Currently making his way up Rythmic and Urban charts around the country with his latest offering, 'Show Me You Love Me' from his impending official debut, 5ive Star is no stranger to Skope. With his last two videos featured on the site it seemed obvious to get a bit more info for you, the readers, on the man who is dead set on shaking up the... So sit back and make yourself familiar with a man who is making extreme progress in becoming a recognizable force in the world of music. If you had to pinpoint a defining moment for you when it came to being involved in music, what would that be? Well, often time it's the recognition from others that pushes you in a direction. Producers began to recognize my abilities as an artist and songwriter and from there my music career began. Before long, I started to get beat from all over and I just began writing to everything I heard trying to...

GET THE WORD OUT: HOW TO ADVERTISE YOUR BAND

For a band to be successful, advertisement is of
It is publicity that leads to more gigs, more fans, and more likes on Facebook. Unfortunately, not all musicians have the gift of marketing built into their DNA, and as a result, a great many artists and bands who have unparalleled talent, might not make it as far as those actively working for more publicity. Here are a few ideas for bands and musicians looking to expand their audience to start doing that very thing. Internet Pages Technology is such a major tool today for advertisement because it is available to just about everyone. Setting up an Internet page on any social networking site for your music may not necessarily mean that the whole world will visit your page, but it certainly means that they have the ability to. Start by sharing and inviting your friends to follow your page. If you have quality stuff, your audience will certainly grow. Free Downloads and Streaming With a number of sites that are designed specifically for musician profiles, there is the option to upload music and allow online audiences to download and stream for free. As a beginning musician or band, 

CJD: SPREADING THE “LOVE AND HAPPINESS”

Combine a little pop, a little hiphop and a big dose of positivity and call it CJD. That is Collin James Daniel. And you can catch his tracks on his YouTube channel, the preferred method of younger artists these days. Hey, look what happened with Mac Miller and Justin Bieber? So I decided to check out CJD’s music, and sounds like he just might be onto something. If you’re into pop hooks and hiphop beats this just might be for you. Skope: You’re the first artist I’ve actually heard that uses leased beats. Where did you find them and how did you hook up with the producers? CJD: Most I Find Online, But I Do Know A Few In Florida I Interact With. Skope: All of your songs have a positive or inspiring message. What’s the song “Love And Happiness” actually about? CJD: Love And Happiness Is About Do What You Love To Do And Don’t Quit Until You’re Happy/What I Mean By That Is Love Your Life As You Live It And Don’t Quit Until You Reach Your Goals. Skope: Do you write your own lyrics? CJD: Yes I Do, Its The Best Part About Making My Songs. …

SEPTEMBER 2013: MKM NOTES FROM THE SOUND TABLE

Hey folks and welcome back to another edition of NOTES FROM THE SOUND TABLE!! It’s been really busy lately – as you can see in the picture, I got a special gift from my friends at the Georgia Music Industry Association, www.gmia.org, plus we just had a FANTABULOUS MUSICOLOGY 2101 book signing/birthday/Anything But Monday/Mirosa Beer bash on August 30, with great folks stopping by to hang out and perform, like Peach City Records artist development story of the year, ONNY! You can check out “just a few” pix at www.facebook/damusicmon and there’s more stuff ahead! We are now plugged into Internet radio shows at www.rawtruthradio.net and also another one at www.spreaker.com/user/6249574. These shows feature informative interviews with music greats like Ruffhouse Records’ Stephen Stone, Reggae Legend Fitzroy Francis, So So Def’s Sir Rod Patterson, Chris Jasper of The Isley Brothers and Isley/Jasper/Isley, with upcoming shows featuring folks like Full Force’s Bowlegged Lou, Paul Anthony, Dance Queen Sharon Brown, Arrested Development’s Speech and Eshe, DJ Syntonic along with Atlanta Hip Hop Godfathers Raheem The Dream, MC Shy D and plenty more! Atlanta is a great place to live and if you haven’t made it here yet to visit, we’d love to host …
Raised in the infamous projects of Memphis, TN, Gedeon Luke found refuge in two things: music and faith. He has since combined the two. Having teamed up with producer Marc Swersky, Luke (still just 24 yrs. old) has released the EP Perfect Ain’t Perfect. Skope recently tracked down Luke to ask a few questions… What’s the meaning behind the EP title? “Perfect Ain’t Perfect” was the name that Team Gedeon came up with during the recording process. We were listening back to one of the songs after we had just finished recording it, and a few of the band members started to scrutinize their own playing. But what they were hearing, I was hearing totally different. They wanted to record the song over, and I said no. Perfect ain’t perfect. To me the mistakes, and all of the flaws made the sound Perfect. That’s why I titled the EP “Perfect Ain’t Perfect.” If you listen to some Rolling Stones, The Beatles, and even some Marvin Gaye, you will hear a lot of flaws in guitar, pitch etc., but that’s what actually made the songs great. Even in life, we go through a lot of pain, but at the same time […]

