

# VOICE Magazine

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**(abbreviated edition)**



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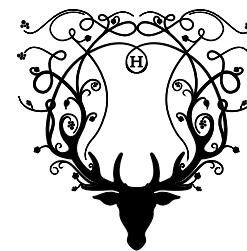


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# V Cooking With Wine & Beer

## Chicken in Lemon Garlic White Wine Sauce

### Ingredients

2 Large Chicken Breast cut into serving size pieces (Fresh is best but thawed from frozen is good too.)  
4 Tbsp Unbleached Flour  
Pinch of Salt and pepper  
1 Tbsp Butter  
2 Tbsp Coconut oil (or your favorite frying oil)

### For Lemon Garlic Wine Sauce

2 Cloves Garlic – Crushed or approx. 1 Tbsp prepared  
Juice of 1 Lemon – Fresh or bottled juice  
1.5 Cup Dry White Wine (Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Grigio, or un-oaked Chardonnay all work well)  
1 Tbsp Butter  
1/4 Tsp Black Pepper Powder  
1 Tsp Salt

### Instructions

#### Cooking the Chicken -

In a sealable bag, add flour, salt, pepper and mix evenly. Take the half of the chicken pieces, drop them in the bag and shake until evenly coated. Remove the flour coated chicken and add the remaining chicken to this bag and coat evenly. In a large pan, add butter and oil and heat it for a minute on high flame and then reduce the flame to medium. Now, place the coated chicken pieces evenly on the pan and let them cook for 3-4 minutes. Turn the chicken to the other side and cook for another 3-4 minutes until light brown or golden brown. Transfer the cooked chicken on the large plate.

#### Preparing the Wine Sauce --

## Beer Bread Recipe

This Beer Bread recipe is a simple and customizable quick bread that's slightly sweet, super moist and made with just 6 ingredients.

### Ingredients

3 cups all-purpose flour  
1 1/2 tablespoons baking powder  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
2 tablespoons granulated sugar  
12 ounces beer of your choice (Craft beer gives more flavor.)  
4 tablespoons butter melted and slightly cooled

In the same pan, add the butter and let it heat for a minute. Add garlic, stir several times and then discard the garlic. This adds a nice flavor to the sauce with garlic without giving it an over-powering garlic flavor. If you prefer strong garlic then leave it in. Now add white wine and stir everything well using a whisk. Let it cook for a minute on medium flame and then reduce the heat to low. Cook the wine for about 4-5 minutes and then add lemon, pepper and salt. Whisk everything to a smooth consistency and add the cooked chicken.

Let the chicken cook in the sauce for 2-3 minutes and then turn off the heat.

Plate the chicken and pour some sauce over and around it with your favorite side.

### Instructions

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees F. Grease an 8-inch loaf pan and line with parchment paper that folds over just two sides (optional, for easy removal).

In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, salt and sugar.

Pour in the beer and stir with a wooden spoon until just combined. Pour the batter into the prepared loaf pan and drizzle melted butter on top. Bake the bread until golden brown and firm, about 50 – 55 until it's browned to your liking. Cool in the pan for 10 minutes, then allow it to cool on a wire rack before slicing and serving. Serve with butter and honey for drizzling.

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# WHAT'S ON THE SHELF

Compiled by Sage Satori

## The Walk-In: A True Hollywood Story

The Walk-In is an epic true story of a young man's journey through a turbulent life full of tragedy, trauma, adventure, heartbreak, romance, and plenty of sexual exploits as he tries to survive the streets of Hollywood as a down-and-out actor/model. The story is of an innocent boy with humble beginnings who rises up to build an empire, only to have his life shaken by death, loss, and destruction. Add to this a wild supernatural paranormal event; he is plunged into the deepest of depressions on the verge of suicide. The Walk-In chronicles his story through surviving depression on the streets of Hollywood, navigating the "casting couch" (#metoo), rubbing elbows with the rich and famous, Illuminati, and the underbelly of Hollywood. The main character develops special abilities that give him a deeper insight into death and suffering, as well as loving, healing, and helping. The Walk-In is a story of adversity and survival told in a raw and honest way, relatable to everyone's own struggles. It will grab you and never let you go.

## The Pale-Faced Lie: A True Story

Growing up on the Navajo Indian Reservation, David Crow and his three siblings idolized their dad. Tall, strong, smart, and brave, the self-taught Cherokee regaled his family with stories of his World War II feats. But as time passed, David discovered the other side of Thurston Crow, the ex-con with his own code of ethics that justified cruelty, violence, lies—even murder.

