

4th Fridays

with Rufus Harris



An Official Publication of the Christian Artists and Musicians Project – theCAMP

Good Music, Good Coffee, Good Company

Last month when we first opened the doors and started the show, only a few fans had turned out. It looked like it was going to be a lightly attended night – potentially disappointing especially for the first show of the year. However, before the house band completed its first set the turnout began to improve.



And folks continued to file in up until 9:30 pm! This is not a complaint but an observation: *there were still too many empty seats.*

From the bottom of our hearts, we really do appreciate the brothers and sisters who faithfully come to the show and support the independent artists featured, **but we are still the "best kept secret" in the Detroit Metro Area.** This is a secret that ought not to be.

Word of mouth is amazing, even by just telling someone about the show and what we do at the show – people often just show up. A member of our crew mentioned **4thFridays** to a stranger at the **Detroit Auto Show** and that person came and brought someone with her. We even had visitors from Canada that somehow had heard about the show. Praise God!

Back in the day when we could afford to advertise on the local Christian FM station, folks would hear about us on the radio *wouldn't come to the show*, but would tell others about the show and those people would attend. Word of mouth is indeed powerful.

Our request - It would help this ministry tremendously if everyone would make it a point to tell someone about the show and even better if one would go out of their way to bring someone to the show. If you are a couple: bring a couple with you – make it a double date night. If you are single make, bring a friend! If you are part of a church group, bring the group. **And consider carpooling as a way to save fuel.** 4thFridays is a great

place to attend once a month.

If there is a financial hardship just let us know in advance (like on the Thursday before the show) and you could get in at a reduced price or as our guest for free! **You have not, because you ask not.** Email: info@thecamponline.org

With all this said, we are yet grateful to the Lord and to one of our generous supporters who provided financial assistance so the first show of the year was paid for!

Speaking of the first show, it was a great night of fellowship. Around the room you could see people enjoying each other's company.

For the load-in and load-out, we had all kinds of help. A good friend of ours - **Edwin Wolff** was willing and even spent the night with Rufus and Denise to assist with the entire job of moving the equipment. **Marvin Sheats** showed up early as usual to help move in the heavy gear and **Paul Kelley** helped at the end of the night to ensure that everything he touched was placed in the right spot for the next show. We are very thankful to all that helped that night. This made **4F January '09** easy:

- No technical problems
- Smooth sound checks
- Everyone showing up on time



All of this honored the Lord. We prayed (before and during the show) that the Lord would grace us with the evidence of His presence and He did: From the attendees; to the occasional Ford Center personnel who would check in on us, it was a special night. .

We look forward to seeing you at

this month's **4thFridays**. But first, check out some highlights from last month...

January '09 Highlights

William Reynolds



William is always good, but this, in our opinion, was simply his best ever solo performance. Every song in his set was clever, catchy and memorable. Listening to his lyrics reveal how gifted William is as a songwriter. His songs spoke of his spiritual journey and lessons he's learned along the way. He poured his heart into each carefully crafted song bringing listeners into his world for a brief period of time. He also sported a "new look" that was very complimentary – a little fuzz on his face. He shared songs from his first two albums, but also gave us a wonderful glimpse from a couple of tunes from his upcoming 3rd CD – *Mr. Sunshine*.

Paul Dozier

We can never say enough about Paul. He is a world class guitarist and it is humbling whenever he graces our stage. It seems as though he is always creating music. And of course, this gifted prolific jazz guitarist has several CDs under his belt. At **4thFridays**, Paul performed with great skill, speed, ease, and accuracy. Not only did his dazzling instrumental performance speak volumes but he also had significant things to say in between songs. One of the points he made was how believers are just *passing through, this is not our home*. Musically and spiritually it was a great set. Thanks so much, Paul.



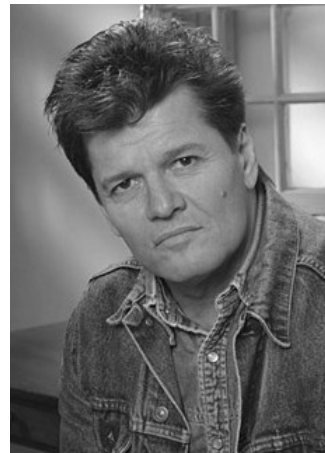
rufus harris

The house band¹ treated the **4F** attendee's with an oldie but a goody - a song that asks the unanswerable question: *Who Is Like the Lord?* The remaining songs were inspiring, thought-provoking; spirited; and encouraging.

