

SPECIAL 775<sup>th</sup> ISSUE!

# MUSIC CONNECTION

Informing Music People Since 1977™

# 2008 50

## Innovators, Iconoclasts, Groundbreakers & Guiding Lights

### Our Favorite Signings of 2008

Exclusive Report  
**A&R Survey**   
What the heck are they thinking?

## 25 New MUSIC Critiques Top of The Year

## TIP JAR

### Is There Life In The MUSIC BUSINESS After 30?



### Q&A METALLICA

**LARS ULRICH ON:**  
*Death Magnetic*  
Producer Rick Rubin  
**ANGRY FANS!**

# 17th Annual HOT 1000

## Unsigned Bands & Artists

Vol. 32, No. 17 DECEMBER 2008 • U.S. \$3.95/\$4.95 Canada



0 74470 74944 8 17



# 17th Annual HOT 100 Unsigned Bands & Artists

**M**usic Connection's recent rise to national distribution (which began with our June issue) has opened up our annual, eagerly awaited Hot 100 to include artists from every region of the country, not just Southern California, making this year's list our most competitive ever. Though our expansion has forced us to exclude some very talented performers, we're excited about the artistic quality that this list represents. Those involved in determining the results of our 2008 poll included not only Music Connection staff members, but journalists, club bookers, publicists and other industry professionals from across the nation.

Compiled by Bernard Baur, Mark Nardone and Paula Muñoz

ARTIST	WEBSITE	CONTACT	STYLE	ARTIST	WEBSITE	CONTACT	STYLE
Altamonte	MySpace.com/altamonte	altamonteband@aol.com	Rock	Magnetico w/Rafael Moreira	MySpace/rafaelmoreira	818-935-5256	Rock/Blues/R&B
Among the Infected	www.amongtheinfected.com	amongtheinfected@yahoo.com	Hardcore Metal	Mara	MySpace.com/mara	mara@marasong.com	Female Fronted Rock
Anina	MySpace.com/aninamusic	anina.victoria@gmail.com	Pop-Rock	Brynn Marie	brynnmarie.com	Brynnmariemusic@gmail.com	Country Pop
Be-1	www.lastfewartists.com	lfa@lastfewartists.com	Hip-Hop/Rap	Malea McGuinness	maleamusic.com	info@maleamusic.com	Classic Rock/Folk
Bad Dog	MySpace.com/baddogrn	jimjam2@sbcglobal.net	Rock	Bryan McPherson	www.bryanmcpherson.com	admin@bryanmcpherson.com	Indie Punk/Folk
Blackout 101	MySpace.com/theblackout101	manager@blackout101.com	Power Pop	Marco Mendoza	www.marcomendoza.com	Adale9@earthlink.net	Classic Rock
The Bleeding Deacons	bleedingdeacons.com	310-709-9645	Hard Rock	Sheri Miller	MySpace.com/sherimiller	917-692-0272	Singer/Songwriter
Blvd	MySpace.com/blvdsource	323-270-4357	Live Electro Hip-Hop	The Muggs	MySpace.com/themuggs	tonymuggs@gmail.com	Psych./Blues Rock
The B.O.L.T.	theboltmusic.com	deepak@theboltmusic.com	Dream Rock	Julie Neumark	julienemark.com	julie@julienemark.com	Americana
Jeremy Buck & the Bang	jeremybuck.com	ino@jeremybuck.com	Orig. Party Rock	New Ditty	MySpace.com/newdittykills	508-759-7264	Metal
Camp Clovenhoof	MySpace.com/campclovenhoof	vagabond@campclovenhoof.com	Alt. Rap/Rock	The New Fidelity	MySpace.com/thenewfidelity	562-453-8080	Mod Power-Pop
Carbon 9	MySpace.com/carbon9	818-761-2749	Indust. Rock/Metal	Elizabeth Nicole	www.elizabethnicole.com	818-343-6365	Pop
Chain Reaction				Leo Nocentelli	www.nocentelli.com	313-557-0101	Funk/R&B/Soul