A shrewd con artist with a genius IQ, Thurston intimidated David with beatings to

coerce him into doing his criminal bidding. David's mom, too mentally ill to care for her children, couldn't protect him. One day, Thurston packed up the house and took the kids, leaving her with nothing. Soon he remarried, and David learned that his stepmother was just as vicious and abusive as his father.

Through sheer determination, and with the help of a few angels along the way, David managed to get into college and achieve professional success. When he finally found the courage to stop helping his father with his criminal activities, he unwittingly triggered a plot of revenge that would force him into a showdown with Thurston Crow. With lives at stake, including his own, David would have only twenty-four hours to outsmart his father—the brilliant, psychotic man who bragged that the three years he spent in the notorious San Quentin State Prison had been the easiest time of his life.

The Pale-Faced Lie is a searing, raw, palpable memoir that reminds us what an important role our parents play in our lives. Most of all, it's an inspirational story about the power of forgiveness and the ability of the human spirit to rise above adversity.

## The Last Castle: The Epic Story of Love, Loss, and American Royalty in the Nation's Largest Home

From the author of the New York Times bestseller *The Girls of Atomic City* comes the fascinating true story behind the magnificent Gilded Age mansion Biltmore—the largest, grandest residence ever built in the United States.

Orphaned at a young age, Edith Stuyvesant Dresser claimed lineage from one of New York's best known families. She grew up in Newport and Paris, and her engagement and marriage to George Vanderbilt was one of the most watched events of Gilded Age society. But none of this prepared her to be mistress of Biltmore House.

Before their marriage, the wealthy and bookish Vanderbilt had dedicated his life to creating a spectacular European-style estate on 125,000 acres of North Carolina wilderness. He summoned the famous landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted to tame the grounds, collaborated with celebrated architect Richard Morris Hunt to build a 175,000-square-foot chateau, filled it with priceless art and antiques, and erected a charming village beyond the gates. Newlywed Edith was now mistress of an estate nearly three times the size of Washington, DC and benefactress of the village and surrounding rural area. When fortunes shifted and changing times threatened her family, her home, and her community, it was up to Edith to save Biltmore—and secure the future of the region and her husband's legacy.

The story of Biltmore spans World Wars, the Jazz Age, the Depression, and generations of the famous Vanderbilt family, and features a captivating cast of real-life characters including F. Scott Fitzgerald, Thomas Wolfe, Teddy Roosevelt, John Singer Sargent, James Whistler, Henry James, and Edith Wharton. The Last Castle is the unique American story of how the largest house in America flourished, faltered, and ultimately endured to this day.

## The Accidental President: Harry S. Truman and the Four Months That Changed the World

Heroes are often defined as ordinary characters who get pushed into extraordinary circumstances, and through courage and a dash of luck, cement their place in history. Chosen as FDR's fourth-term Vice President for his well-praised work ethic, good judgment, and lack of enemies, Harry S. Truman was the prototypical ordinary man. That is, until he was shockingly thrust in over his head after FDR's sudden death. The first four months of Truman's administration saw the founding of the United Nations, the fall of Berlin, victory at Okinawa, firebombings in Tokyo, the first atomic explosion, the Nazi surrender, the liberation of concentration camps, the mass starvation in Europe, the Potsdam Conference, the controversial decision to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the surrender of imperial Japan, and finally, the end of World War II and the rise of the Cold War. No other president had ever faced so much in such a short period of time. The Accidental

President escorts readers into the situation room with Truman during a tumultuous, history-making 120 days, when the stakes were high and the challenges even higher.

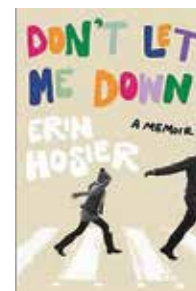
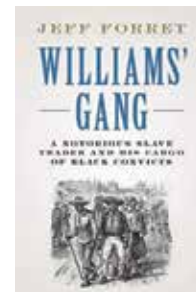
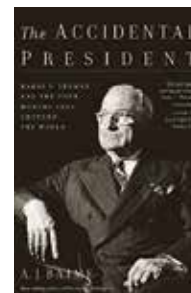
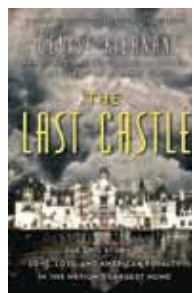
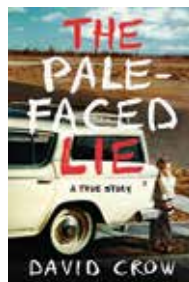
## Williams' Gang: A Notorious Slave Trader and his Cargo of Black Convicts

