

Straytown

UPDATES AND INFORMATION

ISSUE 1.0 - MARCH 2008

Featured Artist - Tom Weldon

Tom Weldon is an absolutely stunning young songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist. Moody, dark and strangely addictive music, combine with his fantastically talented band to deliver something very special.

Tom's album - What We Went Through - will be launched in early summer and features:

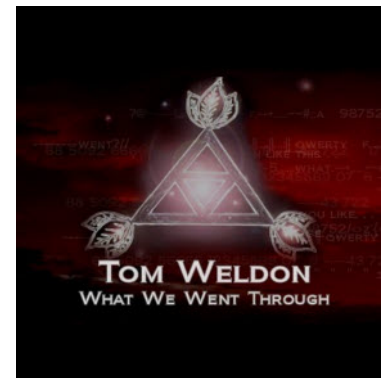
1. Teenage Girl Anxiety
2. This House is Crumbling
3. If We Can't
4. UNTITLED
5. Here's Your Credit Where Credit's Due
6. Blame Me (You and Us)
7. Those Eyes
8. Transatlanticism
9. All I Need (Here With Me)
10. Smooth

'What We Went Through', the debut album from The Tom Weldon Band is the product of almost two years hard work, line-up changes, solo performances and musical experimentation.

The process started with recording a full album's worth of dark, concept-driven rock music. But after a summer of solo performances, Tom began writing more and more introspective and musical songs, with a shift of influences away from rock, towards the likes of Jeff Buckley and David Bowie. That meant that the songs recorded to date did not feel relevant and didn't live up to the potential of The Tom Weldon Band - **so they were axed.**

A brave decision for Tom and label boss Laurie Hopkins, but after gigging and working on new material, recording it began in November '07.

The Tom Weldon Band is currently finalising the mixes and masters of the ten-track album. This is expected to be completed sometime in April '08, when The Tom Weldon Band will be out and about again gigging this new material to promote the album's July launch.



What We Went Through from Tom Weldon will be available early summer

www.tomweldon.co.uk
www.myspace.com/tomweldon

IN THIS ISSUE

- 1 Featured Artist - Tom Weldon
- 1 A bit of Italy comes to Straytown
- 2 Latest releases from Straytown
- 2 Live Listings
- 3 A Word from The Guv'nor
- 3 The Straytown Roster
- 4 Straytown - the complete works
- 4 Contact Details

A bit of Italy comes to Straytown

Straytown has signed top Italian folk/blues band 'Dago Red' on a marketing and distribution deal for the band's forthcoming album and back catalogue.

Straytown has exclusive UK rights to sell the band's CDs, and will handle international online sales through iTunes and other download outlets.

Laurie Hopkins, said; "Dago Red play fine folk and blues and have already built quite a following across Europe. They've also received a fair bit of radio play on BBC regional programmes, so we are absolutely delighted such an internationally well known act has chosen to sign with us."

Dago Red will be playing a mini-tour of England in June including dates in London and North Yorkshire. Dates will be announced shortly.



Italian Folk/Blues band Dago Red

NEW RELEASES

DATE	ARTIST / TITLE	DESCRIPTION
29th March 2008	Pete Oliver - 25 Years in a Leaky Boat	Pete's debut album of jazzy, funky music underpinned by top quality bass playing.
June 2008	Dago Red - New Album (t.b.a.)	Dago Red's third album.
June 2008	Hargreaves - (Bad,) Bad Girl EP	Hargreaves' debut four track release featuring the blues boogie '(Bad,) Bad Girl'.
July 2008	Tom Weldon - What We Went Through	Two years of work have gone into this brilliant album of introspective melodramatic pop and rock.
August 2008	Hargreaves - Sooner if not Later	Debut album of soul influenced country and blues

