

Transcription completed for: 168. LIFERS - Scott McCaughey

Transcript:

Been thinking about a vacation trip to the Pacific Northwest, what bows are just a few of the sounds of this big country. We think sounds are about the best way of communicating their is. So we've assembled a collection of typical sounds of the Pacific Northwest now. Sit back and listen.

It's a Libras Podcast Addict Escape Rodriguez and Ben riser.

And now here Scott Jade and Ben.

Guys.

How's it going? I've been out of town the past week or so none of the time I've been out of the country for the past week or so was I missed.

Games been texting me about the Taylor Swift album that came out while you were gone. He's cheering and the Donald Trump trial which started while you were gone.

That's big news. Both of them.

But we don't talk about big news on the Shelf, should be big news.

And I got back into the country, and people news is talked about whether or not Donald Trump has farting and in Port. That's the biggest story all week, wait till Saturday Night Live next week.

Who is on the show today?

You're asking me who we got on the show today, Scott McAfee McCoy, how do you say it? How do you think you said?

When when you look at it looks like my coffee. Like it's spelled wrong, right? We're looks like it's pronounced wrong, it's McCoy.

Yes, it is.

I would call him a road duck or something like that. Has been around a long time. He plays with a bunch of different bands.

Yes. First the young fresh fellows - 5 people with REM for a while and hole in her. When he plays for the baseball project

Tons of bands. Some of that we're leaving out. It is insane. Can I ask my question about? I think so, I think so, it's me more of like, a touring musician but Scott McCoy is has been recording as much as touring us. All these years. He's a, he's a recording artist was with all with Peter buck and with his own bands that he fronts of all kinds of side projects that he's either solo records, so many records. And so many record projects where they like, he'll make records that are part of a series of Records.

You're right then it would be productive to call The Manor Road, dog. You could do like I was nothing. If not a reductive not every musician is a rejected racer, dog. You're not a musician.

Banana session player, whatever.

the guy has

Resume. He's got a resume, right? Do you know around here? That's the best thing you can say about anybody. You could do a six degrees of Scott McCoy thing just like you do with Kevin Bacon and I flight you could go a long way in that game, it would be sick.

Does hanging out the other night.

This Bar.

This guy Turner.

Chinese insert himself into our conversation as well. I know you I know you from from 4-H you guys from playing 4-H I go.

Oh yeah, you that's how you know Migos said. Yeah, that's I just know. That's what you do. I'm going to 4H Club you talkin about

So I busted a bottle over his head.

I believe it.

We do the Gabe. Rodriguez, his TV corner back and Gabe Rodriguez.

Everybody has made.

Gabe's Rodriguez's TV Corner when they prepared for this. Are you going to do you remember the Brady Bunch episode where they perform a play?

And it's the Seven Dwarfs.

I remember the seven dwarves.

Do I remind you remember this? Now is this a cousin Oliver episode? No, but it is when Sam was hanging around a lot and Alice's boyfriend. Sam was hanging around and he plays who's supposed to play. We'd like to give you a lot of Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.

That's how I see it is there. Anyone faster than me and you know what your answer is?

I just remembered I forgot something. I'll be back later.

Trailer.

Eat this while I'm gone. It will calm you down.

Would you stop doing that guy who it was? It was horrifying. They were playing it at the airport.

How many seasons were there of The Brady Bunch? Wasn't that many?

Evicted. I beg to differ. I don't think it when I used to try to make sure they did at least seven season, so they could send to Kate and if anything was syndicated, it was The Brady Bunch. So, I know you remember. This one is the Joe Namath episode where

Bobby pretends that he's dying. So Joe Namath will come visit him ready. Go ahead, The Brady Bunch lasted for blank Seasons game 6,

I haven't been.

I'm at 8.

Five Seasons. How many episodes were there per season?

At least 25 probably 30, maybe 45, 20 forever, 24 episodes per season on Seinfeld was going on, but this is pre sign, felt they were cutting down by times Seinfeld hit maybe, but it doesn't really matter, does it season 1. I've got an episode guide. Okay, I'm going to look it up, 25 episodes. Okay, now, let's see what happens when I get to season 4. How many episodes are you looking at?

2323 okay it's not a lot. So season 5 starts with adios Johnny Bravo 773 today and do the Johnny Bravo episode. That's your favorite right at some point.

And of course, there was The Brady, Bunch variety hour, which was totally insane. That's in the middle of 22 episodes. Were aired in 73 with the series finale. Episode harebrained, scheme area on March 8th, 1974, at what point are we looking at? Oliver?

I'm hoping he was only there for that final season. Okay. So here's here's this episode Snow White and the Seven Brady's that I was talking about at Cindy's behest, the family and Sam put on a backyard theater production, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs when it is discovered, Alice has already eaten. The poison apple while rehearsing Sam and my crush to the store and costume to buy an apple.

Sam receives a parking, fine in a policeman says they must have a permit to host the production. A permit is granting a short notice allowing the show to go on. Wow. How's that for drama, guys? It's pretty intense.

Why did that show end? By the way did anyway? No.

I am probably cuz episodes like that. So with Oliver there for a while and then he sucked off. I could only four episodes Oliver what season.

It had to be the last season. Why would have been left? I don't know.

You tell me.

Cuz I'll do you know when it when they were, they came up with that jump, the shark thing which was a reference to happy days, then they would also didn't always follow that up with like in Brady, Bunch terms is when cousin, Oliver, right? That's when that show, jump the shark pulling in all of her.

