

# Official Craig Chaquico Fan Club



## Gathering of the Tribes

Fall 2009

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### CRAIG UPDATE

Fall Greetings Club Members!

It has been a truly exciting summer for the band and me as we've been busy touring in support of my new CD - Follow the Sun. The feedback from everyone has been so gratifying and I am so happy to know that you are enjoying my latest artistic journey. That means a lot!

The first single from the CD, a cover of the great Kenny G hit, *Songbird*, is doing tremendously well and has flown up the charts. On August 28 it reached the top five as is still number four on the Smooth Jazz charts as of September 8, and it continues to climb, so keep an eye out for more updates and remember to request the song from your local Smooth Jazz stations nationwide. Let's make this one go all the way to number one!

It's interesting because when I started to work on the CD, I asked Lil what Kenny G song she thought I should cover, without hesitation, she said, "*Songbird*." Does this mean I owe the success of the song to her? Hmmm, maybe so, LOL, just as long as she doesn't start asking for royalties! It was great fun to cover a song that was originally done on the saxophone and converting that same energy with different facets of my own when bringing it to the guitar was an interesting journey.

I've always been impressed with Kenny's speed and also his achingly beautiful melodies. I originally thought I would approach my version of *Songbird* with a lot of fast playing that I'm known to do every now and then. However at least with my own guitar playing, I get tired of a lot of endless fast playing and really try to use it as an exclamation point at the end of a melodic statement. So, when I started riffing all over *Songbird* on guitar the way Kenny does on sax, I didn't think it sounded as good as when he did it so I decided to still keep a few fast passages in but to concentrate more on Kenny's beautiful melodies and give them a guitar feel. Hopefully, I did his magnificent song and original performance justice and he likes it when he hears it and hopefully he will still hear his melodies only with my interpretation on the guitar this time instead of his sax but still playing the guitar with a hint of the same memory of the wind beneath a Songbird's wings.

Twenty-five years after the original I wanted to give the new basic track a more modern up to date feel. As you may know my son Kyle inspired the move to acoustic guitar when my wife Kimberly became pregnant and the softer sounds of the acoustic guitar became a lot more welcome around the house than the loud electric.



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Well, again, Kyle sparked his old man's imagination by saving up and buying his own nice old used black on black tinted windows M3 BMW which he has tricked out with a killer sound system. I noticed how much of the music he was listening to had deep bass and rap based rhythm sections though I didn't like much of the lyrics but actually dug some of the arrangements and thought what if I used some of that modern rap rhythm section vibe and did a hybrid with my acoustic guitar and stereo FX. Maybe add some really sensual keyboards and bass?

I ran the idea by a few people who thought I was crazy and immediately took that as a GOOD SIGN. I called up producer, keyboardist, and programmer, Bill Heller, who has played on a lot of my CDs and on all the number one radio tracks and asked him what he thought. He also thought I was crazy, another GOOD SIGN! So, I asked him if he would maybe record the track with me, he said ok and in between his work with The Rippingtons he laid down the basic tracks for me and we went back and forth on it till we liked it. I have to tell you that he was the "jazz police" on a couple of takes I did where the guitar was actually in the wrong key. Hey, it sounded like rock and roll to me! We actually had changed the key from the original a few times and I guess some of the guitar parts had to change too. (Duh!) Funny thing though, some of them didn't. Miles Davis, baby, jazz means never having to say you're sorry.

Way back in the Jefferson Starship days when I played with virtuoso violin/fiddle player Papa John Creach (RIP). He told me one time at a rehearsal for a tour that sometimes he might make a mistake on stage and if that ever happened he played the same mistake again three or four more times. He said that way people thought Papa John did it on purpose and that's where jazz came from.

As I first mentioned, the band and I have been touring quite a lot in support of the album and I've found myself in places I haven't been in quite some time. Just recently we performed at the House of Blues in Orlando, FL and before that Austin and Houston, Texas. We just played in Snoqualmie, WA where they invited us back in February already and we just performed at the Kettle Moraine Jazz Festival in West Bend, WI. After that, we're heading to Denver, CO, Phoenix, AZ and then to CA for a few shows and another return to John Ascuaga's Nugget in the Celebrity show room in Reno, NV. Check out the tour update for the full scoop on tour dates and remember to keep up to date with dates at my MySpace page at [www.myspace.com/craigchaquico](http://www.myspace.com/craigchaquico) and also my Twitter updates at <http://twitter.com/Chaquico> yes, I have now joined the world of Twitter!!! Also, if you've not checked out my website lately [www.craigchaquico.com](http://www.craigchaquico.com), you might want to check it out, it has a new look and feel and we're working to bring some new content to it too!

In this issue of the newsletter you'll get a chance to meet my new Tour Manager, Booking Agent and all around rocking person, Tony Lopez. He is a great guy and he has really worked hard at getting me booked for so many shows this year, our nickname for him is Tony Rockens because he ROCKS, and he also has that total Tony Robbins vibe of how good isn't good enough and excellent needs to be beyond excellent! Works for me! Maybe it will rub off on me someday too?

