

**BOB  
BURGER  
THE  
DAY  
AFTER**



← **STEREO** →

**WWW.BOBBURGER.COM**



# BOB BURGER PRESS KIT

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## BIOGRAPHY

**B**ob Burger is a study in contrasts. By night, his fans know him for his passionate, high-energy performances and his skill in composing hook-laden songs. But beyond his reputation as a singer/musician among the rock 'n' roll elite, his other accomplishments extend to careers as a copyright and technology attorney and a computer software consultant.

Growing up, music was always front and center in the Burger household in Erie, Pa. Bob's dad, a music teacher and high school band director, pushed Bob and his siblings in musical directions from an early age. Bob was given a saxophone at age 4, giving way to piano lessons at age 6 with trumpet following afterward. It wasn't until age 11, though, when his sister taught him the basics of playing guitar, that the musical spark truly ignited. Starting his first band at that time, he immediately began performing and hasn't stopped since.

Although he studied music theory in high school, music school was not in the cards as his parents insisted he follow a more traditional academic path. With an interest in recording and electronic music, a degree in electrical engineering seemed a logical choice. He played bass in local bars with his band as many as five nights a week and wrote songs in his "spare time" - yet still managed to graduate as valedictorian from Penn State University.

Despite exceptional academic credentials, Bob refused to settle into a 9 to 5 routine. He hit the road with his band after college, doing gigs in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New York and all along the East Coast. After three years, he became road weary and accepted an electrical engineering position in Annapolis, Maryland. A year later, wanting to be closer to a vibrant music scene, he moved to the Jersey Shore and began making contacts with local musicians. He later studied intellectual property law at Rutgers and practiced law after obtaining his J.D. degree with honors... but music continues to be his passion...

In the late '80s, Bob's songwriting career got a boost from Glen Burtnik, later a member of Styx, who enlisted him to co-write several songs that Burtnik and other artists subsequently recorded. To date, Bob has about 40 published songs to his credit. Bob earned a Gold Record award for the Styx *Edge of the Century* CD. Other Burtnik/Burger songs featured on Styx records are "It Takes Love to Make Love," "Little Suzie" (*Styx Greatest Hits - Part 2*) and most recently "Killing The Thing That You Love" (*Cyclorama*). He has also composed songs for Burtnik's solo CDs and for media conglomerates such as HBO.

Around the same time as his early collaborations with Burtnik, Bob met Bobby Bandiera, noted Jersey artist and now a member of Bon Jovi and Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes. Bob joined Bandiera's band on bass, and around 2000, started doing acoustic sets with Bandiera at the Celtic Cottage in Long Branch. When Bandiera missed a gig, Bob took the stage alone...and realized he liked it. The experience was the springboard for his solo career.

Over the years, Bob has opened for Dennis DeYoung (formerly of Styx), Meatloaf, Robert Palmer, Hootie and the Blowfish, and Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes, among others. He has also brought together several musician friends for shows paying tribute to some of the artists who have influenced his music, including Fleetwood Mac, Neil Young and Tom Petty. In addition, Bob has self-produced and recorded four acclaimed CDs, *Cymbals at Dawn*, *Surprise Party*, *Christmas Can't Wait* and *The Day After* all on his own BIG BRAVE Music label. He was also very involved with co-producing and co-writing portions of Lisa Bouchelle's latest CD, *Bleu Room with a Red Vase*.

No Bob Burger bio would be complete without mention of one of Bob's career highlights. In 2007, he was asked to provide music for a Hamptons Labor Day party that Jon Bon Jovi was throwing for friends. Midway into the party, some of the revelers felt like jamming with Bob and the band. No one special...only Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, Jimmy Buffett, Roger Waters and of course Jon Bon Jovi, himself. And later, McCartney was seen on the dance floor, mouthing the words of "Back in the U.S.S.R." as Bob belted out the Beatles tune.

With fans like that, Bob clearly is on the right track.



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# BOB BURGER PRESS KIT

## FACTS

### RECORDINGS

#### Bob Burger, **BIG BRAVE Music**

*The Day After* • 2012

*Christmas Can't Wait* • 2007

*Surprise Party* • 2006

*Cymbals At Dawn* • 2003

*Live At The Night, Volume 4* (WBJB, 2009)

Material: Melody

Credit: Burtnik/Burger

Performance: Burtnik/Burger

Styx, *Cyclorama* (Sanctuary Records, 2003)

Material: Killing The Thing That You Love

Credit: Burtnik/Burger

Styx, *Rockers* (A&M Records/Universal, 2003)

Material: Little Suzie

Credit: Burtnik/Burger

Glen Burtnik, *Palookaville* (DEKO, 1996)