Cuz they're rehashing and recycling do the young kids, because the young kids are grown up and they're gangly and weird looking to no longer cute Sands, a new cute kid to come in.

Exactly.

That's what I said. Did they do that with Full House? What happened? After those twins got grown up.

I think they gave those those twins drugs to keep them. He likes or some kind of injection to get them young.

Image of real. You just make that up. I'm just making that up Rodriguez.

TV was, everybody had it made Rodriguez's TV Corner, yes, to people using a problem with that. He makhadzi McAfee, I get it all. Once I get upset about it cuz it's it's just as it was built to be a life, a lifetime of mispronouncing. Sounds exactly like you're sort of adopted kind of like handle boy. Yes, it's right. Exactly.

Yeah, that's right. Boy bands. So where are you now? Are you a question? Did. Did ACDC start the only band with TNT over there always bands before that? I don't know. That's a good

question. I think I'm over here, too. But where are you right now? I'm in Portland. Portland Oregon. Are you from Portland from Seattle?

Well, I'm not from either, I'm from California, pretty much, but but that was I've been, I was in Seattle for 25 years. So that's when my, my air quotes rock career started, right? I've been sort of being from, from Seattle, for a long time, cuz all the rest of the young fresh fellows, still live in Seattle to, but I moved to Portland like, almost 20 years ago. Now, you moved from California to Seattle. Why? Well, my friend took care of you. And I who took, who was the original lead guitar player and co-founder of the young fresh fellows, we were playing in bands around the bay area and we are getting tired of it cuz it was just like it was kind of like back in the

Peter play kind of stupid. We should just do something else. So, Chuck went around and drove around the country. One Summer and look for cool places that he thought where we could do something in music. Not this still your bad and that was right when they started that bam Bay Area Music, free free magazine that they were handing out that was kind of like the first one of those and so we thought we could do something like that and so we just kind of randomly decided on Seattle checketts and download it to Tucson and in Seattle. And I used to live in Tucson when I was a kid and I liked it, but that will Seattle sounds like something different. Let's go there, be W. Van and just drove up there and started Living in a basement for \$100 a month year, is this the end of 1979?

I mean we've all heard the stories that the Seattle seeing the grunge era, but what was what was it like back then, before I swear you could play Wednesday through Saturday three sets of night you know mostly doing typically doing covers and stuff like that. There was a lot of that going on but there wasn't a small punk rock scene of people who are making their own forty-fives and putting them out and and you know, there was, they would play in like a fellows Hall. It's like that. They rent a rent, a hall eagles hall or whatever. And then do punk rock shows were in a hundred. People would show up and and then they get busted by the cops and that would be the end of the shift. So there was a lot of that going on. But I started playing with this band called The Dinettes that there was mostly a girl group of three three girls.

Looks like the run at Saturday but it was like with a guitar space and drums. I was kind of like the stones with The Ronettes kind of thing. I know and it was pretty popular and we're doing that for night a week, Wednesday through Saturday, three nights, three sets of night thing, which I was also work in a record store and got to be kind of a burned-out but but really fun. I was young then you know and that's what turned into the young fresh fellows. We made a cassette and sent out to friends and

Then we need two sided. Let's make a record of this stuff and that was the beginning of it all. So where you riding for the Seattle rocket at the time? Yes. By the time we in the three months and Chuck it been up there and said this would be good place to magazine. We came up and there was a second. Second issue of the rocket was in the first bar, we went into, we got burnt working with them and and I started writing for them immediately and, and also driving around in in my 65 Comet Caliente and going through all the newspaper boxes cuz it was originally, it was

like, it was an ad add on to this weekly, paper called the Seattle Sun and which cost a quarter. And so, you know, that was my first job in Seattle was going around and collecting the

The coins from the coin boxes all over the city, the late, would you put out yourself? We put out with them. Pop-lama product loud is the guy we met named Conrad you know, who he was like a local sound man and he would do sound for the dinette set at it shows, we played and stuff like that. And and I told him that we want to record a record. He's like, oh really. Well, I've got a label and a recording studio and I'll record you for free if you'll put the record on my label at. So, that was that egg was at the studio studios in price of mountain figuring out how we could do it. And but it was just great that who helped fell into it. And just said, hey, I'll do it for you guys for free if you'll put it on my label.

Really know has the label didn't really exist but I like to cassettes to Christmas collection Gazette. So he wanted to get it off the ground and he thought it will just be cool. If you guys want to do vinyl actually do a vinyl record. That'll be good way to get my my label off the ground and it was awesome for us because we got so much time to spend in the studio. Compared to, what we would have been. If we, we hired a studio for \$20, an hour or whatever, it was, then we would have been, like, on the clock. Seriously, really, really fun fun. Time to make a record with Conrad. We don't know what we're doing, but that's the beauty of it, I guess, whatever, walking down the street,

Now They Are Good Fellows down. Nobody knows.

I went and told him, I was new downtown and I did not know the proper hang around.

The weather.

I knew I was a young fresh fellows, a phone.

Yeah, they're all the time with the couple of the young fresh fellows, you see.

Peanut butter jelly. Paroxetine

We're not out to make a real big trash can.

Young fresh fellows.

So, I mean, when I listen to Young fresh fellows is really hard for me to pick out your influences. Who would you say they were? Was the first man to really turn your head around.

