

Countdown to Munich

April 12, 2024

Categories: General Update

I've restarted the move of the blog to U.S.-based servers. The previous posts can be found at Ckwal.gdn. I haven't been writing as much because I was focusing on my first album in ten years. It ended up being a collaboration of different characters within myself. I'll be posting the demo recordings as soon as I can, along with the other albums and poetry book. Mostly I wanted to be able to share photos and writings from the upcoming trip. Writing directly into my Google Docs and publishing them has been simple and effective, however not very inspiring when trying to add photos. So eventually I will be making book-like compilations of all the previous sites. They may not link anymore to each other or be totally perfect, however the bulk of the information to review will be there eventually (aside pages lost due to transfers in the covid era). If you had trouble reaching the other domains, due to not having secure server addresses available, there are some posts to catch up with. Those addresses are still valid and should all be working soon. I'll keep you updated as the trip unfolds.



Another album cover idea for the latest project.

Discography

April 13, 2024

Categories: General Update

More stuff will be added when possible.

[Albums – Ckwal](#)

Trip Entertainment (Updated)

April 14, 2024

Categories: Albums, General Update, Movies

I usually buy some movies and music for a trip. Here is what I decided on so far:

Movies

Only When I Laugh 1981

Escape From New York 1981

To the Wonder 2013

Third Person 2013

The French Dispatch 2021

Music

Coldplay – *Live in Buenos Aires* November, 2017

Dave Matthews Band – *Live Trax Vol. 13 10.14.08 Live at Busch Stadium, St. Louis, MO*

Fabiana Palladino – *Fabiana Palladino*

David Grey – *Greatest Hits Deluxe*

Trent Reznor and Atticus Ross – *Challengers* (soundtrack) mixed by Boys Noize

Lewis Capaldi – *Broken by the Desire To Be Heavenly Sent*

Munich Part I

April 21, 2024

Categories: Festivals, Museums, Travel, Vegan Life

The flight from Charlotte to Munich on American Airlines was pretty decent. It really isn't that long of a trip versus getting out to Asia. I stored my luggage through an app before check-in at the first accommodation and the second. Everything went well and the place I stayed was quite charming. I've found many vegan snacks and drinks to try. It has been quite cold and rainy so far. I explored downtown and went to Alte Pinakothek this morning. There I limited my viewing to one wing where I saw Rembrandt's *Self Portrait* and many Rubens' works, including *The Small Last Judgement*. I've walked the festival grounds everyday since opening. Although I haven't participated much, tonight I rode the Ferris wheel for some pictures.



































Munich Part II

May 4, 2024

Categories: Photos, Travel

I've returned from Munich. There was a lot of impressive architecture, parks and intimidating biergartens. Actually almost everything started to freeze me up on the last couple of days and nights. Hence why I didn't post. My spiritual training from Father/Mother and visit to my Uncle who is a Priest and his family helped me through the challenges of the world I faced there at this time. Total of about two days and nights when I was based out of Landshut (pronounced Lands-hoot) and the rest in Munich. I rode three rides, played a few games and visited many sights as well I, mostly alone, but my Uncle who shares the same first and last name as me, attended Darius Rucker and showed me around Moosburg and his family's hometown. Europe is much harder than my last visits, however I'm thinking possibly, it's a German-American family thing combined with post-covid Europe and my hotel's environment. There were many positive things, people to see and quite a few unexpected differences and let-downs this time a round; still very impressive. Reflection remains intimidating with many possibilities.

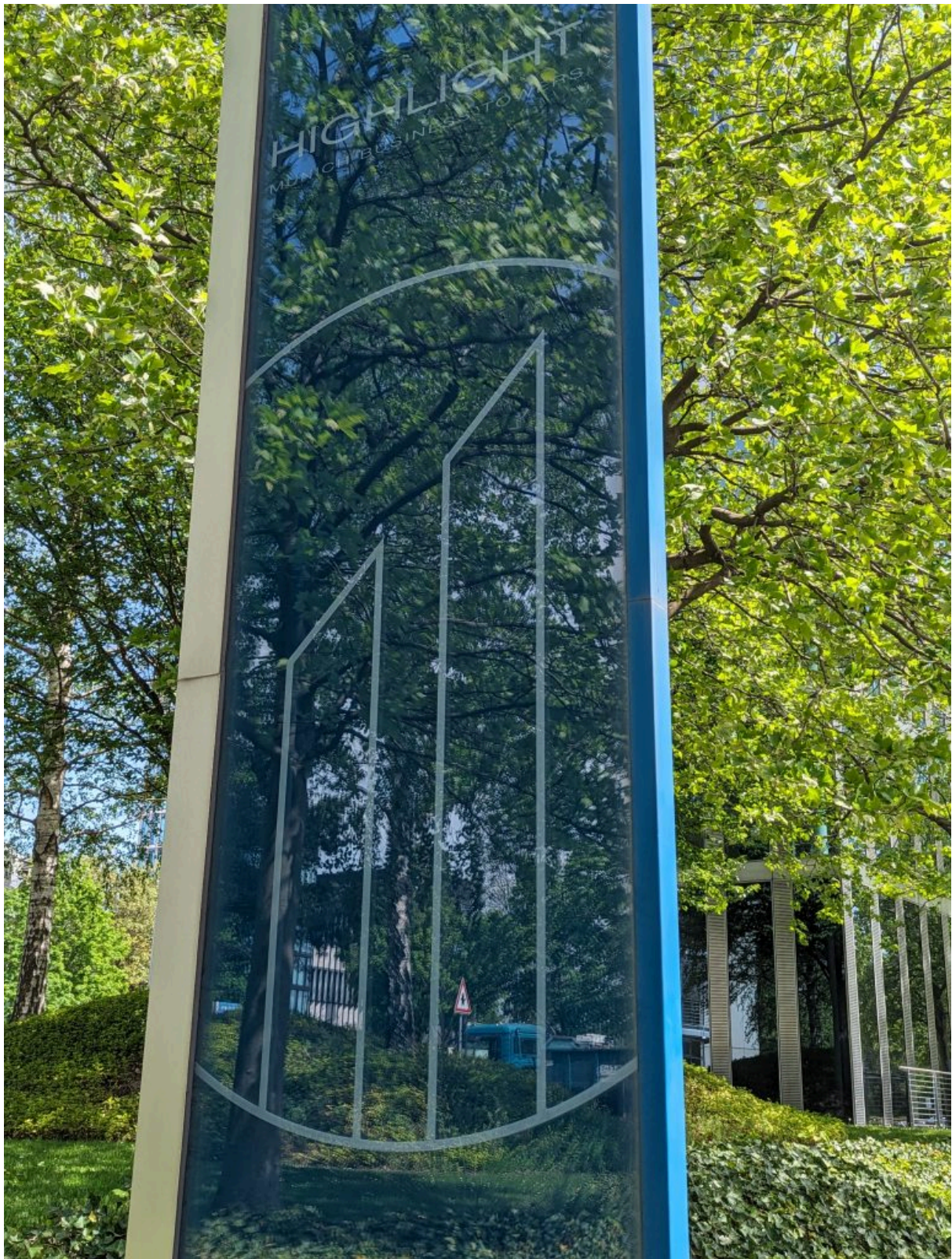




































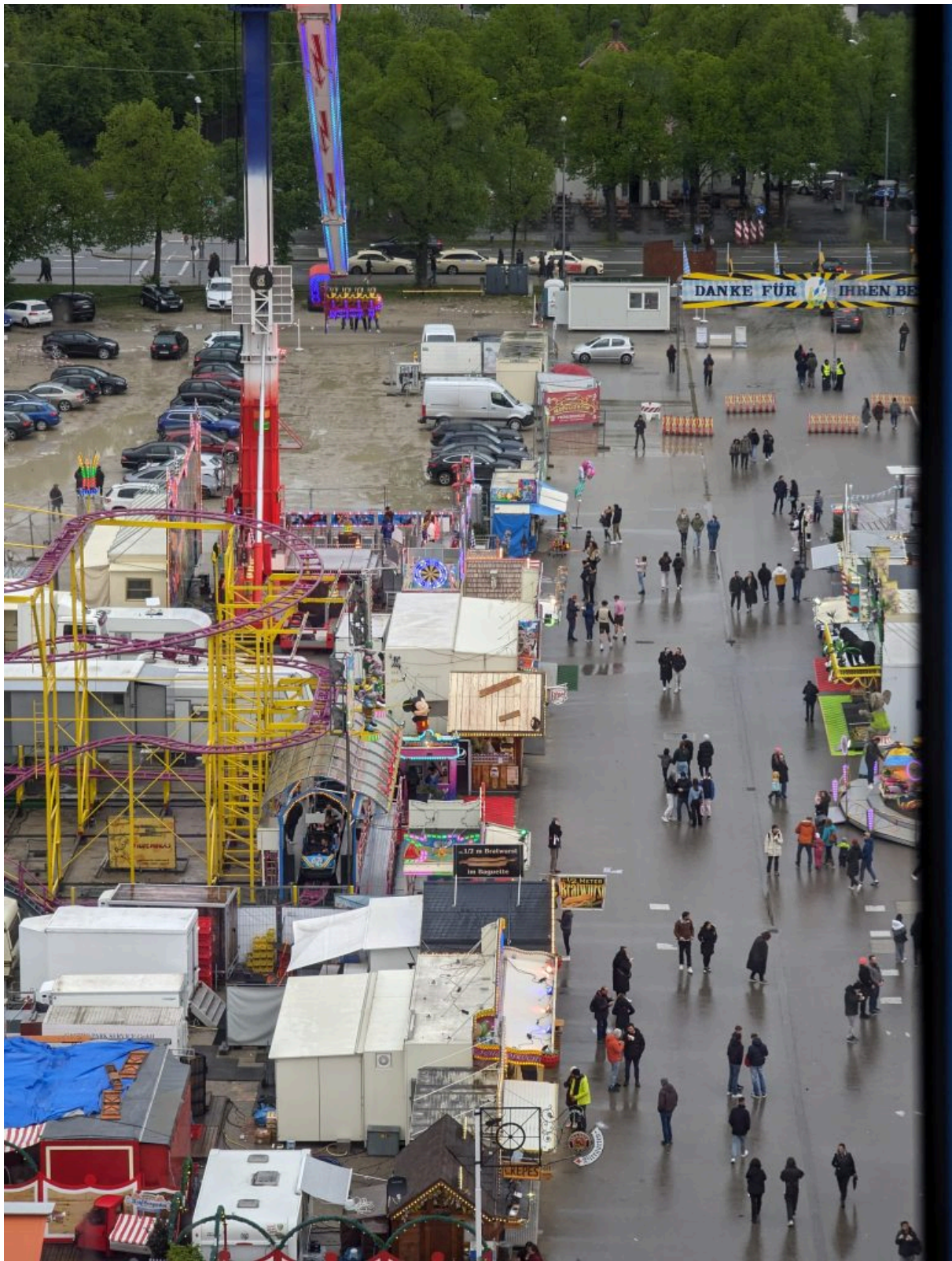






























Munich Conclusion With Pictures From Landshut

May 9, 2024

Categories: Albums, Movies, Photos, Travel

I'm back to work in Florida and have spent time recovering and adjusting to an overnight schedule. There are some movies and albums I bought for the trip that have been getting me through to this point (listed below). I've also added/edited photos to the other two trips and may review those again. Some are out of order. Below are photos from the side-trip where I visited Moosburg, Buch am Erlbach and stayed two nights in Landshut. In Landshut my Uncle who is a Priest led a service in German! I also met my two cousins on those days.





























Movies:

San Andreas, The Beekeeper and Krush Groove

Music:

Pearl Jam – *Dark Matter*

Garbage – *No Gods No Masters*

Moving On

May 16, 2024

Categories: General Update

So I'm having great difficulty readjusting to my life here in Florida. I was only gone for two weeks. Seems a lot has changed while I was gone and the future I planned for myself, may not be in the cards. The ESL field has changed and I no longer feel like I'm in demand, so I'm about to close the books on that dream. I started a teaching IELTS course which was on sale through Groupon despite and stubbornly trying to stay on overnight. Last night off I watched *Crazy Rich Asians* and *Deepwater Horizon*. Redbox doesn't seem to be releasing new movies as much, still they give good deals (like random free movies). What a blessing to get two decent picks to get me through another strange night. I wrote a couple songs in Germany and a new transition tune last night, so either the album is extending or another project is in the making. Still feels like something has died inside at times.



Missing Travel I Think

May 17, 2024

Categories: Albums, Books, Education, Travel

Today I was hoping some new releases were available around midnight, but I ended up pre-ordering albums. Cage the Elephant and Guster have new releases scheduled some time today (Twenty One Pilots isn't until next week). In the meantime I found Young the Giant is touring with Cage the Elephant. I was trying to remember this band for half a decade and I've been catching up with them. *Mirror Master* is brilliant. Another artist I found with a new album is Banks. She has *Serpentina* now which impressed me on tracks one to five. I fell back in around nine, yet haven't finished the album. She's super-talented and attractive, however her overall legendary sound is still developing and it's fun to see her ego develop. Anyways I'm planning on starting a new book besides this IELTS course. I finally finished most of the Che diaries. His last one (The Bolivian Diaries) was by far the worst. His story is for someone like me, an ultimate tragedy of a fun-loving tourist turned to the political disaster of the world. I had to read them since I got that tattoo ignorantly.

Spring in Florida

May 22, 2024

Categories: General Update

Lately I've been working on songs to extend our demo album concept. The ending is changing and possibly other concepts along with it (cover art, title, performance intentions, etc). I may be interested in going to Mexico City for Dia de los Muertos, however not sure yet. I must finalize the decision to end my ESL teaching aspirations with God. Looking forward to hopefully seeing a movie soon.

New Music and Trip

May 24, 2024

Categories: Albums, Music, Travel

Cracking open Twenty One Pilots' latest. So far it sounds designed to be played superfluously. I can barely process what they are saying or making me feel, besides the first track I listened to on internet rock radio at work a few times (Houston and Nebraska). I booked a trip to see my friend and roommate from Berklee in greater Kansas City. KC extends over the border of Missouri and Kansas. I think I was there in 2005 when we were following Dave Matthews Band and playing music in the parking lots. So this will probably substitute Mexico City, at least for this year. Speaking of extending our demo album entitled *One Way to Bangkok*, I have a new take and sheet music for two tracks. "Stella" which inspired the entire album may be put down on this future trip following the 40th/41st units of blood donations since it needs keyboard chords.

