

Official Craig Chaquico Fan Club



Gathering of the Tribes

Winter 2005 Issue

Message from Craig

Happy New Year to Everyone!!!!!!

I hope everyone had a terrific holiday season and I offer my best wishes for a fantastic New Year. It seems that 2005 flew by so quickly, maybe it feels more so when you're as busy as I've been, and it's hard to believe we're on the verge of a brand new year!

Back in October, I released my first ever yuletide CD titled **Holiday**, and I've received such great feedback from everyone about it. In fact, it was in the Top 10 of Billboard Magazine's New Age Chart all month and it was the #1 most added at radio in smoothjazz.com's chart thanks to you! Also, the December 12th issue of USA Today picked **Holiday** as one of the CDs to get this Christmas!

Recently, we performed in Palm Desert, CA for our first ever Christmas show. Michael Lington also joined us as did up and coming FANTASTIC vocalist and entertainer, Brigitte Valdez. We had a blast performing some of the songs off of **Holiday** as well as a few of the songs with Brigitte and Michael. Additionally, we had some of the old favorites as part of the set and we were able to do a few other holiday themed shows in December.

My favorite moment was when we brought children from a local school in Palm Desert to sing a special song from **Holiday** titled "**Nonesuch/Ladies Bramzel**" that was performed by children and a teacher from my son's school in Ashland, OR on the CD. By the way, royalties from that song will benefit the school for years to come and will help pay for music and art programs which are sadly lacking these days in most schools, as well as field trips and more. It seems that our friends at NPR also enjoyed the song enough to play it this season too.

Looking ahead to 2006, I'm set to do a couple of shows in Reno, Nevada at John Ascuaga's Nugget as well as a show in April in Lancaster, CA. As the year progresses, more shows will be added and hopefully, we'll be coming to a city near you. I will also be working on a new CD to be released in 2006. The CD will contain new and original music so that will be exciting and of course time consuming, but so worthwhile too. We'll have updates in a future issue of the newsletter.

The band and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your amazing support, enthusiasm and positive feedback over the past year and past years as well. We all feel very lucky and blessed to be doing the thing that we love...our music together and with you all! All of this is made possible by you the fans and believe me, we appreciate it very much!!!!!!

I look forward to seeing what the New Year will bring, and Lil and I will be working on some exciting ideas for you all to enjoy in the coming year so stay tuned. Till then, fun for all and all for fun again this year. Be safe, be loved, be happy and give love and happiness to all!

Happy Holidays!

Craig

P.O. Box 10716, Phoenix, AZ 85064
Email: Fanclub@craigchaquico.com



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Update from Craig
2. Meet the Prez
3. The Holiday Scarf Story
4. Tour Update

"The band and I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your amazing support, enthusiasm and positive feedback over the past year and past years as well."



Meet the Prez Interview with Lil Duarte

For this issue of the newsletter, Craig and the band thought you'd like to get a little inside scoop on yours truly, so without further ado, here are some questions the guys recently asked me.

Wade Olson: *What is your favorite thing to do and/or place to go to get away from it all?*

Wow, there are so many places but my favorite would have to be Hawaii, specifically Oahu, it's such an incredible island the perfect blend of nightlife and shopping on one side with quiet solitude on the other, and that water is so incredible! As far as things to do, seeing and experiencing music of all types, traveling and the arts, I love to draw, people

mostly.

What is one song (with vocals) that is very close to you and why? Fly Me to the Moon, it's always been a song that has spoken to me for some reason, there are so many others but that one is special, it was also one of my dad's favorite songs.

Jim Reitzel: *Where did you grow up?* I grew up right here in Arizona, in a small town near Bisbee, AZ which is near Tombstone, AZ (the place of legends like Wyatt Earp).

When did you first realize music was so important to you? It's been important to me for as long as I can remember. I grew up with music in my house. My parents loved music, so I cut my teeth on stuff by Sinatra, Martin, and the other classic artists, as well as Elvis Presley...he was a favorite in our household, still is.

Who is your favorite singer and why? Living? I would have to say, and don't shoot me but Neil Diamond. He's an incredible songwriter, singer and performer, who doesn't love Sweet Caroline or Love on the Rocks? Not living? Elvis Presley...there's no contest there! I also loved Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Louis Prima, great artists all of them.

Of all the smooth jazz groups, what three groups stick out among the others and why? Groups, hmmm I see this as a question of a single artist and their incredible band or a group so I'd have to say Craig and all of you top my list, followed by Dave Koz and his great band, then perhaps Acoustic Alchemy. It's hard to narrow the field to three though.

Craig Chaquico: *With so much that needs to be done with the fan club and organizing the band and fans and schedules, how do YOU find the time to do this so well and what is the most fun thing doing the fan club and what is the least fun?* Well, my middle name isn't Super Girl for nothing! Ha ha. Seriously, even though there is quite a bit to running a fan club, it makes a huge difference if you really love what you're doing, because then it's not work, it's something that fulfills you personally and things fall into place. The most fun thing about the club is working with you and the guys, you all have been so supportive and great and I've really enjoyed meeting so many of your fans and hearing their stories about how your music inspires and touches them. The least fun thing...deadlines! Ha ha.

