

Seth Glier is 'having a blast' with 'Trouble'

Local songwriter & keyboardist pauses during tour to play United Arc benefit Friday



Sheryl Hunter

Sounds Local

A lot can change in a year and nobody knows that better than Seth Glier. Last year at this time, the Shelburne Falls resident was just releasing his album, "The Trouble with People." Recorded over a three-month period in his basement with fellow musician Ryan Hommel, Glier released the disc locally on his own.

Glier had also come to the tough decision not to return for a second year at the Berklee College of Music, concluding "I should be playing for people and not for grades." It turns out he was right.

Glier's career received a strong boost this past June when he was signed to the label MPress Records. The label was so impressed with "The Trouble with People" that it remixed and remastered the recording and released it nationwide on Nov. 3. Glier, who has been songwriting and recording since the age of 14, is seven weeks into "The Offsetting the Trouble Tour" in support of the disc and has appeared on television, radio and in print media promoting it.

To say that he's working at a frenzied pace is putting it mildly. I recently caught up with the 20-year-old singer, songwriter and keyboardist while he was in the area for a few

hours, opening for Edwin McCain at the Iron Horse Music Hall. Glier wowed the crowd that night with his impressive keyboard work, his expressive voice and insightful lyrics. He even received a standing ovation, a rare occurrence for an opening act.

Before taking the stage at the Iron Horse, Glier was quick to point out that it wasn't that long ago that he was working in the club's kitchen. It also wasn't that long ago that he was a regular fixture on the local music scene, playing coffee houses, working as a member of Susan Angeletti's band and even playing on the streets of his hometown when he was a young teen.

With 200 shows booked for the upcoming year, Glier doesn't get home very often these days. But he will be in the area to perform his second annual United ARC benefit concert at the All Souls Church in Greenfield on Friday, Nov. 13, at 7:30 p.m. Luke Brindley will open.

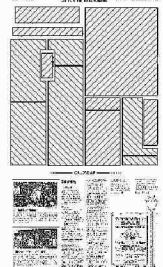
Proceeds from the show will benefit the United ARC of Franklin & Hampshire Counties. The United Arc provides an array of services for individuals of all ages with developmental disabilities and their families. The agency is special to Glier because it provides services for his 24-year-old autistic brother, Jaimie. The singer cites Jaimie, who is non-verbal, as his greatest nonmusical influence. "He helped me learn to communicate with words better, once I realized how to communicate with someone without them," Glier said.

And while Glier may be very busy these days, he is having the time of his life.

"I am having a blast! I love traveling and I love meeting new people and I love playing," Glier enthused.

He added that he and his tour mate, guitarist Ryan Hommel, are coping well with all the traveling and he thinks that having some label support is the reason behind that.

"I'm not doing it myself now," said Glier. "Even if you play a really bad show, there are 10 people back in the



office in New York that believe in you and that gives it the feeling of more of a community.”

MPress is owned by singer-songwriter Rachael Sage, who modeled her business after Ani DiFranco’s successful Righteous Babe label.

Glier, who said that working with the label has been a huge learning experience for him, signed a three-album deal with MPress. Sage’s first order of business was to enlist Grammy-winner Kevin Kellen and Grammy-nominee John Shyloski to remix and remaster “The Trouble with People.”

“I kind of wish I could take back when I first released it because I am so happy with how it sounds now,” said Glier. “I recut some of the vocals and they remixed and remastered it. There are also some new graphics in the packaging.”

The first single off the album, “Gotta Get Away,” is getting some solid airplay across the country, including local station WRSI 93.9 out of Northampton. The tour is also going well. In addition to winning over fans with his excellent performances, Glier is gaining positive attention for having an eco-friendly “green” tour. Glier and Hommel travel in an energy-efficient Toyota Prius, use only organic material on tour merchandise, stay at green motels, purchase energy credits from TerraPass and much more.

“It’s an amazing thing,” Glier explained. “We had the idea for a green tour and it all came together. But the fans really took it on themselves, doing carpooling to shows and even setting up tree planting events before shows. Maybe it’s helped make this tour less draining because the energy we put out we are getting back.”

In addition to all the touring, Glier hopes to head back into the studio in January and work in his next album. While Glier is impressed with the support he has received for “The Trouble with People,” he said MPress plans an even bigger push with the next release.