Well, the first man that really turned my head around was the Beatles of course, but but I guess the Beatles weren't the biggest influence of the time cuz we were listening to, you know, I mean at that point, I was working in a record store on the Avenue Inn Seattle and and it was you know, there's a lot of punk rock going online of them Buzzcocks and Sex Pistols and all that kind of

stuff which you might hear a little bit. But we're on the top of your side of town, for sure. And and but I stayed like that first record. The Who sounds really lose a lot of who who influence going on there and search music or had was was really in the surf music and Chuck. And I were to love the fantastic, fantastic baggies and all these weird like that and the Bandit.

Do right around then like when we first moved to Seattle was the beach, the Paul Collins beat, you know? And that's why the English Beat had to be called the English Beat, right? And they were the beat in UK, that was the first Paul Collins and made the first records just called the beat. And that was just a real great power pop, classic rock, and power-pop record it. So that's what that's what we were really into right at that point, you know, right? So what was that first tour when did you, when did you take the steps out of school? We didn't go. Till 1985 is the record for the record came out in 84 and like, April, 84, 40 years ago today. And yeah, that's kind of why we're going out and about trying to get out and about a little bit, this this coming year, just it's not going to be a lot, but we're going to do something. But but yeah, 85.

What's the first tour we did? And now it's kind of a we didn't have any idea what we're doing. We just, you know, we can ride it sent out some like thirty copies, LP 2 radio stations, that he got a list from somebody. You know, just randomly some of them came back with like, you know, in Bloomington Indiana, you know, we should go play until we just rented a van and just drove out there and, you know, didn't really have guarantees or anything like that. We had one college gig in Dennison, Ohio, where they were paying us, a hundred bucks. Would like, to know it, would we just, we're just having the time of our lives, so that was 85. And that was kind of a big deal because it was weird on the first bands in Seattle, that went

Yeah, it was before pre grunge and everything and we are kind of like the one of the first bands in Seattle that went out across the country. And we got our second album to talk to trivia which came out in 85. A big review. Inn in Rolling Stone by David reconcile. That was kind of a big deal. It was like, wow, you guys are super popular now or not. But yeah, it was it was really cool. I gave us the confidence to to go out and and just see what happens, you know. And it was the classic thing you go out and play in front of 50 people, the first time and hopefully the next time there's a hundred next time, there's 200 now that kind of thing which

Send it to work at. Can you really? I don't know, explain what the difference between the college scene of the 80s was to the alternate scene of the 90s to you.

I mean, are there even really College Station still? I guess there are, but they don't really do. They don't have the, the power they did write his back. Then if you are getting, I mean, depended on the which station was, but some of the college stations were really would pack a Pack-a-Punch in out. If you had them playing your record, get a pretty good chance of having a decent show in town. And they might sponsor it at a local bar or whatever and get behind it. But, yeah, I don't know when that dried-up but it, it seems like it's been a long time since it's been like that, you know, the first time we went to first or we did we, we we got chosen. Cmj Inn in New York in New York was where they had the cmj convention, which is college music journal or

something. Yeah, it's a good thing. It was kind of, looks, kind of like sxsw, but before sxsw, and it was all all over New York City. You know, all these shows and

And but they were all, they weren't.

We're necessarily popular bands, jelly roll bands were just kind of just coming out and and they would get behind you behind new new groups, you know, cuz College music was really trying not to play, what the populations were playing. You know, they were, they were definitely, they were the alternative. Then, you know, right. And a couple cities would have no commercial alternative station, you know? Which I guess now everybody has those but but they weren't they were kind of few and far between back then you know you'll like

Well, kcmusa music College Station in the wide universe. Watch him. But then it became his cage yet, which was also like a, that was like a commercial alternative station Christian. It was around four or five years, but I think there was one in in New York. We have we have wllr on Long Island. Yeah. LIRR. That's right. That's the one. Yeah, cuz they, they had us. Come out in 87. They flew us out to play a big show for them cuz they were Amy Grant was kind of a little bit of a hit for for us and the LIRR was really into it and so they flew us out there just to play one show, which was we thought was really crazy but if that's the Ritz with us in the Liars, was, it was very fun. But yeah. So what was the story behind behind riding? Amy Grant?

It was, you know, who was just, I mean, the fellas, didn't we took our music really seriously but we didn't take ourselves seriously. You know, we play live. We just want to have a good time and have fun and wanted people to have fun, you know? And so

I was driving to practice one day from West Seattle and I just, I just got this thing in my head about Amy Grant adjust the lyrics. Just we're rolling out of coming out and I was like, I realized I didn't know anything about Amy Grant. I said, I knew she was a Christian singer. That's all I knew was popular at the time, so I was like, I'm going to poke fun fun of her without reading anything or finding out anything about her. Just like, I just made, I just made stuff up. Yeah, that's what I that's what I do and I didn't really worry about what was true and what wasn't in it, so I can figure, it's the song, anything anything, anything goes in a song, invite, you say, whatever you want, you might

You might have to go back and rethink things later or regret that you know, I mean he kind of popular and it was such a dumb song. I mean I mean I played it like I got the practice that I just saw these words and we just start playing the song. I just like made it up in two seconds. You know. It does have all of two cords to it too. I think so. But yeah. So it was just it was kind of a silly song and people liked it. But yeah. I felt a little embarrassed about it as the years went on but especially like Amy Grant, you know, heard the song. And she, she was such a good sport about it. You know, she was, she was like seeing it in interviews, the song, jiggly, and she starts, and she's cool.

Anyway like 10 or 15 years later. We wrote a song about her that was a lot sweeter a lot nicer but but we didn't put it on the record.

