

# My City

March :: April :: 2019



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## EastSide Local

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# LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

March :: April :: 2019

Hi Charlotte,

We hope that you enjoy this issue and we thank you for picking it up. We introduce readers to the NoDa concept Bartique in this My City Magazine. As always, Martin "the Clown" Barry gives us his comic strip "Micro Monsters" and his advice column "What do I know, I'm just a Clown". He always includes tips on not being a jerk. You're welcome. See if you can find "Frogboy" in the comic series by John Burgin in each installment and, in this one, Mandi Brown walks us through the new Eastway Drive's EastSide Local Eatery. As a treat, celebrated, local musicians, Troy Conn and Peter Gray, review each other's albums for us and it is quite the read. Also get acquainted with some fur babies in this time's Pet Profile. Don't forget to check out the exhaustive event listing and subscribe to our monthly newsletter by emailing 'subscribe' to [ellengurley@gmail.com](mailto:ellengurley@gmail.com).

Enjoy today and every day,  
Ellen Gurley and the other My City Magazine personalities



**[www.MYCITYMAGAZINE.NET](http://www.MYCITYMAGAZINE.NET)**

P.O. Box 5606 | Charlotte, NC 28299  
704.575.6611

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- Cover illustration by: Jerry McQuay. Hire him for your next commission. [jerryhpuck@gmail.com](mailto:jerryhpuck@gmail.com) / 704-502-3073  
(This issue features Brenda Lee Gambill, Gina Stewart, and Penny Craver of [www.EastSideLocalEatery.com](http://www.EastSideLocalEatery.com))

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## MICRO MONSTERS

by "The Clown"



# CONTRIBUTORS



Columnist



Columnist



Columnist



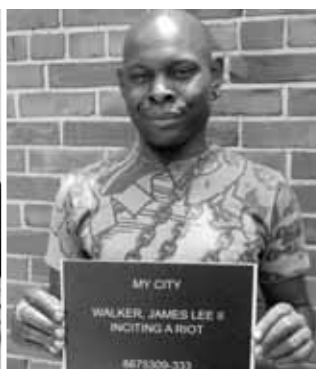
Webmaster



Owner / Editor



Photographer



Columnist



Cover Illustrator



Columnist



Comic Stripe Illustrator /  
Columnist



Magazine Layout Designer



Columnist



Comic Stripe Illustrator



Columnist





## EASTSIDE LOCAL EATERY

*photos: Ellen Gurley  
words: Mandi Brown*

The dynamic duo of Brenda

Gambill and Gina Stewart have been gracing Charlotte with their many talents for over thirty years. I have been fortunate enough to know them for many of those years working with them in many capacities over my time here in Charlotte. We waited tables together at Pewter Rose in the early 2000's, when Brenda was the illustrious hostess and Gina was the bartender. Brenda and Gina have been creatives in the local scene being actors, musicians, entrepreneurs, and community builders. Once "Volatile Baby", they performed as the band "Doubting Thomas" in the earlier days of Pewter Rose, along with many other high profile bands of the time. I had the pleasure of working with them on stage, doing hair and makeup at the Booth Playhouse for their highly acclaimed play Wildwood Flowers, the story of the Carter sisters. Taking it way back, they played at the Moon Room eons ago. Gina is a well known actor and has been seen in many shows, Walking Dead and Homeland being a couple of the most recent.

I take you on this tour down memory lane because these gals never cease to amaze me. Recently, Gina and Brenda opened a dreamy, little business called EastSide Local Eatery. This new endeavor is with Penny Craver, owner of the Dish in Plaza-Midwood and former owner of Tremont Music Hall (you may have heard of her haha). They have been looking to do this for a while. When Gina and Brenda sat down with me on their cozy patio to talk over one of their delicious coffees, they tell me that it was all about timing. They had to find the right place at the right time. Folks, I think they found the right place for sure. They grabbed up a little spot in the shopping center on Eastway Drive, Eastway Crossing, right beside the Visart Video. Other neighbors are Portofino's, the Atlantic Farmer's Market, and Tommy's Pub. The location they now inhabit used to be a storage area for the shopping center. Believe me when I tell you, it does not look like that any more! These chicks have worked some magic and put in some elbow grease and love, all while sourcing area craftsmen and handymen (and handywomen). They pulled off a sweet and homey corner of the world.

Penny, Brenda, and Gina used knowledge from their many years in the service and restaurant industry, as well as their expertise in fine foods, to craft the menu at EastSide Local. Brenda has long created raw foods and juices for Common Market and her own personal Raw Foods business "Over the Moon". This love of fresh and clean foods became the basis for the menu. Raw, vegan, and vegetarian food options, clean juices, smoothies,







and locally-sourced coffee drinks compose a majority of the menu. They carry local Kombucha from Lenny Boy and Sumbucha, coffee from Charlotte Coffee and Enderly, and yummy cookies from Sweet Girl Cookies just to name a few.

The goal of EastSide Local is to incorporate the artist and local community in every way possible. Some of the wares sold at the store are art by Rebecca Jones and her daughter Ali, "Alitao", original works from "Bugs!", and bird houses. Artists in residence are from the Asheville Creative Arts (ACA). They plan on booking musicians on the patio very soon. This is great since the big furniture is on wheels and can be moved around to accommodate different types of events. These gals thought of it all. They tell me that the goal of EastSide Local is to bring the community together and create a space of diversity rooted in the neighborhood values they hold dear. The space is for building up others and supporting local. Everyone is WELCOME. They did as they promised, because Gina, Penny, and Brenda are nothing if not authentic and consistent. They are bringing wholeness to the neighborhood. I look forward to the GRAND opening coming this spring just in time to enjoy the beautiful weather, live music, and fresh treats. See you at my new favorite spot. Oh, and they are available for private parties and events.

- Saturdays @ EastSide Local Eatery & VisArt Video: 10am-12pm Morning Matinee - cupcakes, cookies, coffee, conversation, & cartoons

[www.EASTSIDELOCALEATERY.com](http://www.EASTSIDELOCALEATERY.com)

3102 Eastway Drive | Charlotte, NC 28205  
980.585.2957

[www.Facebook.com/EastSideLocalEatery](https://www.facebook.com/EastSideLocalEatery)

[www.Twitter.com/EastSideLocal1](https://www.twitter.com/EastSideLocal1)

[www.Instagram.com/ESLEatery](https://www.instagram.com/ESLEatery)



# ASK THE CLOWN

What do I Know? I'm just a Clown :  
March :: April :: 019  
"Ask the Clown" : an advice  
column by The Clown

Q

Dear Clown,  
I feel like I am trapped. I am married to someone that I don't like very much anymore and I have been completely reliant on what he provides for years. Lately, things have gotten darker and he has been ridiculing me to the point of tears. I suspect that he has been cheating, but I just don't care anymore. I want out, but I don't know where to start. Help?

