

Jam for Sam / Health / Jim Kishline / Follow up CD Beatles Tunes

Many years after his 2006 hospitalization, chemotherapy, and stem-cell transplant---treatment for a rare blood disease--- and his subsequent recuperation period, Sam now continues to enjoy a clean bill of health. He is happy to have returned to performing and teaching (as of March 17th, 2006 and is eternally grateful to his wife Cathy, his mother Martina, and all the wonderful friends and fellow musicians who organized, attended and participated in the "Jam for Sam" benefit concert of February 2006. He hopes to eventually be able to personally thank everyone who was involved in the event and who otherwise provided moral and emotional support!

Meanwhile, another story of triumph: Sam's good buddy, bassist-vocalist James Kishline, has been back in action for more than fifteen months, after having suffered a traumatic and life-threatening head injury in May of 2007. The two grizzled lifers have played dozens of gigs together since they both got back in the game.

Cream City Music Store, upon learning of Jim's terrible injury, jumped into action and began organizing a fund-raising event to help Jim and his family through their crisis; they partnered with many of the people who had put together the "Jam for Sam" event, recruited area musicians to once again donate their services, and the James Kishline Benefit took place in July of 2007 at Cream City Music. It was, if possible, an even bigger success than the original "Jam for Sam".....a goodly amount of money was raised for the Kishline family, and a great deal of truly outstanding music was heard that day as well. Sam was able to participate in this event, performing with the Ellen Winters Group and sitting in with Greg Koch and the Tone Controls (both of whom had also performed at the first "Jam for Sam" event; Jon Sieger, Robin Pleur, Paul Cebar, the Bystanders, Willy Porter, the Chuck Hedges Quintet and Peter Mulvey were among the other musicians giving their all that day. And Jim Kishline's subsequent recovery has been nothing short of miraculously His first cd, "In the Graces", was completed not long before his accident and is available for purchase. It consists mostly of Jim's original songs; the core group on the cd is Jim on bass and vocals, Sam on keys, and Mike Murphy on drums, with support from such local heavies as saxophonists Mike Miller and Peter Neumer, Jeff Pietrangelo on trumpet, and guitarist Bill Stone.

Shortly before his hospitalization, Sam began work (at the urging of Jim Kishline) on his next two recording projects; one will be a follow-up, of sorts, to his well-received first cd, "This *IS* My Real Job", the other will be jazz re-workings of some of Sam's favorite Beatles songs. Together with Kishline on bass and Mike Murphy on drums, Sam has recorded bed tracks for a slew of Beatles tunes, including "Strawberry Fields Forever," "Penny Lane", "Julia", "I Will", "In My Life", "All You Need Is Love", "Blackbird" and "The Long and Winding Road"....horn parts for a number of have also been recorded; leaving their musical imprints on the project were saxophonists Warren Wiegratz (of Streetlife) and Tom Newburg, Trumpet master Jeff Pietrangelo, fluteman Rick Aaron, and trombonist Dave "Smitty" Smith. Two songs have also been recorded for the as-yet untitled "This is *STILL* My Real Job" cd project. Manning the controls was WAMI-winning producer Pat Lilly of Nexus Studios, who recorded and co-produced "This IS My Real Job".....and the labor of love continues!