

Official Craig Chaquico Fan Club



Gathering of the Tribes Winter/Spring 2005

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Message from Craig:

By Craig

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Inspired by the expression "jazz noon" (a.k.a. 12AM midnight), the tunes on contemporary jazz icon Craig Chaquico's new album, MIDNIGHT NOON, are inspired by contrast and made to get you thinking about how maybe sometimes opposites do attract.

Happy Spring!

It's hard to believe that we're already well into 2005, 2004 flew by didn't it?! Here's wishing each and every one of you all the best this year and I hope you all had a great holiday season, Valentine's Day, and St. Patrick's Day too!

We closed 2004 up with a fantastic concert in Rancho Mirage, CA on December 31, at the beautiful Rancho Las Palmas Resort. For those of you that were able to make it to the show, I hope you had as great a time at the show as we all did putting it on, it was a packed house of folks dressed to the nines ready to party and ring in 2005 in style, including the lovely and charming, Congresswoman Mary Bono from the 45th district of California and her husband.

She even laughed when I asked if I could call her if any of the fan club members ever got any California speeding tickets on the way to a gig or came up short on their state income taxes in California after spending the extra money on concerts, CDs or memberships. However, I would highly recommend we all still obey the posted California speed limits and pay our taxes in April as always! Seriously, Mary was really familiar with all our music and even made a request for a song from our 1st CD that we were able to play literally in her honor at this benefit concert in Palm Springs.

I am sure that for the band and I and many of the fans that the high point was being able to have our fantastic fan club president, Lil Duarte, and her family sometimes be at some of the most fun concerts along with all of us! THANK YOU, Lil!!!! We are looking forward to more in 2005!

Starting in November and in Palm Springs I was also able to included many of the new songs into the set list as possible and I hope those of you who were there enjoyed the new stories and so forth we loved sharing.

As I head into 2005, I am thankful for many great things that 2004 brought to me and hopefully all of us...meeting such great fans on the road, losing the football bet to "Skip" in Milwaukee and having fun getting his "payment" from the west coast together ASAP. Having a new CD released, and a full recovery from my hand injury, for good friends, family, great health, and for 13 yr old Kyle coming in 1st in his first martial arts tournament! It doesn't get much better than that!

My thoughts also turn to those less fortunate, most especially everyone who lost loved ones, their homes and now turn to rebuild the damage caused by the tsunami

that hit with such force and magnitude, the Florida hurricane season, and all the flooding in California and throughout the country this winter. Wheeew!

On a more positive note, I can't wait to see what this year will bring, I know I will see many more of your smiling and supportive faces out there and I look forward to saying hi and meeting all those fans who've been so great throughout this past year and throughout all those reeling years we've shared together!

We certainly enjoyed the wild pendulum swing of the last year's touring schedule with all of you starting from our "Dream Date" sold-out tour of world famous, world class, premier jazz clubs across the country in 2004 that started in a chilly November with 12 shows in 7 days and 7 cities including the Blue Note in NY, that was so well received we extended it to The Coach House in San Juan Capistrano, CA, on New Year's Day. Then on to Kimball's East in the Bay Area March 17-20 this year all the way to the other side of the spectrum of one show in 7 days at the same beach-side luxury resort hotel with friends, family and fans at the 1st annual Craig Chaquico Cafe Carnival event with Higher Octave Music and Funjet in sunny Puerto Vallarta, Mexico!!!

Talk about extremes and being able to enjoying both ends of the spectrum with everybody! The rest of this year's touring schedule is shaping up quite nicely too and I urge you to check out my website www.craigchaquico.com every so often for those updates (especially since sometimes I hear about the shows from YOU first!) and for seeing postings of some of YOUR photos you've sent to us from some of these concerts together too. THANKS!

I will try to make it to a city or town near you, and I hope that you come by to catch a show at various points on the road. I think you will really enjoy the new material, new stories and other great production surprises we have in store for you all. Plus, hopefully more opportunities for special fan club only meet and greets and backstage photo ops! Plus, you should know you can always get in contact with Lil when you are going to be at a show and we will always do our best to do something special just for you as a club member if we know you are going to be there! But, you have to let us know!

As always, we're building this fan club for YOU and we are always looking for ideas and input to make it better, please let Lil know your thoughts on this and I know as a team we can make things even better! As always, thanks for all the ideas and especially the wonderful thoughts, wishes and words of encouragement along the way, and please keep those cool concert photos coming!

Craig

A Craig comment on Midnight Noon:

"I can definitely hear places where the type of guitar I played seemed to ask me the question of, "How would Hendrix play me in this part, or Stevie Ray Vaughn, or Duane Allman, or George Benson, or Larry Carlton, or Clapton?"

Craig Chaquico

Upbeat with Wade Olson

This time around we're getting the down low on Mr. Wade Olson, drummer extraordinaire. Here's a little background on him!