Sincerely,  
Caged

A

Dear Caged,  
Step one, get documented proof that he is cheating. Set aside some personal funds to hire a private investigator and get your proof. Step two, confront with evidence and demand a divorce with terms to be decided that favor your stability. This part is difficult. Do this with someone you trust present to avoid the possibility of violent reactions. Step three, establish your new space and new life. Arrange electronic funding transfers and do not provide access to your address or personal information. Take the time to breathe and grieve and shake this off. Engage a professional therapist, if necessary. Allow yourself to adjust at your pace and on your terms.

Brighter days ahead,  
The Clown

Q

Dear Clown,  
People that have moved into my neighborhood frighten me. The way they dress, their conduct, and the people that visit them have forced me to stay



inside more often when I am home. I feel like I cannot even take a walk anymore and I used to love this area. I do not want to move. What can I do?

Sincerely,  
Frightened Neighbor

A

Dear Frightened,  
Step outside the next time they are around. Talk to them. Maybe even have a party and invite them. You were very vague in the description, so I will assume that you are judging based on what you have been told or something in your past that tells you things are bad. Avoid judging by appearance and fear and find out if you have cool neighbors, or if they actually suck.

The people that you meet each day...  
The Clown

Q

Dear Clown,  
My boyfriend wants to take me to the Whitewater Center this spring. I have never been in a raft, canoe, or kayak, and I am only moderately good at swimming. I want to refuse this, but he seems to have his heart set on it. I just don't want to look like an idiot and he does not know that I am scared to do this. What do I do?

Sincerely,  
Hydrophobia



# A

Dear Hydrophobia,

The first thing you need to do is have a talk about your related fears. It is not a requirement that you be good at everything in the world and failure is the best teacher. If he balks at being with you because of the fears, then he is not worth your time. Hopefully, he will be excited at the prospect of either learning with you or teaching you some things. If not, we can arrange something.

Just keep swimming,  
The Clown

## THINGS I SHOULD NOT HAVE TO TELL YOU

1. If you win an argument, there is never a need to be smug. It only makes you look like an \*ss.
2. Not every problem is a world ending crisis.
3. Research
4. Stop buying lies and spreading bad information.
5. Enjoy the drive when it takes a while. Remember the time you did not have this degree of independence.

**DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE CLOWN? WRITE HIM AT [MARTIN.BARRY@YAHOO.COM](mailto:MARTIN.BARRY@YAHOO.COM)**

## PET PROFILE

### Loki

Hey there all my friends. My name is Loki, as in the God of Mischief, but over the years I have acquired many more names.... Loki Lou, Bubba Lou, Big Bubbs, just to name a few. My mom, 'Chelle, mostly calls me sweet face, because... well you can see. She also says I am the sweetest soul in the world.....I just love when she sweet talks me. I have a sister, Ginger and we were

rescued together over 11 years ago. Everyone knows us as "The Boo's" and we are the VP's of my mom's company Clear Design. Mostly we lay on our beds in the studio and snore loudly, but someone's got to do it. My favorite things are MY TOYS and I have a lot of them. Mom had to upgrade my toy box because my old one was too small. I love being outside in the garden with my mom or having a lazy movie day snuggled up with mom and Ginger. One of my mom's friends asked if she named me Loki, because I am so low-key....lol. I am pretty low key, but I am also a fighter. In my 11 and 1/2 years, I have beat parvo, lymphoma and a tumor in my eye. So you see, I am a chill guy, but I don't plan on going anywhere anytime soon. Besides, who would eat all the treats and pup cups mom brings home.... Not Ginger! Well all of my friends, all of this chatting has wore me out. I guess it's time to go to work with mom. I love you all. This is sweet face, signing out for now.

PS: Ginger says hey ya'll.



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE YOUR PET'S PROFILE IN MY CITY MAGAZINE? EMAIL [ELLENGURLEY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:ELLENGURLEY@GMAIL.COM)**

# BARTIQUE

photos & words: *Ellen Gurley*

Every now and again, someone turns me onto a place in town that I had no idea existed. Bartique in NoDa is one of those concepts. Steve Helfrich, of Michigan State football fame, and Estelle Helfrich, a career fashionista from San Fran, married in 2012 and gave birth to their love child just four years later. That is the beginning of Bartique. Walls covered in nostalgia and racks full of stylish garments, Bartique is the union of a cocktail bar and a boutique. Why doesn't everyone in town know about this place?

Another nurturing relationship is involved in this love story. Brand managers at Bartique, Denise Shirley and Anthony Decker, are best friends and both are equally sought-after, local stylists. Whether your look is office casual, steam punk funky, or flighty Boho, all of these individuals are ready to help you find your next piece or overhaul your entire wardrobes just in time for spring. Thank My City Magazine later.



**www.SHOPBARTIQUE.com**

3100 N. Davidson St., Suite 103 | Charlotte  
704.910.4750

[www.Twitter.com/ShopBartique](http://www.Twitter.com/ShopBartique)

[www.Instagram.com/ShopBartique](http://www.Instagram.com/ShopBartique)

Decker: [www.Instagram.com/Vitamin\\_Ayyy](http://www.Instagram.com/Vitamin_Ayyy)

Shirley: [www.Instagram.com/The\\_Prism\\_Effect](http://www.Instagram.com/The_Prism_Effect)







# EVENTS IN YOUR CITY

## MARCH | APRIL 2019

### SUNDAYS:

#### SPORTS / ACTIVITIES:

- @ Common Market (Plaza-Midwood): 2pm Slow Riders - 15 mile bike ride
- [www.CharlotteIndependence.com](http://www.CharlotteIndependence.com): 4.07 2pm @ Charleston Battery
- @ Lenny Boy: 12pm run club
- [www.GoCheckers.com](http://www.GoCheckers.com): 3.24 3pm vs. Hartford Wolf Pack / 4.07 1pm vs. Springfield Thunderbirds
- [www.CharlotteKnights.com](http://www.CharlotteKnights.com): 4.07 2:05pm vs. Durham / 4.14 1:35pm @ Indianapolis / 4.21 1:05pm @ Norfolk / 4.28 2:05pm vs. Indianapolis

#### BEER / WINE / FOOD:

- @ 300 Restaurant: ½ wine by the bottle
- @ Olde Mecklenburg Brewery: open 11am-10pm / tours 2, 3 & 4pm / 2:30pm Bike-In
- @ Sir Edmund Halley's: 1/2 off of wine by the bottle
- @ Zen Fusion: 1/2 price by the bottle (under \$45)
- @ Central Food Hub: 11am-2pm Vegan Farmers Market
- Sun., March 3rd @ QueenCity Bicycles: 12:30-5pm 20th Anniversary Party w.BBQ, beer, & more
- Sun., March 17th @ JWU: 7am-5pm Piedmont Culinary Guild Food & Beverage Symposium