Material: Little Lucy, Watching The World Go By, My Crowning Achievement

Credit: Burtnik/Burger

Styx, *Styx Greatest Hits Part 2* (A&M Records, 1996)

Material: Little Suzie, It Takes Love

Credit: Burtnik/Burger

The James Young Group, *Raised by Wolves* (Whitehouse, 1995)

Material: Love And Love Alone

Credit: Burtnik/Burger

Bobby Bandiera, *Shove It Down Your Throat* (Turnpike Records, 1990)

Material: C'Mon Caroline

Credit: Burtnik/Burger

Styx, *Edge Of The Century* (A&M Records, 1990)

Material: Edge Of The Century

Credit: Burtnik/Burger

Donnie Iris and Mark Avsec, *Cellar Full Of Noise* (CBS, 1988)

Material: Live After Love

Credit: Burger

Glen Burtnik, *Spinning My Wheels* (A & M Records, 1987)

Material: Spinning My Wheels

Credit: Burtnik/Burger

### COMPOSITION • PRODUCTION

Lisa Bouchelle, *Blue Room With A Red Vase*

(Varese/Saraband – Universal, 2010)

Composition: Over The Edge, Naked, Heaven on Credit

Production: Over The Edge, Naked, Louisiana Rain

Glen Burtnik, *Welcome to Hollywood* (Atenzia, 2004)

Various Artists, *Spirit of Asbury Park* (Halycon, 1999)

Material: Only If You Love Me

Composition: Burger/Vadala

Performance: Burger/Vadala

The Pulse, *Talk Is Cheap* (Endangered Species, 1982)

Single: You Want To Know Why

Credit: Burger

Charted #9 on local Top 40, Erie PA

### FILM

HBO Films, *Story of 15 Boys* (HBO, 1989)

Material: All Of Us

Composition: Burger/Swersky

Performance: Burger

### AWARDS

Gold Record award issued by The Recording Industry Associate of America (RIAA) certifying at least 500,000 units sold of Edge of a Century (Styx) composed by Bob Burger and Glen Burtnik.

Quarter Finalist Winner: American Song Festival for "Turn Away" composed by Bob Burger

Album of the Year for Cymbals At Dawn voted by AsburyMusic.com

Kweevak nominated Artist of the Year

Asbury Music Award Nominations: Top Male Solo, Best Album

Asbury Music Award Nomination: Top Male Solo



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*"The Day After provides many examples of insight, style and tradition, foregoing sugar-sweet production for unfettered honesty... The Day After explores the art of lyrical intelligence, musical camaraderie and the blending of thoughtful and compositional skills into an album that should take him a few more steps up the ladder of recognition."*

- John Pfeiffer, Journalist  
The Aquarian

*"If it wasn't for a successful career outside of music, Bob Burger just might be a household name by now."*

- Gary Wien, Journalist & Publisher  
Upstage Magazine

*"Burger proves great music transcends genres, or, perhaps, creates new genres where necessary."*

- Alan Haber, Journalist  
Buhdge.com

*"Bob Burger has outdone himself with The Day After. His work has risen to a level that is undeniable. Solid, intelligent and rocking!"*

- Glen Burtnik  
Styx / Singer/Songwriter

*"Bob and I go back a long way, and if anybody can get it done as far as singing and songwriting goes, he can!"*

- Bobby Bandiera  
Bon Jovi / Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes



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## PRESS RELEASE

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### JERSEY SHORE SINGER/SONGWRITER BOB BURGER TO RELEASE EAGERLY AWAITED FOURTH SOLO ALBUM *THE DAY AFTER* JANUARY 10, 2012

**Bob Burger's fourth solo release will be commemorated with a launch party on January 7, 2012 at McLoone's Supper Club in Asbury Park, attendees to have access to pre-sale of CD**

ASBURY PARK, NEW JERSEY (PHANTOM POWER) December 28, 2012 - Five years after the release of his award-winning album *Surprise Party*, **Bob Burger** is set to release his fourth solo record, *The Day After* on his independent BIG BRAVE Music label.

"The theme of the album stemmed from the title cut, *The Day After*, which was kind of an anchor for the songs that I was writing. The song was inspired by a painting by Edvard Munch of the same title. The cover photo is also inspired loosely by that painting. The work has an odd cohesiveness that seems to form itself, even though the songs are different from one another. The album created its own vision." says Burger.

The much anticipated *The Day After* release will be celebrated with a full band electric performance and launch party at McLoone's Supper Club in Asbury Park on Saturday, January 7, 2012. The album will not officially be available in stores until January 10, 2012 but all attendees of the launch party will be able to pick up a copy at an on-site pre-sale.

