

V NOW WE'RE TALKIN

By Helen Marketti

Cleveland area musician, Mark Buchwald is a Multi-Instrumentalist, DJ, Producer, Composer, Engineer & 2014 Winner of "Best Drummer". His DJ name is "Policy" and under this name has released his first full-length album "ECHO CHAMBERS" due to be released on May 30, 2020. The full-length LP features 10 tracks of alternative and EDM music featuring talented international female vocalists. Mark takes some time to explain the new project and his career path which lead him to creating Policy and the new album.

NCV: Please share a little about your music background and how you became interested in playing the drums.

MB: I started as a drummer when I was very young. My mother, uncles and step-father were members of The Cleveland Band. So, as a youngster I would go on tour with them. My playground was the stage. I would travel with the road crew, set up the drums, clean the piano, duct tape the cords and basically be a tech. I started playing the drums back then and eventually started my training in drumming. Gradually, I moved on to other instruments including percussion, guitar and piano and started teaching myself. After high school, I had an opportunity to go to Los Angeles and spend some time out there studying one on one with some great players including Gregg Bissonette who was a drummer for David Lee Roth and Ringo Starr among others. I played with a few groups while in LA and earned some of my wings. I had an amazing opportunity to spend a day with Dave Wecki in Chicago studying drums. Back in Cleveland, I have played in a few bands and started to write and learn about recording from my Uncle Mike (Mike Zaremba) where we built a studio and continue to work out of there. www.advancedaudiodesign.net I also have my own studio in my house. Now, I have moved more into songwriting, producing, engineering, music business consultation and started to DJ along with continuing to play drums.

NCV: How did Policy get started? How was the name chosen?

MB: Well, I am Policy. "Policy" started back in the late 90s during what I call the glory days of West 6, the Warehouse District bar and club area in downtown Cleveland where I was able to play percussion with the house DJs. This was an exciting time as House and EDM were exploding. I became the house percussionist for various clubs and became a fan of many bands that came through. As far as the name, all DJ's have their own "stage" names and this was such a new thing here in Cleveland that I really didn't have a name. I was spending time with friends during a set break and one of them said that what I was doing with the DJ and the percussion was like the "Policy" and it stuck from there.

NCV: Who wrote the songs?

MB: As far as this forthcoming release, I composed all of the music. I collaborated with 5 female vocalists including Amy Jo Scott, Anastacia Monroe, Claire Rasa from Australia, Kelsey Hunter and Tina Shest who write and recorded the toplines except, "Push Pause". I am co-writer for "Push Pause" but there are other songwriters for the original version. I composed the remix. The other tracks are basically pure techno house instrumentals or have "catch phrases" done by myself.

NCV: Where were the songs recorded? Please tell about the studio.

MB: As I said earlier, my family built a recording studio in my grandfather's house where my Uncle Mike is the lead engineer, so we have that facility and it's amazing.

I built a demo studio in my house to get things up and running for this album. I had to build the studio, get the gear, learn new software and basically start writing the album. What's really interesting is this was originally going to be a 4-song demo. I was going to make a few copies and give them to my friends. But, once I got some beds done and played it to some family members, they encouraged me to continue and once we had 11 tracks, we shifted to recording vocals and the final mixing at Advanced Audio Design Studios. My Uncle Mike is my partner and

he co-produced as well as was the lead engineer. We brought in Tommy Wiggins who lives in Nashville to do a final mastering at his place which is called, Tommy's Tracks. You can check out Tommy's place at: www.tommystacks.com

NCV: Do you have any shows scheduled? Obviously with COVID-19, that may change.

MB: In addition to being a DJ, I am a drummer for The Tony Lang Band. I am also in rehearsals for another groove metal project. The Tony Lang Band had recently done a big show at the Akron Civic Theater and hope to return for the Akron Lock3 Festival in July. As far as working as a DJ, I have a few private shows booked but we'll see how that goes. All information is on my web site: www.policymusic.com

NCV: How would you describe the music of Policy?

MB: This certainly has been a long time in the making. For many years I have wanted to my "first solo record" and I finally put it all together. This is an original concatenation of many of my musical

influences. It encompasses NU, groove, progressive metal, alternative, Pop, EDM, House, Chill and a little industrial that I picked up from my days in LA.

NCV: Where can readers check out the music? Schedule? Web site?

MB: Yes, the single titled, "Push Pause" is available for full listen and download since April 7th and the full-length release will be available on June 6th. You can get all of the information on my web site: www.policymusic.net and it will be available on all of the music platforms and for purchase as well. We are currently going for ads in over 200 radio stations across the country as well as worldwide. I am currently in negotiations for possible sync opportunities for movie and TV.

NCV: Is there anything else you would like to mention or discuss?

MB: Thank you very much for the opportunity to speak with you here at the North Coast Voice Magazine. Please stay tuned for the release of "Push Pause" and the release of full-length album "Echo Chambers" which will be available in June!

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