Education and Movies

May 31, 2024

Categories: Education, General Update, Movies, Music, Travel

A few sections to this post. I have accepted a job in China. I've been trying to teach there for so long, that I had actually given up and was mostly trying for Seoul, Korea again. I initially was diverted to interview by a recruiter telling me to just use it as practice. I was offered a contract in a lesser known, yet beautiful city. After many frustrating experiences in the pursuit of returning to Korea, I had completely quit my aspirations to teach. Many schools and recruiters telling me I'm too old. That idea makes no sense to me, as a big point of school is to learn from the wisdom of others in which only time can grant. So I apologized to the people who pushed me to re-explore the Chinese frontier and signed the contract when I found out that it was still available. I still have to successfully get a visa in time, however the way it seems now is that I'll be starting with a year in Guiyang. I'm not sure how much I can post with respects to the Chinese government and the dynamics or politics of my job and life there, so at least I'll try to stay updated on other travels and individually. I may keep a diary or just write another album.

Some other fun things I did recently. Movie nights with *Paradise Hills* and *Ford v Ferrari*. The former is quite an odd trip. Somewhat unsettling and disturbing, though not sure I'd deter a viewing. The latter is a "not to be missed". These lead actors are almost 100% and the story is true. I guess I've always been a sucker for this type of film, however it's not run of the mill.

Additionally I took some Master Classes with Tom Morello. I had no idea about his personality. He really tells us everything about his sound, effects and riff writing. I once saw him in a bar in my hometown we share and regretfully could only comment on his hat, so these educational recordings are very meaningful. I also continued with some of Deadmau5' Master Classes. One can pretty much get their money's worth in a week with a year's subscription, so I'm somewhat wondering why they give so many secrets away. Really though I just like getting to know them better because in real life I don't think it would be possible.

Blood Donation Journal

June 14, 2024

Categories: Albums, Blood Donations, General Update

Repost of *Blood Donation Journal* because I cannot edit the previous document. Although I have two trips planned that seem nearly impossible at the moment, this contribution on *World Blood Donor Day* was by far the most challenging. I wrote a new ending to *One Way to Bangkok* with two songs and recordings that each have a transition or outro in one case. The reason I am doing that though has gotten so bad, there may be no fix.

A few updates from the holidays. I made a quick trip to Jacksonville and ended up watching *Christmas Inheritance*. The film stars Eliza Taylor, also from *The 100*.

Today I was able to donate one unit of blood with OneBlood. The first RV appointment in St. Augustine didn't show up and was the only one that had the apheresis machine in it. Anyways this was my first experience with OneBlood and was short but sweet. Interesting watching traffic go by from the donation bed. Total of thirty-seven units to date.

Blood Donation History Updated

Blood Donations, Travel

Retyped blood donation history. Journal posts if they still exist may be linked later. This page will be updated with future donation trips. Check out the "Iron People" post for tips.

Test results are blood pressure (systolic over diastolic in mm Hg), hemoglobin (g/dL) or hematocrit (%), pulse (bpm), temperature (°F), covid antibodies, cholesterol (mg/dL). Not all values present and for fun only.

6.3.17 1 unit at Red Cross North Platte, NE 110/60, 15.2, 72

8.14.17 1 unit at Red Cross North Platte, NE 110/60, 15.2, 76

10.9.17 2 units at Red Cross Kearney, NE 100/64, 13.8, 62

1.29.18 2 units at Red Cross Kearney, NE 104/60, 15.7, 80

5.21.18 1 unit at Red Cross Kearney, NE 110/70, 14.4, 64

7.16.18 1 unit at Red Cross Kearney, NE 100/58, 14.2, 62

10.30.18 2 units at Red Cross Dallas, TX 118/78, 14.8, 70

2.20.19 1 unit at Red Cross Carrollton, TX 110/80, 14.4, 72

7.01.2019 1 unit at Carter Blood Care Dallas, TX 90/60, 45, 88, 161

9.22.19 2 units at Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center (St. Anne's Catholic Church drive) Houston, TX 110/68, 42, 86, 97.8

1.12.2020 2 units at Carter Blood Care Dallas, TX 100/62, 14.8, 85, 149
6.17.2020 2 units at Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center (Westchase Neighborhood Center) Houston, TX 92/64, 43, 82, 97.8, positive
10.08.2020 1 unit at LifeSouth Community Blood Centers (Winn-Dixie mobile drive) Saint Augustine, FL 92/52, 14.8, 100, reactive, 171
11.07.2020 1 unit convalescent plasma at LifeSouth Community Blood Centers Palatka, FL 98/56, 14, 74, reactive, 141
11.13.2020 1 unit at LifeSouth Community Blood Centers (Tractor Supply Co. mobile drive) Saint Augustine, FL reactive, 132
7.28.2021 2 units at Red Cross (DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Jacksonville Airport drive) Jacksonville, FL 100/80, 16.1, 76
11.17.2021 1 unit at Red Cross Savannah, GA 110/78, 15.2, 90
1.12.2022 2 units at Red Cross Jacksonville, FL 122/70, 15.8, 88
5.04.2022 2 units at LifeSouth Community Blood Centers Jacksonville, FL 120/72, 14, 86, 150
8.24.2022 2 units at LifeSouth Community Blood Centers Jacksonville, FL 124/64, 16.3, 66, 160
12.16.2022 2 units at LifeSouth Community Blood Centers Jacksonville, FL 98/62, 15.9, 80, 173
4.07.23 2 units at Bill T. Teague Donor Center location of Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center Houston, TX 116/62, 15.7, 86, 98.1
9.08.23 2 units at LifeSouth Jacksonville, FL 120/60, 15.3, 80, 170
12.29.23 1 unit at OneBlood Bloodmobile (Walmart) St. Augustine, FL 173/70, 15.2, 97, 96.2, 198
2.23.24 2 units at LifeSouth St Augustine, FL 152 (cholesterol) Other vitals not received in writing
6.14.24 2 units at LifeSouth St Augustine, FL 226 (cholesterol) Other vitals not received in writing
10.4.24 2 units at LifeSouth St Augustine, FL 211 (cholesterol) Other vitals not received in writing
1.24.25 1 unit at OneBlood mobile bus (Beaver Toyota) St Augustine, FL 125/65, 14.6, 89, 97.5, 166
3.28.25 2 units at Red Cross Drive (Hyatt Regency sponsored by Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity) 116/71, 16, 71, A1C 5.3% Jacksonville, FL
#47 7.23.25 1 unit at LifeSouth 110/17, 15.7, 98.6, 192 (cho), 165 (weight) St Augustine, FL
9.17.25 2 units at OneBlood mobile bus (Marshalls) St Augustine, FL 115/67, 14.7, 88, 97.6, 166

Attempting a Trip to Kansas City

June 19, 2024

Categories: Books, Movies, Music, Travel

I have re-published the poetry book and *Ckwal Magazine Issues 3 & 4*. I haven't reviewed or found the right file with all the pages together for the previous issues yet. Some photos are missing as well as links. I will try to get all the MixLists posted as well. I'm leaving later this morning for Kansas City. I have rented three movies through Google TV for the trip so far:

Septembers of Shiraz

The Squeeze

I also added two tracks to extend our demo album. All these new items may be found using the pages tab at the top left of this website. Right now you must listen to the whole album to get to these tracks. I'll try to figure out a fix to this later.

Music I purchased for the trip:

Charli XCX – Brat

Bon Jovi – Forever (Extended)

Kansas City

June 22, 2024

Categories: General Update, Movies, Museums, Music, Travel

Arrived safely in Kansas City with an excellent landing. I watched some of the *Bob Marley: One Love* movie because I forgot to bring the transmitter for my headphones. It was incredibly moving. Went to the *William Rockhill Nelson Gallery of Art* with a previous roommate from our Berklee College of Music days yesterday. It's now known as the *Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*.

Downtown Missouri

June 22, 2024

Categories: Music, Travel, Vegan Life



Today we had lunch at *The Fix!*. It's a vegan restaurant in Kansas City, Missouri. We were driven around town to view some sights. Partly overcast and glazy

architecture. We've been playing some of the songs from the demo album and some other stuff as well.

Today at 18th and Vine

June 23, 2024

Categories: Museums, Music, Travel

Today I went to the *American Jazz Museum* with a roommate from Berklee College of Music. What a serious engagement with the past of jazz music. Although we didn't necessarily agree about how it's possible to fulfill the destiny of the dream to return to the world it represents as expressed in "Bridges of Moscow", I was still deathly afraid of the reality of those choices.



Future Unknown

June 29, 2024

Categories: Albums, TV

I've returned to St Augustine, Florida since Wednesday and got one overnight of work. I've been taking care of chores and making memos of new song ideas as well as editing other ones. The album demos now include two bonus extended tracks, however for some reason the plug-in made it into one back-to-back album with one play button. I'm not sure why. So for now listeners would have to listen to the entire album to reach the new tracks at the end. I saw some of *Extreme RVs* on Tubi, which was fun. Charli XCX's latest album is excellent. Otherwise trying to look forward to working in China for a year, starting in late-August now possibly.

Six Years

July 2, 2024

Categories: Music, Tattoo Culture

So actually I've passed several tattoo anniversaries. Most recently I celebrated six years with Sasuke, my fourth and final tattoo from Kearney, Nebraska. I'd like to return to Nebraska for another someday. I made many edits to a new song and also worked overnight.

Ready for an EP Already?

July 19, 2024

Categories: Albums, Books, General Update, Music

So I'm working on publishing the previous websites' posts in PDF book format. I've recently finished just over 300 pages which includes many of Ckwal's mixes and journey. I mixed music through homelessness and kept an online diary during those times. There are about 400+ pages left in that collection, however I'm moving forward with the new job to teach in China. So barely hanging on with my life here and writing new emotional songs for the future generations as well as my own.

Baby Steps

July 25, 2024

Categories: General Update

The next music will take a while to develop and become the next album. I guess a part of me was just teasing sarcastically. However the reality is that the website may not be able to stay published. I've purchased the plane tickets to move to my next job and the visa is apparently going to be approved at the end of this week. Possibly it has seemed easy to get some goals and dreams done in the past, however with turning forty-four recently and the extremes at which life has led us, they are practically impossible.

Eight Years Vegan

July 25, 2024

Categories: Movies, Vegan Life

I'm posting this a bit early because I loved the movie *Beverly Hills Cop: Axel F*, however hated the ending comment. I'll be eight years vegan in about a month or so (exact date unrememberable to me). There have been times I think I could just escape with some Domino's pizza or Taco Bell and times I want to leave the world behind. So it's not that easy of a life. Looking forward to hopefully developing into a better vegan type that lives with today.

Leap of Faith (Updated)

July 30, 2024

Categories: General Update, Mix, Music

This is a list from my notepad I've accumulated over a great deal of time. Songs I'm thinking of covering in a hypothetical performance. I've already successfully played Ryan Adams and Illenium, however it's just a dream.

Nirvana – Heart-Shaped Box

Neyo – Closer

Kehlani – Vegas

Taylor Swift (feat. Lana Del Rey) – Snow on the Beach

Break Free (feat. Zedd) – Ariana Grande

Beck – Nobody's Fault but My Own

John Mayer – I Guess I Just Feel Like

Coldplay – Ink

David Gray – The One I Love

Pearl Jam – Won't Tell

Bush – Machine Head

Cake – Never There &/or Short Skirt Long Jacket

Sublime – What I Got

Radiohead – Fake Plastic Trees

Dave Matthews Band – When the World Ends and or The Ocean and the Butterfly

Morgan Wallen – Kieth Whitley

Parker McCollum – Stoned

Brett Young – Like I Loved You

Kane Brown – What Ifs

REM – Stand

Ryan Adams – A Kiss Before I Go or

Hard Way to Fall

Jason Aldean – You Make It Easy

Live – I Alone

Alanis Morissette – You Oughta Know or Ironic

Brett Dennen – World Keeps Turning

Madonna – Hung Up

Wet – Lately

Illenium – Good Things Fall Apart

Sublime – Garden Grove (could make not as explicit)

Alanis Morissette – Ironic

Adele – I Drink Wine

Previously thought I should try to do a show covering a disc of Morgan Wallen's *One Thing at a Time* and learning the entire album. I got through a decent part of it, however only by ear listening to the CD and didn't write everything down.

Undercover Music Career

August 5, 2024

Categories: Music, Travel

I'm counting down the days until I move to China. Still not totally sure I'll make it there, however my current life is ending in St. Augustine, Florida. I'm thinking I would return after a year contract and some travel in Asia. Then possibly try to further an undercover music career if I was able to play open mics or do karaoke. Possibly the Caribbean or The Philippines.

The Slow Boat

August 8, 2024

Categories: General Update, Movies, TV

I bought some movies for the plane ride to Asia. However I've been having a difficult time with the amount of hours in a day. So I had to watch those already. Transitioning to daytime also has been difficult, so I practically have been living two twelve-hour day/night shifts. Going to a new field is terribly intimidating at this stage in my life. So I watched:

Shadow in the Cloud

The Miseducation of Cameron Post

King of New York (for the second time, thinking about the album on my latest demo recordings "Bridges of Moscow")

Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire

The first three of these are very explicit and hard to watch. I skipped over most of the sexual scenes and had to think of different words when the main actress was getting sworn around. Chloë Grace Moretz was the theme of the first two on this list. I'm thinking of going on a marathon, watching *Star Wars The Mandalorian* on Disney+ among other activities.

The Mandalorian

August 11, 2024

Categories: TV

I'm currently on *The Mandalorian* Season One Chapter Six. This duo has been better than expected so far, however worried it's going to spoil my character life. We've been playing music, learning cover songs and trying to be more responsible in order to fulfill the teaching work in China. I read Ukraine attacked into Russia, so worries of war in my spiritual and real life persist. Thinking of a trip to Orlando with over four hours of biking involved.

Recent Doings

August 13, 2024

Categories: Movies, Music, TV

Studying an IELTS teaching course and watched another movie I was saving for the plane ride, called *Paranormal Prison*. It does say the “s” word a lot, however that’s it. On Episode 8 of *The Mandalorian*. I’m going to somewhat extremes lately and did a twenty-one mile bike ride yesterday to try to stay on a daytime schedule. Definitely got a sunburn. My harmonica set is nearly complete with a new E recently arrived from Sam Ash and also a D on the way from Guitar Center.