LIVE LISTINGS

DATE	ARTIST	VENUE	NOTES
14th March	Hargreaves	The Primrose, Leeds	Part of a 5-act bill Brian's come back gig Launch Party for '25 Years in a Leaky Boat'
23rd March	Bluesville	The Blues Bar, Harrogate	
29th March	Pete Oliver	The West Park Hotel, Harrogate	
8th April	Tom Weldon Band	Joseph's Well, Leeds	Private Party
9th April	Tom Weldon Band	The Blues Bar, Harrogate	
10th April	Beauty and the Beasts	The Alexandra, Harrogate	
11th April	Bluesville	Duck and Drake, Leeds	
12th April	Beauty and the Beasts	Private Party, Gt. Ousburn	
16th April	Tom Weldon Band	Snooty Fox, Wakefield	
19th April	Tom Weldon Band	The Cavern, Liverpool	
19th April	Beauty and the Beasts	Private Party, Ripon	
25th April	Bluesville	The World's End, Knaresborough	
17th May	Tom Weldon	The Black Swan, Harrogate	
18th May	Bluesville & Hargreaves	The Fairways, Rotherham	
23rd May	Bluesville	The Blues Bar, Harrogate	Private Wedding Party
6th June	Bluesville	The World's End, Knaresborough	
5th July	Bluesville	Duck and Drake, Leeds	
25th July	Bluesville	The Blues Bar, Harrogate	
15th August	Bluesville	The World's End, Knaresborough	
31st August	Hargreaves	Sun Pavilion, Harrogate	
7th Sept.	Bluesville	Duck and Drake, Leeds	
27th Nov.	Beauty and the Beasts	The Alexandra, Harrogate	



A word from The Guv'nor

Founder and Managing Director, Laurie Hopkins, speaks his mind about the music industry and recording. This month, the damage that on-line, downloaded music is doing to new talent playing the most popular music genres.

Pop musicians at the top of their profession have never been so famous and never earned so much money, not in any small part due to the rise of sales of MP3 files downloaded to iPods and similar personal music players. But frankly, unless you can sell absolutely huge volumes, there is no money in it for the artist. And I think that's a problem for the future of pop music. By contrast, audiences of more niche genres (at least niche in the UK) such as Blues, Folk, Jazz and Country are still keen to buy albums and CDs,

and even vinyl at prices that mean both the label and the artist get a fair price for their work. What this means to any astute musician who hopes to make a living from their talent is that pop has (referring to the 80's New Wave band) eaten itself and they had better start thinking about some other form of music. Basically, unless you have a proven track record you had better forget trying to get a major label to take any interest in you, particularly if you play pop or indie music. And THAT'S where I see one of the things that Straytown can do - to provide a platform for new artists to prove themselves.

It's been done before of course - the punk revolution in the Seventies shook up music big style, but this is different - this is all about risk management. The big labels have hit a harsh commercial reality - they

have too many artists being paid too much money to create insufficient recording sales. So if you want a big label contract you need to prove you can make great records to a budget *and* sell them before they will even look at you.

Unfortunately, despite what MySpace and Facebook would have you believe, you need marketing and promotion because like it or lump it, today's pop buyers are used to being bombarded with advertising and press coverage to tell them what to buy. And that means working with an independent like Straytown first.

But if you want to play Jazz, Blues, Folk or Country, believe it or not, a large part of the audience will value you because you are NOT on a big label. It's mad, but I'm not complaining about that bit. Cheers - **Laurie**

THE STRAYTOWN ROSTER

- Beauty And The Beasts** Entertain with a passion and enthusiasm rarely found in unsigned bands.
- Blue Kings** A five piece blues combo - blues lovers, rock solid in their appreciation of a genre that is without doubt popular music's most vital and emotional.
- Bluesville** Bluesy, Mellow, Rockin' & Funky! Fantastic Live.
- Kill Freida** These boys put the DEATH in METAL. Quite simply awesome!!
- The Side Effects** Infectious, punked up funk, grabbing audiences wherever they play.
- Tom Weldon** An absolutely stunning young songwriter, multi-instrumentalist and vocalist. Moody, dark and strangely addictive music.
- UK Blues Project** The best in hard blues. "No Rush" - Their philosophy and the name of their latest Album - a blues master class!!
- UniSax** Great Sax Quartet from Harrogate - young, talented, handsome, doh! some guys have all the luck - Check it out!
- Hargreaves** Soul influenced blues and country with great vocals
- Pete Oliver** Songwriter, Bassist, Arranger - the complete package.
- Dago Red** The best in Folk and acoustic blues
- Moneyshot** Glam Rock for the 21st Century!!