E=MC DAVE CHILDZ

Dave Childz new mixtape “Underrated Genius” is an eclectic mix of beats and sounds, jumping from party groove to dramatic storytelling from one song to the next. It’s a testament of his wide ranging passion for all things Hip hop and ‘a little something for everyone’ vibe throughout. Skope: You grew up in a multiracial household in the Bronx, NY. How did that have an affect on you as an artist? Dave Childz: I’m sure that’s one of the biggest factors that have impacted my music. Having a Black father and a Cuban mother and my parents being the people they are and listening to the music that they do. I mean the list is endless; from 70’s funk, Old school Hip Hop & R&B, Rock, Salsa, to even Brazilian music…Music was always playing in the house! Skope: Who are some of your first influences that got you started in hip hop? Dave: It’s funny because I caught onto hip hop a little later than other people in my generation that come from where I’m from. I used to always listen to more R&B music as a little kid, but once I got to about middle school it was over lol. […]

BIGBANGZOOM THEORY

International performer and songwriter Big Bang Zoom isn’t your run of the mill artist. A geologist by day currently living in Kuwait and rockin’ the clubs at night, BBZ is rapidly becoming well known in regions most of us have never even seen outside of the news channels. Skope: Living in the middle east and beyond seems like it would have a profound effect on your songwriting, how has it benefited you as an artist and what are you doing out there? BigBangZoom: Yes it has, because what I have realized, is that aside from differences in our countries politics, the people living on this spinning orb are all the same at heart. Regardless of religious beliefs, desires for love and feelings for life and peace, cross all boarders and cultures. I am a geologist working in the oil business and have lived in 6 different countries for the past 20 years. But that’s just my day job and it pays the bills, my passion has always been for music, which is the universal language for all people regardless of which corner of earth you hail! “The Mojo Maker Man”: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5PZy2RZQg_c Skope: I read in your bio that you’re a self taught […]

http://www.skopemag.com/2013/10/23/eschers-enigma-from-me-to-there
In the musical landscape of the greatest city in the world, many have tried to conquer its demands. A native Long Islander has taken on the quest to climb the competitive music industry ladder one step at a time. The artist, Stay Key was influenced by various styles of music from Motown to Alternative Rock. He developed a knack of mastering different instruments like the guitar and the saxophone. Besides learning how to play Stay Key also honed his smooth and sexy voice which became his best instrument and the key to his success. “I mainly play the piano and/or guitar at shows but I also play the sax. I have an electronic drum kit I play for fun and I have played the bass guitar before. I got a ukulele in Hawaii that I haven’t picked up for a while, but that’s always fun to play...and the harmonica.” He soon paved his way into venues across the states and overseas. Stay Key’s emotionally driven performance began to generate a fan base and a new door would soon open. That new door was at the prestigious Manhattan venue Carnegie Hall where he performed to a packed house. It was a […]