"I was born in Minneapolis, MN & grew up in Grand Forks, ND; my skin got pretty tough enduring those minus 20 degree winters (laughs). My dad was a chiropractor & somehow we ended up there for his profession. I first picked up a pair of drumsticks at age 10 & I knew right away that this was something I was gonna do for a long time. It came pretty easily to me in the beginning, my father practiced tap dancing as a kid & from what I understand he was quite good at it. I'm sure that is where I became rhythmically inclined because nobody else in my family really has any sense of it as far as I know. I played all through my schooling years in as many of the different types of bands offered-Symphony, Jazz, Marching, & Percussion Ensembles on top of continued lessons. Oh and of course my favorite "the local rock band!" My friends & I had a blast giving the neighbors headaches."



Wade be jammin'

1. *How long have you been in the business and what was your first pro gig?* I have been in the biz professionally for about 12 ½ years. My first pro gig was with Craig Chaquico, I had been in a few original projects prior & did some opening slots for signed acts but actually getting the first 'break' was with Craig.
2. *What was the first concert you ever went to & was that experience instrumental in getting you to chose the music industry as a profession?* I honestly can't recall the first concert I ever went to. However, what really influenced me believe it or not was attending college basketball games with my dad growing up. I never watched the game; I was always watching the band that played during timeouts & intermissions. My eyes were always glued to the drummer. Those guys really hit the drums!
3. *What is the most exciting/memorable concert performance that you've ever played & what made it so?* The most memorable performance I had the opportunity to be involved with was down in Cabo San Lucas in 1992. I was working in a rock project with Craig called Big Bad Wolf & we were invited by Sammy Hagar to be a part of a live show that was gonna be broadcast all over the country at the club Cabo Wabo. It was awesome! Playing to about 1,000 crazy fans in the audience & knowing you are being heard across the country at that moment to possibly millions-not bad for one of my first gigs with Craig. That one is still going to be hard to top.
4. *If you weren't in the music biz, what other profession would you undertake?* This one is a difficult question. I feel very fortunate to be able to have a passion & to use it professionally. So many people have passions of their own but aren't able to use them at the levels that they wish they could because of situations or circumstances that don't allow it to happen. Other people go through life trying to find that passion or love & just never get there. I love music & if I weren't playing drums professionally I think I would do something else involving music but not on the playing side. It would be very difficult to leave music all together
5. *If you were required to change places with another musical artist alive today who would you chose and why?* I admire & respect a lot of artists. There are so many talented individuals out there right now. I have artists & bands that I listen to for inspiration that changes weekly if not daily sometimes for me. As far as changing places with somebody, I guess I'll pinpoint this to where I'm at on a career level; two names stand out for me at this time-Kenny Aronoff & Mike Portnoy. These two guys work harder than any other drummers I can think of. Recording with multiple artists & then touring in between with their own recording projects. Getting to a point where you have that kind of reputation is very, very hard work & it's something to strive for.
6. *Do you have any hobbies or interests?* Football! Football! Football! I've been way into since I started rooting for the Minnesota Vikings with my dad when I was young. I remember him screamin' at 'em when they screwed up & now here I am doing the same (laughs) I also like to balance my life with other things. Getting out into nature when time permits is a must whether it be hiking, biking, getting out to the ocean, or taking a drive up to the Sierras for part of a day. Driving is something I've always enjoyed as well. Getting in the car & like I said taking a drive out to the ocean or up to Lake Tahoe can be therapy in itself. I am very fortunate to live in a place where I have all of those options available. I love California.
7. *What one principal or belief has been the most empowering to you over the years when you've run up against challenges and roadblocks?* Perseverance, stick to the plan no matter what! My goal was to play drums professionally & even when I invested major amounts of time with musical projects that didn't pan out, I STILL stay focused, then Craig saw me playing in one of my other projects; I was in about four projects at that time. I think about that once in a while. If I had not been in the project that he saw I might not be playing professionally right now with him talking about all the great places I've played & looking forward to many more great gigs to come. I have a talent & I don't take that for granted. I look forward to using my talent for many years to come.

Q & A with Craig



*Thank you very much,
thank you.*

Craig,

Artists often write songs that are very autobiographical, how often do you write music that is influenced by an event or something that happened to someone else? And how easily does that translate into your songs?

Derek, Denver, CO

Hey Derek!

For me, most of the inspiration for the songs comes from personal experiences and emotions that hopefully come through in the music, but so many of those experiences and emotions are shared and inspired at the time with and by others who are also part of the event(s) that inspire the songs! I can't say many of the songs were inspired by events that happened to other people, but many of the songs have been written for and inspired by other people and the way they have inspired me along the way, and events we've maybe shared too.

I think maybe when anybody hears a certain emotion or feeling in one of my songs whether it's happiness, sadness, joy of life, romance, the beauty of nature, excitement, adventure, mystery, etc., that it reminds them of their own personal experiences, memories, and feelings which we all share and have in common anyway.

As it was once put to me at a Pow Wow we played at, "Don't we all breathe the same air as the mountains breath; the same air that whispers in the trees; drink the same water that burbles and chuckles in the creeks and canyons and along our shores; aren't we all the same tribe; the same race; the human race; aren't we all brothers and sisters under the same Milky Way?"

Hey brother, Derek, hope to see you and the family again soon and say HI to your dad and Joan for all of us! Looking forward to when all of our paths may cross again soon amigo! Ride safe till then!