Sunburn

August 14, 2024

Categories: Exercise, Movies, TV, Vegan Life

I did a twenty-three mile bike ride today and my normal walk to the beach. I also swam in the ocean, off the extended beach. It's over three times the width. Sad to see it being made by machines when I checked overnight before, still room for more people like Miami.

Many tire tracks though, so it's not as romantic as it was before. The non-vegan friendly fishing pier I visited previously, with the wood stained in blood at its end, now cannot be used for fishing it seems because the beach goes out that far. Not sure what they're doing with that. I finished *The Mandalorian Season One*. I can see why The Child is so popular. I've had one of the original Funko Pops for a while, so I identify somewhat with the main characters. Also rented *Methgator*. It's a horror, cult film that could catch a laugh or two.

“Help How”

August 17, 2024

Categories: Movies, Music, Vegan Life

I sort of fell into overnight again, well actually tried to purposely be in the darkness. It has been hot and muggy lately. I thought I would take a massive bike ride in the night, however there might be too many bugs through the forest. I injured a lizard walking and texting family, so I feel horrible. So I'm writing new songs and getting into *The Mandalorian Season Two*. "People are strange when you're a stranger."

Post title from The Mandalorian

End quote from The Doors

Pack

August 20, 2024

Categories: Albums, Movies, Travel

I leave tomorrow for China! I've picked out over twenty hours of entertainment for the twenty-four hour plus journey. Albums and movie rental purchases. I haven't seen, nor listened to most of these. So if you go ahead and check them out before me, please don't think I wanted to insult you with explicitness or boring material if they be that to you. There will also be in-flight entertainment and other options along the way.

Albums:

Moby – *Always Centered at Night*

Imagine Dragons – *Loom*

Empire of the Sun – *Ask That God*

Meshell Ndegeocello – *The Gospel of James Baldwin*

Beabadoobee – *Post*

The Smashing Pumpkins – *Who Goes There*

Jack White – *No Name*

Iron & Wine – *Light Verse*

Movies:

Challengers

The Watchers

The Tree of Life

Vanilla Sky

Sully

Red Shoes and the Seven Dwarfs

Season's Changing

August 27, 2024

Categories: Character Life, TV, Vegan Life

I missed the flight. Waiting to get my bag back which has all the characters except for Chibi and Mummy Plush. Almost finished with Season Three of *The Mandalorian*. Without my new career, it seems I might have to finish another album. Nearing eighth years as a vegan.

Ends for Now

August 29, 2024

Categories: Character Life, Philosophy & Religion, TV

So I finished *The Mandalorian*. What a priceless show. I'm going to miss this duo. My Funko Pop character of The Child is stuck in Charlotte and wondering if I'm going to get my bag back. That along with the loss of a year in China teaching is currently very devastating. Sometimes life challenges us beyond our perceived limits, however religious experts may say that Christ will not give us more than we can handle. What does the future hold that we can try to look forward to in such trying times?

Here Here but Different

August 29, 2024

Categories: Character Life, Music, Travel

I recovered my luggage and characters. The bag was at JAX the whole time, however tracking hadn't quite updated as such. The flight number indicated that the bag had been returned, yet not the location data. So I could have made it to China by the deadline after all, still not sure it was meant to be considering many reasons. Looking at trying to play music out as well as finishing another project. Also thinking about pitching songs to other artists, though not positive how to do that in today's business. I still have a flight I might have to use before July next year, so that could mean a trip to Shanghai under their 144 hour visa-free policy in 2025 (Year of the Snake).

Moving On

September 7, 2024

Categories: Food, Travel, Vegan Life

Ends up that I did reschedule my flights and I made it to China against the odds. Four legs in which a majority of the time spent, was over-challenging. I could barely watch movies, nor listen to music because of panic attacks and claustrophobia. Those things are usually far behind, so the word to defeat is excruciating. We need to love time and experience. I haven't started the intended job yet, however the culture shock has still insued negative emotions at times, despite my belief that those do not belong to me. I bought my first wok and trying to keep my veganism respectable in this eight year anniversary.

The Stuff I Got Through

September 8, 2024

Categories: Albums, Movies, Music, Philosophy & Religion

A follow up from the last post. I did get through Imagine Dragons latest as well as Empire of the Sun's. Both amazing new words I haven't invented. Meshell's album I got through somewhat with some different jazzy vibe transition. Actually I watched *Challengers* early on in the voyage. It's way beyond myself and changed my life forever. Just because I love Zendaya and idealize her relationship with one of the Spidermen. The reason I left acting in high school as well as a scholarship for college was actually somewhere in there. Connecting with each other today is such a chore based on accelerated growths in different directions alone. Shyamalan's *Watchers* intrigued me last night, though it just barely passed the time. I'm in an impossible time hole that I need to escape.

Writing About Imagine Dragons in the Year of the Dragons

September 17, 2024

Categories: Albums, Music

"In Your Corner". I'm not sure I'm going to make it out if I should be here in the first place. I've felt betrayed by my true feelings. I went to the hospital and sleeping like I need. My manager wants to put me in a torture chamber or something, so I'm packing for a quick escape. I'm beyond another original album. You'll get it when I'm dead.

Replace Me

September 20, 2024

Categories: Albums, Music, Philosophy & Religion

On my way to Hong Kong on the train, trying to believe I will transcend into another universe if necessary. Listening to Imagine Dragons lately and it'd quite appropriate due to *The Year of the Dragon*. I'm going to spend a night in Hong Kong and Taipei and on new anxiety meds. I'm in in deep danger. Ckwal/SKMillion is changing everyday and sometimes I feel the music is going to to change the world, at others I feel I'm going to lose the battle of both my lives.

New October's Own

October 1, 2024

Categories: Movies, Music, Philosophy & Religion, Travel, Vegan Life

So the job in China failed for now and the flights have been nearly impossible. I've missed connections, had to throw out tons of valuable baggage and fell ill in Taipei. I'm going completely broke despite donations from family. Some of the connections I've made, may have cursed me off forever. I started developing a panic disorder and claustrophobia. So I began listening to Tiësto to get me to the airport and on this current flight watching Frozen 2 to Miss Monique. I'm also revisiting Nora en Pure, planning on checking out Afrojack and some of my old favorites. I don't know if I'll go to the gym with those or the other unknown places in my future. Trying to find or make a new path, however seems like some artists disappear from here. On a flight to JFK after barely making it to China and pretty much broke. Some decent meals from EVA Air and free wine. I'll be going on unemployment most likely and trying to find treatment. Praying helps sometimes as well, however my faith is severely damaged. Now waiting to go back to Jacksonville.













My Angel of Time

October 2, 2024

Categories: Blood Donations, Food, Music, Tattoo Culture, Vegan Life

Trying to look forward to lifetime blood donation units 42 & 43 in a couple of days. I've been going on the day I'm eligible for the majority of the sessions. Today I went to my first food bank. They were very accommodating for a vegan, which was a big worry of mine. Broke a string on my guitar unfortunately and don't have spares, however the new songs are lasting for most of the lyrics. I can't record at this point because the airline on the way home made me throw out around five pounds of important stuff like mic cables and the harmonica holder. Waiting on government support and trying to get over some major anxiety or panic attacks. Difficult when you need something right away it seems and everyone wants to make you wait. Also trying to start drawing again. I was wondering how I was freestyle drawing, since it's been so long.

Special thanks to St. John's Food Pantry.

Units 42 and 43

October 4, 2024

Categories: Blood Donations, Tattoo Culture, TV

Today was another successful double red cells donation. [See journal](#). It also happens to be the five-year anniversary of my Fiona tattoo written in Japanese by Miguel. Fiona was inspired by a character on Burn Notice which is set in Miami. "Once you've been burned, you've got nothing". As far as the intro to the show's line goes, I pretty much have some things in common with the main character. Luckily I'm back in Florida and not stuck somewhere in Asia on the street.

New Entertainment

October 12, 2024

Categories: Albums, General Update, Music, TV

I've been keeping occupied for long hours since returning to Florida. Recently there has been a death in the family the same day as the hurricane was passing through. Not related to the storm, however it has been an eerie intersection as Halloween approaches. Today I stepped away from the job search to start a list of the second part of our latest demo album. It will most likely have a different title and straying theme; however tied together somehow. I've also been watching Tubi TV on the app. Shows like *Extreme RVs Season Two*, *Mega Transports Season One*, *The Floor Season Two* (which was renewed through a third season) and *Halloween Wars Seasons One and Two*. I listened to Ben Harper's latest called *Wide Open Light* today on YouTube. It's fairly true to the style I know him for in the past and recommend a listen. I haven't heard the most recent Coldplay album with the name of *Moon Music*, however will try that later. Another one I heard on the trip I may have forgot to mention was Wilco's *Hot Sun Cool Shroud*. Ttyl.

“Made It to The Hall”

October 21, 2024

Categories: Exercise, Music, Travel, TV

So I signed up for Disney+ at the last minute to support Dave Matthews Band's induction into The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. From Zendaya to Mary J Blige and everything inbetween, I was not expecting such a dynamic and lengthy production. I watched the entire show which ran over five hours with no breaks. Some memorable quotes, feelings, performances and surprises.

Earlier on Saturday I biked to Vilano Beachside Park and saw Dewey Via Band at Vibe-Rations festival before it rained. Great sound, stage and impressive band (although mostly covers) with upright bass and violin, acoustic guitar and strong vocals as well as nuanced drums. I had to battle traffic on the bike through Old Town, St. Augustine, still it's worth it to find a quieter refuge over the bridge to Vilano. Several hotels and a meticulously organized Publix are all within walking distance.



Three Wishes

October 25, 2024

Categories: Albums, Movies, Music, TV

I thought there was a new Stone Temple Pilots album being released soon that didn't have Scott Weiland on it. I was sort of in rebellion of post-Scott STP for a long time. So I am finally listening to *Perdida*, which I didn't even know they had made (a first album together that is). I knew they were doing live shows. I saw STP a couple of times in the nineties and they were one of my first concerts besides Counting Crows and Smashing Pumpkins. Turns out that I know some of these songs from the radio. Anyways this post is mostly about news and entertainment I've been getting into. I started *Ms. Marvel* on Disney+. It's an interesting couple of episodes so far. Only one season with six episodes, however there is some idea they might do a season two. Also I like *Too Posh To Pawn* on Tubi. It has that classic British show vibe (using the music and transitions of videography) with an updated tweak. A few new releases today that stood out to me including Halsey, Pixies and Kelsea Ballerini. I posted this before on a different blog in one form or another; links to find new releases that speak to you or bands one may follow.

Four example sites are:

npr.org/sections/allsongs

allmusic.com/newreleases

pitchfork.com/news/new-album-releases

albumoftheyear.org/releases

Also don't forget that there's a new *Venom* in theaters!

This post in memory of Phil Lesh who died today.

Happy Halloween

October 31, 2024

Categories: Holiday, Movies

I finally finished *The Little Ghost* on Tubi. It started out as a book in German from my research. The voice of the ghost is a young boy who is currently at film school in Miami. It's quite different from many stories of this nature. Anyways I am working this evening and won't be able to do much for the holiday. Have a spooky good time!

The Holidays

November 6, 2024

Categories: General Update, Holiday, Movies

We've inched past Halloween and have entered the official countdown to next year. All must get through two more months, with the season greeting us through celebrations. I've been working a lot, trying to stay afloat. I just finished the movie *Moana*. It's quite precious and powerful. There is a sequel planned for release on November 27th.

Wrapping up '24

November 10, 2024

Categories: Albums, Blood Donations, General Update, Movies, Travel, TV

I finished *The Marvels* (movie) today. Some parts are tough to follow at first. I liked how the TV show *Ms Marvel* was progressing, so not sure about the thought process on going on to this movie so abruptly. I've been working a lot, still started getting into the Christmas spirit by putting up some decorations. This Wednesday Selena Gomez premieres in theaters with *Emilia Pérez*. This Friday has a new Linkin Park album releasing called *From Zero* and Gwen Stefani presents us with *Bouquet*. In other updates I've recently decided to donate blood near the end of January, 2025 with [OneBlood](#).

Holiday Entertainment

November 17, 2024

Categories: Albums, Movies, TV

Linkin Park released their first album since Chester was one of the lead singers. He hasn't really been replaced because the style is merging with others in the addition of a female vocalist. She has a very pretty voice, so it's almost a shame to hear all the screaming. Still a decent addition to the new options in the vast wheelhouse of influences and evolution of their sound historically. I've started watching *Star Wars: The Book of Boba Fett* to get to the episodes The Child is in. It's similar production value, quality music and artwork to *The Mandalorian* and helps to distinguish his character from whom he was cloned. Two movies in theaters soon are *Wicked* starring Ariana Grande and *Moana 2*. Lindsay Lohan is in a new movie premiering on Netflix entitled *Our Little Secret*.

Bye November

November 30, 2024

Categories: Albums, Holiday, Movies, Music

I was sick on Thanksgiving and the day before. Otherwise mostly getting through work and holiday chore-like things. Usually thinking of ways to have fun and make new future goals. The Lindsay Lohan movie *Our Little Secret* was fun and started *Abbey Road: If These Walls Could Sing*. Also around Thanksgiving I saw Maggie Simpson's short movies: *The Longest Daycare*, *Playdate with Destiny*, *Rogue Not Quite One* and *The Force Awakens From Its Nap*. I couldn't remember Moby's album from the trip, so I listened like it was the first time through. It's really a good mix of dance club to wherever tunes that showcase his growth as an electronic music pioneer. Right now hearing *This Is How Tomorrow Moves* by beabadoobee to slide into December.

Early Christmas or Two Celebrations

December 9, 2024

Categories: General Update, Holiday, Music, TV

I have tried listening to some new album releases, however haven't found a full work to share yet. I've been collecting some favorite tracks for a possible mix. Also I've discovered *Interior Chinatown*, which is a Hulu original TV show to be quite intriguing. Otherwise preparing for some time off with family visiting for the holidays shortly, sometimes listening to Christmas radio.



Full Effect

December 19, 2024

Categories: Holiday, Movies, TV

Holidays are in full effect. Some family visited and we celebrated an early Christmas. I saw *Red One* with my Sister and our whole immediate family played miniature golf. The movie had great messages with many creative scenes. I didn't like some of the language choices and sometimes the plot lulled or felt cliché, however I think they balanced that out with some super unique stuff. I also saw *The Simpsons: Oh C'mon All Ye Faithful* on Disney+ last night. My subscription is ending today along with the Hulu promo, however I'll have Paramount+ and Netflix still to find holiday shows. I've returned to consistently watching *Posh Pawn* on Tubi and halfway through season three. Most of the cards I have intended to write this year are in the mail and getting ready for a fairly relaxed Christmas day.

