

JAM 'TIL DAWN™

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**FREE AT LIVE
MUSIC VENUES**
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THE MUSIC NEVER STOPS!



DARK STAR ORCHESTRA



By Toni Brown

Long ago, in a galaxy far, far away... well the story could start that way, but it seems it's already been written. So I'll start by saying that way back in 1969, the Grateful Dead altered my consciousness.

Even then, it was obvious that what was happening wasn't just about music. It was a spiritual

awakening with no borders. The people that came together in these surroundings became unified in an enlightened realm that stretched far beyond what any of us had ever expected to encounter. The Grateful Dead provided an aural soundscape to our gatherings, and we became a vast, extended family that spanned decades.

Jerry Garcia's death in 1995 was a devastating loss. As publisher of *Relix* Magazine, I agonized over how the community would remain intact. Without the band's continuous touring schedule to bring us together, it was difficult to predict what would become of our scene.

Having spent most of my life dancing along in the Deadhead universe, I've known many Grateful Dead cover bands. MANY! In fact, they began emerging in the early '70s. I even fronted one for several years. These bands seemed destined to take on the role of keeping the spirit alive. And for a while, they provided the glue that kept things together. But the original core of Deadheads had been falling away, gigging their heels into family lives and careers. The live music scene suffered. Touring became complex--bands that played Grateful Dead music were, essentially, a new generation of musicians. They had original material that they took to the next level, but enjoyed playing the music that inspired them. So despite astounding musicianship, varying styles and heaps of innovative work, many bands were stigmatized by their relationship to the Dead's music, and they weren't given the opportunity to evolve. Bands began leaving the Dead's material behind in an effort to strengthen their individuality, but instead alienated the small but loyal audiences they did have. Eventually, the slowly burgeoning Jamband scene was acknowledged and embraced, having been born out of this phenomenon.

When Dark Star Orchestra came along in 1997, they offered something differently familiar. They bought into their roles as perpetuators of the flame, delivering the Grateful Dead's music through unique conceptualization. Each night, the Chicago-based band decides on performing one show from the 2,500 that the Grateful Dead performed during their 30-year tenure as fathers of improvisational rock. By playing a complete show, replicating the varying sound systems deployed by the Dead, Dark Star Orchestra offers listeners an element of surprise--spontaneous fun, and a constantly inimitable concert circumstance. The show being recreated is not announced until the end of the evening, adding to audience speculation and integration. Dark Star Orchestra dips into every incarnation of the Dead, so most fans can "see" shows that happened before some of them were even born.



"For us, it's a chance to recreate some of the magic that was created for us over the years," keyboardist Scott Larned explains. "We offer an historical perspective at what it might have been like to go to a show in 1985, 1978 or whenever. Even for Deadheads who can say they've been to a hundred shows in the '90s, we offer something they never got to see live."

The group has their craft so well-refined that even members of the Grateful Dead, rhythm guitarist/singer Bob Weir, drummer Bill Kreutzmann, vocalist Donna Jean Godchaux, and keyboardists Vince Welnick and Tom Constanten, have

appeared on stage and performed with these live music interpreters.

"We're given a canvas with a boundary--whatever the stage set up is creates the framework, and all of the painting that we do within that framework is unique to us," says rhythm guitarist/vocalist Rob Eaton. "So we offer the sound and the structure, but the stroking and painting is all us. So it's fresh at the same time, and also very historically correct."

DSO has drawn national attention with their true-to-life performances. *Rolling Stone* praised "Dark Star Orchestra's fanatical attention to detail." *USA Today* says DSO is "channeling the Dead" and the *Washington Post* declared them "the hottest Grateful Dead tribute act going." The band marks its seventh anniversary, having performed over 1000 shows.

www.DarkStarOrchestra.net

TOM CONSTANTEN



Photo: Les Kippel

Tom Constanten was a member of the Grateful Dead from 1968-1971. During that time, the band was at its improvisatory peak, recording its most climactic album, *Live Dead*. It was the Dead's most successful album to that date, and fans and critics applauded the uncharted terrain of the classics "Dark Star," "St. Stephen" > "The Eleven" and "Lovelight." This two-album set was a hallmark in Grateful Dead musicianship, and Constanten was a distinctive part of that sound. Constanten can also be found performing on *Aoxomoxoa*, *Anthem of the Sun* and *Dick's*

Picks Grateful Dead Series numbers 4, 8, 16, 22, 26.