#### LIVE MUSIC:

- @ Comet Grill: 8pm Omari & the Hellraisers
- @ the Evening Muse: 3.03 Richard Shindell / 3.31 Mark & Maggie O'Connor Showcase (Charlotte String Camp Fundraiser) / 4.07 Randy Franklin (CD release) / 4.28 Monks of Doom, Victor Krummenacher & his Flying Circus
- @ Ovens Auditorium: 3.17 Hozier / 4.28 Whitesnake
- @ Petra's: 2nd Sunday - Jazz Workshop & Improv w.John Shaughnessy 3.10 Paint Fumes, Scott Yoder, Plastic Man Ban, Pet Bug
- @ the Wine Vault: Jared Allen
- Sun., March 10th @ the Fillmore: Sol Kitchen Presents: Robert Gasper & His Band
- Sun., Apr. 14th @ PNC Music Pavilion: Zac Brown Band

#### PLAY OR POETRY READINGS / BOOK SIGNINGS:

- @ Red at 28th: "Soulful Sundays" feat. poets, vocalists, comedians, musicians, DJs w.host J Pragmatic

#### COMEDY / THEATRE:

- @ the Comedy Zone: 3.31 David Koechner / 4.14 John Caparulo / 4.28 JJ Williamson

#### MUSEUMS / ART:

- @ the Levine Museum of the New South: 1st Sunday free admission / 1/2 off admission (every Sunday thereafter)
- @ the Mint Museum (Uptown): 1-4pm free admission for kids + hands-on art activities, yoga & more

#### DANCE MUSIC / DJS / BURLESQUE:

- @ Petra's: 1st Sundays 3-8pm "Hazy Day"
- @ Soul Gastrolounge: DJ Scott Weaver

#### KARAOKE:

- @ Snug Harbor: Bone Snugs-n-Harmony karaoke w.Bryan Pierce

#### FILM:

- @ the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture: 2pm the Classic Black Cinema Series 3.10 2pm Buck & the Preacher

#### KIDS:

- Sun., Apr. 7th @ Ovens Auditorium: Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood Live

#### PETS:

- @ Brewers at 4001 Yancey: Skip & Sip (group dog walk + live music & food)

### MONDAYS:

#### SPORTS / ACTIVITIES:

- [www.Hornets.com](http://www.Hornets.com): 3.11 8pm @ Rockets / 4.01 9pm @ Jazz
- @ Sir Edmund Halley's: 7pm Trivia Night
- [www.CharlotteKnights.com](http://www.CharlotteKnights.com): 4.08 7:04pm vs. Norfolk / 4.15 7:05pm @ Gwinnett / 4.29 7:04pm vs. Gwinnett

## BEER / WINE / FOOD:

- @ 300 East Restaurant: ½ wine by the glass
- @ Bardo Restaurant: 1/2 wine by the glass
- @ Bulldog Beer & Wine (Park Rd.): 6:30 MEAT Up
- @ Lebowski's: 1/2 off bottles of wine
- @ NoDa Brewing Co.: Tap Room open 4-9pm w. Food Truck Tin Kitchen (5pm) / You Drink, We Donate (benefiting a local charity each week)

## LIVE MUSIC:

- @ Bradshaw Social House: open mic
- @ Crown Station: 8:30-10pm Jazz Mondays w. Troy Conn, DC Ocie Davis & more
- @ the Evening Muse: 8pm "Find Your Muse" open mic band night w. guest headliners 3.04 Davey O. / 3.11 Michael Kelsey / 3.18 Jordan Scott Huggins
- @ the Neighborhood Theatre: 1st Mondays w. the Monday Night All-Stars
- Mon., Apr. 22nd @ Ovens Auditorium: Dream Theater

## PLAY OR POETRY READING / BOOK SIGNINGS:

- @ the Rabbit Hole: 8-11pm 1st & 3rd Mondays: "Monocle": Improv Monday
- @ the Press Box: Avant Elocution w. host Bluz
- @ Petra's: 1st Mondays 7-11pm slam poetry w. hosts Isiah & Grannae's Boys
- @ Tropics: Rhythm & Poetry w. host CFour Black

## COMEDY / THEATRE:

- @ the Comedy Zone: stand-up comedy private class

## DANCE MUSIC / DJs / BURLESQUE OR DRAG:

- @ Growler's Pourhouse: DJ Elon Shomaker
- @ Snug Harbor: Fresh Grounds Presents: "Knocturnal" w. Justin Aswell & friends + Bboy & MC cyphers
- @ Soul Gastrolounge: DJ Mookie Brill

## TUESDAYS:

### SPORTS / ACTIVITIES:

- www.Hornets.com: 3.19 7pm vs. Sixers / 3.26 7pm vs. Spurs / 4.09 7pm @ Cavaliers
- www.GoCheckers.com: 3.19 7pm vs. Syracuse Crunch / 4.02 7pm vs. Lehigh Valley Phantoms

- @ the Common Market (Plaza-Midwood): 8pm PMTNR 15 mile bicycle ride w. a new route weekly (by Pamela Murray)
- @ Olde Mecklenburg Brewery: 6:30 Yoga on Tap
- @ Pint Central: 8pm Mindless Minutia Trivia
- www.CharlotteIndependence.com: 4.16 7pm vs. Bethlehem Steel
- @ Spirit Square: 6:15-7:45pm Breakers for Life - breakdancing classes & lessons (ages 6-13) info: antoniorobinson82@gmail.com / 760-805-8978)
- www.CharlotteKnights.com: 4.02 7:05pm NC State vs. South Carolina // 4.09 7:04pm vs. Norfolk // 4.16 7:05pm @ Gwinnett / 7:05pm South Carolina vs. North Carolina // 4.23 7:04pm vs. Toledo // 4.30 7:04pm vs. Gwinnett

## BEER / WINE / FOOD:

- @ 7th Street Public Market: 5-7pm the Assorted Table Wine Shoppe Weekly Wine Tasting (\$5, 5 wines + nibbles)
- @ Birdsong Brewing: open 3-10pm / Get Fit Yoga w. NC Yoga Bar 6:30pm \$10
- @ Cornelius Draffhouse & Bottle Shop: 1/2 off wine
- @ Crafty Beer Guys: beer tastings
- @ NoDa Brewing Co.: "NoDable Series" (new beers released in their taproom 4pm) / Tap Room open 4-9pm / Tin Kitchen food truck 5pm
- @ Rhino Market: 1st Tuesdays of the month beer tasting
- @ Zen Fusion: 1/2 price wine by the glass & select bottles

