



Jay Psaros

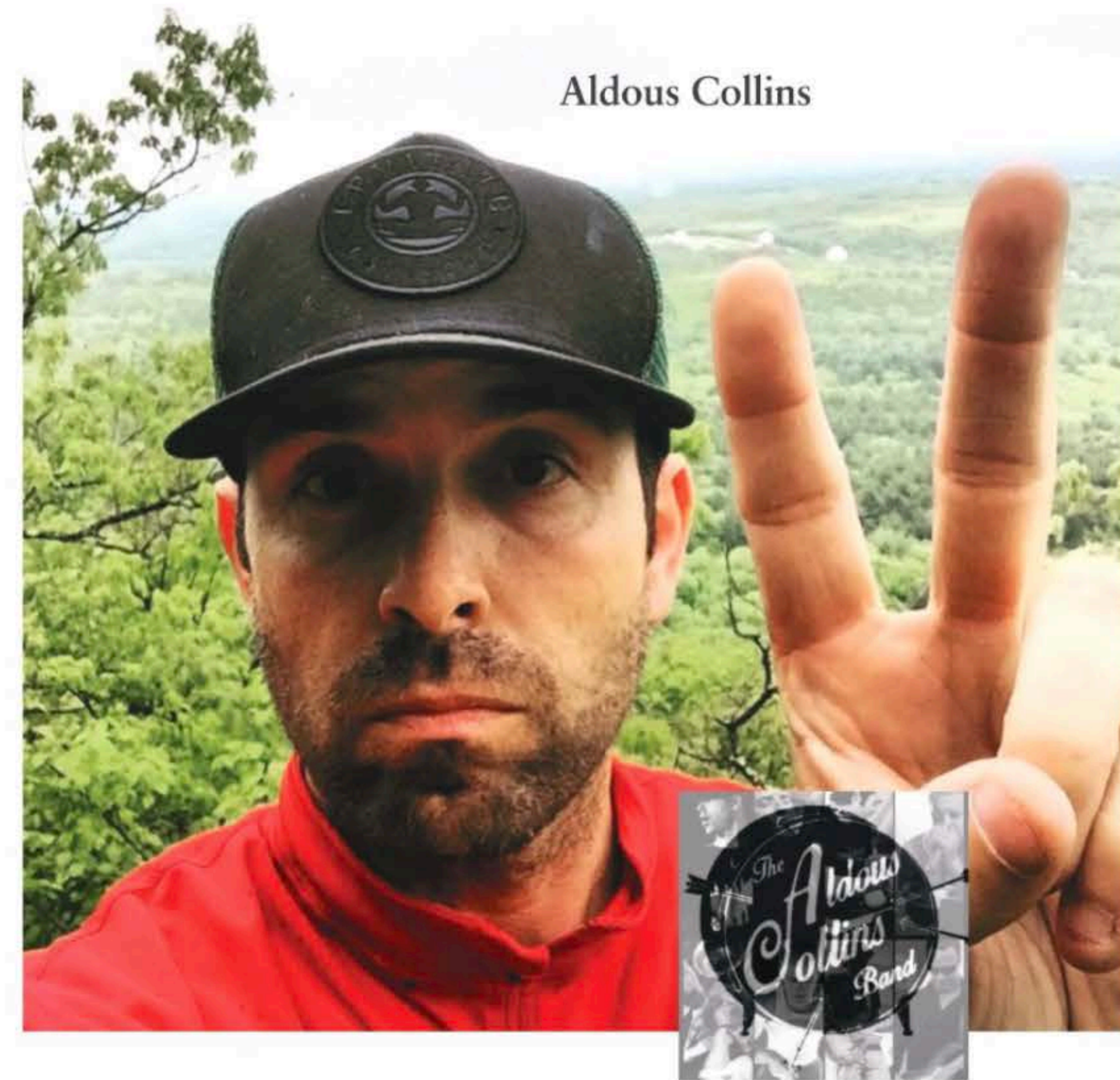
The Beat:

Greetings once again music lovers! Welcome to the fifth installment of “The Beat,” covering music in and around Boston’s best shore, the South Shore! For readers of this article I’m sure you have become well aware of my affinity for the music scene here on the South Shore. As a working musician, I am proud to call this part of New England my home. I’ve worked, toured and lived extensively throughout New England and over the past decade have been able to experience some of the finest music destinations in the region. Nothing, however, is quite like the South Shore: a hotbed for local, regional and even national talent. My favorite part about it is that as a whole, the music scene on the South Shore is humble, kind, diligent and dedicated. We are not boastful with our words, rather pro-active with our actions. The result is a music community which can hold its own with the best of the best. Some of our local talent is walking proof of this.

of you who know Aldous personally, you are well aware that the conversation always involves a lot of laughs and many smiles. In reply to my commentary about his on-stage antics Aldous replied “Jay, I’m forty years old and I just don’t give a damn!” The truth is, Aldous does give a damn. He gives a damn about being true to himself, his craft, what his life means and the notion that life is too short to not do what you love. Aldous doesn’t give a damn about anything that stands in his way, and the growth of his band and presence in the regional music scene is proof of that. Aldous’s brand of funky, roots, rock/reggae is energetic, cheerful, positive, sometimes silly and downright beautiful. Over the course of two and a half years he has grown his four piece outfit into a thriving musical experience often times featuring 8 musicians on stage. It is no wonder that this past year he was awarded “Live Act of the Year” by the New England Music Awards, his second year being recognized by the New England music institution.

