

Simple *TIMES*...

by Girard A. Plante



My favorite American president is Abraham Lincoln. I also harbor a love for American history, particularly all things Civil War. Upon seeing the television preview for the blockbuster film "Lincoln" in November, and reading rave reviews in numerous newspapers, it became my must-see movie. After seeing "Lincoln" twice, I'm not surprised that it received seven Golden Globe nominations in December.

Occasionally in this column, I introduce readers (or, reintroduce them) to Boston natives who've put their unique stamp on America's rich history. Some of the people fought courageously in wars dating to the American Revolution, and escaped to tell their stories of bravery. Selflessly sharing their battlefield anecdotes through book or lecture or both, matters because they've agonizingly allowed civilians, most of us who never knew the anxieties of war, an up-close account of nightmarish mayhem.

With the hugely successful box office draw of "Lincoln," and as we film fans eagerly await the Academy Awards nominations later this month, I think it appropriate to introduce you to a hero of Massachusetts who stamped his footprint during America's Civil War.

Alexander H. Johnson was born in New Bedford in 1851. He enlisted with the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer

Infantry. Notoriety quickly followed Johnson as he became the 54th's drummer — branding him the first black musician in the Civil War.

Johnson is the drummer carved into the bas relief at the top of Beacon Street across from the State House. That memorial to Boston's Colonel Robert Gould Shaw and the 54th Massachusetts inspired the famous film "Glory," which earned a Best Supporting Oscar for actor Denzel Washington.

Johnson was a 16-year-old boy who loved playing the drums when he decided to join the 54th Massachusetts in the warm spring of 1863. Considered a "seaman" upon enlisting in June 1863, Johnson witnessed the brutality of the bloodiest battle on American soil in history by staying true to the infantry regiment that made him a man overnight.

The aftermath of the Civil War brought Johnson to Worcester, Mass., where he settled to teach students harboring a passion to drums. He also began a drum and bugle corps. Johnson found solace by joining some of his comrades in the Grand Army of the Republic General George H. Ward Post #10 and of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Worcester.

A book entitled "We All Got History," authored by Nick Salvatore in 1996, prominently mentions Johnson.

Another book written in 1884 by 54th Massachusetts mate Luis Emilio, "A Brave Black Regiment: The History of the Fifty-Fourth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry 1863-1865," adds to Johnson's stellar reputation.

Johnson quickly embarked on his Civil War journey from Boston, arriving at Thompsons Plantation in South Carolina, June 4, 1863. He fought exclusively at battle sites in the south. He was honorably discharged August 20, 1865. Within days of Johnson's discharge the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry was mustered out.

On April 19, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln spoke these words in defense of the 54th Massachusetts: "There have been men who have proposed to me to return to slavery the black warriors of Port Hudson and Olustee to their masters to conciliate the South. I should be damned in time and eternity for doing so."

My fragmented research leading to Johnson's action at various battles in the South weave a common thread through a life lived as a true patriot who never forgot the highest calling as a citizen of the United States of America: serving the call to arms to protect his fellow citizens and defend the Union. Only a few days removed from celebrating his joining the 54th Massachusetts 67 years earlier, Alexander H. Johnson passed away on March 19, 1930. He was 82.

Treat yourself to an American historical masterpiece in viewing the film "Lincoln" to learn still more about the triumph over enormous odds to abolish the evil of slavery from America. I can see Alexander H. Johnson happily tapping his drum in a grand victory march.

Facts *ON* wax

by bob morello

reviewing the best... forgetting the rest

SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK SOUNDTRACK Sony Music

The UK's Jessie J earned the chance to work with legendary songwriter Diane Warren on the new song *Silver Lining* on the strength of her well-deserved fame. Danny Elfman serves up two originals, *Silver Lining Titles* and the haunting *Walking Home*, followed by Stevie Wonder's classic *My Cherie Amour*, the American rockers Alabama Shakes' *Always Alright* and a pair of jazz giant Dave Brubeck Quartet's, *Unsquare Dance* and *West Side Story* classic *Maria*. British indie group Alt-J does their thing on *Buffalo*. Les Paul & Mary Ford's moving *The Moon of Manakora* plus *Crab Corps*' version of Somerville native Bobby Pickett's *Monster Mash* and *Goodnight Moon* from Ambrosia Parsley & Elegant Too. California's Eagles of Death Metal bring life to *Now I'm a Fool* and it doesn't get any better than Bob Dylan/Johnny Cash's version of *Girl from the North Country*. The finale is Rare Earth's hit *Hey Big Brother*.