What is the funniest thing that has happened to you working with the band? Hmm, the story that stands out in my mind was the last time you played the Red River Music Hall here in Tempe, AZ. You were jamming to a song and walked out a door that you thought would bring you backstage, but the door led to the outside of the theatre so when the door closed you ended up being locked out of your own concert (laughs). The band continued playing on stage for the longest time with these expressions on their faces that were somewhat confused and they kept looking around for you. You finally appeared a long time later, but that moment of "where did Craig go?" look that crossed their faces was priceless.

There are many things above and beyond the normal concert and recording schedule that warms my heart as a musician, and many things like that which you have helped coordinate and follow up on (meet & greets, backstage meets, hospital visits and special attention to fan club members at shows and autographed CDs and posters that come through the fan club and concert and song title ideas fans pass along, as well as fan photos that end up on CD artwork or the webpage, etc.). What is your favorite thing along these lines that you enjoy helping with? It's hard to pick one of those things, because they all work in concert (pardon the pun) together to bring you closer to your fans, seeing the look on someone's face when they meet you for the first time and knowing I helped to be a part of that process is very fulfilling. Or seeing the eyes of a child when you come to play for them at a hospital, there are no words to express what that brings to my heart.

I know your sister is an awesome singer, but if you could play any instrument besides a guitar and besides sing, what would it be and why? (For me it would be sax, but it'd probably end up being kazoo...what about you?) It probably would be the sax as well. I have been a fan of Dave Koz's incredible talent for a very long time, when I hear him play, the sound of the instrument is incredible, there's a special magic to the sax. Of course, I'd love to play guitar too. I took lessons a few years back (classical Spanish guitar) and loved it, but it's been so long since I've played. I think I can still play Good King Wenceslas though. Ha ha. I love so many things about music and each instrument is special but guitar and sax are my favorites!

The Story of the Christmas Scarf by Craig

Some of you may have noticed that Craig's newest CD - **Holiday**, has a beautiful scarf featured both on the inside and on the back of the CD. For those of you who've wondered about this special scarf, here's a little background story on how the scarf came to be.

"I was on the road touring, while back at home my wife Kim and my son Kyle were getting ready for the holidays, putting up the decorations, doing the shopping, etc. One day they went to a local Chinese restaurant in town to get take-out and while they waited, Kyle sat knitting a surprise winter Christmas present for me.

Kyle learned to knit with his classmates at the school that produced such fine singers on the **Holiday** CD and as he sat with his baseball cap on backwards, his biker wallet and chain and skateboard shoes on, he looked like the last person you would expect to be seen knitting in public. He was deep in concentration knitting away when in walked a biker dude who took notice of Kyle's knitting efforts and came over to watch my son knit.

This biker dude was replete with long hair in a ponytail, tattoos, a leather vest, boots and all the accoutrements of a biker, so you can imagine he must have been a pretty scary looking guy. As he watched Kyle knitting, Kim ever the mom lioness, eyed him warily just waiting to see what he would say and ready to jump to the defense of our son. As she watched him she thought, "Dude don't even THINK about embarrassing my son about this!"

After a moment, the biker asked Kyle, "What are you doing, man?" Ever so calmly, Kyle looked up and said "I'm knitting a scarf, maaannnn," then continued with his task.

The biker then straightened up, seeming to get even taller, looked down and much to the surprise of Kyle and Kim said the following. "Cool dude, I do a lot of needlepoint myself, mostly nature scenes with trees, eagles, bears, wolves, horses, mountains and stuff."

This just goes to show that you should never judge a book by its cover. You never know, deep within the heart of a biker may be a needle pointer, a poet, an artist or some other such artistic talent. Hey, I ride a Harley myself and just picked up a cool leather Harley-Davidson leather guitar strap as a Christmas present to myself. I also gave one to Jim for his bass! So, just because someone seems to be one thing, they have many facets to them that reveal them to be much more. May this holiday season be good to you and yours, and may your days and nights be as warm as the comfortable scarf my son made for me."

Craig



"I was on the road touring, while back at home my wife Kim and my son Kyle were getting ready for the holidays, putting up the decorations, doing the shopping, etc."

President: Lillian Duarte

Contributing Writers/Other Credits: Craig Chaquico, Lillian Duarte, Wade Olson, Jim Reitzel.

Photo Credits: Craig Chaquico, Lillian Duarte, Jason Imber Photography, Mark Richards



December 30

February 24 & 25

April 23

Tour Update

Celebrity Theatre, Phoenix, AZ

2006 Dates!

John Ascuaga's Nugget, Reno NV

Poppy Festival, Lancaster, CA

Check the website for updates!!!!

2005 Fan Club Retrospective