“Scary Ghost Stories”

December 26, 2024

Categories: Holiday, Movies

In the song *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, it talks about how there'll be ghosts stories of past holidays. I never really heard this lyric before as it flew by all these years. Anyways after working on Christmas Eve, I decided to check out *Smile 2*. Not in the usual holiday spirit, however there are a few scenes suggesting some of the filming was done with the holidays in mind. It's very gruesome and many scenes with stares or frozen looks are disturbing, however the sound design and other artistic elements are very intriguing. The ending is genius in that they could potentially have a sequel with any type of continuation the producers dreamed of, still it leaves the viewer unsure of what really happened. Other than that I felt ill on Christmas and watched the traditional *Spencer* and *Angela's Christmas* eventually. At least that has been the ritual for the past couple of years. I rarely rewatch movies often, yet I find value in the practice for special occasions. Especially in establishing one's own traditions.

Favorites From 2024's Frame of Mind

January 2, 2025

Categories: Holiday, Mix, Music



IT'S EUPHORIC - GEORGIA
BIRDS OF A FEATHER - BILLIE EILISH
DO IT AGAIN - ELEVATION WORSHIP
I HAD SOME HELP (FEAT. MORGAN WALLEN) - POST MALONE
BUSTED STUFF - DAVE MATTHEWS BAND
4X4XU - LAINEY WILSON
COLD BEER CALLING MY NAME - JAMESON RODGERS & LUKE COMBS
WHAT HAPPENS IN A SMALL TOWN - LINDSAY ELL AND BRANTLEY GILBERT
LEAVE ME ALONE - MICHAEL JACKSON
LA NENA - LYANNO & RAUW ALEJANDRO
CALLED CRAZY - KASSI ASHTON
VEGAS - KEHLANI
SNOW ON THE BEACH (FEAT. LANA DEL REY) - TAYLOR SWIFT
CLOSER - NE-YO
A LOT WITH A LITTLE - TYLER HUBBARD
SWEET MOON - MOBY & CHOKLATE
BEAUTIFUL THINGS - BENSON BOONE
STARGAZING - MYLES SMITH
IT'S OK I'M OK - TATE MCRAE
CAN'T SLOW DOWN - ALMOST MONDAY
THE DOOR (TIAGO PZK VERSION) - TEDDY SWIMS & TIAGO PZK
PADAM PADAM - KYLIE MINOGUE
WE'RE GOOD - DUA LIPA
AM I OKAY? - MEGAN MORONEY
WONDER WOMAN - JOHN LEGEND
LEAVE BEFORE YOU LOVE ME - MARSHMELLO & JONAS BROTHERS
WHATEVER - KYGO & AVA MAX

Hope in a Dream's Death

January 8, 2025

Categories: Blood Donations, General Update, Philosophy & Religion

I've been working frequently through the new year. I'm still making resolutions because of the milestone events which happened last year. My philosophy has been changing. After disappointments of dreams not coming true, it's possible to create new ones and be excited to move on from those you've attempted, realizing that they aren't right for you with these new experiences. Although it can be a costly gamble to follow one's dreams, closing the gap on what will and won't work in one's life may be worth it. Keeping a door open may be preferred by many for hope, yet closure can be a blessing in the long term.

Ckwal has several domains and I am thinking of not renewing some when they expire. I really like the .gdn extension, still I'm probably not going to renew it at expiration later this month. Ckwal can still be reached at .net, .com and .us for now, all of which point to the same site. The previous sites can be mostly found at the menu tab in the booklet plug-in. There are still some posts I haven't added back, however I'm trying to find the time eventually. Right now getting out of debt this year is the priority.

So I'm more than halfway through season four of *Posh Pawn* and haven't really been watching much else because I'm working a lot and recovering in between those days as well as doing chores.

Later in the month, I'll be donating double units with OneBlood at a car dealership. This would move me up to the 45th unit overall, but only the second meeting with this company.

Destinations on this year's resolutions, though might not be able to travel:

Boulder/Seattle, New York, Paris/Amsterdam, Mexico City, Charlottesville, Atlanta

Veganuary

January 21, 2025

Categories: Albums, General Update, Music, TV

I think I'm getting back into music production in spirit. I just don't have the money nor time to get where I envision quickly. So we are sort of piecing together the finished album's resources whenever possible. After the demo recordings posted, I need to record a second collection and then figure out the final style or pitch them out to another artist. I listened to Coldplay's latest and Ray LaMontagne's. I just can't seem to be satisfied with many artists I've followed long term and new ones are often giving me the same feeling. Can I fill the void in time? I'm not sure if that's the goal rather than simply loving what I do.

The Grammy Awards are coming up on February 2nd and Super Bowl LIX on February 9th. I finished *Posh Pawn* and started *Survivor Season 47*.



Anger in Grief

January 31, 2025

Categories: Blood Donations, TV, Vegan Life



Last Friday I made a single unit donation with OneBlood ([donation journal link](#)), bringing the total contribution number units up to equal my age. My appointment was for a double, so I guess they didn't check before hooking me up. The previous time I went with this company, the same thing happened in a different way. Probably better for my job currently, which is very physically demanding and decent experience overall. Anyways between LifeSouth and OneBlood, I'm starting to feel like I might want to find a reunion with Red Cross. I've had my sights on a trip to Atlanta for some time, however not sure about the timing in late March. There is a date at JAX airport's Delta Airlines a week after I'm next eligible, which could be fun. Still not quite sure how I'll be travelling after the last debacle to and from China.

I started watching the latest reboot of *Frasier* last night and might go to old episodes as well. Otherwise nothing too eventful happening this early in the year, in my life yet.

If you missed Veganuary or want to follow topics in a similar category, [HappyCow](#) has a [blog](#) in addition to their app and emails.



Sea of Stars

February 6, 2025

Categories: Music, TV

I watched the *Grammy Awards*' recording over several days. Besides the most recent *Rock and Roll Hall of Fame* inductions, I usually don't tune into these type of events for more than a few highlight clips or listed results. I think I've been missing out on some major performances, speeches and dynamics between stars. Some sections were like music videos being shot live. Definitely lots to be pay attention to during one's own creation processes.

“Every Rose Has Its Thorns”

March 10, 2025

Categories: Albums, Movies, Music, TV



Looks like every Blackpink member went on solo music diversions. I believe the intention is to return to the group later. So far I only really like Rosé's *Rosie*. A couple songs really touched me, one of which is named 'Two Years'. The rest is interesting and deeply engaging to listen to her voice alone. Meanwhile I'm trying to have a music listening station in my place. I bought a used turntable and looking for a cassette player to add with the Bose Wave Radio (cd changer) I inherited. I'm also trying to rebuild the studio by next year, however a new computer build would be essential. As far as shows, I started the latest *Survivor* and trying to finish *Interior Chinatown* after a limited time deal on Disney+ and Hulu. The special is linked from a news article I found. *Sonic 3* and *Venom 3* didn't impress me enough to post after seeing those and I re-watched *Collateral* starring Tom Cruise. After that I found out there is another *Mission: Impossible* coming to theaters in May!

End of Winter List

March 11, 2025

Categories: Music

Open Hearts – The Weeknd

This Town's Been Too Good to Us – Dylan Scott

Gone – Dierks Bentley

Anyone – Justin Bieber

Afraid of the Dark – Talk

Star Walkin' – Lil Nas X

Lost Your Faith – Ava Max

Beautiful People – David Guetta & Sia

Heart Still Beating – Nathan Dawe x Bebe Rexha

Blade of Grass – Lady Gaga

Lyrics, Moana and Blood?!

March 21, 2025

Categories: Albums, Blood Donations, General Update, Movies, Music, TV

I've added linked lyric/tab pages to the latest demo releases on [the album page](#). It's possible to listen to individual songs on demand, by clicking the first title. The titles below with traditional links go to a pdf file opening in a new window. Besides that I finished most of the TV shows I was watching including a movie, *Moana 2*. The music is powerful and the movie sometimes tries not to be a tearjerker. I watched it over several days along with bits of other shows. The blood donation which was supposed to be today, has been changed to a trip to Jacksonville next Friday with my brother who will be visiting. There is a drive with Red Cross in a hotel by the river. Spring is here.

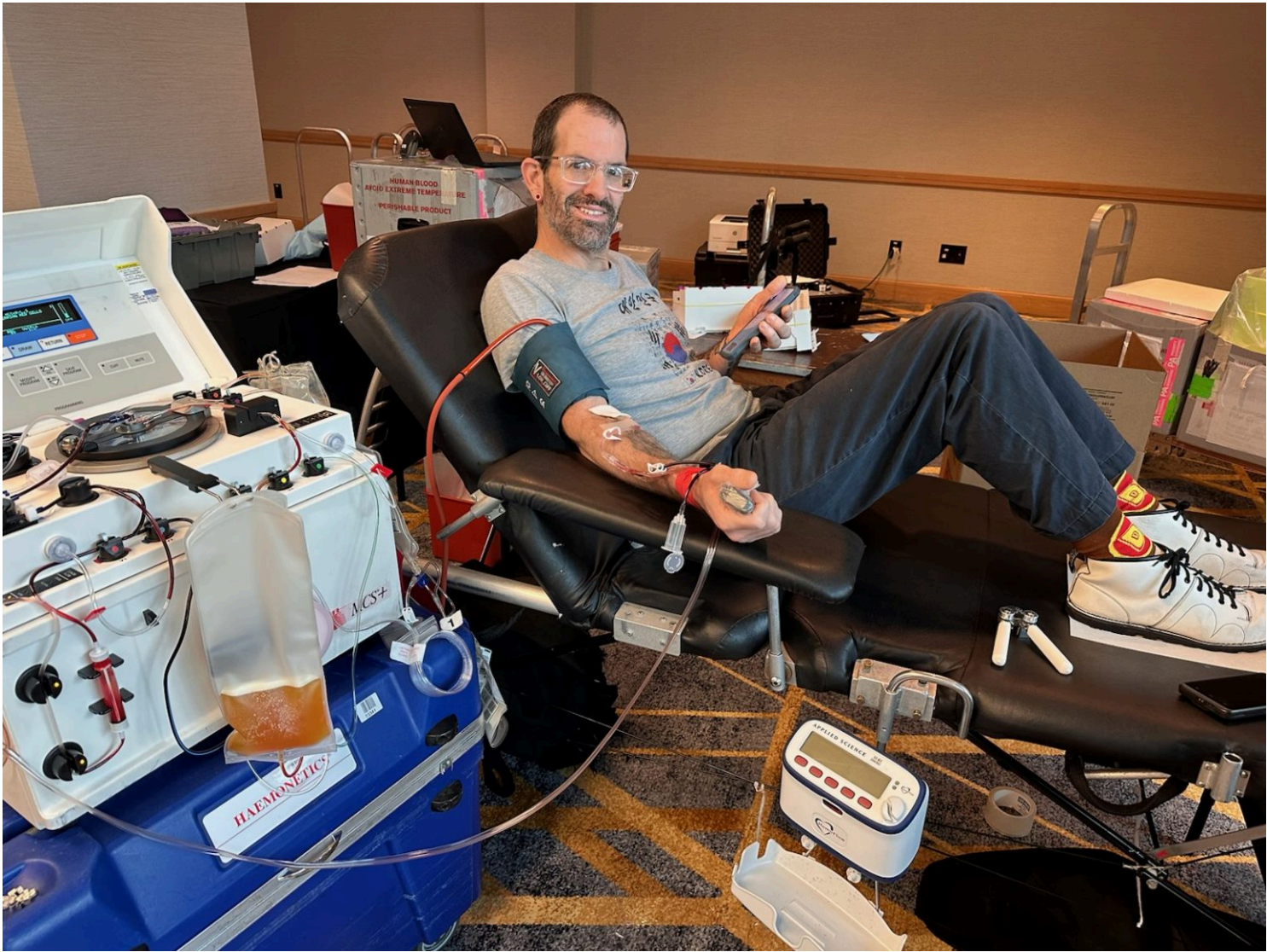
Red Cross Reunion

March 29, 2025

Categories: Albums, Blood Donations, Travel, TV



Yesterday my brother and I went to Jacksonville for a Red Cross blood drive ([journal link](#)). It was at the Hyatt sponsored by Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. Quite an experience to contribute blood with someone you know! 50 cent was in town as well, however with a recently booked trip to Virginia in the works, I can't spare as much for that ticket at this time. My brother is an even bigger fan of *Survivor* and showed up looking like Jeff Probst boasting about having seen every episode! He definitely earned an immunity idol by donating, don't you think? I'm still trying to go record shopping today before dinner in St Augustine. There is a new album out by Banks that starts off powerfully and was trying to understand the most recent The Smashing Pumpkins album last night.





Volatile April

April 7, 2025

Categories: Mix, Music, Travel

Below is a list to dive into April.



