

MUSIC

My favorite local pop/rock, roots and jazz CDs of 2013



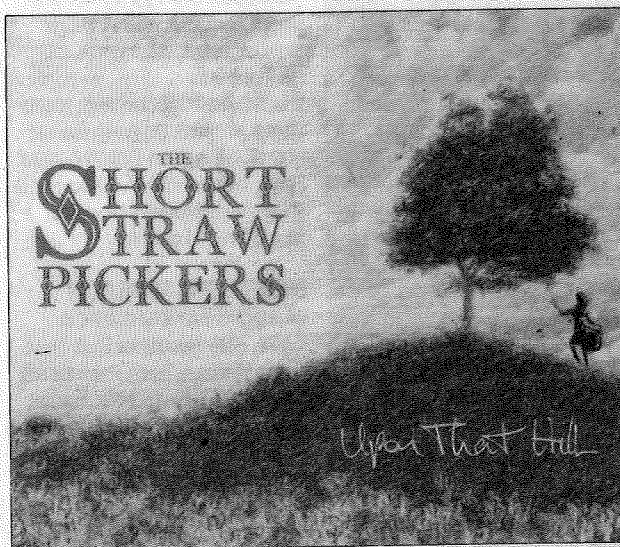
Bill Meredith

Here are my picks for the year's best local CDs:

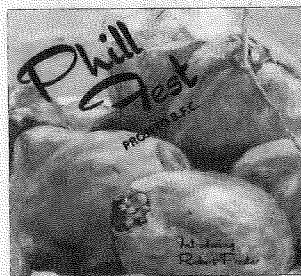
Best Roots CD/Album of the Year: "Upon That Hill" by the Short Straw Pickers (theshortstrawpickers.com). The singing core of guitarist Jack Schueler, multi-stringed instrumentalist Billy Gilmore and upright bassist Jeff Adkins is impressive enough from the loping opener "Open Road" to comic closer "Free Horse." Add violinist and New Jersey transplant Brian Purwin, who creates a two-man bowed string section with Adkins on "Wiley's Cove" and goes Stephane Grappelli on "Momentum," and you get one of the best bluegrass discs ever by a South Florida artist.

See the Short Straw Pickers from 6 to 10 p.m. Sunday at the Backyard, 511 N.E. 4th St., Boynton Beach (561-740-0399).

Best Pop/Rock CD: "Fall of This Town" by Sean Hanley (facebook.com/seanhanleyinfo). A compelling debut by the 45-year-old Boynton Beach singer/songwriter, this CD's cast includes singing guitarist and bassist Rick Rossano, drummer Mike Vullo, keyboardist/vocalist Marc Ward and an array of guests. A heavy Beatles influence permeates standout tracks



Area bluegrass quartet the Short Straw Pickers play at the Backyard in Boynton Beach this Sunday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

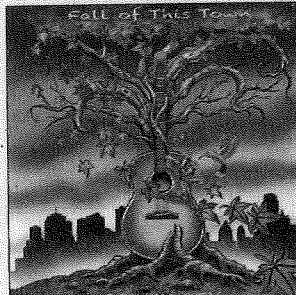


Phill Fest will be at the lobby lounge at Hyatt place from 7 to 10 p.m. Fridays.

Daylight, "Shine" and "To Be You."

See Sean Hanley from 8 to 11 p.m. on Friday at Rudy's Stand Up Saloon, 9 N. J St., Lake Worth (561-602-5307), through January from 5 to 8 p.m. on Mondays at South Shores, 502 Lucerne Ave., Lake Worth (561-547-7656) and 7 to 10 p.m. on Tuesdays at Havana Hideout, 509 Lake Ave., Lake Worth (561-585-8444).

Best Jazz CD: "Projecto B.F.C." by Phill Fest (phillfestmusic.com). This West Palm Beach-



Boynton Beach singer/songwriter Sean Hanley performs at various locations in Lake Worth throughout January.

uncommon rhythm into Brazilian jazz melodies on originals like his "Florianopolis," plus "Dig This Samba" and "Clearwater Sunset" (each co-composed by his Brazilian parents, late keyboardist Manfredo Fest and singer/educator Lili Galtieri Fest), with ace accompaniment by pianist Robert Prester, bassist Russ Howard, drummer Ronie Martinez and harmonica player Hendrik

A heavy Beatles influence permeates Sean Hanley's standout tracks such as "One More Hour of Daylight," "Shine" and "To Be You."

See Phill Fest from 7 to 10 p.m. on Fridays in the lobby lounge at Hyatt Place, 295 Lakeview Ave., West Palm Beach (561-655-1454), and from 7 to 10 p.m. this Saturday with Robert Prester and Terezinha Valois at Downtown at the Gardens, 11701 Lake Victoria Gardens Ave., Palm Beach Gardens (561-340-1600).

Honorable mentions: "Black Finger" by Black Finger, "Commonwealth" by Blackhawk and the Nightdrivers, "Brush Your Cares Away" by CBIII, "Roller Coaster" by Joey George, "Natural Jazz" by Jim Kovalcik, "Prelude" by Live Hymnal, "Bright Roads Ahead" by Making Faces, "Lunatic" by Meresha, "Sugar" by Route Bleu, "Things Were Different Then" by Ivan Skinner, "Sacred and Profane" by Sugawack, "Home" by Debbie Tassone and Gary Frost and "Woody Guthrie: 100 Years of Song"