What many don’t know about the Aldous Collins Band are the unsung heroes in his band, which Aldous will be the first to admit are a huge reason for the bands recent success. Michael Rahman, a good personal friend of mine for several years is soft spoken, un-assuming and yet a driving force behind the Aldous Collins community. In the several times that I’ve worked with the band, Mike is the first to rally the troops and get all of the working parties involved with a strategy that will benefit everyone. He spends countless hours promoting, inviting, and making people aware of the bands happenings. Mike is perhaps the ultimate side guy. Selfless, supportive, without an ego and completely committed.

Another huge part of the bands success is Steve Smith. Steve Smith is half of the Grammy winning electronic group Dirty Vegas. His attention to detail, industry expertise and unapologetic eye for quality has helped guide Aldous and the gang down a path that pays equal attention to craft as well as business-savy. Working with Steve is an interesting experience. It seems as though in his eyes, there is always something to be tweaked, to be altered, to be experimented with and ultimately improved upon. During one of my many conversations with Steve about the Aldous Collins Band, Steve had a vision for the band and wasn’t scared to share his thoughts on how to achieve this vision for the benefit of the whole. A great songwriter, musician and performer himself (with more accolades than you could shake a stick at), Steve continues to approach music with wide eyed enthusiasm and a genuine sense of interest. Catch Aldous and the gang every Wednesday



Aldous Collins

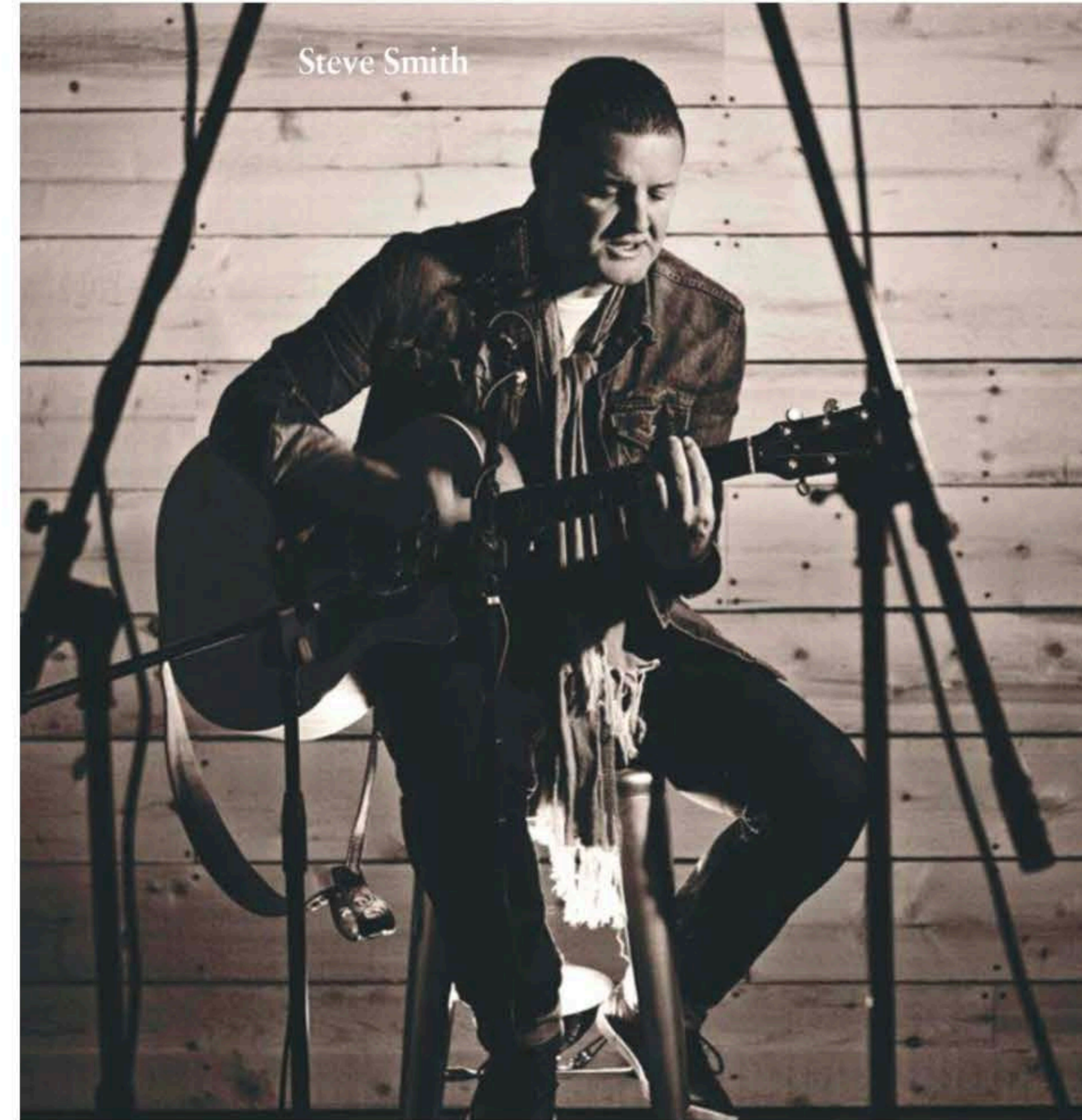
I’d like to start with my good friends The Aldous Collins Band. Aldous and his boys were featured in the first installment of “The Beat” a little over a year ago, and their growth since then is a testament to their hard work, dedication and above all, sense of community. I’ve known Aldous for several years now, and over the past couple of years, something happened. I remember having a conversation with Aldous a couple years back. I was commenting on how much enjoyment I got with his on-stage antics. For those

