

Winter
2002

THE RIDE

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Newsletter and Tour Schedule for MichaelMassimo

"All The News I See Fit To Print"

MASSIMO'S BACK! New Album - New Band - New Website

BROTHER, WHERE YOU BEEN?

So maybe you didn't notice I was gone. Maybe you don't even know who I am or why you're even reading this. But if you got this newsletter, somewhere in your past we connected. Either you signed a mailing list after seeing a show (Todd's Theory or Massimo), bought a CD of mine someplace or met me in some bar where I was bound to start talking about music and you asked me to let you know when I'd be playing again. You know, the singer/songwriter you saw at some coffeehouse or bookstore, who couldn't decide whether he wanted to be James Taylor or Chris Cornell, pounding out songs on an acoustic that somehow just couldn't be loud enough, disturbing the people who came there just to read a book or just have a quiet meal, but entertaining the select few who really came to sit and listen to something new.

Yeah, I'll admit it; I tagged out for a while. But for the record let's call it "artistic growth" because that's kind of what happened. If something isn't working you need to find out why. Reevaluate motivations etc. You know, watch a lot of TV. So I took some time off. Spent some time relearning how to write a song, a good song. Joined a cover band singing Soundgarden, Rage Against The Machine kind of stuff and realized what I wanted to do all along was front my own rock band that played original songs I was proud of. Brand new stuff. Songs that incorporated all I'd learned, that I really wanted people to hear. And I simply wasn't going to play until I had exactly that no matter how long it took.

It only took three years.

NEW ALBUM

To clarify, I've only written enough songs for a new album, called Reckoning, not recorded them (yet). It was hard getting back to writing at first after the time off. So I decided to just concentrate on lyrics first this time, forget all about being a musician and just try to be a poet. If I found I didn't have anything worthwhile to say, then I wouldn't say anything at all and I'd go back to watching TV. Turns out I had a lot to say I just needed to take some time to write it all down. (Sometimes writing is just about showing up with a pen and paper).

But whether these songs are released as a complete concept album or only come out as several demos or EP's depends on



returning to
the
**BITTER
END**
THURSDAY
NOV. 14th - 9:00PM
147 Bleecker St., NYC
(212) 673-7030

money like everything else and I know it's hard to believe, but so far I haven't achieved the "rich" part of "rich and famous". Or the "famous" part either, for that matter. Is anyone feeling particularly charitable? I'd even give you Executive Producer credit on the album! You can tell everyone you work in the record business. It could really spice up your social life! Seriously, for someone willing to make a small investment, there's a lot of potential for something big. I have detailed plans for anyone that wants to know more.

But as I've always believed, art is nothing unless it's shared and that I plan to do in the way it means the most to me, live performance. Anyway, all future live shows of us playing the new songs will be available for download on the website (www.michaelmassimo.com - see below for more details).

NEW BAND

This time around I've rounded up some very talented veterans from the NYC freelance musician scene. I'm very excited to be working with these guys.

Roger Sherman - drums:

(see www.slamminggrooves.com. Also the drummer from Todd's Theory): "Known far and wide as the player to have when you need serious groove and time, Roger was raised on a steady diet of the Meters, P-Funk, Led Zepplin, and salsa, which helped him develop the vocabulary and attitude to bring the funk, and then shift gears in an instant to flat out rock you. A veteran of the NYC freelance scene, Roger has been making a name for himself as a professional musician since he was 20 years old, with past gigs including touring the world with Carlos Hernandez, playing frenetic d-n-b rhythms with Jungle Gym, and the artistic noise jam band Hidden Agenda." And Roger being the freelance "cat" that he is has been nice enough to introduce me to two new players:

Jess Converse - elec. guitar:

"Playing in punk bands led Jess down the eastern seaboard from New Jersey to Florida before he began his studies at Berklee College of Music in Boston. While earning his BA Jess played extensively in the Boston and Providence scene before moving to NYC, then Europe in pursuit of various musical experiences. Now back in the states Jess has appeared in a series of SGI-USA events promoting world peace where he has performed regularly with Daryl Dixon (P-Funk,

(over)

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Michael Massimo uses D'Addario guitar strings exclusively.

[cont. from front page] Alicia Keys) and Steve Turay (SNL Band)".

Dave Bokhour - bass:

This guy is so in demand even I haven't met him yet, "Dave has been on one stage or another since age 10. His Mom always told him to play whatever he felt. Outside that nurturing environment he was expected to "do what bass players do" (play "in the pocket" and out of the way). After more than 20 years of reconciling these two outlooks, Dave's playing has become a unique blend of melody and groove. His goal is to create bass lines that stand on their own, yet support and drive the rest of the band, and the listener. He includes Larry Graham, Stanley Clarke and Danny Partridge among his major influences. Dave is also the co-founder of Free House Productions which specializes in sound design and original music for theatre and film. (Hey, I'm intrigued. Roger

says he's a "monster". That's jazzspeak for "obscenely talented". I can't wait to play with him).

NEW WEBSITE

I'm very excited to tell you all about the new website. I think it absolutely rocks. I haven't actually calculated, but it's got about 10 kermillion percent more content than the last version. (And that's a lot. Believe you me).

New improvements include: completely new design/bio/pics, numerous downloadable songs from albums and past performances, lyrics to all songs (including all the new stuff from *Reckoning* that's only being played live), a downloadable picture gallery of all my photography (including all album insert pics), links to over 100 radio stations (many of which are broadcasting live over the internet right now!), a direct mailing list/correspondence link, a diary of the Massimo music business day to day and the life that goes on around it

(The Flip Side), an archive of this and all previous newsletters and full reviews, a new feedback section and finally a list of fun links to go waste time at. Can you tell I'm excited? Do check it out, www.michaelmassimo.com, and let me know what you think. A big 'thank you' to Doug Duhon for his expertise, patience and creativity in helping me bring my ideas to the computer screen.

NO MORE MAILINGS?

No more regular mailings that is. Only email updates from now on. The cost of mailing these newsletters simply can't compete with the lower cost (read: free) of sending email. While I may mail *The Ride* out quarterly at best, email is really the best way to stay updated on the latest news (That and the website, of course. Have I mentioned the website?).

You can use the link on the site to send me your email address or just drop a note to Mmassimo@aol.com. Those that only know me from Todd's Theory that want to stay on this list should let me know because I won't be sending to the TT list again (I know I hate it when I start getting stuff from some band whose list I never signed). And I know some of your addresses may have changed since oh-so-long-ago but if you don't get this newsletter via email the week of the show, it's safe to say I don't have it anymore.

And I'd hate for you to lose touch now. Because I have a feeling this ride is gonna get good....

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