## LIVE MUSIC:

- @ the Comet Grill: Red Rockin' Chair
- @ the Evening Muse: 3.05 the Skinny Bully Slam / 3.12 Jason Eady / 3.19 Jesse Lamar Williams & the Menastree Jazz Jam / 4.09 John Craigie
- @ Morehead Tavern: 8pm Bill Hanna Jazz Jam
- @ Puckett's: open mic w. Jeff Claud
- @ Smokey Joe's: 9pm open mic night w. resident band the Smoking J's
- @ Visulite Theater: 3.12 Lawrence / 3.26 Shallou, Slow Magic

## PLAY OR POETRY READINGS / BOOK SIGNINGS:

- @ Apostrophe: open mic spoken poetry w.host Sir Abstraxxx
- @ Loft & Cellar: Sayword w.host Jst Jah

## DANCE MUSIC / DJs / BURLESQUE OR DRAG:

- @ Petra's: 1st Tuesdays 8pm-12am Bring Your Own Vinyl Night w.Justin Aswell
- @ Soul Gastrolounge: DJ Shanti Moore

## COMEDY / THEATRE:

- @ the Comedy Zone: open mic / comedy battles / March Mania Comedy Tournament Tuesdays

## WEDNESDAYS:

### SPORTS / ACTIVITIES:

- www.Hornets.com: 3.06 7pm vs. Heat / 4.03 8pm
- @ Pelicans / 4.10 8pm vs. Magic
- www.GoCheckers.com: 3.20 7pm vs. Syracuse Crunch / 3.27 7pm @ Bridgeport Sound Tigers / 4.03 7pm vs. Lehigh Valley Phantoms
- @ Abari Game Bar: 7pm-12am Overwatch League Wednesdays
- @ Lenny Boy: 6:30pm trivia night
- @ the Spoke Easy: 6pm (pay what you can) Yoga
- @ the Topsy Burro: 7pm Topsy Trivia w.prizes
- @ Renaissance Park: 5-7pm www.NCBattle.com Presents: Dagorhir - hit nerds with foam swords, etc.
- @ Kadi Fit Studio (Cornelius): 4-5pm Breakers for Life - breakdancing classes & lessons (ages 6-13) info: antoniorobinson82@gmail.com / 760-805-8978)
- www.CharlotteKnights.com: 4.10 7:04pm vs. Norfolk / 4.17 7:05pm @ Gwinnett / 4.24 7:04pm vs. Toledo

### BEER / WINE / FOOD:

- @ 300 East Restaurant: 1/2 wine by the bottle
- @ Amelie's: 1/2 off of glasses & bottles (all locations but NoDa)
- @ Central Coffee: 15% off of pounds of coffee
- @ the Common Market: 7-9pm Free beer tastings
- @ Burtons Grill & Bar: 1/2 wine by the bottle
- @ Crafty Beer Guys: wine tasting
- @ Dilworth Neighborhood Grill: 1st Wednesdays www.CarolinaBrewMasters.com meeting
- @ JJ's Red Hots: kids eat free (w.purchase of an adult combo)
- @ NoDa Brewing Co.: Tap Room open 4-9pm w.Food Truck Tin Kitchen (5pm) / Run Club 6:30-8:30pm

- @ Sir Edmund Halley's: 1/2 off of wine by the bottle
- @ Triple C Brewing: Papi Queso (food truck) + Pilot Batch Release
- @ Zen Fusion: Robert Fernandez + 1/2 price Sangrias

## LIVE MUSIC:

- @ the Comet Grill: open mic / open jam
- @ the Evening Muse: 3.13 Cody Webb / 3.27 Fatai / 4.17 the Accidentals
- @ Petra's: 7:30-9:15pm songwriter open mic
- @ Rhino Market (Westside): Wak Wednesdays w.Derrick Hines 1st & 3rd w.open mic
- @ Smokey Joe's: Rock Fabulous & the Mystery Machine
- Wed., March 27th @ McGlohon Theater: Southside Johnny & the Asbury Jukes

## PLAY OR POETRY READINGS / BOOK SIGNINGS:

- @ Flo Bar Lounge: 7-10pm Floetry w.host Iz-Real
- @ Mugs Coffee: 7:30pm Free the Mic w.host Shane & the Guerilla Poets
- @ Red 28th (UNCC): 9pm 1st & 3rd Wednesdays Release Therapy w.host A Poet Named Superman

## TRADE / INTEREST SHOWS & FESTIVALS:

- @ Spandex City Comics: 5pm Pokemon league
- Wed., Apr. 10th @ Ovens Auditorium: 7:30pm The Price is Right

## KARAOKE:

- @ Blackfinn Ameripub: karaoke
- @ Tommy's Pub: Karaoke w.DJ Michelle Ma Belle

## FILM:

- @ Tip Top Daily Market: 7-9pm Diggers Delight & Premium Sound Present: Movie Night w.music documentaries

## THURSDAYS:

### SPORTS / ACTIVITIES:

- www.Hornets.com: 3.21 vs. Timberwolves
- www.GoCheckers.com: 4.11 7pm @ Cleveland Monsters
- @ Petra's: 2nd Thursdays - Potions & Pixels (video games & board games)
- www.CharlotteHounds.com: 5.03 7:30pm vs. Chesapeake
- @ Queen City Bicycles: 6:30pm Tub Ride from there to Birdsong (free 12oz. to those with www.BicycleBenefits.com)



# EVENTS

- [www.CharlotteKnights.com](http://www.CharlotteKnights.com): 4.04 7:04pm vs. Durham / 4.11 7:05pm @ Indianapolis / 4.18 10:35pm @ Gwinnett / 4.25 7:04pm vs. Toledo

## BEER / WINE / FOOD:

- [www.PBSCharlotte.org](http://www.PBSCharlotte.org): 8:30pm Charlotte Cooks
- @ Birdsong Brewing: 3-10pm open / 3pm Thirsty Thursdays (new releases) / 6:30pm brewery tours
- @ Bottled & Tapped: 1/2 price wine
- @ Cabarrus Creamery (Concord): 7-9pm Thursdays Cabarrus Homebrewers Society

## LIVE MUSIC:

- on UNC-TV: 7:30pm Our State Magazine
- @ Blue: John Alexander, Ron Brenale, Chris Garges [www.JaJazz.net](http://www.JaJazz.net)
- @ Buddy's Point (Monroe): open mic jam
- @ the Craft Tasting Room & Growler Shop: 8-10pm JoJo & Friends feat.local musicians & songwriters
- @ Crown Station: 7pm open mic w.the Willie Douglas Band
- @ the Evening Muse: 3.07 Wild Moccasins / 3.14 Clark Beckham, Tim Halperin / 3.21 Kyle Daniel (album release) / 4.11 Adam Hood
- @ McGlohon Theater: 3.28 I'm With Her w.Sara Watkins, Sarah Jarosz, Aoife O'Donovan / 4.04 (an intimate evening of songs & stories w.) Graham Nash
- @ Ovens Auditorium: 4.04 Marisela / 4.25 Brit Floyd (a Pink Floyd tribute)
- @ the Rack: 7-10pm Artist Spotlight Thursdays w.Aiden Lee & CFour Black
- @ Tommy's Pub: open mic w.Smelly Felly
- Thurs., March 21st @ the Neighborhood Theatre: Coco Montoya
- Thurs., March 28th @ the Visulite Theatre: Desmond Myers, Soelle

