

THE MICHAEL WEBER SHOW!

Michael Weber is 16 years old and a sophomore in high school but do not let that fool you. This young man is on the right track for success in music and in life.

By Helen Marketti

There are not many 16 year olds who have their own band, an album released and have played alongside rock legends but that is exactly how the past year has been for Michael Weber.

"Luckily I was born into a great family where music was always around. Neither of my parents actually play an instrument but my dad was a roadie for bands back in the 80s. He was part of the Farm Aid show and toured with Mountain. He eventually started working in a music store. My dad likes to collect music instruments so I grew up having a lot of instruments in the house," said Michael.

"I can remember at a very young age playing Pink Floyd records and watching Stevie Ray Vaughan on VHS tapes. I loved watching those tapes repeatedly. I absorbed so much of it that I think it has made me the old soul I am today. I started out with plastic toy guitars but quickly moved on to strumming a real guitar when I was still a toddler. I was singing my own gibberish lyrics (*laughs*) even before I could talk."

"I have played piano since first grade and drums since second grade. I like to play the bass and harmonica, too. I think it's good to play as many instruments as you can because you can only gain experience from doing so and it helps when you are recording demos. You want to show someone what you can do. You don't want to do everything acoustic. It's important to show diversity."

Michael has many music influences, "I admire many artists. Some of my favorites are Jimi Hendrix, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Robin Trower, The Beatles, of course. I really like Thin Lizzy. I think he is an influence for songwriting. Music appeals to the soul, as most musicians would tell you. It's a melting pot of genres. When you're playing music, it isn't just about the songs, its taking what you have learned and putting it into your own definitive style. Writing songs is about the ingredients you put into it. You take what you see and feel from day to day life, mix it together and let it bake, so to speak and now you have a song."

"There is something about the music that came out of the 60s and 70s that has always appealed to me. It seemed as though the songs had a meaning back then. The musicianship was great and has that soul. Soul is lacking in today's music. I love the 60s. It was a spontaneous generation."

Michael was able to participate in the benefit for Sonny Geraci that was held at the Z-Plex in Streetsboro during the weekend of November 15 and 16, 2013. The classic line up included Dennis Tufano (The Buckingham), Frank Stallone, Billy Joe Royal, The Reflections, Jimmy Sohns and many more.

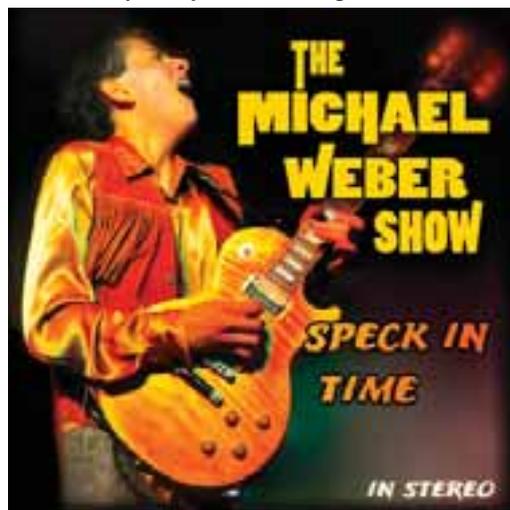
"It was amazing to play with those guys," said Michael. "There were so many

great people that played who I had always admired. John Kocisko, who is one of the promoters for Streetsboro Family Days, contacted me about playing for the benefit. I jumped in full force because I have always been a fan of Sonny Geraci. It was a wonderful experience. You can't beat hanging out with people you like and admire, the ones who pioneered rock and roll. It was amazing to play with them and help out for an important cause."

Michael's band is a trio of very talented musicians, including himself who work together well and support each other's love for music. "I have played with several bands and I have never been happier than I am right now with the band I have. I have a great drummer, Steve Zavesky and a great bass player, Scully. I love these guys because they are team players. It's all about the



Michael with Drummer Steve Zavesky and Bass player Scully



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music and having a good time doing what we do."

"I know that some musicians are all about making the bucks but for me it's about making good music and then the money will follow. My band works as a team. We share the same passion for music. We have been together for about a year and a half. We released our first album last year. There are nine songs, including the single, "Speck In Time". The song is about all of us as humans being specks in time. I don't think anyone has any special power regardless of who you are. We are just blips on the radar, just specks in time. I truly believe that and we need to remember it."

"I would describe our music as high energy, 70s inspired rock and roll. It's all of our original music with a few covers for our shows. I do many guitar solos because I love to feel the notes and hope the audience experiences it with me.

I would like to bring people back to the blues as Stevie Ray Vaughan did. In 1983, when Texas Flood was released, Stevie brought people back to the blues again when people were listening to anything but the blues. He was able to remind people of the blues influences he grew up on such as Albert King, Freddie King and Albert Collins. He reminded people of these musicians. As much as I want to show people my music, I want to show them that there's other music out there, too."

Michael's stage costumes are very 60s and 70s themed. "It's the message I try to give which is very much based on my Jimi Hendrix experience," he said. "It's not just a song, concert or guitar playing; it's an experience. It's multidimensional. If you come to any of my shows, you will see more than a concert. We are exciting and upbeat. As for my stage clothes, those are finds from thrift stores. It has been somewhat hard to find 60s style clothes. My mom is now making my stage costumes full time. She has been able to find cool fabrics that fit my style. I think clothing is very much an important element to a show. It gives you a visual as well as an auditory experience."

Michael plans to keep moving forward with music as well as his education. "Maybe it's just my youth speaking but music is enough for me. I know some musicians who like the party life style. I know that kind of life style isn't for me. Anyone who has ever been great in music began with the love of music itself. Once someone thinks they have "made it" and feels they are great is when things start to fall apart. I like to see great musicians who want to keep improving; those are the guys I have a lot of respect for."

"I like to edit my own videos. I love art and graphic design. I design the posters for our band. I think everything is important. You have to be a Renaissance man. You can't just be a guitar player. You have to be a guitar player, singer, design artist, web master, promoter, photographer and booking agent. If you're just one thing, you're not enough, especially in this day and age."

THE MICHAEL WEBER SHOW is currently in the studio working on their 2nd full-length album and has the following concert on the schedule.

The John Durda Benefit Concert

Sunday, March 2, 2014 Los Gallos Banquet Hall in Boardman, Ohio

Other bands include: Leanne Binder, BIGSHOT, Mr. Lucky, Edison's Medicine, Wet Lemon, Frank Castellano, Haymaker, & The Gary Markasky Project.

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