William H. Williams operated a slave pen in Washington, DC, known as the Yellow House, and actively trafficked in enslaved men, women, and children for more than twenty years. His slave trading activities took an extraordinary turn in 1840 when he purchased twenty-seven enslaved convicts from the Virginia State Penitentiary in Richmond with the understanding that he could carry them outside of the United States for sale. When Williams conveyed his captives illegally into New Orleans, allegedly while en route to the foreign country of Texas, he prompted a series of courtroom dramas that would last for almost three decades. Based on court records, newspapers, governors' files, slave manifests, slave narratives, travelers' accounts, and penitentiary data, Williams' Gang examines slave criminality, the coastwise domestic slave trade, and southern jurisprudence as it supplies a compelling portrait of the economy, society, and politics of the Old South.

## Don't Let Me Down: A Memoir

Erin Hosier's coming-of-age was full of contradictions. Born into the turbulent 1970s, she was raised in rural Ohio by lapsed hippies who traded 1960s rock 'n' roll for 1950s-era Christian hymns. Her mother's newfound faith was rooted in a desire to manage her husband's mood swings, which could alternately fill the house with music or with violence.

With the Beatles providing the soundtrack, Erin grew up adoring her larger than life father, Jack. Together, they bonded over their iconic songs, even as they inspired Erin to question authority—both her father's and others'.



# V ON THE BEAT

## Make your Voice Heard to Help Independent Music Venues

The independent venues across the country need your help. They are asking you to contact your Senators and Representatives and let them know you support your mom and pop venues that need support from the federal government.

National Independent Venue Association (NIVA), a group of more than 1,200 independent music venues and promoters in all 50 states, collectively urge Congress to help protect the industry by providing the support that is necessary for them to survive the shutdown and reopen even stronger.

It will only take 60 seconds to make your voice heard. [www.nivassoc.org/take-action](http://www.nivassoc.org/take-action)

## Reasons to be Cheerful website launches new series

"Now Anything Is Possible," will explore the potential of bold ideas to last beyond the current crisis. They'll examine how the shutdown is inspiring European governments to reopen their economies as greener than before, and how the imperative to depopulate jails is forcing America to confront its mass incarceration model. We'll look at how cities are planning to preserve the beneficial changes they've made to urban space, and why a rise in "social trust" could lead to lasting positive health outcomes.

From the suffering of the Great Depression came the chance for renewal, not just of policies but of values. Could the pandemic catalyze structural reforms and societal shifts to make the future more resilient, sustainable and fair? Or, after the crisis subsides, will the old systems snap back into place, leaving us roughly where we were before this all began? Let's hope for change and growth.

Reasons to be Cheerful was founded by artist and musician David Byrne and is a non-profit editorial project that is tonic for tumultuous times.

<https://reasonstobecheerful.world>

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## Ashtabula Grows!

[AshtabulaLocalFood.org](http://AshtabulaLocalFood.org)

**Tuesdays at 6pm a webinar series on Zoom**

**Join local gardeners and your neighbors - an interactive garden series to inspire community building and food security**

Classes include: Getting your garden started \* Planting Out Your Seedlings \* Direct Sowing for a Continual Harvest \* What to Do with the Weeds: a Seasonal Approach \* Perennial Vegetables for a Changing Climate \* Seed Saving \* Soils Across the County \* Putting Your Garden to Bed \* Time Banking as a way to help each other accomplish our home gardens \* Growing Corn in Small Places \* Cooking Seasonally \* Making Kombucha \* Water collection \* Permaculture concepts

**Register at [www.ashtabulalocalfood.org](http://www.ashtabulalocalfood.org)**



# V WATERFRONT FRONTLINE

by T Gallo; a nurse by day and an inspired novice gardener by other days, resident of Ashtabula and graduate of Grand Valley High School.