Glier is looking forward to the show in Greenfield and said it was his most memorable show from last year. It will be his only local CD release show for “The Trouble with People.” Even though he is spending a lot of time in New York now, he still considers Shelburne Falls home.

“Western Mass is my home and I love being there. It’s great to wake up my brother and walk down to Coffee Roasters. There is

something very peaceful in that, and it’s what I like to do.”

Tickets for this show are \$20 and available at World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield and at the United ARC, www.unitedarc.org.

www.sethglie.com

Triple bill of music and then some at Burrito Rojo Saturday

Burrito Rojo is a new Mexican restaurant located in Turners Falls. In addition to its tasty menu, Burrito Rojo is also offering up a hot serving of music on weekends.

On Saturday, Nov. 14, beginning at 8 p.m., Burrito Rojo will host a triple bill of music with no cover charge. Headlining the evening will be Andrew Jones & Spirithouse. Jones is a musician based in the Bahamas whose band Spirithouse is made up of musicians who live here in the Pioneer Valley. That is a bit of a logistical problem, but Jones, who recorded his album “Plenty, Plenty Love” at Spirithouse studios in Northampton, returns to Massachusetts when he can to reconnect with his band mates. This night is one of those rare times.

Also on the bill is Rocky Roberts, a guitarist from Holyoke who also happens to be Neil Young’s guitar tech when Young is on tour. Roberts released an album of Americana tunes called “Rocky & Friends” in 2007 that featured some of his famous friends, like guitarist Nils Lofgren.

For this show, he will be joined by some of his talented local friends, including Ray Mason, Donny McCaulay, Bob Hennessey and Bethanie of The Johnson Boys.

Starting off this night of music will be Spike Dogtooth from southern Vermont. It is a band influenced by both traditional and current bluegrass styles. It also performs country, Tex-Mex, western swing and Irish fiddle tunes.

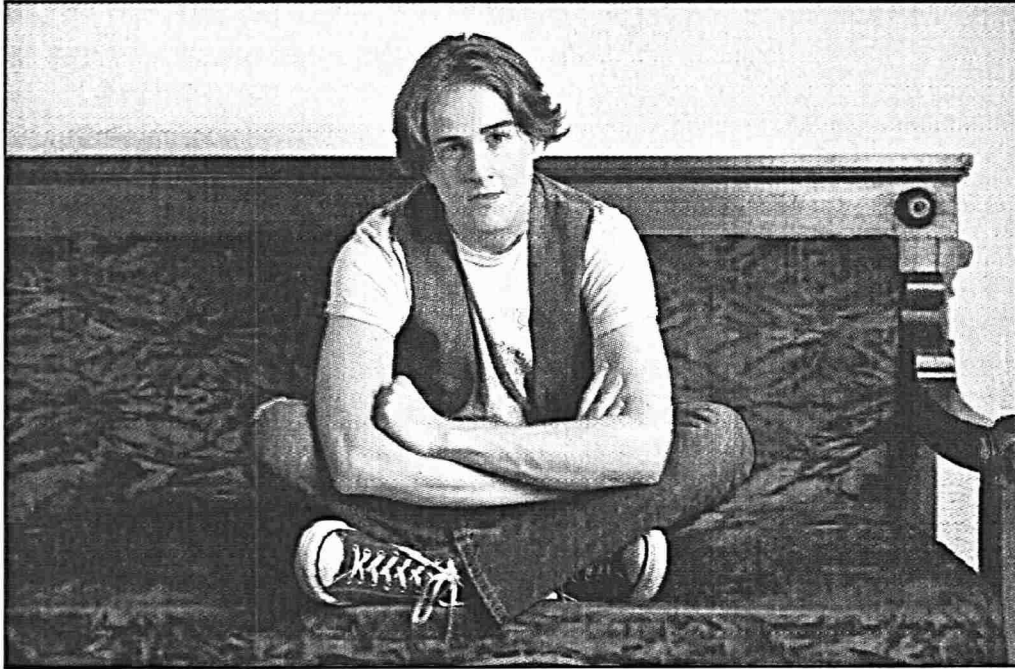
Burrito Rojo is located at 50 Third St. in



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Turners Falls. For more information: (413) 863-3111.

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Submitted photo

In June, Seth Glier signed up with the label MPress Records, which was so impressed with his "The Trouble With People" that it remastered the recording and released it nationwide on Nov. 3.



SPIRITHOUSE