Tom has continued to play keyboards with a variety of musical friends over the years, and has toured extensively, performing a diverse selection of rock, classical and improvisational music. He is frequently invited to play at Dead Head Festivals and with some of the finest Dead cover bands and Jambands. In 1994, he was inducted, along with the Grateful Dead, into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Tom constanten will be appearing at Hard Rock Live Orlando on December 16 with Jambando.

www.TomConstanten.com



TONI BROWN Another Step Forward...

In 1980, Toni Brown became Publisher of *Relix* magazine, an eclectic music publication focused on the Deadhead Community and "intelligent music alternatives." With strong roots in improvisational, exploratory music a la the Grateful Dead, Allman Brothers, Jefferson Airplane, Quicksilver Messenger Service, etc., Toni recognized a new music emerging in the mid-'80s, and enthusiastically encouraged it. The "Jamband" scene was born. Phish, Blues Traveler, moe., Widespread Panic, Dave Matthews, String Cheese Incident, ekoostik hookah, Leftover Salmon and dozens of other successful artists, got their first media attention through Toni's efforts.



Photo: Les Kippel

In the early '80s, Grateful Dead lyricist, Robert Hunter, gave Toni a guitar he'd gotten from Jerry Garcia, and told her to learn how to play it. With a collection of roughly hewn songs she'd written over the years, Toni followed her muse. She began by performing with a number of well-known musical friends (New Riders of the Purple Sage, Merl Saunders, Zen Tricksters, Tom Constanten, David Nelson Band, Hot Tuna, Vince Welnick, Vassar Clements, JGB and many others).

In 1995, Toni recorded her first CD, produced by Hot Tuna's Michael Falzarano, with the backing assistance of the David Nelson Band and Hot Tuna. When she toured in support of that first release, *Blue Morning*, she found herself surrounded by a strong ensemble of players. Garcia died that same year, and performing helped Toni fill the musical void she felt.

The Toni Brown Band went on to record *Dare To Dream*. This time, Brown enlisted good friend Vassar Clements to play fiddle, and Flying Burrito Brother John Beland came in to co-produce the project and add his musicianship to her band's already incendiary mix.

Despite the fact that her initial recognition came as a result of her work with *Relix* magazine, Brown continues to develop a following. She sold *Relix* in 2000, and now appeals to her audience as a musician, weaving lyrical tapestries and musical landscapes with the same sincerity that she instilled in her 20 years as the chronicler of the Deadhead and Jamband scenes.

Having recorded her latest project, *Rabbit Hole Soul*, in Orlando, Florida, Toni found appreciation for her songwriting abilities with the title track. Tying Alice In Wonderland references to her happiness at finding life beyond publishing, life is exactly what Toni is celebrating. Handling publicity for a number of artists and events, dabbling in publishing via the *Jam 'Til Dawn* newsletter, writing songs, working with a diverse roster of talented musicians and maintaining a jam-packed performance schedule, Brown continues to be a significant part of a thriving music scene she helped create.

www.ToniBrownBand.com

Toni Brown is a Proud Member of Jambando™



SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC !

October 31 Halloween:

Kynda Halloween, Reilly's Lantern Pub, Orlando 10PM(Outdoor Party) www.Kynda.com

Bluelegs and Florganism Halloween Party, Copper Rocket, Maitland, FL 7PM

November 3:

Dark Star Orchestra, House of Blues, Downtown Disney 9PM www.darkstarorchestra.net

November 7:

Bluegrass Bash with Toni Brown & Charles Stansell with Riverbottom Nightmare Band, Copper Rocket, Maitland, FL 6:30PM www.tonibrownband.com

November 24:

Jambando, Hard Rock Live, Universal City Walk with Toni Brown, Mobius, Sonar and the Jambando All-Star Super Jam 8PM www.jambando.com

Free Parking after 6PM. Free tickets from bands and from Jambando's website

December 16:

Jambando, Hard Rock Live, Universal City Walk **HOLIDAY PARTY** featuring **Toni Brown Band with Special Guest TOM CONSTANTEN**, funkUs, Bluelegs and Mohave 8PM www.jambando.com

Free Parking after 6PM. Free tickets from bands and from Jambando's website

December 31-January 1:

NEW YEAR'S EVE MUSICAL WEEKEND CAMPING EXPERIENCE

Details to be announced www.Kynda.com

SUPPORT LIVE MUSIC: SEND ALL CONCERT LISTINGS TO JAMTILDAWN1@aol.com

www.jamtilldawn.com www.jambando.com www.tonibrownband.com