Spring is really here and living near Lake Erie brings many joys this time of year. The Magnolia tree that hangs graciously over the neighbor's fence is in full bloom and its scent lingers on the nose through the, finally, open windows. Spring means loads of work as we prepare gardens - to ensure food security in the midst of COVID-19 and the uncertainties it brings both locally, nationally and internationally while we prepare for financial hardship for our city and country. The Beatles sing that, "All you need is love," and in times of plenty those words seem more relevant. However, as a healthcare provider, nurses subscribe to Maslow's Hierarchy of Need which demonstrates that a human's most basic needs are air, food, shelter and water. It gives me great pleasure to know we have access to clean water and air at this time. In fact, when it comes to fertile land, air, and water in which to grow food and build houses, we are more than rich! That is exactly why it is pressing that we, as community members, continue to advocate for our most precious - and life maintaining - resources.

25 million more cars on the road in Ashtabula - daily?

The proposed Petmin pig iron plant is moving forward with their plans. Petmin is requesting a new air permit as they have not been able to secure a supplier for the carbon dioxide capture/release; a stipulation of the original air permit. They are asking for a new air permit that proposes enormous increases to their originally projected emissions. As they do not have the supplier they promise that they will either find one at a later date or make the carbon dioxide capture/release themselves, (Star Beacon, 4.17.20). This comes at a time when the EPA has issued a memorandum that they will be halting monitoring from March 13 "until further notice." (<https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2020-03/documents/oecam-mooncovid19implications.pdf>). How can we be confident that a company, from another continent, will actually secure

another supplier after another air permit is granted? Petmin's projected increases are as follows:

Fifty-six tons additional NOx (nitrogen oxides) - this alone is similar to adding 2.5 million cars to the streets of Ashtabula County. Over double the amount of SO2 (sulfur dioxide), Particulate Matter10, and greenhouse gases; over five times the amount of Particulate Matter 2.5; and six times the amount of CO (carbon monoxide). All of these pollutants are known to be carcinogenic and toxic to the respiratory system.

Ashtabula is already in a compromised position related to ozone, proximity to superfund sites, NATA cancer risk rates and others according to the EPA's Environmental Justice page <https://ejscreen.epa.gov/mapper>. The Center for Health and Environmental Justice (CHEJ.org) has used the term, "Sacrifice Zone." This is an area that is dangerously polluted with toxic chemicals. The demographics of sacrifice zones are typically in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas. One might note the correlation of increased pollution within marginalized communities and Ashtabula County fits the description. Petmin promises that they will find a supplier someday. If they receive the new air permit we will want to keep our Covid-19 face masks indefinitely as we may not want to breathe the local air. There are many questions to be asked and the community deserves answers before the EPA issues the permit.

The EPA will be holding a virtual hearing regarding the permit request. Please sign up for the virtual air permit meeting scheduled for May 7, 2020 at 6pm at <http://epa.ohio.gov/virtual>. The EPA will be allowing questions and comments until May 12th. Email [epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov) re: air permit number P0126768 (Petmin USA).

Also, under the legal notices in Monday, March 16th Star Beacon, an application for a water permit by The East Ohio Gas Co. dba Dominion Energy Ohio for Petmin has been noted. The notice states, "Discharges from the activity, if approved, would result in degradation to, or lowering of, the water quality of water-

sheds 041100030105 (Lower Ashtabula River) and 041201010606 (North Kingsville-Frontal Lake Erie)." Submit written comments for Ohio EPA's consideration in reviewing the application by email to [epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov](mailto:epa.dswcomments@epa.ohio.gov). The Ohio EPA ID number for this project is 196388A1. For more information on how to get involved see [www.acwww.us](http://www.acwww.us)

## Growing your own food to improve community resilience and food security?

Can we become more independent, resilient and productive in the time of COVID-19?

Ashtabula Local Food group members (disclaimer; I am one) think it is possible and look to the Victory Gardens after WWII as an example. That was a time when home-grown food production was equivalent to that of commercial farms. We have an opportunity to build community and foster food security.



Ashtabula County has the resources! A new, free, webinar series has started and you are invited to join. Every Tuesday at 6pm Ashtabula Local Food group is hosting a webinar series, Ashtabula Grows! to inspire home gardening as a means to improve health on all levels - physical, mental and spiritual. Some of the classes - starting seeds indoors, container gardening, permaculture concepts, water collection, different soils around the county, seasonal cooking, how to deal with pesky weeds and pests, timebanking as a means to share resources without using money and many more! Attend two meetings and receive a free garden kit. (Register at [www.AshtabulaLocalFood.org](http://www.AshtabulaLocalFood.org)) Monies for garden kits are granted from the Pollution Project grant. Local growers and community members share their knowledge, passion and wisdom; gardening apart while growing together.

