



So much going on at the Oak, I had to create a newsletter!

by Lindsey Eck, Producer-Publisher, The Corner Oak

Hey, this little tree of mine has started to spread itself so wide that the occasional Web update just won't suffice. So I've created *The Log* as a newsletter for all the businesses and artists under the shade of the Oak. Further issues will come out whenever there's enough news to fill them.

Besides being part of other projects featured in this newsletter, I'm having my own season of achievement:

- I was delighted to take **second place in the Reggae / Hip-Hop / Rap category** in the **Austin Songwriters Group's most recent song contest**, for "Identity." (The other song from 2008's *Patriot*, besides "Too Big to Fail.")
- I'm giving a talk on Friday 10 September at the McDade Jam, McDade VFW Hall, around 7:45, called "So You Want to Record?" I'll be exploring how digital media have enabled musicians on puny budgets to make radio-quality recordings, and how that's revolutionizing the music business. To be broadcast later on Bastrop community-access cable.

- I am also delighted so be headlining on the stage of the **22nd annual Vegan Chili Cookoff**, Sunday, 7 November, starting at 1 p.m. My friends the **Tombstone Bullies** will join me, with other special guests to be announced. The plan is for a number of short sets throughout the afternoon. Join us at the farmers' market, Burnet Road, Austin. Since I've got a good two hours or more to fill, this is a good chance to see me reach deep into my catalog and pull out some material I don't do every day.

All that is great for my ego, but what really makes me happy is to have helped other fine artists, family as well as friends, further their craft. I think the stories in this issue of *The Log* speak for the talent of everyone associated with The Corner Oak, and it is a joy to be the catalyst for so much creativity.



Photo: Robert Izzo

Meditation for Interpersonal Relations Dani Staite's new CD now available online

Following up on the 2009 release of *Meditation for Healing*, which saw online sales as far away as Northern Ireland and Australia, **Daniel Staite** returns with *Meditation for Interpersonal Relations* (Blue Oak DS1001). Whereas *Healing* asked listeners to focus on pink light, this time both pink and gold are invoked. The meditation invites you to send love and joy to members of your interpersonal circle.

Dani's been busy writing, with two articles published this summer in *Austin All Natural* and a book manuscript currently being edited at **The Corner Oak**. A coordinated marketing campaign will link the book and CD releases.

Daniel Staite learned shamanic practices and rites at the knee of his Canadian First Nations grandmother. Later, he served in Korea in the U.S. Marine Corps. He has cultivated spiritual practices of many traditions, including North American Native, East Asian, South Asian, and Christian. His CD series manifests his desire to send forth a positive, healing meditation system, already proven among his own interpersonal circle, to the world.

Like *Meditation for Healing*, Dani's new CD was produced by **Lindsey Eck**, who composed the background tones based on Dani's instructions. Different tones correspond to different chakras as the focal point of the meditation rises. Like the previous album, *Interpersonal Relations* is backed with a rain track, plus the new disk also adds a heartbeat that gradually slows as the meditation progresses. Again there is a final track called "Self-Discovery," with no narration—just tones, rain, and heartbeats.

Buy or Download Blue Oak CDs online!



www.cdbaby.com/cd/danielstaite2



www.cdbaby.com/cd/danielstaite



www.cdbaby.com/cd/lindseyeck

Blacktop Bend Enters Studio, Plows Through Grass

The newest band signed to the Blue Oak label fuses originality and tradition. Pflugerville, Texas-based **Blacktop Bend** brings tight string-band rhythms together with polished harmonies. The band's live shows have earned Blacktop Bend a growing list of fans. Soon those fans will be able to purchase their songs on an album, featuring both the original songs of singer-guitarist **George Rios** and bluegrass standards such as "Long Black Veil."

Formed in spring 2005 by George Rios (guitar) and **Will Grover** (mandolin), Blacktop Bend has undergone a musical evolution as unique as the music it has produced. As newcomers to the bluegrass scene, the two sought to define themselves within the framework of their bluegrass favorites while establishing a voice of their own, drawing on an array of influences and varied musical backgrounds. This voice is finally becoming evident in their soon-to-be-released debut CD, being recorded at **Blue Oak Studio Space** with bassist **Justin Chomel** and banjo player **Janice Larsen** and produced by **Lindsey Eck**.

Live performance is central to Blacktop Bend's presence in today's eclectic Austin acoustic scene. Touring since 2005, the band has developed great versatility in its performances, wowing audiences across Texas. The mix of original compositions with

traditional bluegrass numbers gives the band a broad spectrum in which to display their technical chops, vocal abilities, and lyrical insight. A spirit of improvisation remains evident in live shows, which contributes to an ever growing population of returning fans.



Vocali Premieres 3 Full-Length Patricia Long Works

After more than a decade writing and perfecting three long contemporary-classical pieces, Austin-area composer **Patricia Long** had the pleasure of seeing them all performed on 19 June by the distinguished choral and orchestral group **Vocali**, under the baton of **Dr. Barry Scott Williamson**, at Hope Presbyterian Church. The Bethany UMC Chancel Choir filled the ranks of the singers to 80 or more. Soloists included Kirsten Watson, soprano; Blake Windlow, tenor; and Brett Bachus, piano.

The program was about to begin rehearsal when Dr. Williamson was hired to a classical dream job: a New York residency that includes regular conducting at Carnegie Hall and Lincoln Center. That meant heroic efforts by Long and Vocali, and a return by Dr. Williamson from New York for final rehearsals and the actual performance.



The enthusiastic audience was treated to three varied pieces. *Mass in E-Flat "Millennium"* made full use of the large choir. The new *Symphony No. 1 in D Major* showed off the beauty of Long's orchestration. The *Suite for Piano, Orchestra, and Special Percussion* represented Ms. Long at her most inventive. In attendance was her son, Austin M. Long IV, a naval officer on leave.

Texas Sessions: Illicit Response Feels the Heat

When **Darian Eck** and **Karla Almendarez** of **Illicit Response** visit Texas, they know they'll face temps in the high 90's. This time, the searing heat of July inspired them to rock the village of Dale. Over their two-week stay, they recorded guitar, bass, and vocal tracks for *The Texas Sessions*, a set of four songs they are currently completing with the help of their two bandmates in greater Boston.

It only took a few hours to transform the study in the home of **Mother Hunter** (a.k.a. Rosalind Eck, Darian's mom) into a **Blue Oak Mobile Basic Studio**. Darian and Karla produced most of the tracks, with assistance (especially on Darian's vocals) from **Lindsey Eck**. Karla programmed most of the click drum tracks which are being replaced with the real thing up North.

Besides Darian's "Emo Gurl," the pair recorded covers by the Toadies and the Pixies. Listeners to the early mixes have agreed that the results manifest a Southern soul. Hot weather + hot food = hot performance? Wait till they release the recording, and you decide.



Surf the Corner Oak Web:

The Corner Oak **Patricia Long**

www.corneroak.com www.pmlmusic.com

Vocali

www.vocali.org

Pat Hardin

www.pathardin.com

Alignment Capital

www.alignmentcapital.com

Mother Hunter

www.motherhunter.com

Our partner sites:

Darian Eck

www.darianeck.com

The Healing State

www.thehealingstate.com

Basconet

www.basconet.com