Volume

Award Winners and Industry Insiders

by Jay Psaros

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Steve Smith

at The Tinker’s Son in Norwell, where they hold down the best residency on The South Shore.

Another huge success story on the South Shore is Munk Duane. Munk is the ultimate working musician. It’s a challenge to keep up with all this guy has going on. His humility is outstanding and his body of work simply staggering. Great press? Munk has it. Licensing deals? Munk’s got them. Great albums? All there. Oh yeah, did we mention feature length film scores? Yeah, Munk has those too. And of course, Munk can play and sing his rump off. Above all of this, however, is the fact that Munk is an artist... and a damn good one. Munk and I have known each other for a few years now through the local scene and mutual friends but never met until this past year. We had the opportunity to play an impromptu jam together and looking over to where Munk was singing and playing was a great pleasure. What people outside of the music scene might fail to understand is that Munk’s accomplishments are not only rare but hard earned. Munk is the definition of what it means to be a successful working musician. His hands are touching just about every part of the music industry and people within the industry have taken notice. It is clear that



Munk Duane

Munk's success was not based on a trend, a popularity contest, or a stroke of luck. Munk's success is the culmination of years of hard work and dedication. I've always admired these types of industry veterans the most, simply because with a career built in the style of Munk's, there is nobody that can take any of it away from him.

Munk is currently celebrating the release of his new album "Argue with Gravity." The album is chalk full of tasteful tones, laden with hooks as well as interesting musical arrangements. The title track has a James Bond curiosity to it filled with driving musical builds and a staccato spunk that drives the verses directly into a super melodic chorus only to drop you back down into a musical sense of mystery and questioning. I wish that I had more space to write about his new album but all in all, I hear it as a great listen filled with a variety of influences ranging from rock to jazz, all

talking to the bands founder Jason, he speaks passionately about the bands future and is driven to see the Roots outfit through a healthy future. He is a wealth of knowledge when it comes to Reggae music, readily sharing his expertise on traditional grooves and rhythms. With such an educated leader, it's no wonder that the band is achieving the success they so much deserve. Catch them July 25 at The Red Parrot, one of the best beachside venues on The South Shore.

Folks, do yourself a favor. Go see live music! The South Shore is jam-packed with great summer venues. My summer venue recommendation for listening is Hull's Kitchen. Hull's Kitchen features several of the regions finest songwriters and band leaders in a stripped down and super intimate environment 4 nights a week. Their deck is the perfect place to catch a sunset and watch the waves roll in on Nantasket beach. The owners take great




High Hope Reggae Band

with a songwriter's sensibility. Please do yourself a favor and get out to see Munk play! He is equally comfortable on stage with a full band or solo. His musicality and catalogue of music is sure to please a variety of listeners.

Another award-winning group located right here on the South Shore is the High Hopes Reggae Band. The High Hopes Reggae Band, led by founder Jason Dick is one of the more authentic groups in the area. Their rock-steady sound is true to the conscious vibe of the music's fore-fathers. The High Hopes Reggae Band calls Hull home, and they are THE local reggae show to catch. With summer here, and all the beachside venues open and in full swing, nothing will make you sway to the summer breeze like the High Hopes Band. Recently awarded "Best in State (Mass)" by The New England Music Awards, The High Hopes Reggae band has set their goals high (too much word play there...). When

pride in this summer-only eatery and it shows in every aspect of what they do. The food is top notch, the beverage selection is boutique and tasteful and the overall experience has earned them a following that is loyal, appreciative and respectful. They also have an open mic night every Monday which nurtures up and coming talent on the South Shore. See what the buzz is about!

Until next time, this is Jay Psaros writing "The Beat" for The South Shore Magazine. Feel free to pay me a visit at www.JayPsarosMusic.com and www.PBandJayRecords.com or on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/JayPsarosMusic. I'd love to hear from you! 

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