Lenny Kravitz, Quavo – Fly

Tame Impala – Breathe Deeper

John Summit – Light Years (feat. Inez)

Cassian, Script, Belladonna – Where I'm From

Subtronics – Mothclaws and Brass Danger

Kaskade & Lipless – State of Mind

Cedric Gervais x Sick Individuals – Feel Better (Extended Mix)

Federico Scavo – Janela (Extended Mix)

Jimpster – You Got My Love

Calvin Harris – Giant (feat. Rag’n’Bone Man)

Chevelle – Rabbit Hole (Cowards, Pt. 1)

Cheap Trick – If You Want My Love (Alternate, Extra Bridge Version)

Amy Grant – Every Heartbeat

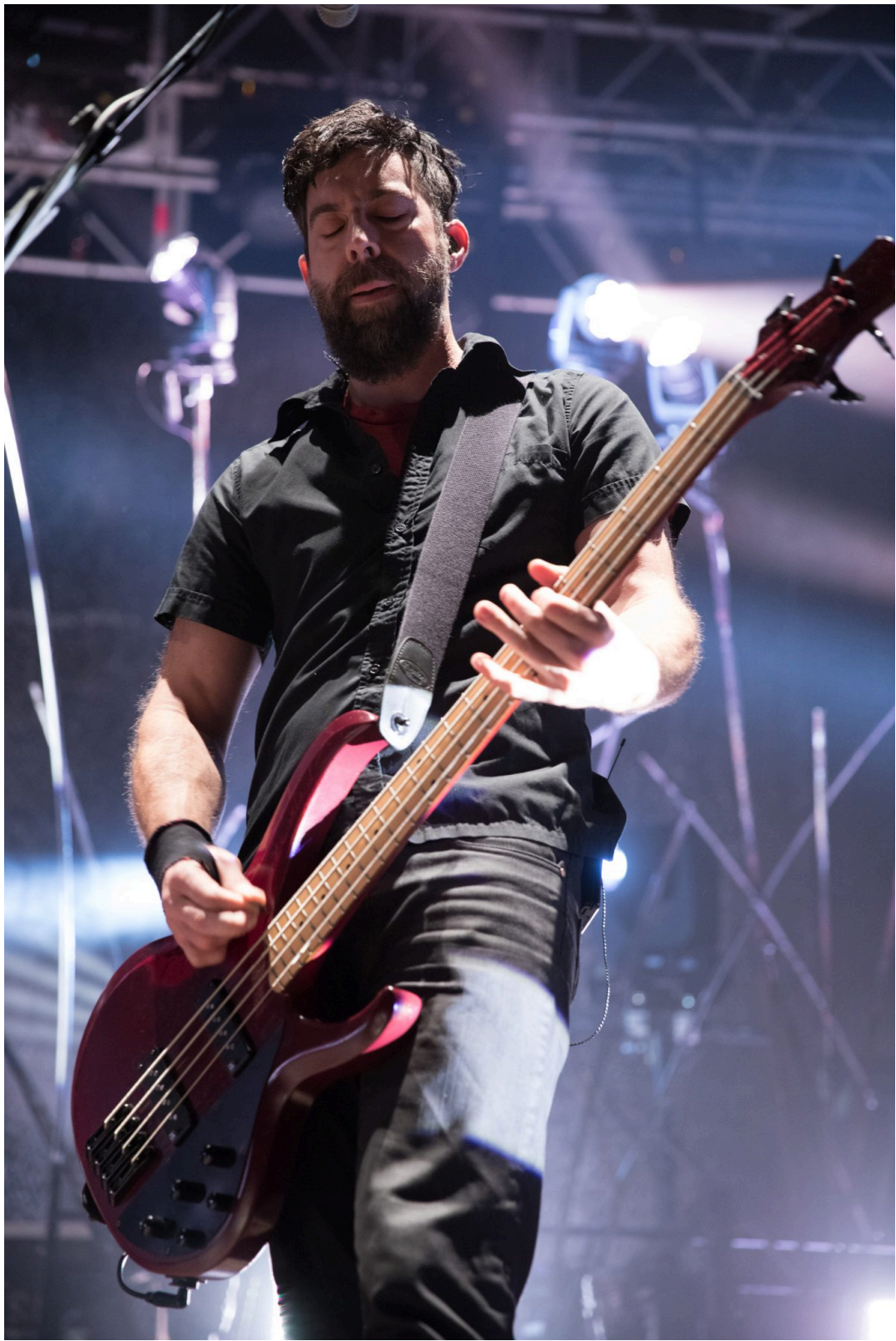
Mew – Nothingness and No Regrets

May I

May 4, 2025

Categories: Albums, Music, TV

Besides working I have been watching *Bar Rescue* led by Jon Taffer. I'm also listening to two new albums I bought for a cancelled trip to Charlottesville. Both Chevelle's *Niratias* and Trey Anastasio's *Atriums* are highly recommendable.



Magical City

May 17, 2025

Categories: Character Life, Concert, Music, Travel, Vegan Life



I haven't been posting as frequently mostly because I'm searching for direction in life. Failed moves to Thailand and China in addition to the deaths in my family up to this point, have left me somewhat feeling disabled. Plans are falling through in much more upsetting ways than previously. I was going to do a trip to Virginia to progress on the new album's songs and see old musician friends. It has been postponed and now I'll be going on a shorter trip to Orlando. I've bought a floor ticket to see Shakira and hoping to visit a theme park as well as Erin McKenna's bakery. More updates on that when we get going. My blessings now are steadily working and living in Saint Augustine.



Memorial Day

May 26, 2025

Categories: Albums, Character Life, Music, Travel, Video Games



Maren Morris' newly-released, signed album arrived. There are some swears along the way, however with some new production and a divorce in 2024, she's stepping out of a dusty box which creates some fresh air for the listener. Good thing too because I was about to leave work without this release. Meanwhile I'm planning a trip to Orlando which is approaching quickly. I've got a slew of activities on the wish list and have also purchased a ticket to the recently opened Universal Epic! So the week Nintendo Switch 2 is released, we'll be in Super Nintendo World. The only game I've been playing though is *Need For Speed: No Limits* on a Google Pixel, which looks amazing.

Consolidate and Upgrade

June 1, 2025

Categories: General Update

A quick update reminding readers that ckwal.gdn is no longer a domain I own and next month ckwal.us will no longer be renewed. So I will only be keeping ckwal.net and ckwal.com for now. When renewal is up for those, I'll update on where to find information on Ckwal's adventures if it changes. I can still be reached at social@ckwal.net and this domain would be the last one to go if I ever went offline completely. The musical project *One Way to Bangkok* is undergoing major changes in conception and will be delayed until further notice, however looking at computers for the studio on the trip. The characters and I depart for Orlando on Wednesday by vehicle.

Orlando!

June 6, 2025

Categories: Amusement Park, Concert, Music, Shopping, Sports, Travel



After arriving to the first hotel I walked to Disney Springs. There were bands playing, bubbles floating around and everything seemed in sync.



After some photos I ducked into Erin McKenna's Bakery for a cookie taco.



I returned to the hotel and drove over to TopGolf for the driving range.



My bay was ready early and as I was walking to it, Deadmau5 walked right by me. Turns out they were having a party in the adjacent bay. He was practically in my backswing and the server asked them to move a bit. I was thinking, Don't you know who that is?!



The following day I went to Guitar Center and three Best Buys looking at open-box computers and equipment. I researched the Nintendo Switch 2 which was going on sale at midnight and they said there was a good chance to get one.



I had the Shakira show to go to and was so tired after walking back to the hotel from Camping World Stadium.



So I decided not to check out the midnight offering, also weighed by budget concerns for finishing the album.



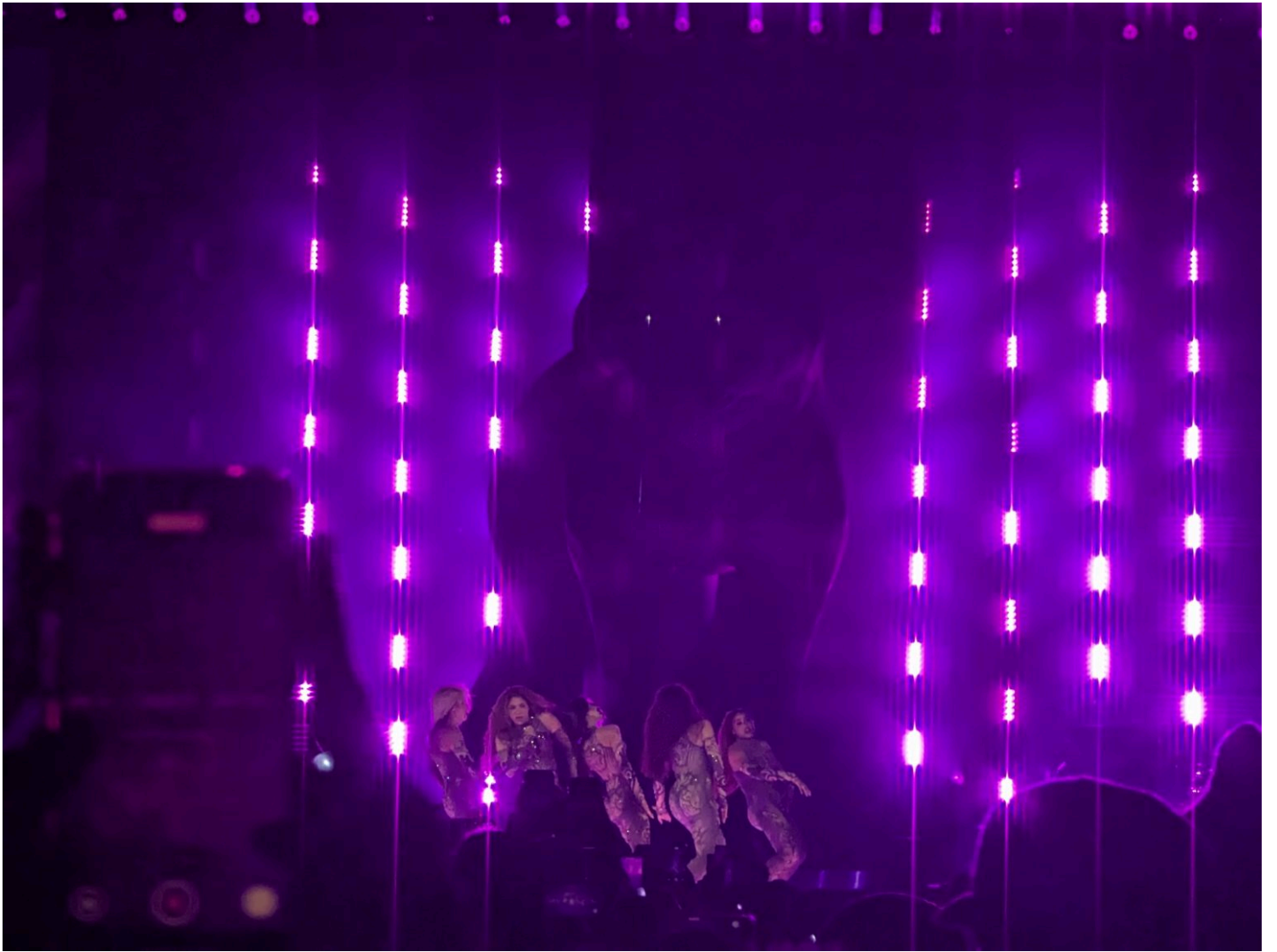
I have my eye on a Masters of Music in Music Production at my alma mater with a focus first on the mastering stages. Yesterday I took a day to recover and visited more stores for shopping, including another Guitar Center where I played a PRS and another mini bass. I also liked the mini acoustic Martin bass I saw the previous day. Right now I'm drafting this on the Yoshi ride line at the recently opened Universal Studios Epic Universe.

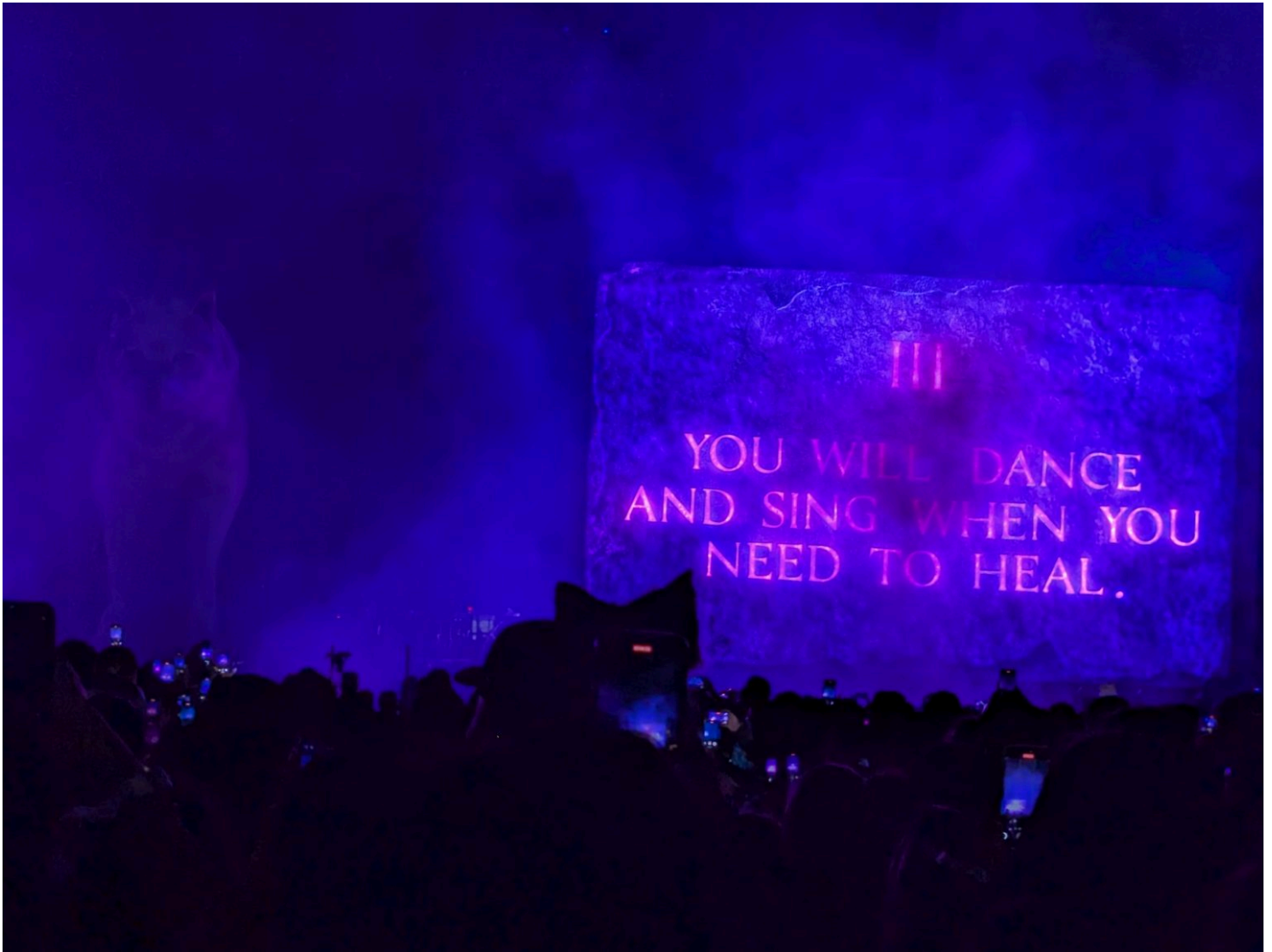


Photo and video opportunities are amazing as it's like being on a movie set here. Everything is looking new, however there are long lines for the rides and some are actually not accepting people into the line. So I'll probably only ride this one and the merry-go-round I just tried. I think it's really a cool place to hang out and shop, still all that is extra money. I'm not sure I can ride anything after the traumatic travel to and from China, so I'm not that let down. Shakira was an unbelievable show. She is a legendary musician and performer.



