

# Facts ON wax

by bob morello  
reviewing the best... forgetting the rest

**LAUREN SCALES,  
MIKE FLANAGAN,  
CHRIS GRASSO -  
MANY RIVERS (CD)**

### Truth Revolution Records

Looking for great sounds with a local flavor, let me introduce you to Scales, Flanagan & Grasso, a forward-thinking jazz trio defined by dynamic interplay, genre-blending repertoire, and a shared reverence for storytelling through music. Lauren Scales is a Detroit-born vocalist, composer, and multi-instrumentalist whose musical pedigree and versatility span jazz, R&B, and progressive soul. Mike Flanagan is a Billboard-charting, OUTMusic Award-winning, and John Lennon Songwriting Award-winning saxophonist, pianist, and composer. Chris Grasso is a jazz pianist and music director who built his career in Washington, D.C. before relocating to Provincetown, MA. Vocalist Lauren Scales, saxophonist Mike Flanagan, and pianist Chris Grasso—a bold new jazz trio blending tradition with modern soul—announce the release of their second single, "Play Me." The track marks the second single from their upcoming album *Many Rivers*, slated for release on August 8, 2025 via Truth Revolution Records Collective. The track also features drummer Charles Haynes and bassist Luques Curtis. Originally featured on D'Angelo's *Voodoo*—a hallmark of the neo-soul movement—the trio's take reimagines the groove-driven track through a straight-ahead jazz aesthetic. With tight interplay, soulful improvisation, and Scales' charismatic vocal delivery, this version straddles homage and invention. "Roy Hargrove's presence on the original made it feel like a bridge into our world," says saxophonist Mike Flanagan. "There's a groove and lyricism that spoke to all of us. Our version lets us honor that while interpreting it through our shared jazz lens." The group came together in Provincetown, MA, where Mike Flanagan, then serving as Entertainment Director for two local venues, brought Scales and Grasso together for a series of shows. The performances quickly gained traction, leading to a summer-long residency and a 6-city U.S. tour in 2023. Along the way, they played celebrated venues such as Scullers Jazz Club, City Winery Boston, The Carlyle Room (D.C.), Green Room 42 (NYC), and The Side Door Jazz Club (CT), eventually headlining Town Hall in Provincetown.

**THE BAND OF HEATHENS -  
LIVE AT ROCKPALAST  
2009 (CD)**

### Made in Germany Music

The three front musicians of The Band of Heathens, Colin Brooks, Gordy Quist and Ed Jurdi, all not only excellent singers and instrumentalists, but also very talented songwriters, founded the band in November 2005 in Austin, Texas. Bassist Seth Withney and drummer John Chipman, who had previously played with The Resentments, completed the quintet in 2007. Since then, the Texans have enjoyed a great

reputation among Americana and roots rock fans. The band's first two albums were live CDs, and it was only in May 2008 that the five musicians recorded their first studio album, produced by U.S. folk rock legend Ray Wylie Hubbard. The album reached number 1 in the Americana Charts and the Euro Americana Charts. In addition, the band won the 'Austin Music Award' as Best New Band. In 2009, the next long-player, 'One Foot in the Ether', followed, and in the fall The Band of Heathens successfully toured Europe, also making a Rockpalast appearance on November 8th at the Harmonie in Bonn. If you like The Band, The Eagles or The Jayhawks, Dan Penn or Jake Smith a/k/a The White Buffalo and have developed an affinity for country meets soul, meets folk and gospel, this Rockpalast is for you and you can enjoy plenty of musical Southern atmosphere. The track list includes the following songs performed live at Crossroads Festival, Bonn Germany: What's This World, Shine A Light, Nine Steps Down, Right Here with Me, Somebody Tell the Truth, Judas 'Scarior Blues, Say, Hey Rider, Golden Calif, L.A. County Blues, Heart on My Sleeve, Don't Call on Me, Unsleeping Eye, 40 Days, and Jackson's Station (unplugged, live).