LISA MATASSA - SOMEBODY'S BABY It Is What It Is Records

Lisa Matassa swaddles her listeners with an EP titled *Somebody's Baby* that includes tracks displaying her broad range of vocal talents. Her country connection of opening shows for Dierks Bentley, Leann Rimes, Erick Church, Lee Brice and Ronnie Dunn have served her well. Check out cuts as the title track and initial single *Somebody's Baby* trailed by a couple of rocking New York remixes of her compositions *Wouldn't You Like to Know* and then hits it out of the park with *Girl With a Rock 'N Roll Heart*. Lisa lowers the decibels for the tender *Learning As You Grow* followed by a cover of Bryan Adams' 1985 #1 hit *Heaven* and she does a creditable job on Dolly Parton's *I Will Always Love You*, performed live, ending with a wonderful job on *The Christmas Song*, a song for every day of the year, as proved by the late Nat King Cole. Matassa's CD also contains a music video of the title track.

ALL PURPOSE BLUES BAND - CORNBREAD AND CADILLACS Cabbone Music

If you've got a hankering to hear some blues, your remedy is on the dozen slices of music on the tasty menu of the All Purpose Blues Band. *Cornbread and Cadillac* has the blues that will satisfy the taste buds of blues lovers everywhere. Willie Lockett, a true New Orleans blues singer heads the quartet, singing classics and originals. Cuts of note have drummer Tony D'Alessandro's *Going Back to New Orleans* and *Walk In My Shoes*, while group member

Paul Boudreaux had a hand in writing several tunes, including *I'm Your Habone*, the lengthy *I'm Searching* and *Willie On the Phone*. Guitarist Billy Gregory is responsible for *Sweet Disposition* and *V-8 Ford* with the title track courtesy of Ken Hatley/Roy Edwards. Among the many highlights are covers of Steve Cropper's *I Got Everything I Need* and Sam Cooke's *A Change Is Gonna Come*.

BOMBA ESTEREO - ELEGANCIA TROPICAL Polen Records

Feel the thumping, free-spirited sounds of Colombia through the music groove created by Bomba Estéreo's awesome album *Elegancia Tropical*. One can literally feel the earth move below their feet as the Afro-Latin rhythms take you places you may have never visited before. The journey, driven by vocalist Lilliana Saumet begins with the pounding *Bosque* onto the catchy *Bailar Conmigo* before leaning into the funky *El Alma y El Cuerpo* followed by the dance floor magic of *Pure Love* and hit the halfway mark with Brazilian MC Bnegao's bombastic track titled *Rocas*. You've only heard the half of it, as Bogota's fiery band maintains the mood with the explosive *Caribbean Power* as BE teams up with Buraka Som Sistema, blending their Angolan beats with Saumet's sultry vocals on *Mozo* and the sound takes flight for *Pájaros*. Bomba Estéreo reaches their final destination with *Lo Que Tengo Que Decir* and the spiraling *Pa Respirar*. Music that will resonate long after the songs have finished playing!

CHRIS McNULTY - THE SONG THAT SINGS YOU HERE Challenge Records

Chris McNulty's vocals express emotion without boundaries, having suffered the loss of her cherished son, Sam, 18 months ago, it would seem that her choice of songs for this album were in his memory. But, she explains, the songs she penned for this CD, *Long Road Home — The Song That Sings You Here* were written well before her loss. Native to Australia, Chris belts out her music with confidence, as heard on *How Little We Know* the questioning *How Are Things In Giocca Morra?*, taking Fats Waller's *Jitterbug Waltz* to new heights and the soothing sound of *Lonely Woman*. McNulty polishes up Lerner/Loewe's *On the Street Where You Live* reminiscing with *Last Night When We Were Young*, dimming the sound with *The Lamp Is Low* before doing justice to Bacharach/David's beautiful *One Less Bell to Answer*. McNulty's pretty letter *Marta* paves the way for the album's title track, *The Song That Sings You Here* which is a lyrical masterpiece.