"Although a lot of music these days is downloaded one song at a time, I prefer the concept of a collection of songs as the complete work. If the world is just going for singles downloads, I guess that is where things are at. The way I view this collection, however, is that it is really modeled after a 33 1/3 LP. I think that two 20-25 minute segments is a nice way to listen to the material. So after trying other combinations, I organized the sequencing of the songs into two sides like an LP. I would love it if listeners were to listen to the first side, and then come back later and listen to the second side. You can tell where the sides start and end by the sound of the needle dropping." says Burger.

Appearing on *The Day After* are many names already familiar to the Jersey Shore music community, particularly Burger loyalists present at his many live shows. Supporting musicians include (in order of appearance) **Jimmy Leahey** (acoustic, electric guitar), **Lisa Bouchelle** (vocals), **Odell Davis** (drums), **Plink Giglio** (piano), **Jerry Gaskill** (drums), **Southside Johnny** (vocals, harp), **Laura Giglio** (violins), **Mike White** (drums) and **Dave Anthony** (congas and African drum).

Fans who loved Burger's debut *Cymbals At Dawn* and his follow-up LP *Surprise Party* will not be disappointed. Combining his inherent flair for infectious melody and commanding lead vocals, Burger trumps his own gold-record-award-writing caliber producing a 48-minute masterpiece of genre-transcending favorites for his consistently expanding fan base.

#### *The Day After* Track List:

##### Side One

1. The Day After
2. Empty Track
3. Piano At The Bottom Of The Elevator Shaft
4. Trying To Get Us All Killed
5. The Love Of You
6. The Guitars Are Taking Over

##### Side Two

1. Don't Paint Your Portrait
2. Coming Apart
3. She Won't Be There
4. Cat & Mouse
5. You Blew My Doors Off!

Beginning on January 10, *The Day After* will be available at area retailer Jack's Music Shoppe, Red Bank. *The Day After* can also be purchased online at [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com), [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and the iTunes Music Store.

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PHOTO BY MARK WIESS

# BOB BURGER

## THE DAY AFTER

Bob Burger has played some interesting gigs during his career. While many of us have taken a swipe at a few bars of "Back In The U.S.S.R." or "Piano Man," it is a bit different when the people who wrote those songs are standing next to you onstage. That actually happened to Burger a few years ago when Jon Bon Jovi asked him to play a private party he was throwing. Bob's reputation as a player has taken him through many journeys and different positions, and it has to be exhilarating that one of those places he has ended up in is standing next to the likes of Billy Joel, Paul McCartney and Roger Waters.

That is just one situation that Burger has experienced in his fast-forward career. His rock and roll shot in the arm from fellow Jersey icon Glen Burtnik reads like a fairytale for any musician hungry for success. Bob came onboard during Burtnik's stint in the band Styx, coaxing a certified gold record out of the collaboration and penning over forty published songs in the interim.

With Burtnik's visionary cool and Burger's enthusiastic direction, the two writers created a solid catalog of original music, solidifying their place in New Jersey musical lore. There are many others stories that this individual could tell you, but his main message is his music. Bob has self-produced and recorded three acclaimed CDs, *Cymbals At Dawn*, *Surprise Party* and *Christmas Can't Wait*, and now *The Day After*, Bob's fourth and most focused release to date.

Featuring 11 integral tunes, *The Day After* sets a new and aggressive tone for Bob Burger's continued fight

to the top of the industry hill. If there is one thing I know about Bob, it is his ability to write solid, hook-heavy tunes all day long. That does not necessarily mean that they all become hits, but his talent puts him seriously closer than many others making a grab at that brass ring of pop royalty.

*The Day After* provides many examples of insight, style and tradition, foregoing sugar-sweet production for unfettered honesty. Some examples on the disc are the Johnny Prine meets Tom Petty hop of the title track "The Day After." Boosted by the able talents of Jim Leahey on guitar and Lisa Bouchelle's harmonic delights, Bob breezes along with an upstate, Pink House vibe and a Levon Helm smile, crisscrossing Leahey's shimmering electrics and Dobro with his trademark acoustic jangle.

"Empty Track" is an interesting and unorthodox rocker that utilizes understated guitar hooks that dodge in and out of the way of Burger's Lennon-esque and melancholy melody as Odell Davis times this on a dime. Once again, Lisa Bouchelle fills the backing slot as no one else can. This is one of my favorite cuts on the disc. Simple and filled with great compositional intelligence, this song highlights Burger's ability to surprise at will.