If you're at any of my upcoming shows, I'm sure you'll have a chance to meet Tony. I am so enjoying having him on Team Chaquico. TCB along with Lil 24/7 and a way cool hang! By the way, Tony's teenage daughter, Lexi, age 14 designs and manages my MySpace page and has actually received an award for her work on it!!

For some needed breathing space, I recently took some time to enjoy the great outdoors and it was wonderful to commune with nature and get my bearings since I've been working non-stop. All of the touring can take its toll and a much needed break can go a long ways to restoring not only the soul but my sanity!

I discovered a fantastic campground on a lake at 4500 ft. called Howard Prairie with endless miles of hiking trails. It connects with the famous Pacific Crest Trail as well as the Oregon Trail, great for fishing, sailing, boating, canoeing, skiing, stargazing, horses and mountain bikes too. I've been doing it all with the family and playing guitar around the campfire. This could even be a tax write off! Maybe?

What's really cool though is that only a few miles from here they found the oldest human remains in North America at Paisley Caves, Oregon that are over 14,000 years old!!!! Prior to that, the oldest were around 12,000 I think in the South West? This exact spot here around the lake was an ancient Native American encampment, ceremonial site and trading spot for over 15 different tribes all the way from WA, OR and CA going back who knows how long. Maybe 14,000 years? Truly, there were many Gathering Of The Tribes here, they discovered many moons ago that this high plateau with a natural fresh water spring, river and wildlife was situated in a spot that made the summers cooler and the winters warmer than the surrounding areas. Most big storms are diverted by the natural topography. So, there are still many arrowheads and artifacts to be found from the ones who came before and to appreciate that spirit that still echoes in these magical quiet remote places. I have found several jasper and obsidian arrowheads and scraper tools already and have held them in my hand around the campfire before placing them back where I found them along the lake.

I'll be 55 this month and my friend who turned Kyle and me onto this place did so on his birthday July 4th. He has come back every year since he was a kid and brings his kids as many others do. Besides the natural beauty of this family oriented campground and area, he remembers the family of BALD EAGLES as a kid that would fly over the lake every day. Generations later there is still a family of bald eagles to be seen, one landed in my campsite on a tree branch! He also remembers the soft ice cream machine that still serves up the best ice cream cones I've ever had.

So, technology has its place here in this topography as I type this on my laptop typos and all and look forward to an ice cream cone when I'm done. I'll have to bug out of here and jet down to the valley to transmit this though. It's only 45 minutes on a fabulous super scenic mountain road between forest and volcano "Mountains in the Mist" to get back to my recording studio back in "the real world" or is this the real world???

Luckily I can get to and from pretty quick when I need to, sometimes swapping out one means of transportation for another. The "Acoustic Highway" road up here is perfect for sports cars and Harleys although a bit too challenging for me on a bicycle at my age to "get up the hill" on one of those even though I see a lot of people doing it who are older than me sometimes. Hmmm, never mind.

Did I mention I came up to camp for a weekend in July and ended up keeping the same campsite for over 45 days between concerts? Enjoy some photos from some truly "Sacred Ground".

Well, I'm off to the next adventure...getting ready for the shows in Snoqualmie and West Bend. See you out on the road!

Cheers!

Craig



## CHART NEWS!

### Smooth Jazz Top 10!

Rank	Artist	Listeners (millions)*	Buy
1	WALTER BEASLEY "Steady As She Goes"	2.96	BUY
2	PAUL HARDCASTLE featuring PAUL HARDCASTLE, JR. "The Circle"	2.57	BUY
3	RICHARD ELLIOT "Move On Up"	2.26	BUY
4	CRAIG CHAQUICO "Songbird"	2.04	BUY
5	BERNIE WILLIAMS "Go For It"	2.00	BUY
6	MELODY GARDOT "Who Will Comfort Me"	1.95	BUY
7	JESSY J "Tropical Rain"	1.87	BUY
8	DARREN RAHN "Talk of the Town"	1.79	BUY
9	BONEY JAMES "Send One Your Love"	1.76	BUY
10	BONEY JAMES "Touch"	1.47	BUY



"Moon Over the Water" shot  
Craig's campsite



*Congratulations Craig  
on the success of your  
rendition of Songbird!*



## MEET TONY LOPEZ

Here in his own words is a little about Mr. Rockens himself with a mini-interview thrown in for fun.

"I have been in the music business for almost 30 years now. I started at a young age as a roadie for local groups and through the years I met guys like Pat Travers, Robin McAuley (MSG), Michaels Schenker, Eddie Money, Robert Berry and many others. I just took it upon myself to make sure that I was working and making a living because when I grow up I still want to have a future. LOL."

So, we asked him:

1. How did you meet Craig and come to be his Tour Manager and main Booking Agent now?

Through hard work! I am focused on making him the main concern and not just thinking about what is good for the fans but what is good for him. Craig is absolutely one of the hardest working guys and all around extremely favorable human being and loves all his fans, his friends and family. I believe we will be at the Grammys very soon with my push and his talent..."To the moon Alice!!!"