Here's what's coming up this Friday

Feb. 27th

Danny Brooks



“Music is of the devil,” Danny Brooks was told by his father when the 15-year-old singer decided on a career in Rock n' Roll. Bill Middlebrook (son Danny reinvented himself in the 1980s by shortening his name) knew very little about the music business. But he had lived on a low road in his early years and had seen plenty around Toronto's boogie dives in the 1940s and '50s. He'd witnessed the legendary

Zaniacs, pre-punk rockabilly revolutionaries, masturbating on stage. That was enough for Middlebrook. He offered his son a choice: Renounce the devil's music or leave home. Danny packed his bags and soon found himself on Rock n' Roll's greasy highway, bound, not for glory, but for his darker self. "My father was an alcoholic and a gangster in Toronto's west end before he came to the Lord," Brooks says. "My father lost everything before he found his faith," says Brooks. "Then, for the next 35 years, he spread the word and tended to people who were needy. Around Regent Park and in the Jane-Finch area they called him the Bread Man because he'd distribute day-old loaves from one of the big bakeries. He used to make my brother (now a missionary in Liberia) and sister stand on Coke boxes and recite memorized passages from the scriptures. He was a fixture around Toronto; he used to stand on street corners with a bullhorn spreading the word of Jesus. After years of struggle in the Rock n' Roll trenches of Toronto, Nashville and Los Angeles, addiction to alcohol, speed and heroin, as well as a monstrous spiritual and physical breakdown in the mid-1980s and a life-changing

¹ Jeannine Gardner-Washington (drums); Mo Jones (bass); Martin Stuart (keyboard); and Rufus Harris (host and guitar)

rehabilitation at Toronto's Donwood Institute, Brooks has emerged as a new star in contemporary Gospel music. "In 30 years in this business," says Brooks' bass player, Dennis Pinhorn, "I've never met anyone like him. He's incredibly hard-working and considerate. His songs light a fire. I'm no Christian, but Danny's an original. He walks the walk". "I'm not here to preach to anybody," insists Brooks, who, since 1991, has played for prison inmates all over the province, telling stories of his spiritual turnaround. "I volunteer," he explains. "In the Bible, it says: To whom much is given, much is required. Having spent time in jail myself —six months of a 15-month sentence for robbing a gas station and several break-ins — I figure it's the least I can do. "Besides, I'm doing what I've been doing all along, what any songwriter does — putting my own experience into musical form. I'm not crusading. But I'm not hiding, either. From God, and the ideas and feelings that are important to me. As a songwriter, I've learned there's a great power in music. I can do things with the gifts I've been given that may make people's lives a little better, give them some hope". Check out his site: www.DannyBrooksMusic.com

rachanee

Rachanee has been compared to "Michelle Branch [and] Christian artist Jennifer Knapp, [with] a voice that can



sound like Natalie Merchant" (Noise, Oct. 2003). Her music has a guitar-driven folk/rock feel; her heartfelt lyrics appeal to any audience.

Though rachanee just came on the independent music scene in 2003, she hasn't been idle. That year, she released her EP *Chosen Path*, which she wrote, distributed and co-produced. In 2004 she released her first full-length LP, *Ordinary Girl*. Her sophomore album, *3am*, was released in May of 2007. She has been featured in the Lansing (MI) State Journal, in the Noise (a Lansing, Michigan weekly newspaper), on WILX-TV 10 in Lansing, and on WXYZ Channel 7 in Detroit, MI. Songs from her 2004 release *Ordinary Girl* are being featured on College, AAA, and Christian radio stations around the country. The title track, *Ordinary Girl*, debuted at #11 on KTLF in Colorado and went to #1 for three consecutive weeks on WPFM in Michigan and Wisconsin. *Here with Me* from rachanee's debut album *Ordinary Girl* was named Best Contemporary Christian Song for the 2006 Independent Music Awards. Another song from her debut album, *From Here*, placed second in the 2006 Great Lakes Songwriting Contest. And rachanee's latest release,

3am, was also a finalist for Best Contemporary Christian Album in the 2008 Independent Music Awards, while one of the new album's featured songs, *Leap of Faith*, was a finalist in the 2007 USA Songwriting Competition. rachanee is comfortable in any venue, having played in various bookstores, churches, clubs, bars and coffeehouses around the country. Touring constantly to support her two releases, she plays live either solo or as part of a duo, with her husband on percussion. She has appeared on ("Tuesdays with Morrie" author) Mitch Albom's nationally syndicated radio program. She has also opened for national acts such as Warren Barfield, former Caedmon's Call member Derek Webb, Paul Wright, and Brian VanderArk of the Verve Pipe.