"Piano At The Bottom" downshifts into singer-songwriter territory. Featuring Jerry Gaskill on drums, the song moves like the tide, rising in dynamic waves as Plink Giglio surfs tsunami high over the top with piano lines that spray into the truck stop slide lines of Leahey. Bob's lyrical slant is a respectful nod to the piano man, but also drops down

into its own dark and delightful direction of troubadour territory.

Another highlight on this disc is the dark and groove dangerous feel of "Trying To Get Us All Killed." Guitars chunk underneath Burger's ominous vocal prow. Leahey is my kind of guitar player, building, rising and swooping in with a barrage of tone at the appropriate times; making every note bigger than life. Plink Giglio's organ whirls madly as special guest Southside Johnny shocks the soul into the song with the dirtiest, distortion-stoked harmonica wails this side of the Mississippi.

"The Love Of You" kicks off like an old, comfortable shoe. Lazy and drenched in Burger's melodic harp intro, the slow, tempered beats of drummer Jerry Gaskill back the seamless harmonies of Burger and Bouchelle. I always say that a ballad can be a tricky beast if you do not know the true nature of compositional language, but there is no problem here. Burger's Elvis Costello tone works like WD-40 as he coats the song with a passionate slant on life and love before taking harmonica in hand to end this believable ballad.

"The Guitars Are Taking Over" is a story that everyone with G.A.S. (Guitar Acquisition Syndrome) can relate on. Burger reminisces about buying that first Harmony acoustic, graduating to an electric, and then a band. Bob's comical and true lyrics describe "Taylors in the west, Martins in the east," tweed amps and guitars in every room of the house. Trust me, he is not kidding when he says they are taking over. You should see my walk-in closet and living room. The song bashes along in the rebellious, tongue in cheek vein of Willie Nile with its dirty/clean jangle

and blue-collar thunder.

Southside Johnny is back to solo on the introspective confessions of "Don't Paint Your Portrait." Backwater banjos spider crawl along the backbone of this composition as acoustic guitars pump and breathe in time to Gaskill's light handed rhythm. Spanish inflections pepper the western-styled lead work as Burger recites the chorus line of a captive audience, "You tell me your story, you tell me your tale, you tell me your story while I sit in your jail." This song brings forth recollections and regrets of a desperado in the final hour before he meets the hangman. Southside Johnny fills the gaps, dodges the guitars and brings this song to the gallows with style.

Next up is one of Bob's best with "Coming Apart." The song features strong, Beatle-esque bridges and choruses that take you down the rabbit hole. Burger's skill as a producer shines bright here too. His melodic vocal arrangements mix perfectly with the arabesque organs of Giglio, who flavors this understated hit with his trademarked B3 sound. Drum backbeats come courtesy of Mike White, who knows how to keep it funky. Burger actually plays bass on this as well and it stacks up nicely with the muffled Curtis Mayfield influences picked out by Leahey.

"Cat And Mouse" rolls off the top of the pops with its British, mod stomp. Barrelhouse piano and jangly guitars take you down psychedelic, Penny lanes as Burger uses his knack for lyrical play to swat this tune head on into the Lennon/McCartney highway. Clever and reminiscent of his traditional heroes, "Cat And Mouse" scurries straight into the "play it again and again" category.

Other songs such as "She Won't Be There" and "You Blew My Doors Off" complete Bob's best work to date. Bob Burger has found a way to wear the influential colors of his heroes while maintaining a creative spark that fires this record from start to finish. *The Day After* explores the art of lyrical intelligence, musical camaraderie and the blending of thoughtful and compositional skills into an album that should take him a few more steps up the ladder of recognition.

It is no wonder that Bon Jovi grabbed Burger for his star-studded shindig. *The Day After* is a solid disc that warrants a listen from fans and the curious alike. Hey, you never know, next time it might be Burger throwing the party. Either way, I am betting that this good-natured Shoreworld artist will be onstage with the band and having the time of his life. For more information on Bob Burger and his new record, *The Day After*, head over to [bobburger.com](http://bobburger.com).

# ASBURY PARK PRESS

## Big Mac Attack

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By Stephen Bove  
Asbury Park Press

Friday, June 26, 2009

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Jersey Shore based singer/songwriter **Bob Burger**, in an encore performance of his first self-titled production, will perform **A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac**, *Second Hand News*, tonight at Tim McLoone's Super Club, Asbury Park, New Jersey. Burger's second performance at Tim McLoone's Supper Club follows his sold-out debut of his Fleetwood Mac tribute in January 2009 when the former Asbury Boardwalk staple Howard Johnson's, current McLoone's locale, attracted a standing-room-only crowd for the event.