2. What made you get into show business?

I was crazy I guess. No, seriously, I love the biz, it has its ups and downs but so does life itself.

3. What advice would you give to someone who wants to get into the business?

NOOOOOOOO don't do it! Seriously, if you have a passion and a love for great talent all the power to you, take it and run with it, don't stop. Just when you say I am so sick of this that is when you know that never will you work a real job again.

4. What is the most interesting or strangest thing you've ever seen on a tour?

That is a huge question, great and all, but I cannot answer that I love the CC fans to much to go into crazy road stories but read the book! LOL.

5. What do you find most rewarding about what you do?

Working everyday with such a rock-jazz star like Craig is definitely rewarding. I am not just saying that. He has proven to be very caring and took my family and made them his family. We have a great time on the road THE BEST GIG I HAVE EVER HAD!

6. Do you have a motto by which you live?

LIVE TODAY FOR TODAY, DON'T PLAN TOMORROW UNTIL TOMORROW, MAKE EVERY HOUR OF LIFE AND LIVE IT LIKE IT IS YOUR LAST, BE THE BEST EVERY HOUR OF EVERYDAY AND YOU WILL NOT BELIEVE THE OUTCOME!

7. What is your favorite quote and why?

"ALLLLRIGGGHHHTY THEN" - ACE VENTURA. Enough said.

## REMEMBERING LES PAUL

When I was in a bad car crash at age 12 with two broken arms, wrist, thumb, foot, ankle and leg, my dad encouraged me through my wheelchair, crutches, and corrective shoes recovery by telling me Les Paul had injured his hand and arm in a bad accident too.

Dad had been a professional musician in his youth and he told me that if Les Paul could get through that difficult time and injury and still be a great guitar player after that that I could too. He promised me if I really tried and worked hard at the physical therapy stuff (felt like forever!) he would buy me a Les Paul guitar when I was better. He kept his promise and years later I met Les and told him the story.

This was in the mid 90s after my own multi-platinum guitar gig with Jefferson Starship/Starship and the beginning of my Grammy-nominated solo instrumental stuff. So, we decided to have Les Paul sign a Levi jacket that I had drawn a Les Paul guitar on with a Magic Marker.

Then, we had some other guitar players I know sign it like Santana, Sammy Hagar, Slash, David Crosby, Eddie Van Halen and many others and we had it auctioned off in LA for one of the annual TJ Martell foundation cancer benefits.

So, I'm sure you will agree with me when I say, "Thanks Les! You and your music and inspiration will live on forever. Thanks, Dad, you too!"

By the way, Les told me he had to practice and learn how to sign his trademark signature that you see on all his guitars since it was totally created by the art dept at Gibson Guitars and he never signed his name that way till then. He was a pretty funny guy, great stories about him and Mary Ford.

Also, Steve Miller told me that Les knew Steve Miller's folks really well and would stay at their house on tour sometimes with Mary Ford back when little Steve Miller was a 7 year-old kid. I kid you not! Talk about fated to be a guitar player! Right? CC :)



*"Billy Gibbons from ZZ Top once told me that his favorite guitar nicknamed "Pearly Gates" (named after an exotic dancer) was none other than a vintage Les Paul guitar."*


 TOUR UPDATE

## 2009/10 SHOWS!!!

Sept. 26	Soiled Dove	Denver, CO
Oct. 7	Tommy T's	Pleasanton, CA
Oct. 10	JW Marriott Festival in the Desert	Phoenix, AZ
Oct. 11	Fleet Week Air Show	San Francisco, CA
Nov. 4 & 5	Orange Blossom Junction	Exeter, CA
Nov. 6	Cache Creek Casino	Brooks, CA
Dec. 12	Agua Caliente Casino	Rancho Mirage, CA
Mar. 20, 2010	JW Marriott at Desert Ridge	Phoenix, AZ
June 4, 2010	One World Theatre	Austin, TX

Check the website or Craig's MySpace for updates [www.craigchaquico.com](http://www.craigchaquico.com) or <http://www.myspace.com/craigchaquico>


 PRESIDENT'S NOTE


Hey Club CC Members!

Just popping in here to say hello, and I hope everyone had a great summer. Remember; if you are planning on attending any of the upcoming CC shows listed on the tour update please let me know. As you all know, Craig enjoys meeting all of his fans and if it's possible we can set up a meet and greet either before or after show, but we need to have an idea who all is going to be there.

I hope you all had a great summer. I am so happy to welcome fall and I am eager to say goodbye to triple digits...hopefully I can do that very soon! Don't get me wrong, I love the sun and warm weather and I wouldn't trade an Arizona sunset or view for anything but I am ready for cooler weather!

It's my sincere hope that you enjoyed this issue of Gathering of the Tribes. It is a true pleasure and honor to be a part of Craig's world and bring the "backstage" stories to you all. Remember, if you have questions for Craig or a Craig story to share please email them to [fanclub@craigchaquico.com](mailto:fanclub@craigchaquico.com).

All My Best,

Lil

