



Helen Marketti's Music Corner



Slick!

Mark "Slick" Aguilar is the lead guitarist for Jefferson Starship. He is in need of a liver transplant and has a 50/50 chance of survival over the next two years without one.

"I've always had the music bug in me," says Slick. "It all started with The Beatles and The Kinks, all of the classic rock stuff. I actually became interested in the guitar by watching Ricky Nelson on "The Ozzie & Harriet" show during the late 50s. It was usually at the end of the show where Ricky would do a song or two with his band. He had guitarist James Burton in his band and then Elvis had Scotty Moore and I thought that was cool."

His voice becoming serious, Slick said, "For now my run with Starship is probably done due to my health issues. I'm unable to tour right now. I've got a pretty hard road in front of me."

Slick has been diagnosed with Hepatitis C and is in need of a liver transplant. He has been given a 50/50 chance for survival over the next two years if he does not receive one. Slick explains, "During the last nine months or so I started to notice my hands were cramping up and at first I thought it was maybe because I was dehydrated. So I started drinking more

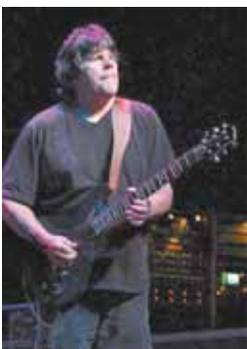


Photo by Mike Thut

water and Gatorade. Then I started to notice when we were on flights, my ankles were swelling up and at first, I didn't know what the hell was going on. Swelling ankles are one of the first signs for congestive heart failure. The doctors said my liver was not processing, as it should. When the liver isn't processing, as it should, it will push fluid into your stomach and after that, it will travel anywhere it wants to in your body and that is why my ankles started swelling up. The doctors ran blood tests, I asked them to check for Hepatitis C, and when the results came back confirming I had it, I went numb. I went cold. Everyone from the baby boomer generation should get themselves checked for that and while you're at it, it is important to get a colonoscopy. I've also had colon cancer within the last six years and when the doctors caught it, I was at stage one. They performed the surgery and thankfully, I'm free of colon cancer. There are a lot of things we can do early on to prevent what I have to go through now."

He continues, "I'm taking medicines right now but the bottom line is that I need a liver transplant if I am going to survive. There is absolutely no way around it. Nothing else is going to work. My liver is not functioning properly and it's not going to get any better at this point because it also has Cirrhosis. The doctors have me on several different meds and what that is basically doing is keeping me alive until I can get a liver transplant."

In continuing to speak openly, Slick shares his thoughts for seeking help in the form of donations so this will be possible. "I do have insurance but it will not be enough to cover all of the expenses. I am a working musician and right now because of my health, I'm not working at all. Being a musician is a great job and I love what I do but not all of us are paid like Paul McCartney. It's a decent living but not enough to cover something as big as a liver transplant. Donations in any amount are going to be helpful. I've never had to do anything like this before but with the way the situation is I have no other source of income."

It should also be noted that Slick is not paid any type of royalties or anything of that nature from bands or individual artists he may play with. He receives straight pay at a flat rate for doing a gig and that is how he earns his pay.

Slick spends every couple of days talking to David Crosby. David had a liver transplant several years ago and provides friendship and support. "He's my coach because he knows what I am going through," said Slick. "I would like to encourage people to sign up to be organ donors. I know it's hard because it means that one family loses someone but it also gives another family hope for a loved one to survive, someone else has a chance. What I am trying to do is pull off a miracle so that I can live."

For more information on how you can help Slick, a fundraising site has been set up for him at the following link:

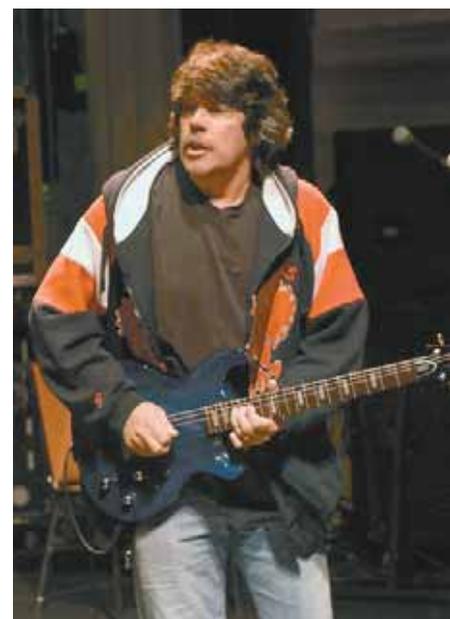


Photo by Mike Thut

<http://www.indiegogo.com/Slick-Aguilar>

For further updates on Slick, please visit his Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/MarkSlickAguilar>

Photos of Slick may also become available to order with all proceeds going directly to him. If interested, please send a message of inquiry on his Facebook page. Please state if you are interested in an autographed photo as well.

For anyone who prefers "snail mail", checks made out to Slick Aguilar may be sent to the following address: Slick Aguilar, 1775 Deer Run Drive, Montgomery, IL, 60538

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