So who is the some of the bands that you were touring with that? Like you really got on with that? You would say where your contemporaries will, The Replacements where are are, are big buddies, you know, which was a.m.

you know, it was probably

Not the best thing for either of us to be touring together cuz we really hate each other on and none of us at all pretty disastrous shows. That was like an 87 we played with him first in 85 and we did a couple doors with them in 87. And yeah, those were really, really fun. But pretty messy, you picture that you thought was bad. It's really kind of famous one is the Portland Portland show and

Summer of 87, when we just didn't really.

I don't know, didn't really try to do to any music. I mean we played songs but it was just like we were, we were we were totally, we play, it's a disco night before. And, you know, it's it's it's it's those are really good back-to-back 800 Mi or whatever. And we just started pounding drinks it, you know, it sounds Jack and and just staking each other on and we were

Just raising hell. And Paul had the idea, we should all switch clothes before the show. So we're wearing their clothes and they're wearing ours, which is funny. Cuz, you know, I could even fit in the Westroads. Close, you know, and then we had all these kind of costumes that we had, cuz we called the Leonardo DaVinci, robe is really fancy luhr road that I would wear, which I've been wearing. It shows like off and on for a couple years and that was gone that I could fall. Went out Paul all the clothes in my bag basically and threw him out into the audience. So you know, there were all my clothes in as we were sticking it up so bad, they came out halfway through and took our instruments and and launched into a

Joyous Riddim, medley of halo-halo. Hey good lookin run. Silent night. You know, I don't remember any songs they played. I don't even know if they played any real songs. It was just it was just horrible and we threw the couch out of the second-story window of the of the dressing room and Paul was swinging on the chandelier in there and it came out of the ceiling. And the promoter wasn't wasn't happy. I don't think the crowd was happy at all I'll do now. You know, I live in Portland. Now everybody, I talked to was like, oh yeah. I saw that show. That was amazing and it, right? I mean, was it was, it was a packed house but, you know, but it was I don't think anybody was really thinking it was really good at the time. I felt so bad about it.

Right in the right song Portland as their next record that came out. I think don't tell us. So I think it was you in that runoffgroove said sorry Portland like that to their was I was a big winner. Variety Arts Center in La. We're playing to show. There was like the record release party for you to meet Me. Meet Me. Yes.

And one of the knights Chris Mars got super, super drunk, which is he was usually the guy who trying to hold it together for them, maybe back then, but they said every once while he doesn't and he turns into Pepe the clown, right? And so and so he was he was definitely on his way to be being too happy that night and I and I and pulse whole lot of puppies tonight and that and that was a writing a song called whole lot of Happy's for the fella that we did. And that was when you can play, he played like three songs and then he just gave up. And and so our drummer got up and played some songs with them and that was a really bad idea cuz that was like a big show with all the record

People people were there and everything like that, which, of course, probably made it more likely for them to do that cuz we're awesome or really, really great. So, how did you meet Peter Bach?

I met him outside to show, REM was playing at the Paramount in Seattle, and the fellows were playing the same night, so I couldn't go to the show, but I went, I heard that I'd heard that he had liked our first record, cuz if you did an interview on chasing, you are some college station in Seattle needs, like, I got the record, it's really, really good. Then and the DJ said, yeah, they got a new single. I use it for me and bring it was I there were playing at the Paramount, we are playing at the same time, we couldn't go, but I went and met him at the at the bus and I gave him a copy of this record. We done with rest of the side band called the squirrels and and that was the first time I met him.

And I end up going over his house, you know, and listen to music all night and having a little party air drumming to Big Star and stuff like that. It was just when he was wearing pajamas. We just go after the show, but but yeah, my friends just yell just like, you do in rem trouble. I just so I can drive around playing bands and in the seeing, you know, that kind of thing. Yeah, he came to

Seattle in 92 to, they were mixing automatic for the people there and so they're there for a month and he came in he just like every month you want to get together and have dinner or something and said, yeah sure. So we just got together and just hang out a lot and then he end up beating up a woman there and getting married and staying staying there. He could have never left and so we just start playing music together a lot and doing doing side stuff. You know, they'll be turned into the -5. So what was going on with young fresh fellows at this time? Well, that was the thing. The fellows are still playing then, but not a whole lot. And by the time, 94 rolled around, we really weren't doing much at all where I wouldn't say we're taking a Hiatus, but we just weren't doing much because everybody was playing another bands and all that stuff, you know. I just and I think we kind of felt like a Lowell was coming into our career, you know?

And so we weren't breaking up or anything but she he he asked if I'd be interested in going on tour with REM as an extra guy and you said but I don't want to do it if it's going to mean you're going to leave the fellows or it's going to it's going to wreck your your bad cuz I know right. Do you know? So I was like well I think I could take a year a year cuz if we're not really don't have

anything go and we don't have anything scheduled or anything like that and so I said yeah I'll do it and I had to try out and everything wasn't sure deal but the rest of the fellows about it they were all supportive saying they were all fine with doing other stuff too cuz they all played with lot of other bands and everything by that point. You know, we're always doing spin Austin, doing other things and had the fastbacks and ride fast facts.

Yeah, there was the result of the things going on, so it wasn't a problem, so I did that. And then that's when the fellows, the first - 5 record came out sometime when we are at 2 or that that you're too. So I had that going as a, as a side project as well, and then, and then, once I start playing with Peter,

You know, he's just you just always wants to do stuff and when REM finishes at or what we're probably not going to do anything for at least a year. You know, I do take a year off and then they'll start making record. That'll take another year and then they'll go on tour. So it's like every 3 years, maybe though, I did start, I did work on all the records after that too. So so that kept me busy. But each other into numerous projects, right? Making records with Mark, I'd still doing too much. Are doing a Robyn Hitchcock, you know, just on and on and on tired. Pony, we got to talk about romance Jack. Go before we get there. I have to talk to you at that our policy on leave. That's you right? Come about. So it was just, it was funny. I was like they had to Starbucks and I used it on another song.