I almost walked out due to people standing on their chairs, practically blocking the screen to the sky. Eventually they were made to step down. The sets were mostly on screen and three dimensional. I didn't really like the She Wolf ending because I felt left out, however there were some songs along the way with production that gave me chills on top of everything else. Not sure if I'll go to another concert again because I think I've seen it all.





I may follow up with more pictures on a separate post and other stories later!

New

June 11, 2025

Categories: Albums, Amusement Park, Music



I bought two albums in Orlando. *So Close to What* – Tate McRae on CD for the way home and *The Forest Is the Path* – Snow Patrol on vinyl. They both swear a bit, however I'd say the music is still very worth it. I'm not sure I like having only three tracks per side on the record, yet it prevents me from getting too settled.



The coaster I ended up riding.

Set It Up

June 30, 2025

Categories: Albums, Blood Donations, Character Life, Computers, Mix, Music, Video Games



I finally ended up building a computer. The first one I built was around 2009 inspired by the Windows 7 release. I've been setting it up with the recommended mastering software from the Berklee College of Music class I intend to follow. The monitor system and upgraded DAW software has all arrived as well (Presonus' Studio One 7).



I also bought *Dirt 5* and a Nacon PS4 controller to test out the video card. My birthday is approaching and I plan to visit Harley Davidson Ormond Beach in Daytona area to get the M endorsement on my license. Also I've scheduled a blood donation with OneBlood. Below are some songs I've compiled that I used Shazam with at work mostly to find. The final one is a new release by Muse which has a desirable blend of rock styles, however some lyrics may be controversial to my beliefs. I guess it depends on personal interpretation. There are some other alluring releases

out like First Aid Kit's *Palomino*, still it seems there is a catch with all of them. I'm thinking of trying to make some less secular music in the form of an EP in the future. In addition some new artwork for the album is developing along with a slight title change.



Sam Smith – How Do You Sleep
Owl City – Metropolis
Whoise – Renascido (feat. Jo Choneca)
Duran Duran – Rio (US Edit)
Gavin Degraw – I Don't Want To Be
Diplo, Jessie Murph & Polo G – Heartbroken (VIP)
Don Henley – The End of Innocence
Ava Max – Million Dollar Baby
Rolling Stones – Mixed Emotions
Roxette – It Must Have Been Love
Joe Jackson – Steppin' Out
Jordin Sparks – Battlefield

Ava Max – My Head & My Heart

Teddy Swims – Lose Control

Taylor Swift – Teardrops On My Guitar (Pop Version)

Dua Lipa – Training Season (Extended)

Marky Mark and the Funky Bunch – Good Vibrations (feat. Loleatta Holloway)

Sananda Maitreya – Sign Your Name

Muse – Unravelling

Tiësto & Mathame – Everlight

Paula Abdul – Forever Your Girl

New Ends and New Beginnings

July 8, 2025

Categories: Albums, Festivals, Movies, Music



Quick update. I saw the new *Mission Impossible* in theaters last night with my parents. It's fairly introspective with a slow pace and gives us an additional farewell to Tom Cruise in this movie series. On the musical horizon, Oasis reunites unexpectedly for a live tour. The timing for me is fairly bad, however bearing an Oasis tattoo of sorts, something I may have been praying for in the end. I hope they can make it through the dates. I previewed the latest First Aid Kit album on YouTube and it's pretty. They talk a lot about love. Getting ready for a birthday trip in less than two weeks for my first visit to the Daytona area. On the topic of Daytona, I've already purchased a ticket to Rockville 2026 with four days of camping. No lineup announcements yet.

Quick List

July 15, 2025

Categories: Mix, Music

Alan Walker, Ava Max – Try

Muse – Verona

DJ Jazzy Jeff & The Fresh Prince – Summertime

Diana Ross – Upside Down

Old Dominion & Megan Moroney – Can't Break Up Now

Dua Lipa – Illusion

Tears for Fears – Mad World

45

July 23, 2025

Categories: Blood Donations, Education, Mix, Music, Sports, Travel



I recently celebrated my birthday in Ormond Beach area near Daytona by doing a basic rider course at the Harley Davidson dealership complex. I have several years experience riding different motorcycles, however I stopped riding after I fell in Cambodia and was injured near the coast. After riding a bicycle in Florida in the bike lane for about the past five years, I decided to try out the MSF class to see if my confidence could be restored. The first day challenged me with an extreme heat wearing full protective gear as required. I felt like I wasn't going to make it sometimes waiting with the hot engines idling in a shadeless parking lot. The staff was dynamic and complex, offering a surprising variety of support to individuals uniquely and the class participants were amazing to learn besides. I spent all night recovering before waking up at four a.m. the next morning to do the day in the sun again, followed by a skills test and written test. Finally we listened to a speech by a director of the motorcycle safety foundation which was poetically inspiring. I couldn't have spent my money in a better way. They also have an advanced rider course and I'm looking into doing that in the future as well as a possible racing course if I get that far with another company. I never felt like I belonged with the Harley community and I couldn't believe how at home I felt near the end of the experience. Today I got the "A" endorsement put on my license as it is now known by in Florida and then donated whole blood with LifeSouth again finally. I hope to return to Daytona in the future and possibly get a tattoo by the beach. Below is a list of songs which are mostly favorites from those heard at work.

Something About You (Sisa Mix/U.S. Extended Version) – Level 42

Summertime – DJ Jazzy Jeff and The Fresh Prince

Forever (Main Version) – Chris Brown

Smile So Much – Jelly Roll

She's Got a Way – Billy Joel

Suddenly Last Summer – The Motels

We Are of This Earth – Bush



New Bike!

July 28, 2025

Categories: Music, Shopping





Never Be the Same – Welshy Arms
Years in the Making – Arkells
Shout – Hero the Band
Ghost – Justin Bieber
Don't Be Afraid – Bush

Go Away Summer

August 14, 2025

Categories: Albums, Music



Joe Jonas – Heart by Heart
Paul Simon – Kodachrome
Fabiana Palladino – Drunk
Keith Urban – Heart Like a Hometown
Nate Smith – Fix What You Didn't Break
Avicii – For a Better Day
Yeah Yeah Yeahs – Maps

New Albums –

Nero – *Into the Unknown*
Good Charlotte – *Motel Du Cap* Explicit
Deftones – *Private Music* (8.22)

Recent Celebrity Deaths

Ozzy Osbourne (Black Sabbath)
Brian Wilson (Beach Boys)
Hulk Hogan (Wrestling Hero)

Goodbye August

August 31, 2025

Categories: Albums, Education, Music, Travel



This weekend I completed the *Advanced Ridercourse* at the Harley Davidson in Daytona for my third visit to the area in just over a month. Funny because I told Orlando I'd probably return sooner than later and Daytona is like that girl that really doesn't like you, still you put way more effort into the seemingly less rewarding relationship than one thinks is worth it. Whatever the end result, I'm ready to explore more confidently into the future. Probably won't see this place until Rockville next year granted the lineup is acceptable.

Wyn Starks – Run

Bruno Mars, Anderson .Paak & Silk Sonic – Love's Train (Con Funk Shun Cover)

U2 – Dancing Barefoot (Extended Version)

Diplo – Hometown (feat. Zac Brown & Danielle Bradbery)

Nas – N.Y. State of Mind EXPLICIT

Sigrid – Fort Knox

Jethro Tull – Locomotive Breath

Prince – Purple Rain

New Albums –

Ava Max – *Don't Click Play* (Know Somebody, Lost Your Faith, Fight for Me EXPLICIT)

Appointment, Ticket, Bookings, Post

September 3, 2025

Categories: Albums, Blood Donations, Concert, Music, Travel

September is here and the weather is hinting at some big variations. Not that I hate summer as may have been suggested in a previous blog title, I guess I miss the winters and seasons of Chicagoland and the other cities I've lived. Florida fools us with falls like springs, winters like fall and then windy transitions of unpredictable rain. I used to love The Weather Channel for different reasons other than trying to plan out my day or trips, however now I check [AccuWeather](#) almost every day to make sure I'm covered and safe as possible. Two upcoming plans for this month to try and keep posts interesting as well as working towards Genius Level 3 on [Booking.com](#). First during next week, a trip based in Orlando to see Nine Inch Nails at Benchmark International Arena. I'll ride the motorcycle late at night after work and check in to Orlando Palms for two nights. The day of the concert, it's to Tampa and back after the show. What will we see besides some music? The other thing is to revisit the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Jacksonville Airport with American Red Cross for a 48th unit blood donation. I've booked JAX Inn which is west of a cute area near the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens. I'm flirting with the idea of changing jobs to be closer to the music industry and/or having to do with my trip to Daytona, however only time will tell how that all pans out. Some more challenging motorcycle rides in the future during what is supposed to be hurricane season. These are non-refundable trips which I found at unbelievable deals. Let's look forward to Alison Wonderland's upcoming release on October 3rd called *Ghost World* and if there is a simple track with impressive fill to theme this post, how about Calvin Harris' new one entitled "Blessings feat. Clementine Douglas".

ontrol



Update



Burn

1 Beaches



Loudness Information

Pre FX

Post FX

EBU
R128

INT

LRA

-6.5 LUFS

3.7 LU

L

R

TP

0.3 dB

0.4 dB

RMS

-6.6 dB

-6.3 dB

DC

-93.3 dB

-99.8 dB

Inserts



Auto: Off

That's Super

September 5, 2025

Categories: General Update, Holiday, Movies, Music, Travel

I had another couple of days off and still have been not feeling 100%. I decided to take a drive to Durbin Park to see *Superman*. It was a a frustrating experience for most of the movie despite being a pretty cool theater. I was impressed by some of the production, costumes and that throw-back feeling of life I know from growing up. Sara Sampaio's character was even getting me riled up until the whole story sort of tied together at the end with the theme music being used sparingly to bring us into an updated sequel. Anyways I had to leave my job to catch up with all the things I've been ignoring in my life among many other reasons. I've already added the missing blog pages to our previous domain ckwal.us in the drop down menu and put dates to the works. I'm reviewing all the voice memos to figure out what original music needs to be made. There have been some edits to September's plans, however the basic locations and concert remain the same. There are some tempting deals to Mexico City around the tail of Día de los Muertos in which later Linkin Park is playing, however I really shouldn't.

Cola (Artbat Remix) – Camelphat & Elderbrook

Speed Demon – Justin Bieber

Pyro (feat. Emski) – Feed Me

Drift – Ummet Ozcan

Gone EXPLICIT – Haim

Psycho – Alison Wonderland, Erick the Architect, QUIX, MEMBA



Photo by [Alonso Reyes](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Ariana Stole Trent's Thunder!

September 10, 2025

Categories: Concert, Shopping, Travel





I made it to Orlando by motorcycle despite many doubts surrounding the weather. I almost left on Monday and had packed everything up. The rain wouldn't let up and I was studying the patterns to an annoying amount. Everything just kept changing. After a challenging night of rest, I woke up with a reminder that Ariana Grande tickets were going on pre-sale for next year. I saw a break in the clouds and was strapping everything to the bike, meanwhile waiting in a digital line for some reason thinking I could get a ticket. Anyways I eventually departed and went to Guitar Center in Daytona on the way to trade in some gear. I checked my phone and apparently I was still in line, lol. She has this picture of her with some glowing light in her face. It was like she was on the trip for a bit, so that was funny. There was a little rain, however I made it to the hotel and set off towards the mall in the area. It's a pretty big shoppers' paradise and I also found an international grocery store with goods from Eastern Europe and another one focused on Indian foods. Hopefully tomorrow will work out well on the quick trip to Tampa to see Nine Inch Nails and opener Boys Noize!



“My Empire of Dirt”

September 12, 2025

Categories: Albums, Concert, Movies, Music, Shopping, Travel

I've returned to Saint Augustine with a couple of hundred miles over 1000 and the trip was a success. So many challenges along the way and new decisions. The motorcycle ride from Orlando to Tampa and back after the concert, tested my abilities. The weather was on and off with rain through bouts of heavy traffic. The sun would blaze for short times and then it would be too dark to see with the built-in sun visor of my helmet, so frustrating and annoying became the prices to pay along the way. At night on the leg back, trucks sped by me (going the speed limit at 70 mph) and the wind was ferocious, until I stopped to take the parachuting rain coat off. Laying on the Ninja can be fun, however for long periods staying glued to the tank mandatorily is another challenge as well. As far as the concert though, it was definitely worth the efforts. Since buying the ticket, I left my job and had two nights booked in Orlando along with parking. As you recall the rain wouldn't stop before I left and there were times I felt I should've ditched the ticket, yet all the sacrifices were reasons I held on to the experience. Boys Noize started playing at the opposite end of the main stage. The crowd was playing it overly cool and most acted like they didn't even know Alexander Ridha (real-life name) was a superstar in his own right. So I think he responded by impressing some of his fans, but meanwhile basically practicing for his on-stage time with Nine Inch Nails members. I noticed he even fumbled a couple beats to show us he was actually playing live. Later when he was face-to-face with Trent, he did the same sections perfectly though it was like we weren't even allowed to cheer for him at all because it would outshine the legends. That wasn't the case with how NIN made us feel though. Trent Reznor started the Nine Inch Nails set with an acoustic piano and vocal song that felt like it was a candle-light memorial for himself and I suddenly couldn't forget their history in my life. I used to be afraid of their strong image and themes, so when the band first climbed to popularity, I stayed far away. It wasn't until I was teaching in South Korea in the mid-2000's that I felt their music in the album *Year Zero*. I grew with their development as I combined electronic music with my songwriting and remixes. *Hesitation Marks* was another big release I connected with closely and this concert played key tracks from their history in my identification with them as well as some popular ones from the radio. I felt they started with a theme connecting one idea to another like an album progression. Later it became a bit like a greatest hits celebration, so that was somewhat fun to review things I forgot about. Production for the show was pretty amazing. There wasn't really a bad seat in the house and they captured a larger-than-life feeling that I got in the last *Top Gun* movie with Tom Cruise. Some of these people could be gone soon or the possibility to see them in this context will be, so it's fun to shake hands with that new type of nostalgia in the moment crossing paths. I know we miss so many chances usually because of time, money or both. It was a musician's dream to buy a

keyboard with inspiration from Nine Inch Nails for quite some time. Specifically I was thinking of the brand Akai because I heard they have used that brand in album productions before. Earlier that day I was able to pick up an Arturia MicroFreak, which is the first device of this type I have ever had. So that dream came true in an unexpected way. I overheard after the concert that one fan was happy when the solo piano introduction was over and they started going into an old-school club vibe, yet I was thinking I wished that song never ended.