When we come together as a community and ensure that we have these basics - air, food, shelter and water - then we just may have some room for love. And while there may not be space for that concept right now, you can start by digging into the earth and planting a seed. Who knows, in the right environment, it just may grow.



**T**heir very names suggest their heritage: Cherokee, Chippewa, White Mountain, Black Hills, Roosevelt, Daniel Boone, Sierra and Sequoia. They're our National Forests. Thanks to generations past, now they're ours to enjoy. To renew body and spirit, to inspire a passion for the land, to let us reconnect with nature, and with each other. But within our forests, there has been devastation by insects, disease, and fire. Now it's our turn.

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# From the Deep, Cavernous Mind of **SNARP FARKLE**



The World!

Over a year ago I had a really strong, bad, and depressing sense that a "Change Was Coming!" And it certainly has! I have always gotten feelings like this, from time to time, even as a young child, and when I would try to explain them to people I would usually just be ignored so I stopped!

Stay with me now, it's going to get DEEP but you'll be glad you did!

It took me many years to realize that these senses or feelings were of and about "MY" world, not anybody else's world, not "THE" world! Yet depending on what nasty change might be coming to "MY" world, could in all likeliness, have an effect, good or bad on "EVERYBODY ELSE'S" world, or maybe even "THE" world!

This is how it works, "MY" world consists of, good or bad, right or wrong, "MY" spirit, "MY" mind and "MY" consciousness; it is where "I" live spiritually, consciously, and thoughtfully, and what I do in my world, good or bad, right or wrong, spiritually, consciously, and thoughtfully is what others see as "ME" in "THE" world!

YOUR world consists of, good or bad, right or wrong, YOUR spirit, YOUR mind and YOUR consciousness; it is where YOU live spiritually, consciously, and thoughtfully, and what YOU do in YOUR world, good or bad, right or wrong, spiritually, consciously, and thoughtfully is what others see as YOU in "THE" world!

At this very moment in time, which includes you and me, there are at least 7,781,807,230 people on the Earth, and every one of them lives in "THEIR" world which consists of, good or bad, right or wrong, THEIR spirit, THEIR mind and THEIR consciousness; it is where THEY live spiritually, consciously, and thoughtfully, and what THEY do in THEIR world, good or bad, right or wrong, spiritually, consciously, and thoughtfully is what others see as THEM in "THE" world!

"THE" world then consists of, good or bad, right or wrong, ALL spirits, ALL minds and ALL consciousness; it is where ALL worlds combined try to live spiritually, consciously, and thoughtfully, so what ALL of us do in OUR worlds, good or bad, right or wrong, spiritually, consciously, and thoughtfully is what is seen as "THE" world!

We were all wrongly taught growing up looking at a globe as a representation the WORLD, it is NOT a representation of the WORLD; it is however a representation of the EARTH! "THE" world which contains ALL of OUR over seven billion worlds does reside on the Earth, but it is NOT the Earth, yet it can have an effect, and is having an effect on the Earth!

Many worlds have come and gone on the Earth over time, and the sooner we understand that the world we lived in just a couple of months ago is also going, the sooner we can combine our spirits, our minds and our consciousness to help form a better world so that we don't find ourselves in the world others of evil intentions are trying to create FOR us!

I still sense the same feeling I had over a year ago that CHANGE IS COMING! And I still feel that the people of Earth CAN and I hope WILL come together to make it a good change!

It's all up to us!

~Snarp  
[www.snarpfarkle.com](http://www.snarpfarkle.com)

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# STREAMING TIPS

By Westside Steve Simmons



Hi Gang,

Apparently the governors are enjoying their taste of power and it looks like we'll be under shelter rules for at least another few weeks. That's obviously bad news for all of our friends in the entertainment, food service, and hospitality industry. In a way it's good for me because my upcoming solo CD "GREAT WISHES and SMALL" will be done this month. Follow me on Facebook at Westside Steve Simmons and Steve W Simmons for current information! But here are just a few more cable series you might enjoy that I didn't mention last month.



More than just a courtroom drama, GOLIATH stars Billy Bob Thornton as Billy McBride, a rough-edged attorney, whose cases run the gamut from the violent to the surreal and is liberally seasoned with cigarettes and F bombs.



