Helen Marketti's Music Corner

Scott Stiert





Scott Stiert is establishing himself as a versatile and talented musician. He has a full schedule of shows at many venues and an EP soon to be released of his original material. He will be the opening artist for Jonah Koslen (formerly of the Michael Stanley Band) on Saturday, January

18, 2014 at Akron Civic Theater. Scott shares his thoughts on music, working with Jonah and his new EP.

"When I was growing up, we listened to country music a lot. I liked Johnny Cash, Carl Perkins and Elvis. I used to play my mom's guitar when I was about six years old and pretend that I was Johnny Cash. He really made an impression. I also like the music of James Taylor and Paul Rodgers," said Scott.

"I would describe my original music as being very blues influenced. It is a big part of who I am. I was always listening to blues musicians such as Muddy Waters and Lightnin' Hopkins. Eric Clapton, Jimi Hendrix and Jimmy Page are all influences as well. My all time favorite rock band is Led Zeppelin. I draw from all of them. I think I am based in the soul blues style. There can be many inspirations for songwriting. Sometimes an idea will come to me while I am driving, waiting at a drive through or listening to a sequence of notes in a song. Lyrics will pop into my mind at any time. I find that early in the morning seems to be the best time for me to be inspired."

"I plan on having an EP released before the holiday season. It will have six original songs. The title of it will be, "Trip Around the Sun" which is also the title for one of the tracks. My EP will be under the Dirtsandwich label, which is owned by Chris Castle (Castle Music). He is well known in the area. He is going to be taking his company a step further to open a business in downtown Norwalk where he will have a variety of services. WLKR 95.3 has a local music spot on Fridays and two of my originals usually get some airplay."

Often times the best things unfold by a chance meeting and that is how Scott's friendship began with Jonah Koslen. "Naturally while growing up in this area I listened to a lot of music by the Michael Stanley Band. I was familiar with Jonah's music from his time with Michael Stanley and with his own band, Breathless," remembers Scott. "It was about a year ago that my wife, Diane and I went to North Olmsted to see Jonah doing a solo performance. It happened to be a slow night so I was able to talk with Jonah. I told him that I was a musician and we started talking about the equipment he was using. We talked about different shows he was doing and suggested we stop back another time when he would be playing. We hit it off as fellow musicians and became friends. I invited him to see one of my shows at the Red Iron Grill in Wellington. I knew that Jonah liked the blues so I suggested we could play some



blues together. Jonah stopped by and we ended up jamming together. We played some songs from the days when he was with Michael Stanley and from his band, Breathless plus some of my material. Jonah and I have co-written a song together which

we may play at Akron Civic Theater."

Scott continues, "Diane and I gave a suggestion to him awhile back about doing an acoustic show and perform one of his albums live. He thought that was a good idea and had a show booked at the Beachland Ballroom. He asked if I would be



Jonah Koslen and Scott Stiert

interested in opening the show. I enjoyed the entire experience. The Beachland Ballroom is a very cool place. After Jonah was booked at the Akron Civic for January he asked me again if would like to open for him. I plan to play my original material and do a few covers. I will open the show on my own as a solo acoustic act. There is a possibility that I will be able to join Jonah onstage and sing a song with him from his Breathless band days. We still have to work out those ideas and see how they unfold. I'm looking forward to it."

For ticket information on the January 18, 2014 performance with Scott Stiert and Jonah Koslen at the Akron Civic Theater: www.akroncivic.com