*Second Hand News* will again feature **Jimmy Leahey** (The Alice Project, John Waite), solo artist **Lisa Bouchelle**, **BethAnn Clayton** (BethAnne Clayton Band, Tim McLoone & The Shirley's), **Jon Rogers** (Blue Oyster Cult) and **Phil Florio** (White Rabbit, Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes). Burger's line-up will loosely take on the various roles of the Fleetwood Mac players. Bouchelle will sing the **Stevie Nicks** songs, and Clayton will sing and play **Christine McVie's** parts. Leahey and Burger will both cover **Lindsey Buckingham**, while Rogers and Florio will be the English rhythm section.



Bob Burger and Lisa Bouchelle perform at Second Hand News

“I’m lucky to have such a great ensemble, and we’re all very excited that the show will not be just a single event.”

Burger is a staple performer in Central and Southern New Jersey playing regular gigs at venues where booking managers are overwhelmed by the concentration of original material in his set. Many performers of Burger's independent status rely on cover material to capture and hold audience attention, but there is a proven demand for Burger originals among his consistent and loyal fan base. Burger's full calendar of personal appearances is complimented by major concert events that often find him performing alongside megastars **Bruce Springsteen**, **Jon Bon Jovi**, **Southside Johnny**, **Gary U.S. Bonds** and more. Most recently Burger has received consistent positive reviews for his involvement in **The Jersey Shore Rock-N-Soul Revue** concerts at Count Basie Theatre led by Musical Director **Bobby Bandiera** and **Glen Burtnik's Beatles Bash** series which can be seen at various music venues throughout New Jersey and New York.

Tim McLoone's Supper Club is located at 1200 Ocean Avenue in Asbury Park. Reservations can be made online at [www.timmcloonesupperclub.com](http://www.timmcloonesupperclub.com) or by calling 732.774.1155.

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## BOB BURGER/BRIDGES OF PEACE BENEFIT



Bob Burger is no stranger to the shore scene, but it seems the last several years have brought him to the forefront. His many local shows, his appearances with artists ranging from Bobby Bandiera and Glen Burtnik to Jon Bon Jovi, Bruce Springsteen, and even Paul McCartney, and his recent CD releases, have raised his profile to the point where he is a widely recognized figure at venues up and down the shore.

"It's rock, but based on an acoustic presentation," is how he describes his sound. "I kind of discovered by accident that the acoustic thing really worked for me, after playing bass for many years. But we are all just the sum of our influences plus the distortion that results from filtering them through ourselves. So I guess my music can be described as what I've heard and loved as mangled by me. I'll leave it to others to pick the influences that they hear."

Bob is bringing that sound to the Bridges Of Peace benefit that is taking place on Sunday, Nov. 23, at the Headliner in Neptune. The show brings together some other staples of the shore, including Gary US Bonds, Boccigalupe and the Bad Boys, and Jody Joseph And The Average Joes, among others.

"Everyone has been really wonderful," says event organizer Diane Eleftheriades, about the artists involved. "They have been very supportive of this event and have offered their talents to us not just for the night but well beyond that. We thank them for believing in the cause and being generous to lend their talents and time to make it such a success. It is our honor to have all these wonderful artists work together with our volunteers for the greater good."

Bridges Of Peace is an organization that collects items

for children that need it most, especially those affected by war and poverty. They also try to raise awareness of the issues involved through music and the arts.

Bob got involved with benefit this past summer. "I met Howard Leibowitz when I opened for Southside Johnny at the Stone Pony last July," he explains. "Howard was very nice about my show, and later contacted me about helping with the Bridges charity event."

When you see a Bob Burger show, you're also likely to see some of the top musicians in the area join him on stage. "It is great living in New Jersey and having a fantastic network of players to work with," Bob relates. "Jimmy Leahey (John Waite, Tommy Shaw) plays lead guitar as much as possible. Also, Jon Rogers (Blues Oyster Cult), Mitch Burger (Bob's son), Rob Tanico (Highway 9) play bass; Jerry Gaskill (King's X), Joe Bellia (Southside Johnny) and Phil Florio play drums; Ralph Notaro, Jim Celestino (Bobby Bandiera), John Merjave, and PK Lavengood (John Eddie) play guitar; and Kevin Cavanaugh (Southside Johnny), Mick Seeley (Southside Johnny), and Mike Mancini (LaBamba & The Hubcaps) play keys. I duet with Glen Burtnik and Lisa Bouchelle also."

Bob has had a number of notable achievements in recent years. "Releases of my three CDs and a Gold Record award for the Styx album, *Edge Of The Century*," he says. "Performing with the NJ Rock & Soul Revue with Bobby Bandiera, and writing songs with Glen Burtnik, as well as performing live with Bruce Springsteen, Jon Bon Jovi, and of course Paul McCartney."