On the lighter side; a pair of respectable British screenwriters find it's just too hard to turn down the big

money and greener grass of a Hollywood based TV series partially because of the promise by the producers that it would star a great American thespian. That star turns out to be Matt LeBlanc from FRIENDS who plays himself in this engaging and hilarious comedy series from AMC called EPISODES.



Another fun series based on the ins and outs of Hollywood is ENTOURAGE. Vince is a handsome young actor on the verge of becoming the next big thing in tinsel town. This show is the brainchild of Mark Wahlberg who brings a little bit of autobiographical insight to this comedy about the crazy side of show biz. The Entourage is Vince's buddies he brings to LA from Queens in something of a sheep among the wolves setting. Playing the high energy agent Ari Gold, Jeremy Piven is at the top of his game.



Finally I'm going to leave you with a strange series that shouldn't have had the plug pulled on it. They did eventually make a movie but it could have easily lasted a few more seasons,

FIREFLY is an entertaining concept combining Science Fiction with the Wild West. A group of space cowboys travels among planets that haven't seemed to progress past 19th century Earth despite the futuristic weapons and space travel. The best way to describe it is STAR TREK and BONANZA.



Finally, a little bit of a downer, and I won't spend a lot of time on this, but if you're a big fan of the series of novels The Saxon Chronicles by Bernard Cornwell, the TV version of THE LAST KINGDOM will be a huge disappointment.

See you at the movies soon. I hope.  
WSS



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# BOOK REVIEW

Review by Alan Cliffe



## Book Reports: A Music Critic on His First Love, Which Was Reading

Author Robert Christgau

Robert Christgau's most recent book could be read as an extension, perhaps a completion, of his previous one. Going into the City (2015, reviewed in NCV V.15 Issue 11) tells of his life. Book Reports presents his work, specifically his literary-critical work. And it would appear that the life and the work are inseparable. Christgau may be the self-anointed Dean of American Rock Critics, but his literary criticism seems to have been anything but a sideline. What we have here—a selection of book reviews and essays spanning the years from 1970 to 2018—constitutes, I would say, something like an intellectual autobiography fifty years in the making. It would be a notable one even if its author had never published an album review. Which is, I'll allow, hard to imagine.

Christgau is one of the original and original rock critics. A writer who helps to found a writerly specialty, practices it well for over half a century, and serves as mentor and editor to hundreds of other practitioners is going to be associated with that specialty. Unsurprisingly, close to half of the reviews here are of music-related books. You will find his thoughts on other rock critics here—seemingly all of them. Christgau has long been a critic, also an editor, of other critics, many of them friends of his, many of whom have published collections of reviews, as he has done with this book and several previous ones. But this book is not a collection of reviews of collections of reviews. That would be a little incestuous, and/or boring. Among the music-related books reviewed here are biographies as well as criticism; Christgau speaks of cultural historiography in the form of books on Sam Cooke, Elvis Presley, Rod Stewart, Carrie Brownstein and many others.

Part of Christgau's strength as a book critic is that he engages primarily with authors who bring to their work a dili-

gence and a cogency comparable to his own. Many, as I say, are or were acquaintances of Christgau's, but there's nothing especially clubby about this book.

Personal knowledge or connections seem, for the most part, to shed further light on his subjects rather than impart a bias, pro or con. He did once consider Richard Meltzer, author of the seminal rockcrit text *The Aesthetics of Rock*, "an antisocial jerk," maybe still does, but "terrific" as a writer. As for Marshall Berman, the Marxist-humanist philosopher, Christgau's friendship with the man may have given him a deeper appreciation of the thinker, but that appreciation was already there. As Christgau tells it, his own 1982 rave review of Berman's *All That Is Solid Melts Into Air* led to a phone call from Berman. One thing then led to another. Berman ended up turning Christgau on to Goethe's *Elective Affinities*; Christgau returned the favor with Public Enemy's *It Takes a Nation of Millions to Hold us Back*. The benefit to a reader from Christgau's telling of that tale is that one might get to Berman by way of Christgau, and more readily than if he'd written a more conventional review.