Will Champlin	MySpace.com/willchamplin	wchamplin@hotmail.com	Pop/Rock/R&B
Charlie Superfly	MySpace.com/charliesuperfly	charliesuperfly@mac.com	Pop/Funk
Cinderella Motel	MySpace.com/cinderellamotel	tammymotomahawk@gmail.com	Dirty Cabaret Glam
Cockpit	www.ilovecockpit.com	booking@ilovecockpit.com	Rock
Comandante Zero	MySpace.com/comandantezero	el_comandante@comandantezero.com	Electro/Funk
Commonwealth	commonwealthband.com	james@luckmedia.com	Rock
Nick Daugherty	MySpace.com/mandimartinmusic	mandimartinmusic@gmail.com	Folk Rock
Brooke DeBetties	MySpace.com/brookesings	debettig@charter.net	Pop/Rock
Alestar Digby	alestardigby.com	alestardigby@yahoo.com	ModernClassicRock
Ellee ven	elleeven.com	press@hotsaucerecords.com	Electro-Pop
Emergency Music	www.emergencymusic.com	bigtimeindeed@gmail.com	Rock/Pop
Face For Radio	MySpace.com/faceforradioonline	vortexrecording@sbcglobal.net	Alt. Rock
Tim Fagan	MySpace.com/TimFagan	tfagan@timfagan.com	Blues/Soul/Pop
Feisty Piranhas	thefeistypiranhas.com	dmysteryman2003@yahoo.com	Power-Pop Punk
Jon Geiger	jongeiger.com	213-814-7667	Americana
Jay Gordon & the Penetrators	jaygordonandthepenetrators.com	213-924-4901	Classic Blues-Rock
The Grumpy	MySpace.com/thegrumpy	thegrumpyband@aol.com	Alt. Hard Rock
Ronnie Hammon's Band	ronniehammonband.com	323-545-8685	Tribute
Audra Hardt	audrahardt.com	310-704-5693	Alt. Blues-Rock
Sara Haze	www.sarahaze.com	www.sarahaze.com	Singer/Songwriter
The Hell Caminos	MySpace.com/thehellcaminos	N/A	Punk
Holding Mercury	MySpace.com/holdingmercury	bulletproofmanagement@aim.com	Rock
Hot New Singles	MySpace.com/hotnewsingles	N/A	Rock & Roll
Impel	MySpace.com/Impel	igariano@mac.com	Ambient Rock
Rob Jay	MySpace.com/robjaymyspacemusic	robjay1982@gmail.com	Hip-Hop
Jayla	jaylamusic.com	avalonmgnt@aol.com	Pop-Rock/Funk
Nikki Katt	MySpace.com/nikkikatt	confusionmusic@aol.com	Comedy Pop
Kevin Never Talks	MySpace.com/KNT	707-849-1999	Funk/Rock/Hip-Hop
Kim Kline	kimklinemusic.com	kimkline@tmail.com	Blues-Rock
LaGrange	MySpace.com/lagrangetribute	lagrangetribute@yahoo.com	ZZ Top Tribute
Lawless	MySpace.com/theycallmelawless	949-697-5871	Club/Rap/Hip-Hop
Lil' Keesha	LilKeesha.com	N/A	Pop/R&B/Dance
Donna Louise	MySpace.com/donnalouisemusida	818-800-3355	R&B
Lydia Vance	MySpace.com/lydiavance	702-596-1403	Rock
M-Day	nbth.com	714-393-7874	R&B/Hip-Hop
Lindsay Mac	MySpace.com/LindsayMacMusic	booking@lindsaymac.com	Singer/Songwriter
Magic Box	MySpace.com/magicboxwhojaba	glen@gitechstudios.com	Psych. Art-Rock