Some of his songs that have become fan favorites include "Vintage Tweed," "Over The Edge," "Madalynn," "Opposite Reaction," and "Almost Doesn't

Count." Bob is constantly playing both old and new material. "I regularly play almost all the songs that I've recorded and the fans don't seem to complain," he muses. "Some new stuff is very well received too; 'Piano At The Bottom' and 'The Guitars Are Taking Over.' I'm very happy that I get a positive reaction and many requests for my material. Many of the venues that I play do not feature original music. However, I've been lucky enough to play my stuff at those venues anyway. They are all original clubs as long as the crowd is with it."

The Bridges Of Peace concert promises to be a memorable event, with Bob and the other artists joining together in the spirit of the organization. "This concert has been in the planning for a very long time," says Diane. "Even prior to the Sept. 11 attacks, I have felt a need to make this a reality. I have in the past talked with celebrities about this event and have always received a positive response. There is a need and we are trying to fill that need. The 'Power Of Music' is so great that it can move people to new ways of thinking. We wish to reach the souls of people through music. The artists are the ones to reach them and open their hearts; we are just the ones to put them all together for a unified purpose of love, peace and kind works of charity."

You can find out more information about the event at [bridgepeace.org](http://bridgepeace.org), and contact them via [contact@bridgepeace.org](mailto:contact@bridgepeace.org). You can get more information about Bob Burger, as well as his releases and upcoming shows, at [bobburger.com](http://bobburger.com).



## Bob Burger

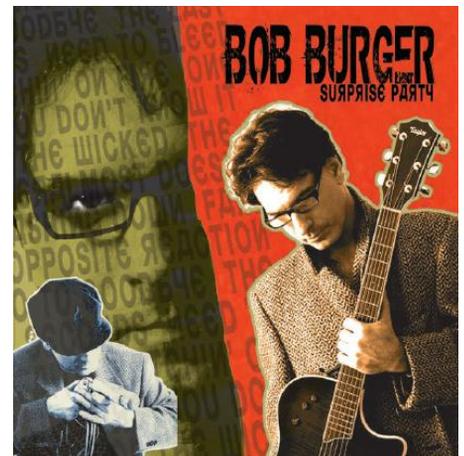
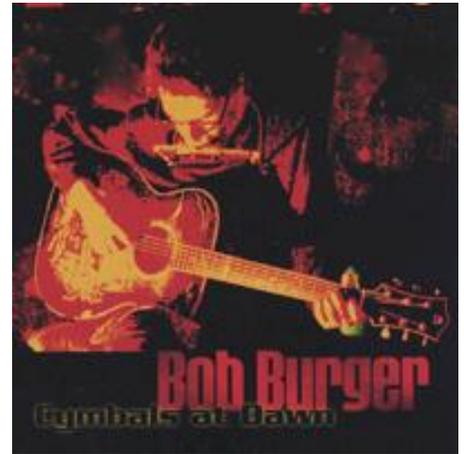
By Mark Uricheck  
Elmore Magazine

October 2008

There are so many fantastic singer/ songwriters whose talents are criminally underrated, and **Bob Burger** is one of them. In the past, the New Jersey-based Burger has written songs for the likes of **Styx**, **Donnie Iris**, **HBO Pictures** and most notably for and with longtime collaborator **Glen Burtnik**. Burger also happens to have two solo CDs under his belt - *Cymbals at Dawn* and *Surprise Party*.

Burger's first solo offering, *Cymbals at Dawn*, released in 2003, is an infectious example of Burger's ultra-melodic sensibilities. The guy's got a gift for memorable hooks. Names like **Tom Petty**, the **Beatles** and **Springsteen** have all been tossed around when it comes to describing Burger's music. There are traces of each, but Burger's clearly not trying to ride anyone's coattails. Melodic acoustic powerpop is an acceptable tag for the vibe Bob Burger exudes. There's the upbeat stuff like "Madalynn," which hearkens Flowers in the Dirt-era **Paul McCartney**, and then there are the heart-wrenchers like "Over the Edge," which sounds like a lost track from later period **Roy Orbison**. The acoustic overtones and subtle rhythm accompaniment on *Cymbals at Dawn* work well with Burger's clean, expressive voice.

Burger's 2007 solo release *Surprise Party* is a driving, electric record, with more of a full band accompaniment. The sound here is prototypical "power-pop," if such a thing exists. The edgy "Opposite Reaction" is superb, showcasing the emotional range of Burger's voice. The rollicking minor key strumming in "Need to Bleed" is guaranteed to get feet tapping. "Sleep of the Wicked," one of the hardest-rocking tracks on the disc, is a standout and an example of Burger at his best. The track is pure raw nerve, and guarantees repeat listens. Talent like Bob Burger's, unfortunately, isn't measured in record sales. It's measured in the response of the listener. And if my response is any indication, it's the equivalent of going platinum many times over.