A good number of the authors under review here are, like Christgau, writers who have worked both sides of the line between music—with or without electric guitars and a backbeat—and everything else. He thinks Ellen Willis, an early rock

critic and one-time lover of his, also an influential left-feminist thinker, should have written about music longer than she did, because it would have improved her politics. As for Paul Nelson, it seems that he was right to leave the rockcrit beat and do a book of interviews with Clint Eastwood when he did, because a certain heroism that he responded to in the music was largely gone from it after 1980. In a mixed review of Legs McNeil and Gillian McCain's *Please Kill Me: The Uncensored Oral History of Punk*, he faults its editors and its interviewees, all veterans of the seventies New York City punk scene, for selling short punk's real significance and quality, as well as for the book's New York-centric bias. As a New Yorker and a music fan who was on the punk scene but not of it, he has a certain perspective from which he can see things about it, both to its credit and not, that an insider might be too close to see clearly.

That kind of perspective is nothing more nor less than what a critic, not to mention an editor, is supposed to have. But Christgau is better than most, not least because of the broad-ranging character of his interests and tastes. He declares that as a critic, the author-turned-Springsteen-manager Jon Landau "seem[ed] disinclined to link music to culture with any vigor." This may or may not be true of Landau—I'll re-read him soon—but Christgau's comment alludes to an essential aspect of his own approach. Culture and subcultures, with an emphasis on the latter, their artistic expression, where and how they intersect with the mainstream of a society—this is Christgau's territory. Among other things here you'll find his thoughts on accounts of blackface minstrelsy, the Manson cult, Americans gone to Mali to learn guitar, the interparty intimacy of U.S. ruling circles with secretive and dogmatic Christianity (it's worse than you think), and the Deadheads. As you may or may not expect from a man who arrived in Greenwich Village to stay during what he calls the High Sixties, Christgau speaks of subcultures and bohemias with real interest, uncondescendingly. Also tough minded. From his 1970 review of Charles Reich's *The Greening of America*, a best-selling paean to sixties youth culture, I got the feeling I'd been right to skip the book in its time. Christgau was himself caught up in the counter-culture, if perhaps never exactly a hippie, but he was clear-eyed about a

soft-headedness he found both there and in Reich's book when it came to matters political.

Speaking of which, the existence of any subculture, bohemian or otherwise, may imply a critique, articulated or not, of the prevailing notions and forces in a society. Such critique might be as serious and thorough as Capital, or as evanescent as a bass line or an inside joke. Critique may begin with a question, or questions. Christgau, always a man of the left even if he didn't write *Capital*, had questions about the financial crisis of 2008 and ended up reading, by his count, over a million words on the topic. Those words—one thing that stands out in his account is the way the financial industry uses language to deceive rather than inform. Control the language, keep the power. When math wizards indentured to the big banks are "quants," and dangers hidden in the fine print of the prospectus "may be material," bonds of questionable value are "rich" rather than overpriced, what's a good wordsmith to do?

If it's Christgau, he might dig deep enough to find that there are stranger things still than obfuscatory language, and stranger persons than the average weaselly-mouthed banker. The bigger, and less obvious, story here may be that there are people—a subcaste even in the financial business—who think in numbers rather than words, dollars rather than beings and tangible reality, and that a strictly numerate/financial realm, as opposed to a literate one, is not fertile soil for ethics, morality, or any real understanding of value. This might be an updating of an ancient insight—think of a certain first-century rabbi overturning the tables—but it's made flesh here in a strange and startling way.

There is more, much more. I had a little trouble getting a firm grip on this one because it's all over the place, but for a compilation that can be a good thing. Another good thing here is the transparency of Christgau's style. In this book he writes accessibly about complex matters and ideas, and clearly about some fairly abstruse authors. You may find yourself checking out Raymond Williams, the Welsh Marxist cultural-studies maven, as I finally am. This is the kind of book that makes you want to read about fifty or sixty other ones, and if you can't get to them all, well, that's on you.



# V now WE'RE TALKIN

By Helen Marketti

Cleveland area musician, Mark Buchwald is a Multi-Instrumentalist, DJ, Producer, Composer, Engineer & 2014 Winner of "Best Drummer". His DJ name is "Policy" and under this name has released his first full-length album "ECHO CHAMBERS" due to be released on May 30, 2020. The full-length LP features 10 tracks of alternative and EDM music featuring talented international female vocalists. Mark takes some time to explain the new project and his career path which lead him to creating Policy and the new album.

