

WHAT'S ON THEIR PLAYLIST

The Daily Astorian invites people to share the music they are enjoying and describe a few thoughts about the work. This week, Brian Bovenizer, an Astoria musician who plays with the surf country band, the Koala Cowboys, gives us his playlist. The “ambassador of marketing ambiance” at Fort George Brewery also played in Holiday Friends. To submit a playlist, send to news@dailyastorian.com

Q: What are you listening to currently?

A: Some of my current go-to's are: Eilen Jewell, Charlie Parr, Commander Cody and his Lost Planet Airmen, Tom T Hall, Luther Dickinson and Jason Isbell. A lot of roots/psych-country, new and old.

Q: How did you discover it? What's its special appeal?

A: I guess I don't really keep track much anymore. I'm always trying to find the next fix in music, which is a lucky addiction with how much music is accessible these days. Some of the ways — I try to keep up on various different music sites (No Depression, Consequence of Sound, The Bluegrass Situation, Saving Country Music, Pitchfork, etc.). Without tak-

ing a stance on streaming, that “related artists” tab is also a valuable tool.

Most importantly, I also like to listen to REAL radio. There was a while where I could have been quoted very often saying the now cliché, “Radio is dead.” I thought that “Internet radio,” whatever that meant, was going to take over. I was comfortably wrong. While an algorithm can introduce you to new music, it can't curate the same emotion as someone personally picking out an ordered group of songs. It isn't until you've completely surrendered to a feeling that some songs can really get you. If that DJ does not have an monetarily-driven agenda, they can mix old and new in a way that old music can be new (or new again) and vice versa. A song can



Brian Bovenizer.

Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

take on an unforeseen emotion depending on how and where it is played in a set.

Independent radio has been huge for my discovery in the past few years, while that wasn't the case for a long

stretch. Though I don't use an actual tuner much anymore, I've been using apps and radio streams, keeping up with stations like KEXP (Seattle), WNCW (North Carolina), KBOO, WXRT (Chicago) and of

course KMUN (Astoria) wherever I might be in the country. When I hear something I like, I write it down or save it on my device to check out more. Outside of that, I keep up on all of the major festivals and venues that I trust in major cities. Those names down at the bottom of the poster often end up to be the diamonds in the rough. Or the names at the top. How'd I miss out on that?! It's always fun to watch the music that you love, “blow up.” It's great fun to see anything blow up really as long as nobody gets hurt, but I guess that is inevitable with rock 'n' roll.

Q: What music do you keep coming back to?

A: I have music for different parts of the year that I can always go back to and then there are those albums that I can play over and over again forever, regardless of the season. It's good to have both on hand for the un-inspired day. Neil Young for the fall and Dylan for the spring. The ones that get the most wear are the ones that are dearest to my taste, mostly so I can sing them out loud and unabashed. John Prine's, “Bruised Orange,” Guy Clark's “Dublin Blues,” Wilco's

“Being There,” or the Michael Hurley/Jeffery Frederick and the Clamtones/Unholy Modal Rounders “Have Moicy” are probably annoying the neighbors.

Q: What advice would you give to discover new music?

A: Don't segregate or pigeonhole an artist because of a genre that they are classified into. Most of the time, the folks making the music are not the ones that pick their genre. Everything gets labeled as “Americana” or “Indie” these days, but those words do not tell you anything about what the music sounds like. I spent too many years ignoring great music because of a claim that “I don't like country music” and I sneer at the word Americana now, even though a lot of what I listen to could fall into that genre.

My other advice to all listeners is that some music requires, even demands, a few listens. Some of my favorite albums did not get my initial thrill, but like a good beer they took a couple to become my favorite and are there for me every time I need another taste.

Dogs: Animals that have to wait to get adopted can get depressed

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Full house

With stereotypes working against him, Louie is lucky to have found a home, especially given how many dogs he had to compete with.

During the last few economically sluggish years, the shelter's dog occupancy has been consistently over capacity, hovering around 20 available dogs at any given time.

