

Facts ON wax

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

JUSSI REIJONEN – sayr: salt / thirst (CD) Unmusic

Finnish-born guitarist, Arabic oud player and composer Jussi Reijonen offers *sayr: salt / thirst*. Recorded in one fully improvised take at Reijonen's home studio on steel-string acoustic guitar in March 2025. Split into two contrasting arcs, "salt" and "thirst." The performance weaves textural references of various string instruments from around the world with the musical form unfolding a personal narrative that vacillates between lament, unease, brightening and transformation. Reijonen's series is centered around a metaphorical reframing of the concept of "sayr" as found in Arabic music — literally, "course" or "motion" — referring here to a musical pathway unfolding through improvisation in an *acoustemological memory palace*: a pathway of memory recalled and reimagined through music, refracting in reverse in the space between sound and personal experience. Reijonen navigates freely between them through improvisation, letting memories surface through the sounds themselves. Each gesture becomes a portal, triggering emotional and sensory echoes. They include coyness, pressure, downhearted and more. The four tracks on *salt...shine via sola, sarvi, sai and keinu*. *thirst* follows with seven more, including koto, kuori, kaarna, sae, kiedo, aina, and ennen.

THE RUBINOOS – LIVE AT ROCKPALAST 1978 (CD) Made In Germany Music

Alongside Greg Kihn, the Tyla Gang, Earth Quake, and Jonathan Richman, the Rubinoos were among the musical figureheads of the successful US label Beserkley Records (1973-1986) from Berkeley, California. From 1975 onwards, the label's bands conquered the charts worldwide with their US power pop rock and received plenty of airplay — as did "I Think We're Alone Now" (1976) by The Rubinoos, a cover version of the 1967 hit by Tommy James & The Shondells. However, the band had already made their debut in 1975 on the album "Beserkley Chartbusters, Volume 1." The title of the LP was purely a marketing gimmick. When The Rubinoos appeared in front of the Rockpalast cameras at the Audimax in Hamburg on February 14, 1978, the four likeable musicians (Jon Rubin, Tommy Dunbar, Royse Ader, and Donn Spindt) were already the darlings of the American rock press. Forty-seven years later, singer and guitarist Jon Rubin takes stock: "This insight into the band's beginnings under extreme circumstances captures the spirit and silliness that have defined us from the beginning and continue to define us today."

PATRICIA BRENNAN – OF THE NEAR AND FAR (CD) Pyroclastic Records

Patricia Brennan's *Of The Near And Far*, is a further expansion of her striking compositional vision following the universal acclaim that greeted her 2024

release, *Breaking Stretch*, which earned *Album of the Year* as well as *Vibraphonist of the Year* in the *DownBeat* Critics Poll. *Of The Near And Far* marks another audacious evolution for Brennan, whose music combines bold innovation with singular ventures into her own wide-ranging inspirations. An avid amateur astronomer, Brennan travels with her own telescope whenever she can escape the light pollution of the city. For this album she superimposed the circle of fifths over a number of constellations that she viewed in the summertime sky of the Northern Hemisphere. Mapping these patterns together, she generated collections of pitches that became the raw material for her compositions. "Andromeda" offers up an uneasy, turbulent feeling that reflects the story of Andromeda, the princess chained to a rock, sacrificed to a sea monster to appease the god Poseidon. "Antlia" carries the far more pragmatic name of an air pump, while "Lyra" was inspired by the doomed love story of Orpheus and Eurydice, while "Aquarius" has the fluid movement, conjured by the vibraphone/guitar melody, evoking the astrological symbol of the Water Bearer. The final two pieces broaden the scope of the project. "Citalli" is the word for "star" in the Nahuatl language of the indigenous Mexican people. Brennan composed "When You Stare Into the Abyss," based not on any individual constellation, but on the humbling experience of exploring the awe-inspiring infinity of the universe that surrounds us.

EARTH QUAKE – LIVE AT ROCKPALAST 1978 (CD) Made In Germany Music

Earth Quake was among the musical figureheads of the successful US label Beserkley Records (1973-1986) from Berkeley, California. Starting in 1975, the label's bands conquered the charts worldwide with their power pop rock — as did Earth Quake's cover of the Easybeats hit "Friday on My Mind." Earth Quake, formed in San Francisco in 1966, was heavily influenced by 1950s and 1960s rock and blues bands such as the Yardbirds, Muddy Waters, and the Kinks. They were signed to A&M Records in 1970 and produced their first two albums, *Earth Quake* (1971) and *Why Don't You Try Me?* (1972), with them and Allan Mason. From 1975 to 1980, Earth Quake released four albums on Beserkley and worked with other artists on the label. Encouraged by the commercial success of Jonathan Richman's "Egyptian Reggae" and the release of the label sampler "Beserk Times," Beserkley artists Tyla Gang, Greg Kihn, Rubinoos, and Earth Quake embarked on a joint European tour in the spring of 1978. The bands' concerts on at the Audimax in Hamburg were recorded by WDR for the program Rockpalast. Forty-seven years later, guitarist Robbie Dunbar reminisces, "A great performance, a great show, by our unforgettable band," and encourages fans to "Turn it up and enjoy!"