And of course, the **house band** will perform.

Coffee - The Coffee Brew mister invites you to stop by the coffee to enjoy this month's flavor of the month – caramel apple.

Raffle - With admission, you'll receive a ticket for our raffle. The drawing is held near the end of the show. You can win music and coffee in a little blue jean tote

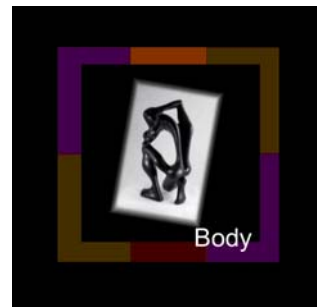


OTHER CAMP NEWS

Free Music Downloads!

Red Letter Records – one of the sponsors of 4thFridays is pleased to announce its release of the compilation project entitled **Body** – free music downloads available at:

www.RedLetterRecords.com



red letter records

truth... intensity... spirituality

Available in early March '09

You'll be able to visit the site to download 15 great songs by 11 independent Christian artists – most of whom have appeared at 4thFridays. Artists include: Beth Stalker,

Kim Margerum, William Reynolds, Rhonda Welsh, Kelly Eldridge, Larry Hover, Rufus Harris, David Ivey, Therese Maynard, Sarah Dalton and Dan Mleczko. Red Letter is hoping that these free downloads will further promote the independent artists on the label. Lookout for the promo early in March '09!

Where two or more...

Jesus said where two or more are gathered in his name, he is in the midst. We took that scripture to heart and started a prayer conference call in the Fall of 2008. Since that time, we have seen God move in wonderful ways. Finances are better, the ministry is stronger, and most importantly we as individuals have been drawn closer to God. Every Tuesday night we pray for the CAMP; We pray for everything from 4thFridays to the many independent artists in Michigan. If you are an artist and have a prayer request, please email it to us at info@theCampOnline.org

New artists

New artist - **Therese Maynard** - held her release party earlier this month on Feb. 6th. The party was a tremendous success drawing many out to hear this gifted songstress as she performed songs from her freshman release - *Faithful*. Look for an upcoming performance by Therese later this year at 4thFridays. For more



information:

Please visit her MySpace account: myspace.com/theresemaynard

Also, **Sarah Dalton** has also released a great CD. Sarah's project is called *Like a Child*. Find out more about Sarah at: myspace.com/sarahdaltonmusic.



For music downloads visit: www.RedLetterRecords.com

You can listen to music samples and download one song or the whole CD for both of these artists.

JustRadio.NET

New artists have been added to the radio station. Log on to www.JustRadio.NET and hear great music by independent artists who are Christian while you work or play.

Ways to Give... You can give financially to the CAMP, via eBay, by giving flowers, or by donating your used vehicle. Please help today so that we can keep all of the programs going. Visit theCampOnline.org

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*Good Music,
Good Coffee,
Good Company*



4thFridays is presented by the CAMP
(Christian Artists & Musicians Project)

The CAMP is a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization
and

Red Letter Records: *Truth...intensity...spirituality*
www.redletterrecords.com

Come check out 4thFridays

This month in **Studio A**

At the *beautiful*

Ford Community & Performing Arts Center

15801 Michigan Ave. Dearborn, MI
between Southfield & Greenfield Roads

Doors open at 8pm/Show starts at 8:30pm

Admission: \$10 (checks and money orders accepted)

Please make them payable to: "The CAMP"

Contact Us: 248-872-1197

Board of Directors:

President - Denise Strong
Vice President - Michael Brewer
Treasurer - Lawrence O. Strong
Secretary- Mildred Sheats
Board Member - Paul Kelley
Rufus Harris - Executive Director

Special Committee Members:

Denise Strong - Mike Brewer - Mildred Sheats - Marvin Sheats - Michelle Burns

Other Helpers:

Rod Sledge – Sound Technician; Paul Kulik – Lighting
Marvin Sheats and Thomas Maynard – Load in / Load out
Kim Strong – Brew Mister's Helper

info@theCampOnline.org - Visit us on line at www.theCampOnline.org

Watch our Camp Video www.thecamponline.org/video



Credits:

4thFridays performance photos by Denise Strong
Written and edited by Denise Strong and Rufus

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