## PLAY OR POETRY READINGS / BOOK SIGNINGS:

- @ Roc's Jazz Bar: Touch One Thursdays w.host Jaycee
- @ Wired Coffee Express (Kannapolis): One Mic Stand w.host Daniel & the Guerilla Poets

## COMEDY / THEATRE:

- @ the Comedy Zone: 3.07 Whitney Cummings / 3.28 David Koechner / 4.11 John Caparulo / 4.25 Brent Morin
- Thurs., March 7th @ the Evening Muse: Shane Mauss

## MUSEUMS / ART:

- @ the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture: 6-10pm 3rd Thursdays free: Gantt After Dark

- @ Levine Center for the Arts: 12pm 3rd Thursdays Take an "ArtBreak"

## TRADE / INTEREST SHOWS & FESTIVALS:

- @ Providence Country Club: 7:15-8:45am Ballantyne Business Network [robfiga@gmail.com](mailto:robfiga@gmail.com)

## DANCE MUSIC / DJs / BURLESQUE OR DRAG:

- @ Rhino Market (Westside): DJ Jah-Sun Rising (Jason Herring) + 1st Thursdays of the month wine tasting
- @ Snug Harbor: 10pm-2am Le Bang w.Buckmaster
- @ Soul Gastrolounge: Jason Cooper

## KARAOKE:

- @ Hattie's: karaoke w/ShayNanigans
- @ Morehead Tavern: 9pm karaoke w.band (Will & Rob)

## FILM:

- @ Canvas Tattoo & Art Gallery: 9pm night at the movies
- @ Abari Game Bar: movie night
- @ C3 Lab: 7:30pm Back Alley Film Series

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## FRIDAYS:

### SPORTS / ACTIVITIES:

- [www.Hornets.com](http://www.Hornets.com): 3.01 7:30pm @ Nets / 3.08 7pm vs. Wizards / 3.15 7pm @ Wizards / 3.29 10:30pm @ Lakers / 4.05 7pm vs. Raptors
- [www.GoCheckers.com](http://www.GoCheckers.com): 3.01 7pm vs. Binghamton Devils / 3.08 7:05pm @ Lehigh Valley Phantoms / 3.15 7pm vs. Rochester Americans / 3.29 7:15pm @ Hartford Wolf Pack / 4.12 7pm @ Cleveland Monsters
- @ Thirsty Nomad Brewing Co.: 7pm Tabletop Game Night
- [www.CharlotteIndependence.com](http://www.CharlotteIndependence.com): 3.15 7pm vs. Indy Eleven
- [www.CharlotteHounds.com](http://www.CharlotteHounds.com): 4.27 7:30pm vs. Dallas
- [www.CharlotteKnights.com](http://www.CharlotteKnights.com): 4.05 7:04pm vs. Durham / 4.12 7:15pm @ Indianapolis / 4.19 7:05pm @ Norfolk / 4.26 7:04pm vs. Indianapolis

## BEER / WINE / FOOD:

- [www.FeastFoodTours.com](http://www.FeastFoodTours.com)
- @ Duckworth's: 1/2 off of wine by the bottle
- @ Trinity Presbyterian Church: 5-9pm [www.Facebook.com/CotswoldTrucks2017](http://www.Facebook.com/CotswoldTrucks2017)
- @ 2161 Hawkins St.: 5-10pm SouthEnd Food Truck Friday
- @ East Blvd. & Scott Ave.: 6-10pm Dilworth Food Truck Friday
- @ Sycamore Brewing: 5pm SouthEnd Food Truck Friday

## LIVE MUSIC:

- @ Cigars Etc. 2: 6-11pm Soul Fridays
- @ the Comet Grill: the Lenny Federal Band
- @ the Evening Muse: 3.01 A Fragile Tomorrow, Mitch Easter / Sweet Lizzy Project // 3.08 Sean McConnell, Caleb Elliot / Veaux, AfroBear // 3.15 Tony Lucca, Eliot Bronson / Electric Kif, the Moon Unit // 3.29 the Honey Dewdrops (CD release) / Pam Taylor, Matt Parker & the Deacons // 4.05 Hip-Hop Violinist Rhett Price / Juice // 4.12 Charlie Mars
- @ McGlohon Theater: 3.01 Marc Broussard / 3.15 Chatham County Line
- @ Ovens Auditorium: 3.01 Franco Escamilla / 3.15 [www.ExperienceHendrixTour.com](http://www.ExperienceHendrixTour.com) feat. Billy Cox, Joe Satriani, Dave Mustaine, Jonny Lang, Dweezil Zappa & many more / 3.22 John Mellencamp / 4.05 Derek Hough / 4.12 Death Cab for Cutie
- @ the Visulite: 3.01 Interstellar Overdrive (a Pink Floyd tribute) / 3.15 Cody Dickinson & Friends / 4.05 Red Barchetta (a Rush tribute) / 4.19 the Band of Heathens
- Fri., March 1st @ Tommy's Pub: Angwish

## PLAY OR POETRY READINGS / BOOK SIGNINGS:

- @ McGlohon Theater: SlamCharlotte 3rd Fridays w. host Bluz
- @ Camp North End: 3rd Fridays Off Broadway Page to Stage

## COMEDY / THEATRE:

- @ the Comedy Zone: 3.08 Whitney Cummings / 3.29 David Koechner / 4.12 John Caparulo / 4.26 Brent Morin
- Fri., March 1st @ Ovens Auditorium: Franco Escamilla

## MUSEUMS / ART:

- in SouthEnd: 1st Fridays Gallery Crawl
- 2nd Fridays @ Oak Street Mill (Cornelius): art, music, & vendors

## DANCE MUSIC / DJs / BURLESQUE OR DRAG:

- @ the Common Market (Plaza-Midwood): 1st & 3rd Fridays w. DJ That Guy Smitty
- @ Scorpio's: DJ Lin Benfield + MC Tiffany Storm
- @ Sullivan's Steakhouse: "Beer & Beats" w. resident DJ Selector E (Eric Brayman)
- @ Vibrations Lounge: Grown Folks Friday w. DJ KL
- @ Whiskey Warehouse: DJ Matt Bolick
- @ Workman's Friend: DJ Wiiz Kid (Steve Warwick)
- @ Petra's: last Fridays : Mirror Moves ('80's/'90's) w. DJs Cody Hare & Jah-Sun Rising (Jason Herring)
- Fri., Apr. 12th @ the Visulite Theatre: Manic Focus, Russ Liquid