**STEVEN HALPERN -  
MUSIC FOR MICRODOSING  
(CD)**

### Inner Peace Music

Like a tuning fork for mind, body and soul, each track includes subtle frequencies that entrain your brain to the alpha and theta zone, tuned up to 432 Hz for greater benefits. Being in this brain state supports your optimal health, healing, creativity and enhanced performance. Inspired by his own experiences as a sound healer and suburban sonic shaman, Steven Halpern composes his award-winning ambient soundscapes in a deep alpha and theta brainwave-entrained state. Listening transports listeners into that state as well. Halpern has received international acclaim for his iconic ambient soundscapes and New Age recordings that helped create these Subgenres of modern instrumental music. His compositions feature the harmonious resonances of his Rhodes electric piano and atmospheric keyboards, with alpha and theta brainwave entrainment frequencies added to the mix. Four tracks feature hypnotic collaborations with Grammy winner bass virtuoso Michael Manning, Michael Diamond (guitar synth and keyboards), Jorge Alfano (shakuhachi Zen flute) and Richard Horowitz (synth space effects). **WARNING:** Prepare for lift-off. Do not listen while driving! Driven by power supplied tracks as: Music for Microdosing, Music is the Bridge, Timeless Truths, Whisper on the Wind, Receiving Insights, Mindful Microdosing, Time Being II, Deeper Journeys, Inner Space Outer Space, Root Chakra Resonance, Transformation, Heart Mind Coherence, Sonic Elevation, and At Peace in the Present Moment.

The time has come, the walrus said,

## TO TALK OF MANY THINGS of shoes and ships and sealing wax of cabbages and kings

by Sal Giarratani

### JEFFRIES POINT NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION SUMMER POT LUCK DINNER



The annual Summer Pot Luck Dinner organized by the Jeffries Point Neighborhood Association (East Boston) was held on Monday, July 14th and attended by an always large gathering of neighborhood folk and elected officials who celebrate summertime by the "Golden Steps," which overlook Boston Harbor. While the next heatwave was on the way, on this particular evening the temperature was mild and breezy making for a perfect time for all in attendance.

### BK CREW ON THE MOVE

With Burger King closed and being remodeled, the BK Crew have transferred over to the McDonalds down in Central Square in East Boston and are hoping for the reopening of their favorite BK restaurant up in the Heights.



### FIX BOSTON'S BROKEN SIDEWALKS

Across the city, too many sidewalks remain cracked, uneven or completely inaccessible, creating real barriers for seniors, people with disabilities and families.

If you see a broken sidewalk, don't wait. Report it by calling 311. Every report helps push for the repairs our neighborhoods deserve.



### 6TH ANNUAL VETERAN'S MUSIC FESTIVAL VA BENEFITS & CAREER EXPO

The Veterans Voice Network and the City of Quincy will be hosting an event for veterans, first responders, and their families with a fun-filled day of live music, free food, kid games, sports competitions, and Veteran support services on Saturday, July 19th at Pageant Field in Quincy, MA from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. For more info, call 781-985-1551 or email [greggbrasso@aol.com](mailto:greggbrasso@aol.com).

Music performance by Lauri Beth and The Fat City Band.

## NORTH END CARES

### Hot Summer Days – Cool North End Nights!

Fun & Free for all!

North End Cares is happy to announce our summer events

#### 14th Annual Alvaro Johnny Paolo Bocce Tournament - Sunday, July 20th

Registration 11:00 a.m., Games 12:00 p.m. Langone Park, 542 Commercial Street, Boston, MA  
Proceeds donated to The Parkinsons Foundation, Beth Israel Hospital  
For cost and early registration, please email Linda at [soxgirl32@hotmail.com](mailto:soxgirl32@hotmail.com)

#### Emilie Pugliano/Bobby DeCristoforo Boat Cruise - Monday, August 4th

(Spots limited – registration required)

Boarding 6:30 p.m., Cruise 7:00-9:00 p.m. Long Wharf (South) Boston Harbor Cruises Dock  
To register, please email [northendcares@gmail.com](mailto:northendcares@gmail.com) by Friday, August 1st

#### National Night Out at the Prado - Tuesday, August 5th

6:00-8:00 p.m., Paul Revere Mall, 370 Hanover Street, Boston, MA  
Special guests, refreshments, a petting zoo & more at one of our longest running community events.

#### Family Movie Night Under the Stars - Wednesday, August 6th

The Lego Movie at Nazzaro Parking Lot

Movie to begin at dusk ~ 8:00 p.m. Nazzaro Center Playground, 30 North Bennet Street, Boston, MA  
Bring your lounge chair and blankets for a special screening of *The Lego Movie under the stars!*  
Movie theater treats provided by NEC.  
Special guests, refreshments, a petting zoo & more at one of our longest running community events.

#### BCYF/North End Youth Organization's Fun Fest at Mirabella - Thursday, August 7th

4:30-6:30 p.m. Mirabella Pool, 475 Commercial Street, Boston, MA  
Join BCYF Nazzaro for an afternoon of fun down at the pool! Food trucks, games, and the North End's own DJ AMO

John Pregmon - [northendcares@gmail.com](mailto:northendcares@gmail.com) - 570-466-5536

NEC is grateful to our organizational partners:  
DePasquale Ventures, Knights of Columbus Ausiona Council #1513  
& VFW North End Post #144 & many more who help us continue these events