LEGAL NOTICE MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed General Bids for MPA Contract No. AP1310-C1 FY13-15 PUMP & MOTOR SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE; ALL MASSPORT FACILITIES; BOSTON AND BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS, will be received by the Massachusetts Port Authority at the Capital Programs Department Office, Suite 2095, Logan Office Center, One Harborside Drive, East Boston, Massachusetts 02128, until 11:00 A.M. local time on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2013 immediately after which, in a designated room, the bids will be opened and read publicly.

NOTE: PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT THE CAPITAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT (ABOVE ADDRESS) AT 8:30 A.M. LOCAL TIME ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2013.

The work includes PROVIDING LABOR, TOOLS, EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS TO SERVICE, MAINTAIN, AND REPAIR WASTEWATER AND STORM WATER PUMPS AND MOTORS OF VARIOUS EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURERS FOR ALL MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY FACILITIES IN BEDFORD AND BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS.

Bid documents will be made available beginning FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2013.

The estimated contract cost is \$150,000.

Bid Documents in electronic format may be obtained free of charge at the Authority's Capital Programs Department Office, together with any addenda or amendments, which the Authority may issue and a printed copy of the Proposal form.

A proposal guaranty shall be submitted with each General Bid consisting of a bid deposit for five (5) percent of the value of the bid, when sub-bids are required, each must be accompanied by a deposit equal to five (5) percent of the sub-bid amount, in the form of a bid bond, or cash, or a certified check, or a treasurer's or a cashier's check issued by a responsible bank or trust company, payable to the Massachusetts Port Authority in the name of which the Contract for the work is to be executed. The bid deposit shall be (a) in a form satisfactory to the Authority, (b) with a surety company qualified to do business in the Commonwealth and satisfactory to the Authority, and (c) conditioned upon the faithful performance by the principal of the agreements contained in the bid.

The successful Bidder will be required to furnish a performance bond and a labor and materials payment bond, each in an amount equal to 100% of the Contract price. The surety shall be a surety company or securities satisfactory to the Authority. Attention is called to the minimum rate of wages to be paid on the work as determined under the provisions of Chapter 149, Massachusetts General Laws, Section 26 to 27G, inclusive, as amended. The Contractor will be required to pay minimum wages in accordance with the schedules listed in Division II, Special Provisions of the Specifications, which wage rates have been predetermined by the U. S. Secretary of Labor and/or the Commissioner of Labor and Industries of Massachusetts, whichever is greater.

The successful Bidder will be required to purchase and maintain Bodily Injury Liability Insurance and Property Damage Liability Insurance for a combined single limit of \$10,000,000 (TEN MILLION DOLLARS). Said policy shall be on an occurrence basis and the Authority shall be included as an Additional Insured. See the insurance sections of Division I, General Requirements and Division II, Special Provisions for complete details.

This Contract is also subject to Affirmative Action requirements of the Massachusetts Port Authority contained in the Non-Discrimination and Affirmative Action article of Division I, General Requirements and Covenants, and to the Secretary of Labor's Requirement for Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Opportunity and the Standard Federal Equal Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications (Executive Order 11246).

The General Contractor is required to submit a Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities prior to award of the Contract, and to notify prospective subcontractors of the requirement for such certification where the subcontract exceeds \$10,000.

Complete information and authorization to view the site may be obtained from the Capital Programs Department Office at the Massachusetts Port Authority. The right is reserved to waive any informality in or reject any or all proposals.

MASSACHUSETTS PORT AUTHORITY
THOMAS P. GLYNN
CEO AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Run date: 01/04/13

LEGAL NOTICE

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Middlesex Probate and Family Court
208 Cambridge Street
East Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 768-8800
Docket No. M112P25216EA

Estate of
RICHARD THOMAS STEENBRUGGEN
a/k/a RICHARD T. STEENBRUGGEN
Date of Death December 5, 2012

INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner Marthia Lynn Steenbruggen of Wilmington, MA, performed and admitted to informal probate.

Marthia Lynn Steenbruggen of Wilmington, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve without surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

Run date: 1/4/13