Under under under tow, a Nissan that one too. But that one, they was just like they wanted something flippy thing going on and on and I was trying to do is just like this one switches octave switch, it is switch it back and forth, back and forth the whole time. So that's me just doing like my wrist is just going back and forth back and forth the whole seven minutes. Are you only holding down one note on the keyboard? The noise really was like a white noise thing. But I just doing the, the switch going back and forth, back and forth was was what made that, that sound happen. Which is funny cuz when we started the song, it was

You know, it was kind of a nice little song and it's ridiculous.

Under left breast.

My chest and what happened?

Yuan to wear with them when when Bill had the aneurysm scary was that I do cuz you know,

I mean he he got the operation while we were all still there in less on and went to see him and say goodbye cuz I canceled you know, whatever. And we didn't know when we were going to get back at a sand and, you know, he was, he was lying in the hospital is his whole head was

David cut open big big scar and all this stuff. You know you look really good looking good and I don't want to but up but yeah and then we had to wear them they had to send everybody home

because you know it cost a lot of money to keep keep 60 people on jewelry or whatever. So they had to send everybody home and then we ended up coming back.

Like six weeks later or something. It was like feels like a really, really quick recovery. And so they pushed the, we cancel, the all the rest of Europe and I think they push back the United States and it kind of scrambled some more stuff and put it at the end in November. But a bill came back strong, it was amazing. I I was really worried about it but then he came back and he was amazing. The true pre-filled that to her and then I think you was we didn't know for a while but we but I think he felt like he was may be done with it. Right? Where are they? I want to tempt fate any more. No he didn't and 17 years of rock and roll was that our 15 years?

ER we see him every time we go to Athens which is often and yeah, he's still amazing and he's always come up with cool, cool music ideas and stuff like that. So then you go on tour with Robyn Hitchcock, which is kind of crazy. I mean, I know Peter had known him for a while, but I mean, what was your first impression of that first night of hanging out with Robyn, Hitchcock? Huge, huge fan. I just a huge fan of the soft, boys. I mean, I got hurt in the first off, boys record. When I came out in the, the records for eyelid I worked in and we were just meet me in the people who were there, just flipped out over it. And so I was a huge fan and, and I'd actually, I talked to him, will the fellas. Fellas. Open some shows for, like, kind of you pretty early on in the 86 wheelmen Forum at Berkeley Square. I remember, I remember we, we, we open with give it to the soft, boys.

I mean, we figured we'd heard you talking to play it cuz he's in the Egyptian, we plan a lot of stuff but it was a little cheeky thing to do cuz we didn't like, check it out with him is like what he wasn't excited about afterwards. He was like, well yeah, I don't mind. But yeah, I guess, sorry. But you know, he liked us and we are just like the Nana over the years. I opened up for you when he was touring solo. I'd open the couple chose for him, so low and I talked to him about producing the minor league, -5 stuff. I wanted to produce a record and stuff like that, and he wasn't really, really feel like he was the producer for what they do it but we we hit it off and and we got pretty friendly and then

When I was doing stuff with with Peter, of course, Peter and him were we're pretty tight back then they done a lot of stuff together. And so it made sense at that point, we started just, I don't know, I don't know how it happened that we started playing with him and became that band the Venus 3. But we did at some point, we decided to make it a band thing and do some recording and in a really, really great band. The records were really good, so I kept going for a while, you know, for six or seven years or something. Maybe did a lot a lot together. And then then we didn't, you've never not been busy. I mean, what, what's the story with that down with Wilco record? What, what's going on with that? That was, that was a thing that Jeff, and I just kind of cooked up to do a record together.

And I'm not sure it was weird because we we we talked about it for 4 years cuz I just been, I've been friends with Jeff for a long time and knew all the good guys and everything that you do first first met them when they was probably a teenager, they open for the fellows, Uncle Tupelo, and

for the young person in, in the st. Louis and then I moved to Chicago on. That was how it was kind of our, the fellas. Kind of our our best are best city, you know? Besides Seattle. You know, right? We we had Lounge acts was, are a kind of Clubhouse. Miller was a good friend of ours are four shows in Chicago and Lounge acts, and we all stayed with her and we're just having a great time and still love her to this day. She's the best Santa Anna. So,

Then we'll just hang out with her. We were constantly seeing each other and and so a couple legs a couple different years when when when we were together and so we kind of wrote a couple songs together and stuff like that we thought was to record together and and a mind. So I record and I'll call it down with Wilco and

And it was a weird time because it kept getting put off the little bit and then by the time, we scheduled recording time, the whole thing was happening with Yankee Hotel. Foxtrot the right lead and then they turn down by the label and everything. So it's so I bought them a lot of time. It was it was a good time for him to do a record with me. But at the same time, the Wilco that I thought we were doing the record with was slowly was or zyke at the last like week or two before I was coming out there was like oh yeah I got this guy and he's really good, you'll really like him. And then he's like, you know, and Ayo Jay is not going to be there, she's just going to, it's going to be fun, we're going to do it. And I just got out there and we went to The Loft, the night before and we listen to a bunch of records and play them bunch of songs that I had and we kind of came up.

