

Issue 1 - June 2023

The Dirt On Digger Dan

Tickets On Sale for June 15 Fundraiser!

I am truly honored to be apart of this fabulous event at The Fox Cabaret on Thursday, June 15th. This is both a fundraiser for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus and also the ten year anniversary celebration of the organizer, Danny Lamb's baby, a non-profit called 'A Song, A City'. I am opening for Wes Attew, Ontario based Danny Lamb & The Association, and the headliner and local favourites The Long War. I can't wait to meet these cats and for us to tip our hats to each other. I am not on social media any longer, so if you can pass this on, please do so. It's a rare venue gig for me, so I'd LOVE to see you out!

CLICK ON THE POSTER BELOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS!

A SONG, A CITY MUSIC PRESENTS
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF 'A SONG, A CITY'
USING MUSIC AS A TOOL TO CONNECT, CELEBRATE AND AMPLIFY OUR SPINA BIFIDA & HYDROCEPHALUS COMMUNITY

JUNE 15TH 7:00PM \$10 ADV / \$15GA 19+
THE LONG WAR ★ **DANNY LAMB & THE ASSOCIATION** ★ **DAN SLOAN**

FOX CABARET • 2321 MAIN ST. VANCOUVER, BC

VENUE IS ACCESSIBLE

June is Awareness Month of Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus. A portion of proceeds will go to the Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association Of BC

This Issue:

UPCOMING GIG: June 15
PAGE 1

Fundraiser, Spiritraiser
PAGE 2

SMOOTHING THE
BUGS OUT
PAGE 3

Recording:
The Celistas Sessions
PAGE 4

Upcoming Gigs
PAGE 5

Fundraiser, Spiritraiser

BY DIGGER DAN

AWESOME MIX VOL 1

Challenges inevitably lead to changes and if we steer through them with a higher purpose and power, we will get signs along the way or people dropped on our path that help us along. Danny Lamb is just such a person.

I met Danny through an organic connection through Jeff Bourne, a friend I met when I moved to Kelowna in 2001. Jeff has Spina Bifida (as does Danny, as well as Hydrocephalus) and Jeff was my first personal introduction to someone with a congenital disability. When Jeff first emailed me to e-connect Danny and I as musicians, I was in a dark space and I was hesitant: "He's way in Ontario, how is that going to help me?", I grumpily thought. Well, quickly, I was proven wrong. Danny recruited me to open up at the June 15 fundraiser for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus. Once again the grumpy grooves of the mind are shattered.

Danny, to put it mildly, is a bundle of entrepreneurial energy. Dynamo Danny is an inspiration, not because of his disability, but because of his spirit and work ethic. You can feel his energy through his emails. It's some kind of digital osmosis. On Zoom it was duplicated. In person, I can't wait.

I have been in a great transition phase since the start of 2023, and the first quarter was a rough one. It feels like a giant spring cleaning. A car accident in January and the next month two surgeries. Constant nagging health problems, most of the unrelated to the accident. Broken medical equipment: both of my wheelchairs at the same time, plus my bath bench. Government bureaucratic lethargy drags these issues on and on. Struggles at home and addiction issues rearing their ugly heads. I want to turn that hydra into a pinata but the list of things to-do just keeps piling up. First I take on the main addiction issue: alcohol, and from there, things begin to take off.



DANNY LAMB

CREATOR, MANAGER,
ENTREPRENEUR, MUSIC TEACHER
& PHILANTHROPIST

As I start knocking off items on the to-do list in my personal life, my professional life still has an ever growing list of things to tackle. No one tells you just how much extra work all the business related music issues are when you start to consider music as your career, but with Danny Lamb already driving fast, it's the perfect motivation. \ So I begin to get to work. There are long standing things I need to get to in order to sell tickets for the gig and I begin to get on these items immediately. Some of these things have been sitting on the list for almost two years! Logo, done; signage: redone; business card: done. Hand bills for the gig: done; the first issue of the newsletter: almost done as you read this!

Thank You Grand Conductor and Thank You
Grand Motivator!!

**CATCH DANNY LAMB'S WORK AT
DANNYLAMB.COM &
ASONGACITY.COM**

Smoothing The Bugs Out

1

THIS COLUMN IS DEDICATED TO ONGOING ADAPTATIONS AND SOLUTIONS INVOLVING MUSIC GEAR. NO ONE WAS HARMED IN ITS PRODUCTION, EXCEPT FOR CHADS AND KARENS.

Solving A Monitoring Issue

BY DIGGER DAN

Hello Gearheads and Gadgetgals! Today I am going to show you the path to my solution of having a proper monitoring set up for my busking rig. For those that don't know, monitoring is just any speaker that is placed so that the musician can hear their own sound.

My particular sound set up has a unique problem. I play while using a wheelchair. When I set up my busking rig, I can't move my chair as all of my gear needs to be within reach for both convenience and for security. That being said, when I set up my main speaker, I need to access the controls so I can adjust them as necessary and shut off the speaker when I want to take a break, talk to someone, etc. My particular speaker is an [EXM Mobile](#).



