

Get Reddy

By Charlene Arsenault

Being the oldest kid in the family, Chris Reddy didn't have a sibling to look up to, to tell him what the "coolest" music was. He was left with the radio and the many Beatles eight-tracks stored in the basement.

But at age 13, when he got his first electric guitar, it turned him on to all the stuff he had been neglecting: Steely Dan, Rush, The Tubes, Todd Rundgren, Black Sabbath, Alice Cooper and Aerosmith. His high school band Exius would prove to be a breeding ground of sorts for other bands to come, as different members joined and friendships formed throughout its almost 10-year span. When keyboardist Nathan Linsky joined in the early '80s, the band transformed into Transit, which still plays.

WHAT REDDY IS LISTENING TO NOWADAYS



The new King's X CD, Todd Rundgren's *With a Twist*, Jamie Cullum, XTC's *Rag and Bone Buffet*, Adrian Legg, Bruce

Cockburn's new instrumental CD *Speechless*, and Eric Johnson's new CD *Bloom*.

But these days, we're seeing more and more of Reddy solo, especially after he ditched the hi-tech industry two years ago and moved back to this area. It seems in the past year he's burst onto the scene, often playing close to every night of the week in local and not-so-local clubs. "Musical direction and career changes led me into solo recording and acoustic ventures," says Reddy, "and I am trying to evolve and find my new love of music every day."

Solo music, he says, was difficult to get used to after playing with bands for so long. No more relying on anyone for the rhythm of the song, covering the bad notes, or taking a harmony. "There is also a great rush in knowing that you make it or break it all by yourself," he says. "I started from the outset using a Boss loop station pedal to allow for background rhythms and arrangements and learned it was harder than it looked from the solo guys I watched out at Steamboat."

DETAILS

Who: Chris Reddy

When and Where: McNally Grill and Pub in Westminster on Friday, March 24; Guiseppe's Bar and Grill in Northboro on March 30; and at the Victory Bar on Shrewsbury Street on April 1. Visit www.chrisreddy.com for plenty of other dates.

Reddy, who has three solo CDs to his credit and a fourth on the way, spent a great deal of time last summer working it out, and now is able to come up with a diverse mix of music. His solo shows are a mix of everything. His covers span instrumental finger-picking to Coldplay. Reddy's originals have been compared to late '70s Jeff Beck fusion and to Tangerine Dream soundscapes, especially on the first album, *Info Junkie*. Reddy's second album, *Sonification*, mixed vocal pop, jazz-fusion, harder-edge progressive rock and acoustic new age. His latest on the market, *Drinking Songs for the Working Stiff* did just what the title promised — it brought out the alternative drinking



Chris Reddy

songs.

"I'm all over the map," says Reddy. "Otherwise I would be bored."

And at one of his shows, you won't be. o

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