## Burger records Christmas

By Ed Condran  
Asbury Park Press

Tuesday December 11, 2007

Santa Claus, mistletoe and **Bob Burger** are synonymous with Christmas, at least in the Asbury Park area.

A staple at holiday shows, the Eatontown singer/songwriter is at again, this time performing with friends **Bobby Bandiera** and **Glen Burtnik**. The former will perform Dec. 21 at an all-star show benefiting the Valerie Foundation. The latter has put together an Xmas Xtravaganza for December 22 that will provide funds for local food banks. Both events are slated for Red Bank's **Count Basie Theatre**, and each show will feature Burger.

"It's part of the tradition around here," he said. "I'm honored to be part of both events."

It's not surprising that Burger was moved to craft Christmas tracks. *Christmas Can't Wait*, his EP full of holiday tracks, will receive the record-launch party treatment when Burger plays Thursday at the Celtic Cottage in Long Branch.

Burger cringes at cheesy, cliché-ridden Christmas songs, so he approached his material in the same manner as his solo tracks.

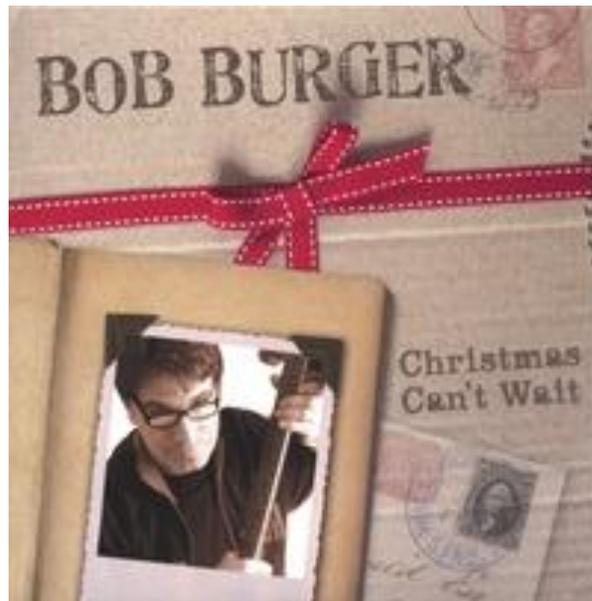
"I just wanted to avoid the usual formula people use when they write Christmas songs," he said.

"Santa's Gonna Crash (Right Through the Ceiling)" is amusing, and "Gonna Be Christmas" is a catchy, bright, optimistic number. "Ave Maria" covers traditional terrain, and "Christmas in Killarney" is a rearranged cover of a wonderful but unheralded track originally recorded by Bing Crosby.

"My wife picked up the sheet music at a yard sale, and I thought it was a cool title," Burger said. "I revamped it and rewrote some things, but I think I still captured that Celtic vibe in the song."

The sound of the songs was shaped and bolstered by utilizing some classic instruments.

"What was fun about this was using a violin and a Reed organ from the 1800s," Burger said. "That gives it this old-time feel. There's something charming about that."



Burger has plenty to be thankful about during this holiday season. He was nominated for three **Asbury Music Awards** in November, including Best Thing to Happen in 2006-2007 for his performance as bandleader at **Jon Bon Jovi's** All-Star Labor Day party on Long Island in the Hamptons that featured **Paul McCartney, Billy Joel, Jimmy Buffet** and **Roger Waters**.

"It was surreal," Burger said. "It was like a crazy dream. To perform 'Long Tall Sally' with Paul McCartney and 'Wish You Were Here' with Roger Waters is something I'll always remember."

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## How a bar band backed Jon Bon Jovi and his friends

By DAVID HINCKLEY  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Thursday, September 6th 2007

The entire media has reported on **Jon Bon Jovi's** Saturday night Hamptons bash, where Bon Jovi, **Billy Joel**, **Roger Waters**, **Jimmy Buffett** and **Paul McCartney** jammed on stage while New Jersey Gov. **Jon Corzine** led the dancing.

But morning man **Jim Kerr** of WAXQ (104.3 FM) got the coolest story from that party yesterday: He talked to Bob Burger, whose band had been hired to play the party and which was therefore on stage when the famous guys jumped in.

Not surprisingly, Burger told Kerr it was an "unbelievable" experience. "People like McCartney, when you grow up, they aren't real. They're records. And now they're right there next to you."