This blog post title is a line from "Hurt" by Nine Inch Nails.

Movie and Convention

September 13, 2025

Categories: Character Life, Convention, Movies

I'm recovering from the latest travel and keeping busy. I was able to watch *La Dolce Villa* on Netflix. I can recommend this one! Also there is a three day event at World Golf Village happening now called [AncientCityCon](#). I've been looking at different versions of these conventions for years and finally decided to go on Sunday. I'm not sure what to expect, however I'll report back next week.

AncientCityCon

September 14, 2025

Categories: Albums, Books, Character Life, Convention, Music, Shopping



Listening to the new Twenty One Pilots album release with a title of *Breach*. Today's convention exceeded my expectations in many ways. I felt it was a beautiful backdrop for a great deal of artistic motivations and potential. I saw many real-life characters walking around and was quickly brought into the environment even before I entered the building.



I viewed some booths and a bombardment of visuals immediately, however I had to rush to find the first panel. The meeting was one of the big reasons I decided to attend, so I didn't want to miss it. The presenter Kevin Pettway is an author of fantasy novels. I learned over a page of notes which started as discussions between the author and the audience. He asked us what we were there for in the first place. I was only hoping for a line to hold on my quest to write a book someday.



After that the *Cosplay Showcase* was cancelled, so I moved over to the *Siren's Lipsync*. I never would have attended this type of thing because I was a voice principal in college and don't really condone lip-singing. I was very surprised and the talented hosts brought me a whole new perspective on the art.



I buzzed around the tables in-between panels and tried to look at all the stuff there was to offer. I found a table with some drawings that caught my eye and noticed they were in another room from notes they left. I wasn't going to attend this panel called *Comic Book Live*, but I rushed over to get in the room and again found some inspirational advice as well as a new path to channel. James Greene and Cam Lopez headed the hour which flew by and I only wanted to leave at the end because these meetings were frosty cold. Probably to accommodate heavy costumes.



For some reason I couldn't contain myself in the building anymore after buying a Battlestar Galactica patch. I think I was a being hasty though once I discovered I lost the patch. I would definitely go to another event like this and try to get involved or share more of myself in the future.



Who's Holding Your Doom

September 18, 2025

Categories: Blood Donations, Concert, Exercise, General Update, Holiday, Music, Philosophy & Religion, Travel



Since leaving my regular job, I have been feeling much better and decided to donate two units of blood to justify the time off even more. I was doing only single-unit contributions because of the intensity of my previous work, giving 110% so to speak. I think if your job doesn't support these endeavors consistently, it's probably not a good place to stay committed to long-term. Bitterness aside it hasn't been easy buying things I need to proceed with getting back into one of the main reasons I was put on this planet I believe, so fighting through the commotion of so many pointlessly careless interactions to get to the Big Red Bus was like an oxymoron. Being with my Nanna in the last week she was alive though is something I have to remember when trying to save a life. A few more days can make a difference. I have now been rejected by two blood companies

for work as well when I was encouraged without inquiry to apply. To spend thirty or more years trying to be a logical human being has proved to me I was smarter when I was an ignorant kid. Still I wouldn't want to become unwise because one of the prevailing truths is knowing that it's impossible to be completely independent and correct. Frankly I'm worried about my future, however glad I'm at some point such as this, even if it is like the barrel of a gun. Though it feels like an egotistical move or something, we are trying to do a solo open mic or something like that and getting back into the gym to see where those paths could lead. One more thing that is kind of far away- Bela Fleck and the Flecktones are touring with Jeff Coffin and Alash around Christmas with some holiday tune renditions plus originals. I'm finally restarting that trip to Atlanta idea in December since floor spots are affordable! Well not without a job, but oh well, couldn't afford the time before, right?

Under the Surface (feat. Phoebe Green) – Holiday87

Ma Tusani (feat. Aya) – Vanco

Just Keep Watching – Tate McRae

Ansel – Modest Mouse

How To Save a Life – The Fray

45 – Shinedown

Nothing Lasts Forever – Goo Goo Dolls

Sing Out Loud

September 21, 2025

Categories: Concert, Music





The last couple of days I was helping out at an estate sale of my Nanna's stuff. That was a new experience for me and although it made me a bit grumpy, sometimes I felt like playing Dido's "Thank You" in a new light. I'm holding onto a lot of memories and physical baggage of a lady I grew closer to than most people in my life during the last years she was alive. Also recovering from a double-unit blood donation in which I've been to the gym after twice and being in-between jobs, I had to make some decisions about covering *Sing Out Loud's* Saturday events. Two artists were attending that mean a lot to me- Maren Morris and Beadoobee. I could have made it to downtown Saint Augustine for Maren Morris' set time, though I had to aim for Beadoobee who was on later at 9:45pm. I rested and drove the motorcycle into the heart of the action hoping to find a free parking slot. Besides getting a little frustrated with lots of security and cops, I was able to park, circle the

perimeter and actually hear Beatrice's voice and somewhat her band for the full set. Their music was pretty much just what I needed to gradually start healing the unknown wounds. She spoke similarly as she sings; winsome and matter-of-fact. I found out that this was the last show highlighting the latest album and that they were heading to Nashville immediately to start on the next one. Part of me wanted to trail behind the caravan and do the same.

Last Exit

September 25, 2025

Categories: Education, Music, Philosophy & Religion, Shopping, Travel

Last night I was in Jacksonville staying at a hotel I booked in order to do a blood donation with Red Cross. I ended up finding a drive on the day I was eligible a week earlier with OneBlood as one may recall. The booking was non-refundable and being the first time I've stayed overnight in this particular location yet not my first visit to the area, I had some idea of what to do. Unfortunately things didn't go quite as planned. I stopped at Whole Foods and bought some midi cables as well as guitar picks along the way. It was mostly a pleasant ride. Check-in was delayed and I ended up staying within a thirty minute walking radius from the hotel which was reduced further today because of a sore ankle. It was rather uneventful as I wrote a couple international post cards, watched TV and pondered the future as well as some stories from the past. I found another international store which was Latino owned and bought a "Mexico" lanyard to symbolize the temptations to visit Mexico City while I have been blessed with time. Seems like I have been eliminating options for possible paths in order to avoid regrets and this single overnight had me losing more options than I have gained. I'm looking at doing an open mic at Third Space Improv or possibly in Orlando if I can find one. I ordered a gig bag to try carrying the guitar on the motorcycle which should arrive tomorrow. I haven't performed in a long time, so that ice is seemingly unbreakable. Meanwhile I have been going through *Audio Mastering* by Jonathan Wyner at turtle-speed.

Repost: Fun Life List Series

September 27, 2025

Categories: Concert, Festivals



This is a repost which I have updated. I recovered it from my Google Docs and spent most of last night getting the formatting back, verifying data and recalling the story details. There are some missing and I have only included major concerts and events.

Fun life list: concerts (updatable)

Date 2021-11-07 23:42:56

Categories Concerts Festival/event/convention(s) Journal Music Theme Travel Web

After the last post and another poor slept night, I was inspired to share. Besides starting last night, worked on it most of today. Below are concerts I've attended, recollected from clues and connections I could remember; including website databases/searches and wikis (no ticket stubs, receipts, pictures, nor confirmation emails etc). May not be 100%, but if listed in top section without any question marks, most likely I'm fairly sure about. I reached out to some contacts who might have information on other additions and will update. Other notes listed below in another paragraph.

10.04 or 10.06.96 Smashing Pumpkins Rosemont, IL Rosemont Horizon
12.12.96 Stone Temple Pilots with opener Local H Chicago, IL Rosemont Horizon
3.10 or 3.11.97 Counting Crows Chicago, IL Aragon Ballroom
4.20.97 Silverchair Chicago, IL Aragon Ballroom [Link](#)
4.13.00 The Smashing Pumpkins Milwaukee, WI The Rave/Eagles Club
4.28.01 Blues Traveler Boston, MA Hatch Shell [Link](#)
7.16.01 G3 Boston, MA FleetBoston Pavilion
9.21.01 Tool Mansfield, MA Tweeter Center
3.12.02 Bush Boston, MA Orpheum
3.18.02 Ryan Adams & The Sweetheart Revolution Boston, MA Avalon
4.15/16.02 'NSYNC, P. Diddy Boston, MA Fleetcenter
8.09.02 Béla Fleck and the Flecktones Boston, MA FleetBoston Pavilion
3.28/29.03 Billy Joel & Elton John Las Vegas, NV MGM Grand Garden
4.20.03 The White Stripes Boston, MA Paradise Rock Club
4.23.03 The Flaming Lips Boston, MA The Roxy
5.24.03 Beck and The Black Keys Boston, MA FleetBoston Pavilion
2003 Dave Matthews Band Tour (select shows)
12.31.03 Phish Miami, FL American Airlines Arena
5.05.04 Doors of the 21st Century with Ray Manzarek, Robby Krieger, and Ian Astbury from the Cult
2.04.05 Secret Machines Chicago, IL Metro
9.26.05 Ray LaMontagne Milwaukee, IL Pabst Theater
7.28 – 7.29.06 Pentaport Rock Fest Incheon, South Korea
8.15.06 Metallica Seoul, Korea Olympic Stadium [Link](#)
12.04.06 Foo Fighters (caught the final song) Tokyo, Japan Nippon Budokan
3.21.08 311 Toronto, Canada, Sound Academy

8.12 – 9.07.10 Other festivals on Eurail trip

8.24.10 The Gaslight Anthem (beginning) Winterthur, Switzerland Steinberggasse [Link](#)

4.07.12 Example Saint Petersburg, Russia Kosmonavt Club

6.10.12 Zavtra Festival (Zaz, [Ivan Dorn](#)) Saint Petersburg, Russia Elagin Park [Link](#)

6.14.12 Linkin Park Saint Petersburg, Russia Petersburg Sports and Concert Complex

7.06–7.08.12 T in the Park Balado, Kinross, Scotland

8.10.12 Huey Lewis and The News Highland Park, IL Ravinia

5.24–5.26.13 EDC Chicago Joliet, IL Chicagoland Speedway

6.14–6.16.13 Spring Awakening Chicago, IL Soldier Field

6.27–6.30.13 Electric Forest Rothbury, Michigan

12.7.13 G Jones and Minnesota Breckenridge, CO three20south

5.30.15 Lana Del Rey and Grimes Tinley Park, IL First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre

6.12–6.14.15 Spring Awakening Chicago, IL Soldier Field

6.14.15 Spring Awakening After Party (Zomboy) Chicago, IL House of Blues

6.30.15 Tove Lo Chicago, IL Concord Music Hall

10.30–11.1.15 Freaky Deaky Bridgeview, IL Toyota Park [Link](#)

2.06.16 Alison Wonderland (Bought a ticket, made it to the door area, but did not go inside.)
Chicago, IL Concord Music Hall

7.19.17 Luis Coronel and Prince Royce Denver, CO The Fillmore Auditorium

5.31.19 Felix Cartal x Frank Walker (Bought tickets, made plans and reservations, but gave them away last minute.) Houston, TX Clé

4.20.23 Jerry Seinfeld Jacksonville, FL Moran Theater

4.22.24 Darius Rucker Munich, Germany Backstage Werk

6.4.25 Shakira Orlando, FL Camping World Stadium

9.10.25 Nine Inch Nails and Boys Noize Benchmark International Arena

9.20.25 Beadoobee (outside festival boundaries) St. Augustine, FL Francis Field

October First Twenty Twenty-Five

October 1, 2025

Categories: Education, Mix, Music

Progress is finally being made in the studio. I'm learning to use the MicroFreak more and did a full day of studying on the PCB as they refer to it on the [official website](#). LeSynth started the class with [this video on YouTube](#). I was really impressed by the way he used music from the instrument in his artistic journey through this tutorial. I was seeking a bit more about using The Matrix, so I viewed [another segment by DnC Music](#). He delivered a couple more pointers and set the table for a chill vibe. I'm still figuring things out by studying the manual and testing, while practicing or somewhat composing. I finally was able to control my main drum machine plugin (Battery 4 by Native Instruments) using the percussion presets, however the night before I decided to order an Akai MPC Studio 2 for better feel and control. There was one of those new but damaged packaging, open-box type deals on Amazon which put it at a decent discount. Hopefully it's what I'm looking for to help with production of beats and grooves. Last night I found my way to the gym again and listened to the most recent Tiësto mix which can be found on [Acast](#). I think catching up with some of the mix masters I listened to after teaching internationally is an overdue task I'll find helpful moving forward.