**NCV:** Please share a little about your music background and how you became interested in playing the drums.

**MB:** I started as a drummer when I was very young. My mother, uncles and step-father were members of The Cleveland Band. So, as a youngster I would go on tour with them. My playground was the stage. I would travel with the road crew, set up the drums, clean the piano, duct tape the cords and basically be a tech. I started playing the drums back then and eventually started my training in drumming. Gradually, I moved on to other instruments including percussion, guitar and piano and started teaching myself. After high school, I had an opportunity to go to Los Angeles and spend some time out there studying one on one with some great players including Gregg Bissonette who was a drummer for David Lee Roth and Ringo Starr among others. I played with a few groups while in LA and earned some of my wings. I had an amazing opportunity to spend a day with Dave Weckl in Chicago studying drums. Back in Cleveland, I have played in a few bands and started to write and learn about recording from my Uncle Mike (Mike Zarembo) where we built a studio and continue to work out of there. [www.advancedaudiodesign.net](http://www.advancedaudiodesign.net) I also have my own studio in my house. Now, I have moved more into songwriting, producing, engineering, music business consultation and started to DJ along with continuing to play drums.

**NCV:** How did Policy get started? How was the name chosen?

**MB:** Well, I am Policy. "Policy" started back in the late 90s during what I call the glory days of West 6, the Warehouse District bar and club area in downtown Cleveland where I was able to play percussion with the house DJs. This was an exciting time as House and EDM were exploding. I became the house percussionist for various clubs and became a fan of many bands that came through. As far as the name, all DJ's have their own "stage" names and this was such a new thing here in Cleveland that I really didn't have a name. I was spending time with friends during a set break and one of them said that what I was doing with the DJ and the percussion was like the "Policy" and it stuck from there.

**NCV:** Who wrote the songs?

**MB:** As far as this forthcoming release, I composed all of the music. I collaborated with 5 female vocalists including Amy Jo Scott, Anastacia Monroe, Claire Rasa from Australia, Kelsey Hunter and Tina Shest who write and recorded the toplines except, "Push Pause". I am co-writer for "Push Pause" but there are other songwriters for the original version. I composed the remix. The other tracks are basically pure techno house instrumentals or have "catch phrases" done by myself.

**NCV:** Where were the songs recorded? Please tell about the studio.

**MB:** As I said earlier, my family built a recording studio in my grandfather's house where my Uncle Mike is the lead engineer, so we have that facility and it's amazing.

I built a demo studio in my house to get things up and running for this album. I had to build the studio, get the gear, learn new software and basically start writing the album. What's really interesting is this was originally going to be a 4-song demo. I was going to make a few copies and give them to my friends. But, once I got some beds done and played it to some family members, they encouraged me to continue and once we had 11 tracks, we shifted to recording vocals and the final mixing at Advanced Audio Design Studios. My Uncle Mike is my partner and

he co-produced as well as was the lead engineer. We brought in Tommy Wiggins who lives in Nashville to do a final mastering at his place which is called, Tommy's Tracks. You can check out Tommy's place at: [www.tommystacks.com](http://www.tommystacks.com)

**NCV:** Do you have any shows scheduled? Obviously with COVID-19, that may change.

**MB:** In addition to being a DJ, I am a drummer for The Tony Lang Band. I am also in rehearsals for another groove metal project. The Tony Lang Band had recently done a big show at the Akron Civic Theater and hope to return for the Akron Lock3 Festival in July. As far as working as a DJ, I have a few private shows booked but we'll see how that goes. All information is on my web site: [www.policymusic.com](http://www.policymusic.com)

**NCV:** How would you describe the music of Policy?

**MB:** This certainly has been a long time in the making. For many years I have wanted to my "first solo record" and I finally put it all together. This is an original concatenation of many of my musical

influences. It encompasses NU, groove, progressive metal, alternative, Pop, EDM, House, Chill and a little industrial that I picked up from my days in LA.

**NCV:** Where can readers check out the music? Schedule? Web site?

**MB:** Yes, the single titled, "Push Pause" is available for full listen and download since April 7th and the full-length release will be available on June 6th. You can get all of the information on my web site: [www.policymusic.net](http://www.policymusic.net) and it will be available on all of the music platforms and for purchase as well. We are currently going for ads in over 200 radio stations across the country as well as worldwide. I am currently in negotiations for possible sync opportunities for movie and TV.

**NCV:** Is there anything else you would like to mention or discuss?

**MB:** Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak with you here at the North Coast Voice Magazine. Please stay tuned for the release of "Push Pause" and the release of full-length album "Echo Chambers" which will be available in June!

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