## KARAOKE:

- @ Noda 101: karaoke w. Sam Fleming

## SPEAKERS:

- @ the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture: 3.08 12-2pm Lunch & Learn w. Dr. DaMaris B. Hill - a conversation about her book *A Bound Woman is a Dangerous Thing* / 3.15 7-9pm Culture + Kicks - the Intersection of Sneaker Culture & Social Justice

## FILM:

- @ Cinebarre: 1st & 3rd : Rocky Horror at Midnight feat. [www.ThatType.com](http://www.ThatType.com)

## SATURDAYS:

### SPORTS / ACTIVITIES:

- [www.Hornets.com](http://www.Hornets.com): 3.09 9pm @ Bucks / 3.17 1pm @ Heat / 3.24 6pm @ Raptors / 3.31 8:30pm @ Warriors
- [www.GoCheckers.com](http://www.GoCheckers.com): 3.02 6pm vs. Binghamton Devils / 3.09 7:05pm @ Lehigh Valley Phantoms / 3.16 6pm vs. Rochester Americans / 3.23 6pm vs. Hartford Wolf Pack / 3.30 7pm @ Bridgeport Sound Tigers / 4.06 6pm vs. Springfield Thunderbirds
- [www.CharlotteRollerGirls.com](http://www.CharlotteRollerGirls.com): Home @ Grady Cole Center 3.30 All-Stars vs. TBD
- [www.CharlotteHounds.com](http://www.CharlotteHounds.com): 4.21 7:30pm vs. Boston
- @ Lenny Boy: 10am \$5 yoga
- [www.CharlotteKnights.com](http://www.CharlotteKnights.com): 4.06 7:04pm vs. Durham / 4.13 7:05pm @ Indianapolis / 4.20 7:05pm @ Norfolk / 4.27 7:04pm vs. Indianapolis
- [www.CharlotteIndependence.com](http://www.CharlotteIndependence.com): 3.02 @ Atlanta United / 3.23 7pm vs. Atlanta United 2 / 3.30 2pm @ Saint Louis / 4.13 7pm vs. New York Red Bulls II / 4.20 7pm vs. North Carolina FC / 4.27 7:30pm @ Tampa Bay Rowdies

### BEER / WINE / FOOD:

- [www.FeastFoodTours.com](http://www.FeastFoodTours.com)
- @ Crafty Beer Guys: 2nd Saturdays home brew class
- @ EastSide Local Eatery & VisArt Video: 10am-12pm Morning Matinee - cupcakes, cookies, coffee, conversation, & cartoons
- Sat., March 16th @ the Visulite Theatre: 6pm Brawley's Black & Blue 10 (beer fest.) (will sell out)

## LIVE MUSIC:

- @ the Evening Muse: 3.02 Jim Avett / Amigo, Temperance League // 3.09 Cory Wells, Kaska Sun / Mickey Stephens & Friends // 3.16 James Maddock // 3.23 the Mammoths, Red Dress Amy // 3.30 William Fitzsimmons, Jim & Sam // 4.06 Tracy Bonham, Blake Morgan // 4.13 Ruen Brothers & the National Reserve

@ the Neighborhood Theatre: 3.02 Justin Hayward, Michael Dawes / 3.23 Buckethead / 4.13 Carbon Leaf

@ the Visulite Theatre: 3.02 All Them Witches, Plague Vendor / 3.09 Southern Culture on the Skids, Esther Rose / 3.23 Same as it Ever Was (a Talking Heads tribute)

- Sat., March 9th @ Spectrum Center: Pink
- Sat., March 16th @ the Fillmore: Lords of Acid
- Sat., March 16th @ Ovens Auditorium: Lauren Daigle
- Sat., March 16th @ the Rabbit Hole: Flame Tides (CD release), Trash Room
- Sat., March 23rd @ Tommy's Pub: Solemn Shapes, Anchor Detail, Eyeball
- Sat., March 30th @ the Big Chill: Amplify: Broadway Ball (benefiting [www.TheatreCharlotte.org](http://www.TheatreCharlotte.org))
- Sat., Apr. 13th @ AvidXchange Music Festival Grounds: Moo & Brew Fest 5 w.Everclear, Big Something & more

### PLAY OR POETRY READINGS / BOOK SIGNINGS:

- @ the Fresh Shop: Inkblot Slam w.host Breeze
- Sat., March 2nd @ Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture: 11am-1pm Family First Presents: Poetry in Action w.members of the Guerilla Poets

### COMEDY / THEATRE:

- @ the Comedy Zone: 3.09 Whitney Cummings / 3.30 David Koechner / 4.13 John Caparulo / 4.27 Brent Morin
- @ Ovens Auditorium: 3.02 Funny as ISH Comedy Tour w.Mike Epps, Rickey Smiley, Karlous Miller / 4.27 Dane Cook
- Sat., March 23rd @ the Evening Muse: Robot Johnson Sketch Comedy w.Unstoppable Failure

### SYMPHONY / OPERA / DANCE:

- Sat., March 23rd @ Knight Theater: [www.CharlotteSymphony.org](http://www.CharlotteSymphony.org) Presents: the Orchestra Games

### MUSEUMS / ART:

- @ ClearWater Artists Studio: every 2nd Saturday 10am-4pm Open Studios
- @ the NASCAR Hall of Fame: 2nd Saturdays interactive program exploring racing

### PHILANTHROPY:

- @ Oso Skate Park: 2nd Saturdays Issa Vibe Adventures Presents: Making Sandwiches for the Homeless

### TRADE / INTEREST SHOWS & FESTIVALS:

- @ Spandex City Comics: 11am Pokemon league

### DANCE MUSIC / DJs / BURLESQUE OR DRAG:


- @ 204 North Kitchen: DJ That Guy Smitty
- @ Roxbury: DJ Jody
- @ Serj: 3.16 Dieselboy, ND-Skyz / 4.13 [www.SingleCell.us](http://www.SingleCell.us) Presents: Partial Nerdity - Avengers Assemble w.DJs Koji & Funktavius
- @ the Stashe House: DJ DR
- @ Vibrations Lounge: 9pm-12am Old School Saturdays (live 105.3 broadcast) hosted by Rae Styles
- @ Workman's Friend: DJ Wiiz Kid (Steve Warwick)
- Sat., March 9th @ Amos' SouthEnd: [www.SingleCell.us](http://www.SingleCell.us) Presents: "Purgatory" - Red & Black Formal w.emcee Coen the Butcher, DJs Koji & Spider, live performances by Karol Helms, Sinister Suspensions, Djinn the Nitechylde, Arcane Arts, the Nocturnals, Heykona, dungeon area, go-go dancers & more
- Sat., March 9th @ Petra's: 10mm Omega Recordings Presents: Midnight Ravers - a Saturday Night Get Down w.DJs That Guy Smitty, Jah-sun Rising (Jason Herring), & VonFunkhauser