STRAYTOWN LIMITED - THE COMPLETE WORKS

Anyone can set up a record label, right? And all you need to make music is a computer and a copy of Cubase, yeah? So what is it that Straytown Records offers that you can't get elsewhere? Well ...

... one of the first things we can offer is what you're currently looking at - marketing. We're not a marketing company, but we're from corporate backgrounds, so we understand that no matter how good your recordings, they ain't gonna sell themselves without a bit of help, and before you can sell them you've got to make damn sure they are presented in a way that appeals to prospective buyers. So every band signed to Straytown gets support with their marketing as part of the deal.

We offer a complete service, from rehearsal space, to recording, mixing, mastering, duplication, distribution and promotion. We're also building a list of professional partners who can help with printing, PR, gig booking, p.a. hire, contracts and countless other services that bands need but would rather not have to source for themselves.

Our recording studios offer all the facilities needed by bands and solo artists, and we can even handle small ensemble groups - or else use our portable facilities to record larger groups such as swing bands or orchestras in an off-site location.

As Claire Ashton, singer/songwriter with country/blues band Hargreaves says; "Straytown is the perfect label for us because it provides everything we need in a flexible framework. We



work at our own pace knowing that we've got access to everything we need at a sensible price. We can just get on with our music."

Straytown

Straytown Limited

Straytown Studios
76 Cornwall Road
Harrogate
North Yorkshire
HG1 2NE
Tel: 0845 9000 686
Email: info@straytown.com
www.straytown.com

Recording Studio Tech Spec

The studio is equipped with just about everything you need to produce top quality professional digital recordings.

Computer:

Ultra quiet 64 bit Quad Core PC with 4 Gbytes RAM & 2 Tbytes Storage

Dual screens

Phonic 18 + 8 Mixing Desk/Sound Card interface

M Audio & JBL near field monitors

Software:

Cubase 4 + many plugins

Mics:

Studio Electronics
Sure
AKG
Peavey

Amps:

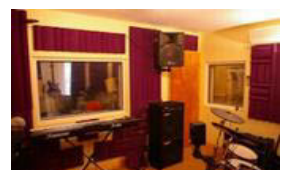
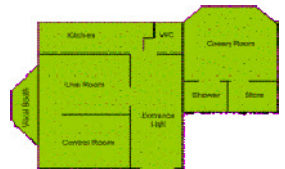
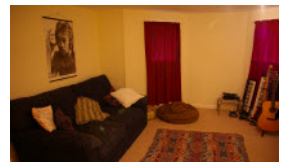
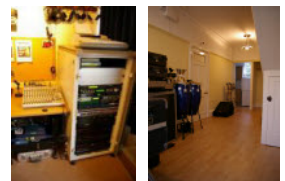
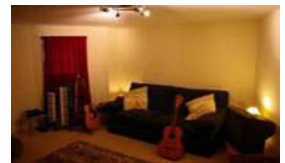
Marshall Valvestate
Fender DeVille
Laney valve combo
Ampeg
Revo (keys & bass)

Drums:

Premier kit
Various cymbals

Keys & Modules:

Studiologic SL880 fully weighted keyboard controller
Proteus 2000 Studio keyboard module
Yamaha RM50 studio module



Newsletter produced for Straytown Limited by:

Hargreaves and Webb PR Ltd

48b Tennyson Avenue
Bilton
Harrogate
HG1 3LF
Tel/Mob +44 1423 521952 / +44 797 318 6663
Chris.webb@hargreavesandwebb.com
www.hargreavesandwebb.com