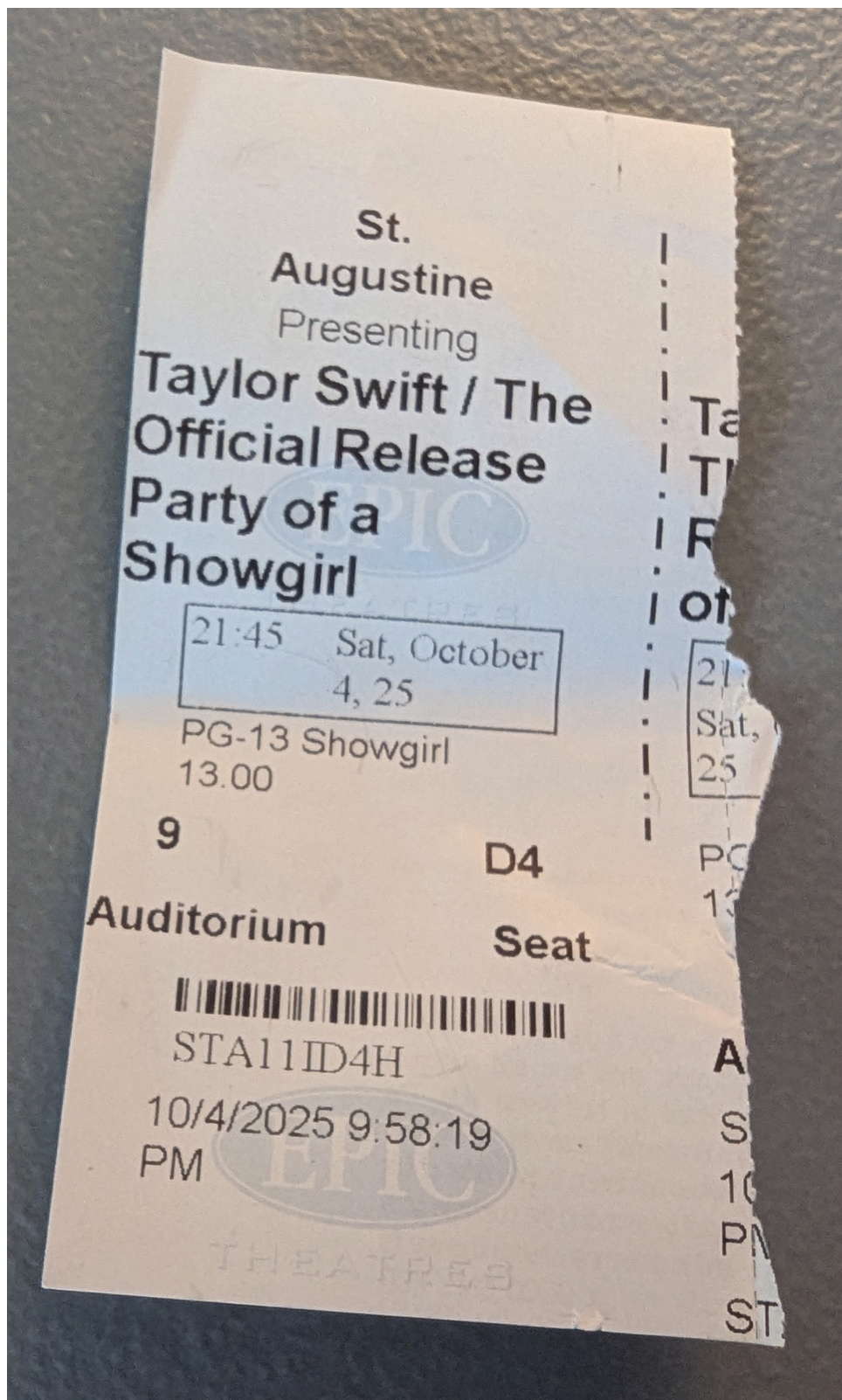


A picture of me with Robert Moog (1934-2005) at my college graduation (2003)

Album in the Theater

October 7, 2025

Categories: Albums, Mix, Movies, Music, Philosophy & Religion



I was going over what to write in a post all night after seeing Taylor Swift's album release party in theaters. Only a billionaire does an album release in movie theaters nationwide. I pretty much resolved to post nothing at all. I actually was intending to see Dwayne Johnson in *The Smashing Machine* which was written and directed by one of the Safdies who did *Uncut Gems* with his brother. After the gym and listening to the latest Afrojack podcast, I was a bit impatient. Afrojack's mix is the best of the few I've listened to so far, however I don't like this new hot track they are playing which the speaker says to choke him as a turn-on somewhat. I quickly decided on seeing *The Life of a Showgirl* because it's rated PG-13 and was probably about to be out of the previews. For a third or more of it I was regretting my choice. She is blowing kisses throughout the whole thing and there are quite a few visualizer-type music videos; some repeating unusual scenes. There are more things to focus on though than the visuals. Many of my pet peeves they hit on like lyric timings during the lyric video sections. I don't especially like being told how to listen to the music. Eventually she broke me down enough to find some enjoyment in the ideas she was presenting with the supremely wordy songs. I didn't know that much about her personality, leadership style and stuff, however after seeing the behind-the-scenes of the featured music video and more so the monologue behind the music, it confirmed I'd put in a lot of catch-up time with the artist. I don't think I have seen any musician take over our stores and presence the popular media as much as Taylor in my entire life and sometimes it is absolutely annoying, however she is definitely a good role model and capable of pretty much anything. I know I'm overly critical of her music because she is nine years younger than me and falls into a lot of habits to stay relevant with her crowd, so this album didn't surprise me that she still has better projects overall to put forth before us. She did wow me with some of the variations she is trying on some individual words and the development of her attitude in combination with the impressions that so many people have made on her. I feel we have a lot in common about philosophical discussions and commitment to music overtime. I think her fans are and have been on a brilliant ride.

New Paths Merging Old Paths

October 10, 2025

Categories: Mix, Music, Philosophy & Religion, Shopping, Sports

This past week has been strange work with a little fruit. I basically spent a ton of time obsessing about microphones to find the right deals to help get the studio operational. Since I traded my only Shure away (not only mic) along with a drum machine towards the MicroFreak, I realized I was going to be a bit short of capabilities for multi-tracking. I am still trying to focus on mastering audio, however when reading the mastering book from Super 8 by Wyndham Ormond Beach a while ago, my love of engineering started to spark a new flame. When I was younger, I always went for top shelf everything and eventually ended up like an non-famous MC Hammer. So I must try to find the best bang for the buck and try to remember what I've learned in both respects. eBay often feels like gambling, however I was scouring that site and many others, eventually ending up with two Blue Bluebirds (Blue being a completely retired name for microphones at this point). Not the Latvian made ones, nor the later Logitech stuff, so we'll see. JZ still makes microphones in Latvia and [this video by Justin Colletti of SonicScoop](#) is very informative and revealing about some of their selections and frequency responses in general. The progress on the Akai MPC Studio MKII is good and I've decided to keep it despite my initial frustrations, which I think many people share about their DAW within a DAW if using for session work. I have needed a change of workflow however and it forces me to think differently and separate the groove-making somewhat, while still giving the option to control other virtual instruments.

Moving past that I went back to the gym a few times and listened to some more podcasts on Podbean. [Nora En Pure](#) is in state this weekend doing shows in both Orlando and Jacksonville on the same day before going up to NYC for a festival. I really wanted to go to one and decided to check her out while doing the StairClimber. It was beautiful and inspiring as I always remember, but she threw in an f* bomb sample towards the end. I almost didn't notice because some person who just finished their workout distracted me, but then I was like I have to forget about that Nora show and save some money. Later I found the best mix of all those so far and that is – Protocol Radio 687. My biggest issue working out at Planet Fitness was that I noticed a sign that I started to worry I'm becoming an enemy of this on the blog. I'm always trying to be constructive with any reviews, though some newer generations are being so explicit and careless that I typically feel the responsibility to warn or just avoid if possible. One phrase I remember growing up was, "If you can't say anything nice, don't say anything at all." There are definitely exceptions to staying quiet

and I'm struggling with that battle of standing up for myself or filling up with rage. Anyways I think I understand the context and my intentions in reviews are usually balanced. Knowing many perspectives of quality *has* to be one blessing of not necessarily being super-successful as a performer or otherwise star in the limelight.



Ilkay Sencan & Mahmut Orhan – Saskin (Tiësto Remix)

Almost Letting Go

October 14, 2025

Categories: Albums, Festivals, Mix, Music, Philosophy & Religion



Today I spent some much needed time finally going through many notes I have from this year that typically get tossed into a pile in a box or something if I can even be that organized. I tried listening

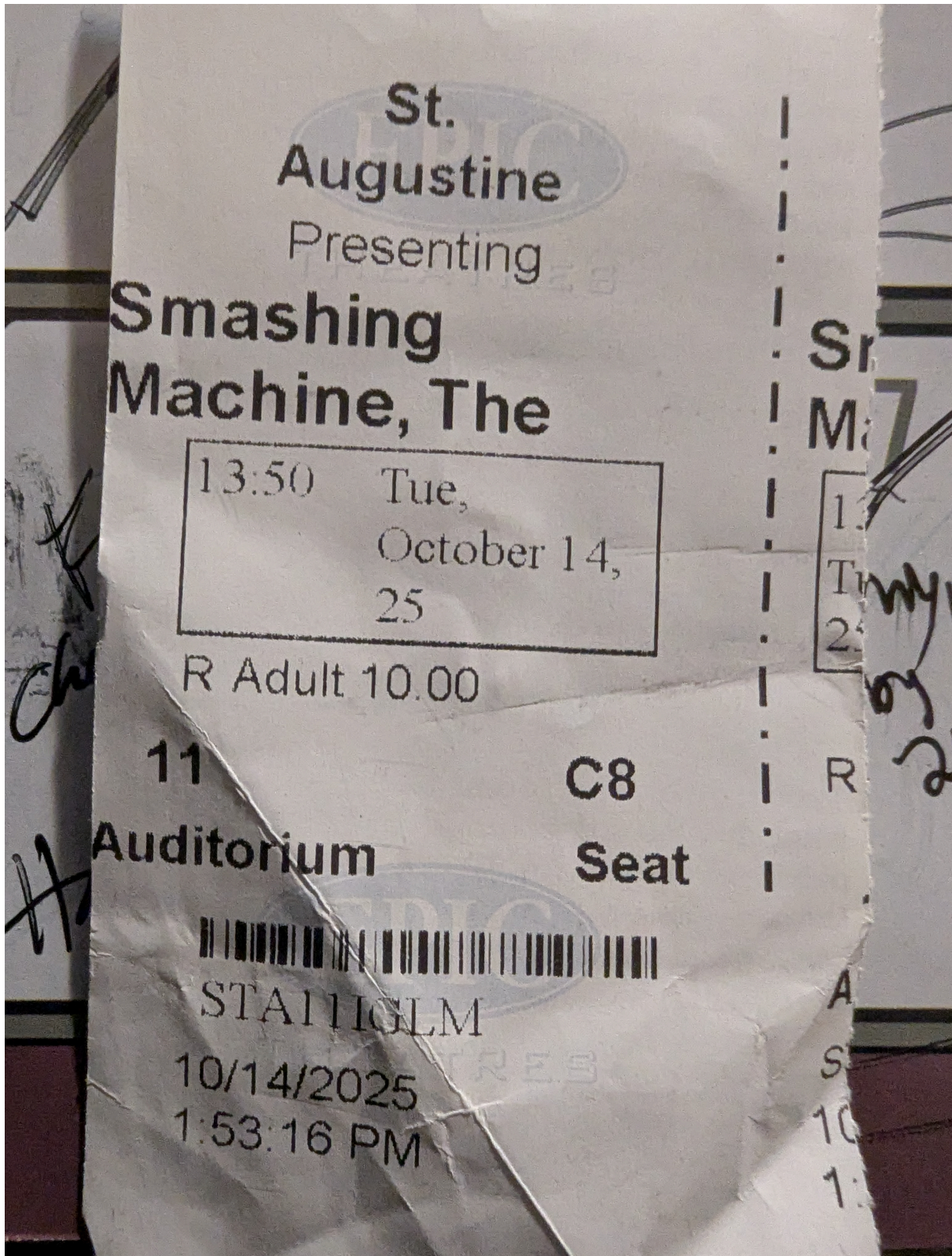
to a couple of albums that were somewhere in there as notable new releases. Kelsea Ballerini's *Patterns* was mostly entrancing until she swears at me unexpectedly and so was the ambience of Pixies' *The Night the Zombies Came*, until something similar happened. I was already beyond my last wit with this from the other day when I had awarded Nicky Romero's Protocol Radio and then he dropped a track with a girl saying the f* word over and over at the end of a previous mix from an earlier post's recommendation. This year I spent over forty dollars to have Snow Patrol swear at me in the first track of the record and then on another one. Seems like they are thinking this is some kind of cool thing to do or rite of passage. You think you know somebody or a band. So I'm having trouble trusting any musicians. We used to have "Parental Advisory" stickers on every album that was in the stores, but with the freedom of the internet it seems they don't have to warn us. What a shame. I just don't want to be putting that into my head at this time nor telling people it's good stuff, when there is a major catch on every album. On the topic of albums, I unpublished many of my previous albums for now if anyone noticed. I have only sworn on one album and I didn't even remember that until I was copyrighting it when my Uncle died not that long ago. So I did put the warning on that album, even though I feel it doesn't represent the overall vibe. I usually warned as well when I was using songs in my mixlists every time. Something to think about when one compromises one's integrity on a permanent release. However I'm pretty sure they have thought about it and have some intentions, which makes me terribly sad. I'm personally hurt. On another note of disappointment, I am finding the rock fest lineup to be trickling out big "sell the ticket" feelings with every band so far. I haven't really listened to any of them or heard of them enough to make an overall judgement, however many are already disqualified from my own principles. At least their may be some fun people born in the 80's around though. More news on that coming every week and not sure when I want to further dive in with a tent purchase. Here are the songs I jotted down in the pages I didn't previously have time to go through until today and a couple of newer ones.

Vision V, NOSI – Flying in a Nightmare (feat. Chris Howard)
KDH, BlackCode & Monic – All That We Are
Frank Sinatra – It Was a Very Good Year and If You Go Away
Imagine Dragons – Eyes Closed
Wilco – Hot Sun
Empire of the Sun – Television
Fabiana Palladino – Shoulda
Tony Romera, Crusy, Low Steppa – Watch Out
Stevie Wonder – That Girl
MC Hammer – Can't Touch This
Right Said Fred – I'm Too Sexy
Pendulum & AWOLNATION – Guiding Lights
Sub Focus & Bbyclose – On & On (Kanine Remix)
Apollo Twins – Crystals From the Sky

Anyone Famous

October 16, 2025

Categories: Movies, Philosophy & Religion



I finally saw *The Smashing Machine* the other night. It starts off with a lot of hitting and there is quite a bit of swearing in the movie. It's possible to look away and still see the rest of the movie. Dwayne Johnson's character goes through quite the development from the beginning to the end. I can talk a lot about all sort of ideas I identified with and learned from for expansion on, however that would require many plot spoils. Basically if one is wondering what they are getting into with the film, I'd say it's much more about philosophy and relationships. If you notice the main cover of the movie, you'll see actress Emily Blunt standing out in the scene. This is no accident because she plays a major role in many of the interactions which define the nature of the movie. Also in that picture, you can see Ryan Bader and Bas Rutten. If you judged the book by this cover, you might be getting a good idea of what you'll be seeing. They are all in the ring together in this life on screen and just wait until something one of them says intersects perfectly with your own. There is a reference to Rocky somewhat when The Rock as Mark Kerr takes a short flight of steps in transition between acts, still this fighting story is very unique. There are also some complex debates between the hosts or sponsors of the events, notably the Japanese which take the journey deeper into many discussions and facets, but pride especially. The end happens a little quickly and I had a bit of trouble with making sense of what could have been a sequel, yet the fitting point was that this sport rarely makes anyone famous.

Biketoberfest

October 20, 2025

Categories: Festivals, Photos



I caught the tail of *Biketoberfest* held in Destination Daytona over the weekend. It was a shame that most everyone was shutting down by four, however I still was able to pick up the wave in the area. One of the most interesting discoveries was that vendors could do services like customizations and oil changes on site!