### KARAOKE:

- @ Noda 101: Karaoke

### SPEAKERS:

- Sat., Apr. 20th @ C3 Lab: 7:30-10pm How Rednecks Saved Hollywood w.Joe Bob Briggs



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## SPECIAL OR MULTIPLE DAY EVENTS:

### SPORTS / ACTIVITIES:

- Thursdays-Sundays [www.FunnyBus.net](http://www.FunnyBus.net) (starts @ 7th Street Station)
- Historic Uptown Neighborhood Tour [www.CharlotteNCTours.com](http://www.CharlotteNCTours.com) (daily)
- THRU March 2nd [www.CIAATournament.org](http://www.CIAATournament.org)

### BEER / WINE / FOOD:

- Tuesdays-Sundays @ Wooden Robot : the Twisted Eats by Kre8 Food Truck
- Thursdays-Sundays @ Dragon Moonshine : 4-8pm facility tours & tastings
- Tuesdays-Saturdays @ Great Wagon Road Distillery: tours
- Mondays-Thursdays 5-9pm & 12-4pm Fridays @ Sycamore Brewing : Papi Queso food truck
- Southern Food Bicycle Tour [www.CharlotteNCTours.com](http://www.CharlotteNCTours.com) (daily)
- March 29th - Apr. 7th: 10th Annual [www.CharlotteCraftBeerWeek.org](http://www.CharlotteCraftBeerWeek.org)
- Apr. 24th-27th [www.CharlotteWineAndFood.org](http://www.CharlotteWineAndFood.org) Weekend

### COMEDY / THEATRE:

- March 14th-Apr. 6th @ Hadley Theater (Queens Univ.): Actor's Theatre of Charlotte Presents: the Great Beyond (Steven Dietz)

### SYMPHONY / OPERA / DANCE:

- March 8th & 9th @ Oven Auditorium: [www.CharlotteSymphony.org](http://www.CharlotteSymphony.org) Presents: Harry Potter Film / Concert Series
- March 15th & 16th @ Belk Theater: [www.CharlotteSymphony.org](http://www.CharlotteSymphony.org) Presents: Mahler 1
- March 22nd & 23rd @ Knight Theater: [www.CharlotteSymphony.org](http://www.CharlotteSymphony.org) Presents: the Best of Rodgers & Hammerstein
- March 29th & 30th @ Belk Theater: [www.CharlotteSymphony.org](http://www.CharlotteSymphony.org) Presents: Dvorak Violin Concerto
- Apr. 12th-14th @ Belk Theater: [www.CharlotteSymphony.org](http://www.CharlotteSymphony.org) Presents: Mozart Requiem
- Apr. 26th & 27th @ Belk Theater: [www.CharlotteSymphony.org](http://www.CharlotteSymphony.org) Presents: Rachmainoff Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini

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## MUSEUMS / ART:

- Liberty Walk: self-guided tour of the American Revolution - [www.CharlotteLibertyWalk.com](http://www.CharlotteLibertyWalk.com) / [www.HandHeldHistory.com](http://www.HandHeldHistory.com)  
[contact@meckdeck.org](mailto:contact@meckdeck.org)
- THRU March 12th @ C3 Lab: Conversations w.Nature - a Multisensory Art Event w.Crista Cammaroto, Kimberly McFadden Hutchinson, Rebecca Jones, Elizabeth Palmisano, Nicole Schoepflin, Joann Galarza Vega, & Sara Woodmansee (opening reception: Fri., March 1st 7-10pm w.performances by Nathan Matthews + Jason Herring & the Mystery Plan)
- THRU March 30th @ Bliss Gallery (Belmont): "Sacred Spaces" feat.Bree Stallings, Elizabeth Palmisano, & Bridgette Martin
- Apr. 5th-14th @ CPCC (Central Campus): [www.Sensoria.CPCC.edu](http://www.Sensoria.CPCC.edu) Arts Festival
- THRU Apr. 28th @ Mint Museum (Randolph): African-Print Fashion Now! w.curators: Suzanne Gott, Kristyne S. Loughran, Betsy D. Quick, & Leslie W. Rabine
- THRU Apr. 30th @ Levine Museum of the New South: Through this Lens (the immigrant experience)
- March 23rd-May 4th @ Jerald Melberg Gallery: Robert Motherwell's Monotypes (opening night Fri., March 22nd 6-8pm / panel discussion Sat., March 23rd 11am)
- THRU Sept. 1st @ the Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture: Welcome to Brookhill (photographs from this Charlotte neighborhood)

## TRADE / INTEREST SHOWS & FESTIVALS:

- March 16th & 17th @ Historic Latta Plantation: 7th Annual Celtic Festival

## FILM:

- March 17th & 18th @ McGlohon Theater: Banff Mountain Film Festival

## INTERNET RADIO:

- check out [www.PMCRadio.org](http://www.PMCRadio.org) for a schedule of DJs daily

# TRAVEL TO EVENTS:

## BEER / WINE / FOOD:

- Tuesdays @ LTO Burger (Greenville, SC): tater tot bar

## LIVE MUSIC:

- Sat., March 16th @ the Calico Room (Wilmington): Queen City Rejects, Sacred Cashcow, Yea(H), the Chemical Lizards

## COMICS:

- March 9th & 10th @ Greenville Convention Center (Greenville, SC): [www.SCComiCon.com](http://www.SCComiCon.com)
- March 15th-17th @ Embassy Suites Hotel (Winston-Salem): [www.TriadAnimeCon.com](http://www.TriadAnimeCon.com)

- *If you would like to see your event on this listing, simply mail the info to [ellengurley@gmail.com](mailto:ellengurley@gmail.com).*
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## TROY CONN ON PETER GRAY'S "THE DARKNESS CLOSES IN"

*photos & words: Ellen Gurley*

Every so often, a musician shakes up their local scene with an album that surprises everyone. Peter Gray has done nothing short of this with his newest album, *The Darkness Closes In*. This is a record that covers everything from Vaudevillian Waltzes to Zappa-esque mixed meter compositions to exquisite pop ballads to full on thrash metal. All this culminates into one of the most creative, versatile albums I've heard in a long time.

The album opens with "We Have Fun", a title foretelling the music that we hear throughout the record. The organ and Molly Brown's tuba intro set up an almost carnival like experience and the vocal harmonies welcome us into a space that picks us up and puts us down gently before the angular opening of the next tune.