My first solution was to purchase speaker stands. This way, I could get the speaker cabinet close to my head, even though with the controls facing me, I could not hear the front, but the sound coming out of the back baffle. This was bassy, but worked well enough temporarily. I got a Yorkville speaker stand, which I do not recommend as twice a pin broke, causing the stand to collapse. So then I switched to a much more robust K&M stand. The Yorkville cost \$40 but the K&M was \$175. It was worth it at first. I could turn the speaker on the stand to monitor, then swivel it back so I could reach the controls. However, a problem developed: I had to crank the speaker up to 12 o'clock on the dial to hear myself. My volume was too high. I was getting periodic complaints.

My next route was to use headphones as monitors. I bought a pair of [Shure SE215s](#). They were OK at first, but I found the vocals sounded awful through them. The next option was much more expensive ones, so I opted to use over-ear headphones I had at home. They sounded brilliant, but new problems developed. I was cut off from easily talking with people, plus I was worried about "volume creep" slowly damaging my hearing.

So back to the drawing board. I needed to find some kind of portable personal battery powered monitor. Not an easy task. I already know a fair bit about battery powered guitar amps and PA speakers, but a small monitor was something I had not come across. You see you cannot use a guitar amp for your vocals. It will sound awful. You need a neutrally tuned speaker that can take in multiple sources. That's what PA speakers are. They are full ranged.

Well, wouldn't you know it, but Roland released an even smaller option, the [Mobile Cube](#), that has a monitor option and is battery powered! I ordered one and tested it. It is perfect. Kinda pricy at \$300, but it solves the problem because I can keep the decible level low. I get bass from the rear of the EXM Mobile, so I just need a bit of high end to hear myself properly and this fits the bill perfectly. Problem solved!



Recording: The Celista Sessions

BY DIGGER DAN



Finally I am getting the recording process off the ground, and in a great, unconventional way. I'm doing it without grant money or a mainstream studio, and on budget gear. My great old friend Lee Holland, bassist and winemaker extraordinaire, is dedicating over a week of his life for us to hunker down in his work cabin in gorgeous Celista, British Columbia, in the North Okanagan region.

We are going to do the recording process in our own way. We are going to use a \$180 modified Epiphone acoustic guitar, a broken screened Zoom recorder, a kit Telecaster guitar Lee built from the ground up, and we are going to do it in style. Isolated on a mountaintop on a ten acre parcel of land we are going to do a ten song CD called Ten Feet Tall. Ten has more meaning than you might think.

My career as a musician was really launched after slamming my alcohol drenched body into a birch tree after flipping over the handlebars on my mountain bike. I did this on October 10, 1998. That is the tenth month and the tenth day. It doesn't stop there however: I burst fractured my tenth vertebrae very close to Highway 10 in Delta, BC, my hometown.

A few years after the accident, I moved up to Kelowna. I was starting to feel normal again, with the influence of music and it's social connections in my life, when I overheard a friend saying: "Dan, he's not in a wheelchair, he's seven feet tall!". So I rounded it up to ten and wrote a song called Ten Feet Tall about those times. A few years later I moved to Penticton, where I met Lee and began to really learn about playing music in live settings. Those were fabulous times and to bring it all back to the region with Lee as the sound engineer is perfect.

The album Ten Feet Tall is having ten songs for that reason, but it's a mixture of some old songs from the Okanagan days (2000-2011), combined with some newer songs written between 2016-2018 in Vancouver. Lee and I are going to do it live, off-the-floor. I already know the list of songs, but we may have a few surprises thrown in. After we complete the July Celista Sessions, we will do another batch of overdubs down in Vancouver at the end of the summer or early fall.

So have a gander at the next issue as I will be writing more about what goes on in early July!

An Ongoing Series On The Recording Process.



LEE HOLLAND
THE CONJURER

UPCOMING GIGS

YOU CAN ALSO FIND A UPCOMING EVENTS [HERE](#)

JUNE 8 @ 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM
NEW WESTMINSTER FARMERS MARKET
TIPPERARY PARK 315 QUEENS AVENUE, NEW
WESTMINSTER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

JUNE 11 @ 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
AMBLESIDE ARTISAN FARMERS MARKET
AMBLESIDE FARMERS MARKET 1000 ARGYLE
AVENUE, WEST VANCOUVER, BRITISH
COLUMBIA, CANADA

JUNE 15 @ 7:00 PM
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF 'A SONG, A
CITY': THE LONG WAR, DANNY LAMB AND
THE ASSOCIATION, DAN SLOAN (DIGGER
DAN)
FOX CABARET 2321 MAIN STREET,
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

JUNE 16 @ 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
101 DAYS OF LIVE PATIO MUSIC
WATER ST. CAFE 300 WATER STREET,
VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA

JUNE 18 @ 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM
KITSLIANO FARMERS MARKET
KITSILANO FARMERS MARKET 2690 LARCH,
VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

JUNE 24 @ 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
BURNABY ARTISAN FARMERS MARKET
BURNABY FARMERS MARKET 4949 CANADA
WAY, BURNABY, BRITISH COLUMBIA, CANADA

JUNE 30 @ 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM
101 DAYS OF LIVE PATIO MUSIC
WATER ST. CAFE 300 WATER STREET,
VANCOUVER, BC, CANADA