

New Blues Revolution

Hi guys, welcome to VENTS! How have you been?

BG: 2016 has been our best year ever and we are just in the Spring of things! We continue to play top nightclubs, concerts and festivals from San Diego to San Francisco. The year began when we were asked to play the 2nd stage at NAMM which is the biggest music convention in the world. It takes place every year at the Anaheim Convention Center. We have been asked to perform the last three of four years and it is an honor. Musicians' musicians play the show. Last Sunday, we were at The Coach House Concert Hall in San Juan Capistrano, the Monday before, at the Mint in Los Angeles, a well-know industry haunt. We return to the Canyon Club and the Whiskey in May and are thrilled to play the newest concert hall in southern California, The Rose in Pasadena, this June.

Can you talk to us more about your single "Souls On Fire"?

CC: It's a song about uncontrollable temptation and payback. A conscious act to do the worst imaginable in the name of selfishness, martyrdom. However, the payback might not be what you expected. Sound familiar?

Did any event in particular inspired you to write this song?

BG: It is completely fictional. But we all have our struggles and we all strive. My baby loves me.

Any plans to release a video to go along with the song?

CC: We have just released a series of teaser videos from our drummer Roger's studio. They are meant to be fun and we had a great time making them. Yes, Souls on Fire was the first one we made. It's on YouTube, our Facebook page and our dot com.

The single comes off your new album "To Hellendale and Back" -

how did you come up with the idea for the concept album?

What's the story behind the title?

BG: We came to know and perform in a little town which has two names – Silver Lakes and Helendale. We changed the name to protect the guilty. Those experiences impacted our thought life. Not only the band, but also the CD's graphic designer spent time (exile?) in this little oasis so the name suggested itself. An early suggestion was "Exile in Mojave" as a "tip of the hat" to another British band of seminal influence which began their journey in the blues.

How did this album end up writing itself?

CC: Our albums are a reflection of where we are at, at any given time. We try not to have one song dictate the next. So as each song develops from the music and feel to the lyrics and story. So each element helps write the next; suggests the next. The songs form the bones or spokes of the album.

How did the desert get to influence the music and lyrics of this record?

CC: We live in Southern California which is a semi-arid desert. So desert themes are always running in the background of our minds and lives. We check out, but never leave....

BG: Since our last CD, we spent even more time driving through the high desert of California, climbing up through the El Cajon pass where the two mountain ranges rub tectonic plates daily - think San Andreas fault - into the high Mojave Desert. For the last two years, we were exposed to the unique physical beauty, subtleties and extremes of the Mojave Desert and the overall surrealistic life of the high desert - a study in paradoxes. We spent a lot of time traveling the same roads as Erin Brokovich



saw the PG&E factory in Hinkley, California, talked to the people, visited anomalies small and large including the former George Airbase, a wasteland with a lot of ghosts. Yet there is also life, recovery and hope.

How was the recording and writing process?

CC: We have recorded our last two albums using Logic at Ziggy's Pad. Chap usually writes and records a rough draft of the music first. We discuss the "feel" of the music which inspires a melody, story and then lyrics. Bill works his magic while I engineer and finish the mix. Then it's off to mastering. We try to let the music lead the way. However, we are always open to new processes.

BG: Lyrically, the songs continue to progress in both the great themes of love and loss, but continue to explore the American experience, new, fresh - with its downs and ups which are exciting, and exhilarating. There is a circular element to the songs/songbook. When we last spoke we mentioned that our process is "infinitely variable." We have each contributed whole songs, riffs, and musical progressions. The primary division of labor is Bill writes the lyrics and melodies, Chap composes the music. We both hash it out - we work really well together. Our new work continues with the exploration we have been doing with both the original tunes from Revolution #9 as we perform them live and the new material we have been writing on the road. Sonically, we have continued to embrace the lower tones of the baritone guitar which figures prominently in some of the songs on our new EP, "To Hellendale and Back". We have more than one arrow in our quiver; sonically we are all over the map. You would laugh if you knew the number of artists to which our music is compared. There are so many elements we incorporate. People

hear so many things. It's only natural, as we have been influenced by so many. AM radio figured prominently initially in our upbringing and then FM and album orientation.

Any plans to hit the road?

BG: Same game plan as after our last CD when we talked in 2013, "Barnstorming live performances across the southland"...we hope to return to the Midwest and Europe. Both Bob and Bill played Europe in the Fall and we hope to take the full band over this September. We are playing more festivals, concerts and top nightclubs than ever before. Relentless touring and high-energy performances.

What else is happening next in New Blues Revolution's world?

BG: More videos will be released from the two CD's which are already shot! Hard to believe, but we are planning the fourth New Blues Festival which has been so rewarding artistically and spiritually. We've had the opportunity to work with 60 other bands so far. We can't wait to develop this year's roster - there are some great possibilities! There is a Guarantee: it will be a great show Labor Day weekend at the regional El Dorado Park in Long Beach! Five thousand (5,000) people came last year and we hope to double it again. You can stay tune to that on the web too - both the dot com and the Facebook sites for the New Blues Festival. Do you think Brazil would like it? We know they love the New Blues! As the genre is described in Wikipedia, it is a "contemporized form of the deep blues.... akin to the British blues boom of the mid 1960s". Chap and Bill will continue to write as they explore the themes which confront their daily existence. More inspiration always comes from the road...long and winding, ever on!