The Parents Television Council issued the following statement in response to last evening’s MTV Video Music Awards (VMA). “MTV has once again succeeded in marketing sexually charged messages to young children using former child stars and condom commercials — while falsely rating this program as appropriate for kids as young as 14. This is unacceptable,” said PTC Director of Public Policy Dan Isett. “This much is absolutely clear: MTV marketed adults-only material to children while falsely manipulating the content rating to make parents think the content was safe for their children. “MTV continues to sexually exploit young women by promoting acts that incorporate ‘twerking’ in a nude-colored bikini. How is this image of former child star Miley Cyrus appropriate for 14-year-olds? “How is it appropriate for children to watch Lady Gaga strip down to a bikini in the opening act? “How is it appropriate for 14-year-olds to see a condom commercial and a promo for an R-rated movie during the first commercial break? “This content would likely not be given a forum if it were on a broadcast network. Yet MTV continues to push limits because it’s a cable network. But that does not mean MTV’s decisions have no consequences, […]

Some things just defy categorization, while you can clearly hear different genres in the mix, you can’t exactly describe what you’re hearing. And that’s a good thing. Too many ‘artists’ these days rely on studio trickery and generic pop sounds to get their name out there. And that’s a bad thing. The Jay Storm Project isn’t one of them. They’ve carefully crafted a style all their own while borrowing from funk, hip-hop and rock and establishing themselves in Tennessee and beyond as torchbearers of real music for new generations of knob twiddlers to learn a thing or two about music. Skope: As a former part-time Tennessean, I witnessed a barrage of music of all kinds, from Nashville country, folk and bluegrass, to Knoxville indie rock and Memphis blues, and hip hop more recently. How did your location affect you creatively and help you hone your sound? Jaystorm: I was born in Greeneville TN (about an hour NE of Knoxville) Where I grew up there was a population of about 20,000 or so with only 8 percent of that being African-Amercian. Having that said, the musical atmosphere I grew up in besides church was rock-n-roll (AC/DC, Foreigner, Kiss, Motley Crue, Winger, […]

http://www.skopemag.com/2013/10/23/eschers-enigma-from-me-to-there
GARAGE BAND GONE BIG TIME: TIPS FOR SUCCESS

If an independent band wants to acquire renowned notoriety, the members must showcase sheer dedication and talent; however, there are a few shortcuts to make the ascent to stardom more accessible. This guide details several promotional measures that any musical group can utilize to reap a larger audience. Fill All Member Vacancies A band is only fully operational when every instrumental role is occupied; otherwise, the group will be unable to perform or record. To create the desired sound, every musician must be cooperatively synchronized with the other performers. Make sure to hire compatible members, and focus on equally collaborative efforts. When you have a good group make sure they are equally committed to the project or else it is already doomed to failure. Construct an Original Image Visual awareness is vital for attracting initial listeners. A powerful artistic design can captivate fans before they have even heard the music. Employ outside illustrators and professional photographers to guarantee a persona that generates a positive public response. Once a striking visual style has been developed, it should be widely distributed. Street crews with guerrilla tactics can ramp up local support by plastering iconic imagery of the band in every possible location. […]

creativeLIVE UNLOCKS MUSIC INDUSTRY SECRETS WITH NEW AUDIO CHANNEL

Instead of scouring YouTube for homemade tutorials, you can now learn music production and business directly from leading DJs, producers, and managers. creativeLIVE (www.creativelive.com), a live education platform, today announced the addition of an audio channel to their online broadcast network. creativeLIVE’s free workshops — on topics ranging from DAWs to networking — teach musicians the technical skills and industry knowledge needed to make a living in the music business. The audio program will launch with classes taught by incubus manager Steve Rennie, metal guitarist/producer Eyal Levi and EDM DJ Big Chocolate. Founded in 2010, creativeLIVE is transforming online learning by providing free, live access inside previously-closed doors. Venturing into music makes sense for a company whose CEO, Mika Salmi, is responsible for discovering and signing Nine Inch Nails. Of the audio channel launch, Salmi said, “Music is close to my heart and we have been chomping at the bit to launch an audio channel on creativeLIVE. Just like in photography and other channels, we will be bringing world class experts to teach real actionable skills. I personally can’t wait to update my DJ skills!”

http://www.creativelive.com/audio