Ideas for them and arrangements, and we just start recording the next day and they didn't have recording. They weren't really recording in her. Have them finish Studio at the Lost. We were recording at Soma, and Michael Jorgensen was the engineer. Their who ended up being in in Wilkos store shortly after that. We just start recording. And of course, we start recording on September 10th 2001 and so the next day all shit, yeah, it was really a horrible thought.

But what are we going to do? If we sat around, watch watch TV all day and and just just feeling like lost in horrible and then everybody was like, let's just let's just go and make music, you know, so we did and then we played a show at the Abbey, Tavern on the 15th afterwards and people are just going crazy at that show. I think everybody was just so

So we just wiped out over what it happened. And it was, it was pretty cathartic came out a couple years later because because course the record the label. I was make the record for they they went out of there. They got bought out by Hollywood Records or something. So I had to find a different label for the. Yes. I kind of went through the same thing that we just don't do it. That they just took it to refreeze. Yeah.

I saw you crying in the

play solo.

There's no religion like a religion.

And that's not.

Bring you cuz the bedroom is really blue.

U-Haul.

The real black men.

that's,

But maybe even going back to the fabulous. Sounds of the Pacific Northwest. It seems like you do his records that aren't really concept records, but they they haven't seen. And I do like to do. I do? I do. I mean, even even if there's not an obvious thing, there is to me, you know, like I started to it will the Fab sounds was was was kind of like that and then the second second record Topsy, Turvy had a total theme in my head. You know, it was it was just about being crazy and being lost and find trying to find your way and, and all the songs I picked for that. We're because because of that. So, I was trying to kind of group songs together that I belong together. You know, that have a message to me, at least, you know. And so yeah, we did that. We did that. Pretty constantly of music was, you know,

It was that. And yeah, it's just a thing for me. I don't want to say like, it's got to be this as if it has to apply to a butt. But I always group songs that have a have a feeling that they're kind of sitting sing something in the same direction or something like that. What was the impetus behind the Monkees record?

Well, yeah, that was, you know, that was part of a A5 record set that I put out in 2013 and, and I put out the single record cuz that was a whole record that I screwed because it was, there was five songs about the Monkees or for about one about Easter, the monkeys and one about Boyce and Hart who who love their songs. And then the other side was all songs about other bands or friends of mine that were in bands. So it was all about, it was all about real people and write a Ryan people, they're all, they're all songs about real people. They weren't any made up bad cuz I burned a lot of songs made up cuz he was a real real person. That was a song about a real person. So,

What's your favorite Robert? Ryan movie.

Oh man. Oh my God, there's so many. So many. I love I love.

The Wild Bunch. Bunch is amazing. That's not his movie, but he's great in it and the one day till tomorrow or something it's with Harry Belafonte. Yeah, it's a main guy at Rotten Tomatoes tomorrow. I love that one. That's so great. And everything day of the outlaw.

No, I don't know that one since Western with Burl Ives in it and you know Louise from Gilligan's Island, CM I just live live for that station. That's how it's always threw. It has some really horrible. I buy all buy all the things that y'all historically, that he was a really nice guy. I met a guy was a Quaker in, right? Very peaceful peaceful guy. But, you know, he said, there's that one reason. So anti-semitic. What's that one called? Crossfire. Yep, that's it. So easy play, some pretty pretty despicable. People wasn't like that at all. What keeps you going?

You had a speaking of aneurysms, and so, yeah, pretty close brush stroke. I mean, what would, what did you have to change to keep doing this?

That's a good question. I was determined to 2. Stop doing it because I figured well I made it through that, so you should keep keep doing it. But it was, it was a big adjustment because I started making music right away and make it in writing songs that were turned into the stroke Manor. Album, the minus5 records that are all the song. Fix root words. I wrote a lot of them wrote in the ICU and stuff like that, but and I couldn't even didn't really have any language then, so they don't really make any sense. But some people said, well, they're not that different from my normal songs, but maybe, but I don't know. But that they felt really different to me. And then it's still, it's still really different for me to write songs. It's, it's harder to the targeted. It's just harder to write song cuz of his words were always. The thing that came, so easy to me. I never really good with Melodies and, and, and stuff like that.

I've had to learn how to be good because it made me focus on Melody more because cuz it's so much harder to get the words out now. And I used to just be able to spit out the words and I was just grab them off. But now I can't I can't remember the words to songs to. So right now I have a teleprompter cuz that's too technical for me. It seems to me. It seems like you're really committing the two years time and it's a new song. I can't remember the words at all. The weird thing is the song, as I can remember that the songs it came back to me or all the earliest song that I sang the most. And so now it's like it's kind of cool to do a tour for the Fab sounds. Because those are the songs that I can remember more than any other songs cuz I'm saying them more than

Because I saying for such a long time, you know, not all of them but you know, most of them were ones that we're just in our Cannon and I just I can't also when you had less songs back then you know you didn't have so many goddamn. Something's not true. That's true. Yeah, you know if you know what that's like yeah. I mean I mean I mean I don't know you got a lot of songs and that those are. It's hard to it's hard to keep them all in order. So now, I feel like if there's ever, if I can ever get to one where I can remember one.