Oil Spill	MySpace.com/oilspill1	562-682-0946	Alt. Rock
Paper or Plastic	MySpace.com/paperorplastic	503-708-3608	Indie Pop
Mitch Perry	MySpace.com/mitchperry	Mark88@mitchperry.com	New Age Rock
The Pilz	MySpace.com/thepilz	danielle@emipromo.com	Modern rock
Present Tense	www.ptjazz.com	818-786-5994	Jazz
The Prisoner's Dilemma	MySpace.com/ThePrisonersDilemma	949-697-5871	Progressive Rock
Raining Jane	MySpace.com/rainingjane	310-721-1641	Alt. Folk-Rock
Redstone Hall	MySpace.com/redstonehall	818-348-7667	Pop-Rock/Classic Rock
Amy Regan	MySpace.com/amyreagan	regan.amy@gmail.com	Pop/Folk/Rock
Gina Rene	sonicbids.com/ginarene	323-363-9465	Hip-Hop/Rap/R&B
The Rescues	www.therescues.com	mgmt@therescues.com	Harmony Indie Pop
Ribbon Pigeon	www.ribbonpigeon.net	kenteugene@gmail.com	Country Rock
Leon Rich	MySpace.com/LeonRich4	leon@leonrich.com	Blues Rock/Experimental
Evonne Rivera	MySpace.com/evonnerivera	213-842-3212	R&B/Jazz/Soul
Caitlin Rose	MySpace.com/caitlinrosesongs	aaron@theory8records	Alt. Country
Saint Motel	MySpace.com/saintmotel	612-554-3991	Indie Rock
Elliott Samuel	MySpace.com/elliotsamuel	info@elliotsamuel.com	Singer/Songwriter
Tin Scribble	www.tinscribble.com	guitaramam@yahoo.com	Art Rock
Shattered Atom	MySpace.com/shatteredatom	kensheahan@btmarists.com	Alt/Pop
SlowMoErotic	MySpace.com/SlowMoErotic	slowmoerotic@yahoo.com	Erotic Techno-Pop
Soma Star	www.somastar.com	lisa@somastar.com	Rock
Sydney Sprague	www.sydnaysprague.com	sydney@sydnaysprague.com	Singer/Songwriter
Frank Stallone	frankstallone.com	frank@frankstallone.com	Blues/Pop
Starving For Gravity	MySpace.com/starvingforgravity	akravetsky@gmail.com	Modern Rock
Steel Panther	MySpace.com/steelpantherkicksass	602-327-3605	'80s Metal Trib.
Mike Stocksdale	MySpace.com/mikestocksdale	310-702-5741	Amplified Acoustic Rock
James Sudakow	MySpace.com/jamessudakow	jamassudakow@yahoo.com	Electric Violin Rock
Suicide Holiday	MySpace.com/suicideholiday	niki@suicideholiday.com	Trash Rock
Louden Swain	loudenswain.com	band@loudenswain.com	IndieRock
Ron "Bumblefoot" Thal	bumblefoot.com	bumblefoot@aol.com	Rock/Jazz Fusion
David Thiele	MySpace.com/davidthiele.com	david@davidthiele.com	Pop
The Towels	MySpace.com/thetowelsband	310-422-5327	Quirky Pop Rock
Una	MySpace.com/unamusit	una@unamusit.net	Downtempo Trip-Hop
Chris Valenti	emotionalwreck-ords.com	323-851-9190	Singer/Songwriter
Walking Bicycles	www.walkingbicycles.com	walkingbicycles@hotmail.com	Rock
John West	johnpeterwest.com	johnpeterwest@gmail.com	Pop/ Soul
Shana Wyatt	shanewyatt.com	shane@shanewyatt.com	Country

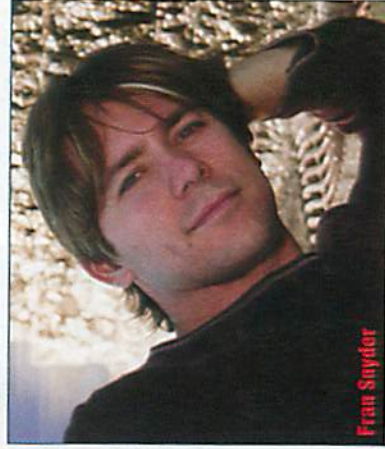




Cody Marks

### Cody Marks

This performer spent 2008 touring prisons and military bases in remote countries, including Gitmo, Cuba. Says one admirer: "She has built a reputation of playing for people no one else has the balls to." ([www.myspace.com/codymarks](http://www.myspace.com/codymarks))



Fran Snyder

### Fran Snyder

Following the credo "Living rooms were made for live music," Kansas-based Snyder has brought credibility and organization to the house concert market through his website. His efforts have opened up new opportunities for performing songwriters around the world and he has educated the general public about the experience of house concerts. One performer has noted: "All of us who travel and perform for a living owe a debt of gratitude to him. I have never seen someone in the business as selfless as Fran." ([www.concertsinyourhome.com](http://www.concertsinyourhome.com))

### Victor Wooten

Widely regarded as one of today's best living bassists, this member of Grammy winners Bela Fleck & the Flecktones is an innovative player who also produces, arranges and sings. What many people don't know, however, is that he runs Victor Wooten's Bass & Nature Camp for aspiring bassists. A non-profit organization that runs purely off of tuition money, the Camp is a present from a gifted musician to other souls who wish to follow in Wooten's footsteps. ([www.victorwooten.com/basscamp](http://www.victorwooten.com/basscamp))

MC

—Bernard Baur, Dan Kimpel, Andy Kaufmann, Daniel Siwek, Rob Putnam, Mara Hliner and Cary Baker contributed to this article. MC would also like to thank all our readers and AMP members who offered their insights and opinions.

**ROCKROLL**  
HARRISINSTITUTE.INFO

**una**

*a downtempo, trip hop band from Los Angeles*  
*thanks, Music Connection, for making us one of your top 100 unsigned artists*  
[www.myspace.com/unamusic](http://www.myspace.com/unamusic)

[www.3rdpointproductions.com](http://www.3rdpointproductions.com)

**MusicVideos**

Third Point Productions  
805-499-6000

"The Retro 176 has become my first choice for lead vocals. It now stands alone at the finish line!"  
**Chris Lord Alge**

**retro 176 tube limiting amplifier**