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 Giaratani

AT LARGE CANDIDATE FRANK BAKER HOLDS FUNDRAISER



(L-R): Brandon Wahlberg, Sherri Raftery, Frank Baker and Sal Giaratani

City Councilor at Large candidate Frank Baker recently held a well-attended North End fundraiser at ARTU on October 6.

NEVER TOO SOON TO THINK ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Christmas Fair Committee is already in the planning stage over at Sacred Heart Parish in East Boston. The date for the Christmas Fair is November 22 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the lower hall. Free breakfast starts at 10:00 a.m., with Santa and raffles, food and plenty more.

NORFOLK COUNTY GOP HOSTING OKTOBERFEST OCTOBER 25

The Norfolk County Republican Committee will be hosting an Oktoberfest celebration on Saturday, October 25 at the VFW Post 2017 in Dedham from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. For more info visit NCR website.

NEXT MONTHLY COMMUNITY DINNER

Wednesday, November 12 is the date from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in the lower hall. Free pasta never tasted better. These monthly community

get-togethers at Sacred Heart Parish are now into their third year.

PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR

Atlantic Works Gallery presents the East Boston High School Student Art Show, December 5-20. Save the date Friday, December 5 from 5:00-8:00 p.m., opening reception. All are welcome. Atlantic Works Gallery, 80 Border Street, East Boston.

ST. MICHAEL'S PRESENTS GODSPELL

Looking for something to do next month before Thanksgiving Day? Why not head over to St. Michael's Parish in Winthrop for the showing of *GODSPELL*. It will take place on Friday, November 21 at 6:00 p.m., and on Saturday, November 22 at 2:30 p.m. and again at 5:00 p.m. Tickets at the door. Enjoy some down time listening to the music of *Godspell* in the chapel hall. Relax and enjoy this show with your family and friends.



Stephen Scappicchio with Deputy Superintendent John Brown taken during the Faith and Blue gathering at Sacred Heart Church following a Mass for all First Responders this past Sunday morning. The Boston Police A-7 honored the Sacred Heart Community Meals Committee for all its hard work putting together these monthly dinners with a well-deserved good neighbor appreciation award..

(Photo by Sal Giaratani)



Sal G., with Indus Johnson who is in charge of constituent services for City Councilor Henry Santana taken recently at the start of this year's Roslindale Day parade.

• Stirpe Nostra (Continued from Page 2)

of their maiden years and prior to their marriage, they offered up a lock of their hair, their girdle, and their maiden garments.

Another interesting aspect of the Artemis-Diana worship, was the construction of several temples, one after the other, on the same site in Ephesus, Syria, and dedicated alternately to Diana Artemis. The latest structure was built about 350 B.C., so large, that it became one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It was the center of the Pan-Ionic festival of the Asiatic colonies, and assumed to itself almost every public function. It was serviced by special priests, priestesses, image-makers, poets, and soothsayers, while at the same time offering asylum to fugitives, acquired vast wealth, became a treasury, and later even a bank. The roof of the temple was supported by 127 columns which were between 54 and 60 feet high. Thirty-six of the columns were beautifully sculptured on their lower sections, while the gable end of the temple showed the goddess flanked with her devotees bringing offerings.

The most celebrated ancient statue of this goddess is the

"Diana of Versailles," which once stood in Emperor Hadrian's Villa at Tivoli, his favorite residence. During this emperor's reign, the villa contained miniature reproductions of many famous structures of antiquity. The next time you visit the Villa d'Este at Tivoli, look off in the distance (about half a mile) and you'll

see the ruins of one of the most splendid villas that the world has ever known. I'm sorry to say that time and the elements have taken their toll and most tours don't even visit the area now. How do you think you'll look when you're 1,900 years old?

NEXT ISSUE:

Dionysus and Bacchus

74th Annual

HALLOWEEN PARTY

Saturday, October 25th, 2025 • 1:00p.m. - 3:00pm
Hanover and Battery Street • 1:00p.m. - Parade

D.J. Amo - Games -
Activities - Bounce Houses

Sponsored by The Madonna Della Cava Society 617-970-2147
Little Sage
Mayor's Office of Arts, Tourism, and Special Events

in case of rain, party will be held on October 26