And I'm going to add a new song. I got to replace that one. You know it's like the other one besides you can make room for another one but right but it's it's really hard for me cuz I still I still just really don't really know when I'm opening my mouth. What's going to come out? You know if the right things going to come out and and a lot of times I'm singing a song I go. Okay what's the next line? I have no idea and then you just saying and sometimes it sometimes it pops and sometimes it shows up and sometimes it doesn't. So

The Iowa-Iowa state back all the times. I saw Westerberg kind of making up the words are or getting them wrong. And I think that's okay. Gabe has a question. But we always thought, let's not even bother with this. You sound like your wheelhouse is, you know, 80s, you know, independent College music, but just out of curiosity, do you have any heavy metal records behind you in that family collection? Record got back there.

Show my question but I'm just curious. I think I don't have many. I know how many I have a Metallica One but I'm in justice for all the tablet. But I'm selling it at the doctor, I don't like them. It's just I've got so much stuff to listen to that. I have to put a bit one. I really like is the storm truck, Stormtroopers of death, a Saudi, the first record of that cuz if we we did a song on them one of the fellows records show. There's a March of the s o d on that record and we did one that was kind of our version of that and we kind of we kind of quote from a lot. So that's the best one, you know? I mean, I guess ACDC doesn't really count for metal, right? Where those are all hard rock bands but they're not metal. Really. So I don't really think I really ever really latched on to a metal band. That really meant a lot to me, you know?

It's not that I can question is, if you had to pick between two bands, going to listen to one of the other you going to visit or deserted island, would you pick The Replacements or Iron Maiden? And, you know, let me know when I have seen Iron, Maiden scorpions and girls girls school in. And you could guess which band I was probably going to see if the girls cool girls school. That's right, I probably probably right around there at 2. I love Motorhead. Now they're they're great but not so much, a metal bad either.

Free game.

Quite, so we do anything around here called what's the best. And since you've written, so many songs about bands and musicians, we thought we do a, what's the best of intentions, right? I think I know what mine would be off the top of my head. Okay well we're going to go one at a time. OK Google first and Gable go. Second I go third Van Gogh's last and it's somebody involved with the baseball project maybe it makes sense. Yeah I was a real names. One of your favorites. Got to take it off your list and come up with a different one.

Those we keep going for a while yet three rounds of one song at a time for me to one of us. Okay. This could be hard but I know mine is the ballad of March. That's my by probably my all-time favorite, right? Why does it say? It's the story of the story of the van that the story of the band as they were breaking up, you know. And of course they came back and had the biggest success afterwards, but it was this, the story of the band that they were breaking up and it talks about the general, the general, what it's like being in a band and also specifically addresses, each person in the band. Did you ever read his book? Yeah. Oh yeah, a lot of people I think.

Stop being a bit, awry train books about being in the bed again.

Gay. What are you got?

All right, I might have misunderstood this concept here, so I.

This is a song about a band but it's a song written by a band about themselves. Okay? I didn't know. Okay, well there's one sucked else as long as it's not Iron, Maiden by Iron, Maiden songs about it, about a band that. But anyway, Minor Threat by Minor Threat by Minor Threat about them as, as a group of people not as a band is that we are Minor Threat. Yes, we are Minor Threat. It's all these people around us. Don't want to do it, isn't it?

Dance move on Alex Chilton by The Replacements. So fucking bad the great one. I think I took Ben's a bandura music large sausage is one of my favorite song. I mean it's just a great fucking song. Great vocal performance and is really cool way to get people who were listening to The Replacements in the big star. It's true I'm through yeah that is can't go wrong with that they always good when they play the live to

There, one moment of reverence.

Yeah, maybe I need a little bit more, but I'm sure, Alex, it's okay, it's a good thing we got been. All right. Well, I will do the follow-up to that because it's sort of like the story was this whole Goofy thing that happened because Val's children. So then my Pick 4 number, one of my three is high where The Replacements by They Might Be Giants in the story behind that song was it. They Might Be Giants heard replacement song Alex Chilton and decided they wrote a song about The Replacements than Alex Chilton would write a song about them which far as I know never happened, but that was murdered in two-thirds of that.

I forgot all about. That one is so may I probably haven't even thought of but this is Emma. Is it my turn again?

This is Saturday gigs by Mott. The Hoople, come pick. Both of them is that, cuz that's like the last single day did did when they're looking back on, you know, cuz the, I think he probably knew they were going to break up again. If it's if it's a beautiful fond memories of how great it was to be in the band in to be in a band but now it's like do you remember the Saturday gigs? We do. We talked about specific gigs of they did that were really famous ones so I don't I mean valid

The news about Stuart, can't, you can't talk them for me. And I think, I think, I think the reason part of the reason I wrote so many songs about my banned, right or other bands. But but like, I've read a lot about the song about my bed. It's like they laid the late lead. The trail for that. You know, they said it's okay to talk about yourself in the right about yourself. Self-referential ashamedly. A major piece of the puzzle is becoming clearer for me tonight. All right. I mean, nobody's going to bring up this song but just I sent you brought up

They Might Be Giants thing. They actually mention the young fresh fellows in one of their songs which is like a lot of people actually heard about us because of that song. Oh yeah, you were concerned that They Might Be Giants song.

I'll take this when I was going to steal one of Scott's. I know Scott don't take this time, but I'm not going to take it right now. I'll take it in the end. I'll take it in the Ender. I'm going to pick a different song.

A great chance all confused by Juliana Hatfield three. Most of them probably heard it, but on her first record and it's probably my favorite song.

That's a good one. That's cool. That's very, very good. And she has, she had that this is a pretty great band name. I think it's a great album Stormtroopers of death, I don't know from REM off of Reckoning.