Burger has fronted a band at the Jersey Shore for years, which is how Bon Jovi knew him. He has worked with most of the musicians from that scene and has written a lot of original songs, some of which can be found on his two solo albums.

But his group can also be a bar band, so when the stars wanted to play their hits and rock classics, it was no problem. Burger's band has played them for years.

"Without Bob," Kerr points out, "there's no jam. You had to have a band."

At one point, Burger related, everyone wanted McCartney to sing a lead. Someone suggested "Twist and Shout," leading someone else to note that **John Lennon** sang that one for the Beatles. So they switched to "Long Tall Sally." One dilemma, Burger told Kerr, was what to play after the stars left the stage. How do you follow that?

So he took a deep breath and launched a **Beatles** set - and when he got to "Back in the U.S.S.R.," he saw McCartney mouthing the words from the crowd.

Now that's a good moment.

Kerr said he decided to find Burger after none of the reports on the party noted the band. He asked listeners for help, "and some folks down the Shore directed us."

Those who are now curious about the band, alas, will have to wait. Burger is taking the fall off to rest his throat.

But he sure finished the season in style.



Photo provided by Jon Bon Jovi

## Zing in his strings Veteran rocker still plays for the love of it

By Stephen Bove  
Asbury Park Press

Wednesday, February 22, 2006

Bob Burger will lay it down for you. When it comes to the essence of great rock'n'roll, the music should speak for itself.

"It's something that can't be put into words," he said. "It's when you hear a song, and the hairs on the back of your neck stand up. You can't explain it, but you know it's just changed your life."

It's this primal approach to hearing, writing and playing music that's guided the local rocker throughout his lifelong love affair with music and the art of making it.

"I just get up there and play my heart out," he said "I let the music take over, and whatever happens just happens."

And if there is one thing to expect at a Bob Burger show, it's that you'll never know what you're going to see or hear next.

"I don't use set lists. Even I don't know what I'm going to play until I start playing it," he said. "The songs I choose depend on my mood that night. And I'm a moody person."

The Eatontown resident has been performing in New Jersey for more than 20 years, and has been writing, singing and playing guitar since he was old enough to hold one.

Like most independent musicians, he got his Jersey start from the ground up, in a band with his brother Jeff.

Filling in wherever he could, he soon hooked up with various local rockers such as Glen Burtnik of Styx and Jimmy Leahey, and eventually scored a spot playing bass alongside Bobby Bandiera.

"I owe everything to those guys," he said. "Bandiera, Jimmy (Leahey), Glen (Burtnik), and Lee Mrowicki, the DJ at the Stone Pony, and a ton more, I wouldn't be here without them."

Burger said he's not exactly sure why, but there is a tremendous fellowship within the New Jersey music scene that's unlike any other he's experienced.

He added that this camaraderie is even more evident as he watches his son, Mitch, garner support for his own band, a death-metal outfit called Severed Hand.

"You can just get up there and play, and are accepted. It's exceptional," Burger said. "There are so much talent, and a great fan base that really knows and appreciates so many different types of music. And the bands and fans all support each other. It really is like a big family."



Photo Credit: Linda Pricci

Leahey reacquainted with Burger about two years ago, and since then the duo have returned to playing regular gigs together anywhere from two to five times a month, Leahey said.

"When we play, something just clicks. We come down on time, we end on time, it's almost magical," Leahey said. "Especially because we've never rehearsed together."

Leahey, who plays guitar in the house band for stand-up comic Richard Belzer, as well as with his own band, The Alice Project, says that getting to know and perform with Burger has been an education for him.

"I play with a lot of different people, and none are like Bob," he said. "His knowledge of music never ceases to blow my mind."

Over the past four years, Burger has been performing at venues that include The Celtic Cottage in Long Branch, Basil T's in Red Bank, and The Wonder Bar in Asbury Park.

"Solo gigs aren't easy," he said. "It's just you up there, with nobody to hide behind."

Burger said it's never been about the money. He's happy enough just doing what he loves.

"I don't charge for my album at my shows," said Burger, 51. "It's much more important to me that I'm able to communicate something to people - that they're coming out and listening to me. For that, I'm happy to just give my album away."

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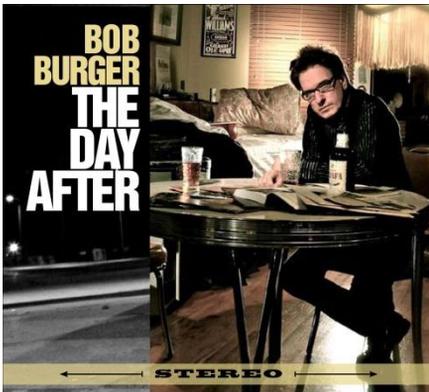
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