Craig,

I've learned through seeing you at your concerts this past year that your Mom and Dad were big influences of your musical background however, who were some of your favorite musical artists/bands through the years?

Keep doing what you're doing because there are so many of us out here that just adore you, not only for your music but for the wonderful person you are. Travel safe, travel well, and we will see you again.

Always, Sherry, Milwaukee, WI

Hi Sherry,

Thank you! I wouldn't be lying if I said people like you have been a big influence and inspiration to me and my music with just listening to my music and for those kinds of words of encouragement! People like you are the people we make the music for!

"Don't we all breathe the same air as the mountains breath; the same air that whispers in the trees; drink the same water that burbles and chuckles in the creeks and canyons and along our shores; aren't we all the same tribe; the same race; the human race; aren't we all brothers and sisters under the same Milky Way?"

Q & A Continued

I've often said that I had posters of all my guitar heroes on the wall when I was a kid learning to play guitar but that now that I'm older w/my own family, I realize the real heroes were my parents who supported my music and who had the courage to get up every morning and keep the day jobs they had that supported a family and afforded to buy me my first guitar and the walls around me that had all those posters on them w/a roof over my head!

Off the top of my head musically, my biggest influences were Hendrix, Clapton, Santana, Jeff Beck, Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, and Allman Bros on one side with Wes Montgomery, David Sanborn, Chet Atkins, Larry Carlton, George Benson, Weather Report, Jazz Crusaders, Sly and the Family Stone, and Booker T. On the other hand, but only to name a FEW then, there have been so many of my influences that have also appeared to be my contemporaries simply because we were all on the same radio stations, or concert stages, or music charts together from the 70s to the 80s to the 90s to now in the 00s. But, I think many people may be surprised that even after doing concerts with some of these guys, sharing the stage with some of them and even having some of them play on my own CDs now, that I am still pretty awestruck in their musical presence.

Just between you and me, the guys in my band fall under that category of musicians making me feel pretty awestruck in their presence too. Just come to a show and I'm sure you will see and HEAR what I mean. :)

Thanks again, Sherry! I hope to see you again soon in one of my favorites cities, Milwaukee! (My favorite record label is based outta there and so is my favorite motorcycle company, we will all be at the Osthoff Resort soon.) See ya there!

Craig,

Will you ever come out with a live album based on your solo career?

Thanks, Roger, Orlando, FL

Hi Roger!

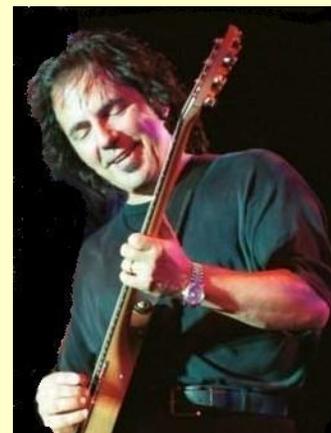
That's a great question, and one that I have asked myself every time we finish a concert and look around all of us in the band backstage, before the encore and we all say, "MAN what a great audience, where did those new musical ideas come from on stage outta nowhere, we should have recorded all of this, filmed all of this!"

Plus besides the fact that "live" in concert each night the music itself that we have recorded sometimes changes and becomes more "ALIVE" with the spontaneous interaction on stage, besides that, we often also hear from fans that they wish they could get some of the concert "song stories" on a CD or DVD somehow. Well, at least we hear that from the fans that haven't seen us to many times on the same tour anyway.

I am happy to say that the wheels are in motion to maybe capture some of all that on stage and in the audience someday soon on a live CD/DVD package with backstage footage, tour bus footage, maybe even some classic rock musical history going back to when I was topping the charts w/my first band, Jefferson Starship and Starship in the 70s, 80s, and now w/my own band in the 90s and 00s!!

Either way, the fan club will be the first to know when and where we go to record all of this! By the way, there have been quite a few memorable concerts for us in Florida, hope to see you there again soon!

"Just between you and me, the guys in my band fall under that category of musicians making me feel pretty awestruck in their presence too. Just come to a show and I'm sure you will see and HEAR what I mean."



Tour Update

April 4-8	KAJZ guest DJ & concert, Albuquerque, NM <i>(more details available soon!)</i>
May 20	Jazz on the Vine, Elkhart Lake, WI
June 8-9	St. Louis, MO <i>(more details available soon!)</i>
June 11	Coombs River Ranch, Madera, CA
July 3	Star Spangled Fourth, Garland, TX
July 15	Marriott - Harley-Davidson Fundraiser Solo Performance, Dublin, OH
July 23	Wilson Creek Winery, Temecula, CA
July 29	Hoffman Theatre, Walnut Creek, CA
August 19	Villa Montalvo, Saratoga, CA
August 26	Center for the Performing Arts, Cerritos, CA <i>(co-headline concert w/ David Sanborn)</i>
September 3	Spring Mountain State Park, Las Vegas, NV <i>(more details available soon!)</i>
September 4	Taste of Colorado, Denver, CO
November 12-19	Rick's Braun's All-Star Caribbean Smooth Jazz Cruise www.allstarcruise.com

Check the website for updates!!!!

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