Which out about the band America it is. But is it just one of those things where they go about it? And I don't know what happened lyrics even our, but every chorus is, the biggest wagon, is the something wagon, Jefferson, I think we're lost. So it's only about them in the bus pressure. I said hold is driving and it looking out the window seeing America, another Greenville, another Magic Mart Jefferson Drive it through.

And does anyone know the words you can't find the words to murmur? But I found the words to Little America, them reason to them this account of the account because it's just good. It's Michael stipe's way of talkin. Let's Michael starts version of We're an American band as what it is. I think I played that one time in all the years, the 18 years I was playing with REM, I think we play that song, maybe once or twice. And then we just expect you to have that ready. Even though they were like, they gave me warning cuz we didn't first.

Doris will be the first like the reporters we did. I mean over the first like 5, or we didn't play any of the old songs. Any of those, really early song and then we finally got back to starting bringing him and every once in awhile, you know, and

And I was that one showed up. And then when we when we do that, the record the live in Dublin thing, where we were this is not a show week. We learned a lot of those songs that I had to learn it like at the last second and I like we can do, this is soundcheck and I had to learn but didn't really matter cuz you're playing guitar. So I could just kind of like you nobody, but I thought I wanted to, I wanted to play it and I wanted to play them, right? So you know, I did but but yeah, but yeah, Little America, it's that's a good one. That's a really good one, a little bit with a chorus turns minor for the lines and then ever does it again by the way.

Four digit. We played that once or twice like it, it likes very, very seldom, but we, we played guarding it night. We played out of the probably maybe 10 or 15 times in all the years that is in the band, Bad Wolves, probably like maybe twice.

Number two from me. Okay, I'm going to go with the song by the mr. T experience. Call the end of the Ramones. Oh no. I'm going to see you.

I guess maybe the last four months concert the end of the Ramones by the mystics. I don't know this song. I'm proud to say, I love Mr. T way you're going to experience a? I don't know anything about this, talk to you. One of those like weird, I love them. They get to hang out with them, let him rest times. And they were there really just a great great day, ariapop pop, punk band. You know, they did an amazing cover of one of those Sesame Street song bend down. You know, I look at you and seeing a song about up and down that you are really great. Sort of like, you know, what a Green Day's ish account. Pop punk version of Sesame Street theme. Yeah, but yeah, they're really great.

Have those guys these days? I haven't heard anything from them for a long time, out that skirt for verbal now and was going to write a song about their last concert.

All right, got back to you. For one final round Scott McCoy, okay?

I'm going to go with.

Prisoners of Rock and Roll by Neil Young and Crazy Horse in about 3 to display in the garage and and we don't want to be good, you know? We we don't want the record record company, man, to tell us what to do and all that kind of stuff is just like, it's just like, you know, I love that. They just a little down to, we don't want to be good until it's ready. When you don't really hear from Neil that much but it was on, I think it's on the life. Life record, really great song, rock and roll. That's why we don't want to be good. Is that one of those signs that you're playing? When you do those shows, we played Neil Young songs

We haven't played it that often but I'm thinking thinking of you should we got a show coming up in a couple weeks, but I think I'm doing that. Should be. We should bring that one back in in the morning cuz it's not too many words to remember. Greg were thinking about doing the volume for recording some sometime soon but I don't know. I got other things to do too.

Speaking of reckon, this is not the ultimate, It's a Long Way to the Top If you want to rock and roll.

I'm going to take me to go for Jukebox Hero by the band, which one?

It's a Long Way to the Top. Yeah. There was a riding on the highway going to the show and all the byways play Journey. Just the cosmic journey of rock and roll. No tell motel make you want to cry. I Tell You Folks it's harder than it looks like you guys at your pic. I couldn't I couldn't pick my own so I don't think you should go to pick this down so it would be good. So I'm going to go for workin for MCA by Lynyrd Skynyrd.

I had 17. It's it's it's almost like I love my label but it's a lot more like he doesn't love. The living is all about. I'm going to take a look at where all my money goes and you know, if you could pay me that money. Maybe you won't get a scar. Maybe I won't kick your ass and it's the Merc

mercury poisoning by Graham, Parker & the Rumour. All yeah. That's the only one there. Their kids off to to Mercury records.

Send in. Do you think that Nicholas? Well I guess you really did love his label 2020 wrote that song could be a little more. Sure it was. I'm sure could be sarcastic at the whole Yankee Hotel. Foxtrot like they can play it with him.

Alright, then I need and this whole thing and I get to do it by naming, one of my all-time favorite songs, for my money. The best song ever written about being in a rock band. And I guess I'm with I couldn't call this one out, but I can get to and don't argue with me about this, all the kids are right. Local 8, that's good fucking Mexico.

I'm not a lesbian.

That is that is great. That is great.

Well, thanks Ben. Thanks a lot for embarrassing. Me in front of our guests.

-5 play the toad couple nights ago and we played The Kids Are Alright to do that. Thank you, genius move. Well it was great to have you here. Thanks so much for doing it. Really, really, super fun. And and you're going on tour soon, right?

Play the couple Northwest shows in in May into May and then we do like, you know, Chicago and Madison and Cleveland Philadelphia, New York and then sell it sound weird in Wilkos Festival. Should you know where where you're going to play in Chicago? But I doubt you can't be stopped going well.

I am sure I am in pain.

I am radio.

When is this?

How old is Madison?

Impeding.

I am simulator.

Original Audio:

<https://feeds.soundcloud.com/stream/1807713303-robotlaunch-168-scott-mcoi.mp3>Transcribing : 168. LIFERS - Scott McCaughey

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