“We're full. We have dogs living in vet rooms,” Hildreth said. “That's pretty regular anymore.”

The cat room is pretty packed most of the time, too.

About half of the animals housed in the shelter have been surrendered by owners who lack the resources to keep them.

“People cannot afford to take care of their animals,” he said. “They're losing their homes.”

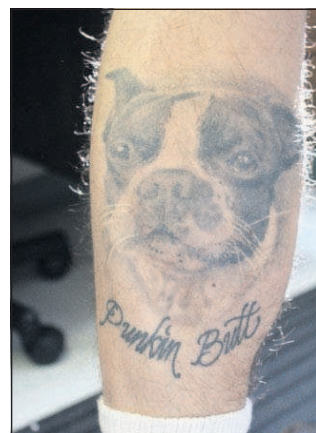
One diabetic dog, for example, was turned over to the shelter because her owner couldn't pay for her medication.

And when people need to scale down their lifestyle, they find that many property owners in the area won't allow dogs on the premises; the dogs become a liability. The same goes for many folks who move to the area and search for affordable housing: Their options often preclude pet ownership, or require a nonrefundable, prohibitively large pet deposit.

And keeping a pit bull — even docile, tempera-



LEFT: Deputy Steven Hildreth, supervisor of Clatsop County Animal Control and Shelter, points out Angus, a dog he babysat before it was adopted. Behind him is the wall of critters, a collage of adopted animals and shelter success stories. RIGHT: Presenting Punkin Butt, Deputy Steven Hildreth's Boston Terrier tattooed on his calf. He has more than a dozen animal tats on his body.



Photos by Erick Bengel/The Daily Astorian

ment-tested specimens like Louie — is often out of the question.

“It's either: They give their kids a home, or they get rid of their dogs,” he said.

Compassion fatigue

The adoption numbers vary wildly from week to week, said Dunning, who also serves as president of Clatsop Animal Assistance, a nonprofit that raises money to pay for virtually all of the shelter's veterinary bills.

“Some days we'll have four animals go out, and then we'll go a week with nothing,” she said. “Sometimes we feel like we're sending our children out into the world because we get to know our animals so well.”

Last month, the shelter adopted out 20 dogs and 41 cats.

In January, it was eight dogs and 23 cats; the month before it was 17 dogs and 25 cats.

“If it's a popular kind of breed, they can be gone in a day,” said Linda Dygert, a shelter volunteer and secretary of Clatsop Animal Assistance.

The shelter advertises the animals on Petfinder.com the day they become available.

With a steady influx of critters and volunteers occasionally burning out, “we always need more volunteers: dog-walkers, people to be in the cat room socializing the cats,” Dunning said.

“People who work at animal shelters and volunteer here — these people are different. They're more sensitive,” said Hildreth, who is fostering two dogs in his home.

“They get tired of com-

ing in every year and seeing the same dogs in that kennel,” he continued. “You get a little down.”

The average length of time that people stay in animal control positions is about five years, a phenomenon born of “compassion fatigue,” he said.

“It's a hard job to deal with constantly,” he said. “You're bombarded with animals that come in abused.”

A new opportunity

Animals that have to wait, and wait, to get adopted can also become depressed, Dygert said.

“It's like a stir-crazy thing. Some animals will spin in their cages, and it's an obsessive thing that they do,” she said. “That doesn't really happen very often because the animals



Joshua Bessex/The Daily Astorian

Jeff and Judy Rusiecki adopted Louie.

don't stay a horrible length of time — except for somebody like Louie.”

For these rare cases, the volunteers make a point to spend extra time with them to keep them from slipping into a funk. “We try to keep them mentally kind of engaged,” Dunning said.

This way, when they're

finally handed over to a new owner, the animals are ready to adjust to a domestic environment. And even a pit bull used to getting passed over is prepared to enjoy a new life in a love home.

“Every animal that comes in here is a new opportunity,” Dygert said. “And we make people happy, too.”

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From left: Hillary Borrud, Mateusz Perkowski, Paris Achen

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