"Aldonza", the second tune on the record, is probably my favorite with the mixed meter and Zappa-like harmonies that lead into a fantastic Wah-Wah guitar melody. The tune fades out with an epic overlapping of several guitar solos.

"Fanfare" which is an interlude leads perfectly into the tune "Sportsball". I don't even know where to start with this tune. It's a musical fantasy that begins with an almost video game like melody and takes us into 1950's Rock n' Roll, polka, heavy metal, and ska. It's a brilliant journey where I experienced something different with every listen.

"Real War" and "Reckoning Day" showcase Gray's ability to also write great rock tunes and lyrics. "Real War" is a gritty rock tune where Gray is accompanied by Grey Brewster on guitar, Jonathan Erickson on drums, and Stacey Leazer on bass to form the classic two guitars, bass, and drums quartet. This instrumentation appears again later in the record on "Never Gonna Fall In Love". "Reckoning Day" is rock/pop ballad in 6/8 time with hints of psychedelic rock and lyrical guitar solos. The tune leaves me wondering what the rest of the solo sounds like past the fade out.

"Challenging Stage" is another interlude written in the style of an '80's movie montage. Again, this



interlude changes the mood and sets us up for the odd-meter Bossa Nova of "Monkey Fighting Snakes". This track has a meandering melody that leads into a Danny Elfman like synth melody that eventually ends up in heavy metal territory.

At this point of the record, Gray gives us a trio of vocal tunes. "Sunrise" is an intense ballad that begins with slow percussion then adds acoustic guitar doubled with piano. The chorus gets quite heavy - the second verse leads to a break down with only horns, and an organ is added before the end of the tune. "Wrong" is another gorgeous ballad that starts with just electric piano and harmonized vocals. The tune gets into rock orchestra territory with beautiful string arrangements, layered guitars, and well thought out orchestration. The cinematic ending leaves us in an introspective mood before the rock/pop vibe of "Never Gonna Fall In Love". With it's vibe reminiscent of '90's rock and layered guitars and pop vocals, Gray shows us he's equally adept in writing radio friendly songs that still have substance.

"Powerball" is another favorite, with a mixed meter Prog inspired riff. An angular melody leads us into a quiet orchestral interlude that gives way to heavy detuned guitars. "Can't Sleep" is a brutally honest heartfelt ballad. It's sparse arrangement pulls the listener into this intimate space.

"How Do you Know" is another tune that showcases Gray's vocal arrangements. The tune starts with an almost "doo wop" beginning and the background vocals continue throughout the song. "Regret" is another waltz that feature Jane Brendle Hart on violin, one of the only guest musicians on the record. It's another beautiful melody with a timeless quality.

The title track is a "bossa" interlude that sets the tone for the next tune, "Big Dumb God". B.D.G. opens with something of a warped calliope that gives way into a swing organ trio vibe into a disco beat that leads into operatic guitars in outer space before horns give way into the opening theme. Gray is accompanied by Matt Postle's trumpet and percussion by Marcus Farrar.

The album closes with "Heaven". Vocalist Reeve Coobs sings a haunting melody accompanied by a flowing acoustic guitar. The tune builds with vocal ostinatos and string/horn arrangements until the song ends with a lone vocal phrase that fades into silence.

Gray has given us a brilliant record that displays not only his immense facility on guitar, but also his ability to compose string/horn arrangements, vocal harmonies, and pop sensibilities. This is even more impressive when you consider he did this record almost completely solo, playing all the parts, with exception of the few moments where he has invited the guest musicians to shine. I highly recommend The Darkness Closes In. It is a record that continues to inspire in every listen.

[www.Instagram.com/PeterGrayGuitar](https://www.instagram.com/PeterGrayGuitar)  
<https://soundcloud.com/peter-gray704>



# PETER GRAY ON TROY CONN'S "OLD AND NEW"

*photos & words: Ellen Gurley*

Troy Conn has been one of my favorite guitarists for years now. I've had the pleasure to hear him play in a few different settings and have always been impressed with his versatility, proficiency, and endless musicality. He doesn't just play every genre of music you can think of, but he plays them all masterfully. Troy has chops for years, but he won't beat you over the head with them, unless it's called for. But even when the notes come at you in streams, the melodic ideas are clear, cohesive, and, above all, interesting.

Before listening to his new album, "Old and New," I had heard a few of Troy's compositions, a couple for his rock trio, Bunky Moon, and a few for his eclectic chamber trio, Fat Face Band. Having heard him improvise, it was no surprise to me that he could write. Now, on this recording, I get to hear him really stretch out compositionally and improvisationally. Troy is backed, empathically, by Ron Brendle on bass and Chris Garges on drums. This is also the lineup for Bunky Moon and you can hear the synergy in every tune. These guys have played together a lot and it shows.

While "Old and New" is certainly a modern jazz guitar album, it manages to cover an awful lot of ground. The title track is a haunting tune with a gorgeous melody and relaxed bossa groove. The guitar playing on this track is truly impressive, rich

chords filling out the harmony while the melody floats above, always prominent. We also get to hear a solo from each player and all are exceptional.

Another stand out (they all stand out, but I'm going to concentrate on my personal favorites) is "She Tells Stories." I generally try not to make comparisons to other musicians or composers, but I don't think Troy would mind if I acknowledged a Bill Frisell vibe present in this absolutely beautiful song. Once again, the playing is inspired.

My favorite track is the adventurous, downright virtuosic, solo modern classical guitar madness, "Serenade for Willis." There is a lot going on here. As implied in the title, there are several distinct movements, each with its own mood and emphasizing a different technique. There is some truly wild guitar playing on display and I was pretty blown away by the entire composition. I love the prepared guitar in the second movement that I can only guess is a drumstick under the strings. The effect achieved is distinctive and very musical. Bravo.

This music is fantastic. Troy Conn is a world class player and composer and we are lucky to have him here in Charlotte. Take advantage of it. Buy his CD and go hear him play live.

[www.TROYCONN.com](http://www.TROYCONN.com)  
[www.Instagram.com/TroyConnGuitar](http://www.Instagram.com/TroyConnGuitar)

- "She Tells Stories" [www.iheart.com/artist/troy-conn-32138368/songs/she-tells-stories-pt-i-56591525/?autoplay=true](http://www.iheart.com/artist/troy-conn-32138368/songs/she-tells-stories-pt-i-56591525/?autoplay=true)
- "Old and New" [www.iheart.com/artist/troy-conn-32138368/songs/old-and-new-56591522/?autoplay=true](http://www.iheart.com/artist/troy-conn-32138368/songs/old-and-new-56591522/?autoplay=true)
- "Serenade for Willis" [www.iheart.com/artist/troy-conn-32138368/songs/serenade-for-willis-56591527/?autoplay=true](http://www.iheart.com/artist/troy-conn-32138368/songs/serenade-for-willis-56591527/?autoplay=true)





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