

and the ubiquitous (and Grammy-nominated) "Our Country," and his band was spot-on. Mellencamp spoke of racial injustice before performing his new track "Jena," some of which was sort of lost on the Rochester crowd. It didn't really matter, the music was doing most of the important talking this night!... And as another year closes out, it has become a tradition to choose my Top Ten local releases of the year... a task that is never easy. I appreciate every musician's efforts over the past year, and always relish in hearing the latest and greatest from area talent. That being said, here are my favorites of 2007: **The Buddhahood's Toasty**, **Gaylord's Resplendent Location**, **Joe Brucato's Free**, **Tom Foolery & the Shannanighans's Fight**, **Kate Lee with No Strings Attached's Are We There Yet?**, **D:Drive's Straight Up the Middle**, **Jed Curran's Morning Pages** and **Paradigm Shift's Street Expressionism**, with my top two being, **The Hi-Risers' Once We Get Started** and **The Chesterfield Kings' Psychedelic Sunrise**. The Kings have achieved great-

ness with their new effort, executive produced by their underground patron saint, Little Steven, and released on his label, Wicked Cool. The band continues to combine garage and psychedelic rock into their own authentic brew, with their latest paying extra homage to 60's-era Stones. The Chesterfield Kings keep lighting up stages around the globe, and did the same at their recent hometown stop at the German House. Watching the electric performance was simply hypnotic, and as the rowdy and rail-thin Greg Prevost started preening on top of the bar, harmonica in hand, the crowd could feel the dangerous excitement (as did the security staff). A real rock show in every sense of the word!... On a final note, the tragic loss of local artists was also hugely felt this year, with the passings of **Tony Cavagnaro**, **Shalonda Simpson**, **Doug Meech** and **Kevin DeFrance**. Our thoughts continue to go out to family and friends, and their contributions will not be forgotten. They are missed... Here's to a happy, healthy, safe and musical New Year! **BYE** ❄️

## Looking Forward with Chet Catallo

By Michelle Picardo

A lot of people know the stats about Rochester's own guitar great, Chet Catallo. He has six Grammy nominations under his belt with Spyro Gyra, as well as gold and platinum albums. He wrote popular songs for the group, including "It Doesn't Matter" and "Café Amore," and spent years on the road with them, touring the world. Catallo remembers those days fondly. "We were headlining all over at jazz and music festivals. I'd have to come out after my idols like George Benson, Miles Davis and Herbie Hancock." Just in his twenties then, Catallo had already seen unheard of success, selling out venues like New York's Carnegie Hall, and helping make Spyro Gyra a name in the jazz fusion world.

Not a big fan of the "jazz fusion" or "smooth jazz" monikers, Catallo explains, "My music is not just jazz, it has Latin influences, it has funk, blues, R&B and pop elements... my stuff is more adventurous." Deciding to embark on a solo career, Catallo left Spyro Gyra in the mid-80's and formed Chet Catallo & the Cats, an outfit he's been with for over 20 years now. The current line up includes some of the best players in town, including Ralph Ortiz, Jim Richmond, Steve Curry, Andy Calabrese, Vince Ercolamento and Julius Varrenti, and for this special holiday performance at Water St. Music Hall, also features

special guest Todd East. Chet is looking forward to the performance and says he's been taking "a more spontaneous approach to shows lately."

Chet tells us he's feeling rejuvenated in his work of late, writing a slew of material which he's planning to record in the new year. It's been almost ten years since Catallo has recorded, and he's excited that with the current environment, it's more economically feasible to put out new music. "Taking time off is good because it gives you time to really think about the stuff you've done, and gives you a fresh outlook," says Catallo. Chet has also been exploring more on the guitar, explaining "I've been doing a lot of studying, and teaching has helped. When you're teaching, you get to hear yourself explaining something you take for granted... I hear myself teaching myself."

Finally, with touring on the table as well, Catallo doesn't rule out any possibilities in his future career endeavors. He continues, "I'm trying to show a whole spectrum of where I'm coming from in my music... I'm feeling like it's a second beginning."

**Editor's Note: Chet Catallo & the Cats perform their holiday show at Water St. Music Hall on Friday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.**



• 50 CHESTNUT STREET - EAST END •

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>st</sup> • 8pm

### Holiday Christmas Pageant

HINKLEY

THE QUITTERS • GREG TOWNSON  
IAN DOWNEY IS FAMOUS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22<sup>nd</sup> • 8pm



### Shelflyfe

IGNITE AUTUMN - CRY TO THE BLIND  
ORCHARD DRIVE - KAGED



FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28<sup>th</sup> • 8pm  
THE JIMMY JONES AFTER PARTY

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29<sup>th</sup> • 8pm  
BATTLE OF THE BANDS

FOR A CALENDAR OF ALL UPCOMING SHOWS GO TO  
[myspace.com/themontagemusicall](http://myspace.com/themontagemusicall)



Who are those guys in tropical shirts playing rock and roll? Four-piece band, **CoMoTion** bill themselves as "Rochester's Alternative to Youth," and specialize in 60's thru 80's classic Rock and Roll.

CoMoTion consists of veteran players who have been around the Rochester music scene for more than 20 years. They know the music, they know how to make people dance and have a great time throwing in some laughs. Rick Senator, the drummer and singer, played in numerous garage bands in the late 60's and early 70's, then stopped for a decade for

family life. He picked up the sticks again in the 80's and began jamming with other musicians locally, including Geoff Harder & the Moonlighters. This marked the first time that he and his brother, guitarist Gary Senator, played in a band together.

The bass player, Tommy Borrelli, started playing in 1964 with a band called The Mynors. Later, returning from the military, he hooked up with JB & Company for a short time, then with a power trio with Nevada Al and Ralph Angelo, and later with The Lowriders. Guitarist/keyboardist, "Hurricane Dave" Buchholz is a relative newcomer on the scene, and his versatility provides CoMoTion a palette of sounds to pull from, and as frontman, he engages the crowd with his own special "schtick."

CoMoTion recently celebrated their second anniversary together, and can next be seen on Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup> at Pineapple Jack's, 485 Spencerport Rd. Call 247-JACK.

For more Living coverage, including reviews and calendars, go to [DemocratandChronicle.com/Living](http://DemocratandChronicle.com/Living)

# MIXING IT UP

DEMOCRAT AND CHRONICLE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2009

## CRITIC'S PLAYLIST WHAT OUR EXPERTS ARE LISTENING TO

### JACK GARNER



**JAZZ LOVER**

JGARNER@DEMOCRATANDCHRONICLE.COM

#### **CHET CATALLO & THE CATS: FIRST**

**TAKE.** One of this hometown's favorite guitar players plays through a couple hours of mostly original tunes, accompanied by his regular band. The 14 tracks are all "first takes," performed live. Catallo's fine blend of fusion and R&B goes all the way back to his breakthrough years with Spyro Gyra. Catallo gets personal with the 13 originals, including "Wes Is More" (honoring the late guitarist Wes Montgomery) and "Rain in Spain" (paying homage to drummer Steve Gadd). The lone cover brings an ephemeral blues feeling to "Georgia on My Mind." Catallo & the Cats will celebrate the CD release by performing at 8 p.m. Saturday at Water Street Music Hall.