

THE SIDEBAR

Check this out

Andrews Sisters among Minn. music hall inductees

NEW ULM — The Andrews Sisters are among the new class of musicians being inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame.

The singing trio of Laverne, Maxine and Patty Andrews performed on stage, screen and radio, and made many trips overseas to entertain troops during World War II. Also being inducted are bluegrass musician Dick Kimmel of New Ulm, Doug and Roger Kodet of "The Cards Orchestra," jazz musician Keith Reese, rocker-turned-theatrical-music-composer Gary Rue, and the Minnesota Chorale, the principal chorus of the Minnesota Orchestra.

Previous inductees include Bob Dylan, Judy Garland and Prince. The 22nd annual Minnesota Music Hall of Fame banquet and induction ceremony will be held Friday in New Ulm.



TV2Nite

"Medium" 7 p.m. on CBS

"Native Tongue: — Following a dream, Allison discovers she's unable to understand the spoken word. This sudden communication breakdown causes cracks to form in her marriage to Joe, so Allison reaches out for support and forms a fast friendship with a linguist.



Patricia Arquette as Allison Dubois in *Medium*.

On this day ...

1935 — The game "Monopoly" was introduced by Parker Brothers Company.

1940 — U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt won an unprecedented third term in office.

1946 — John F. Kennedy was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives at the age of 29.

1959 — The American Football League was formed.

1998 — Scientists published a genetic study that showed strong evidence that Thomas Jefferson fathered at least one child (Eston Hemings) of his slave, Sally Hemings.



Born on this day

- Vivien Leigh, 1913
- Ike Turner, 1931
- Art Garfunkel, 1941
- Sam Shepard, 1943
- Bill Walton, 1952
- Bryan Adams, 1959
- Corin Nemec, 1971
- Ryan Adams, 1974



Ryan Adams

— Free Press Staff and news services

39 & COUNTING

Longtime Mankato musician Paul Durenberger releases new album, 'Dirty Wine'

By Jake Bohrod
 Special to The Free Press

As I sat down with coffee and crumb cake on a sofa at the Coffee Hag, I reached out my hand.

"I hate doing these things," Paul Durenberger said with an apologetic smirk, meeting me halfway for a handshake.

Thank God for coffee.

Durenberger fiddled with his pack as he told me about his latest album, "Dirty Wine," his 39th to be exact, which he will christen during an album release show at the Kato Ballroom on Nov. 14. Circular blue sunglasses a la early '90s beatnik shaded his eyes as squirming legs made it clear this longtime musician does hate doing this, his words telling of an artist who more so believes in, and lives for, the purity of the medium than the business end of things.

But Durenberger, who grew up in Mankato and has played music since his mom started him out at age 5, remains fully aware of what it takes to become nationally successful. Frustration, anger and a sense of sheer exhaustion mark a man burned somewhere down the line, the divide between his music and marketing worn down by contract negotiations and disinterested moguls — Big Business Entertainment.

After talking with record execs almost daily for years, he said, it's left him doubting the industry. His advice to newcomers dreaming of record deals reflects an equally dim outlook.

"Buy a Powerball ticket," Durenberger said. "You got better chances."

For Durenberger, being a professional musician isn't the glamor and glitz of playing sold-out shows and traveling the world; it isn't without struggle.

"If you're going to play rock 'n' roll, you're going to (starve) in someone's attic," he said, recalling the words of his

If You Go

What
 Paul Durenberger "Dirty Wine" album release show
Where
 The Kato Ballroom
When
 Sunday, Nov. 14, doors open at 5 p.m.
Admission
 \$5; guests are encouraged to bring canned goods for the ECHO Food Shelf

10th grade piano teacher. "He's just about right."

This rejection of measuring music with numbers and dollar signs, however, has pushed him further into the studio, always back to the creation process where he most naturally resides. Hence the 39 albums worth of music, most of which remains unpublished yet carefully kept track of by the self-proclaimed "obsessive compulsive" artist.

This massive stockpile of work comes from years of devotion, despite discouraging factors in play. In recent years, Durenberger — whose discography includes collected Christian works — has come to understand that what drives him is less out of want and more out of necessity. Having been blessed with musical ability, he believes it his duty to play.

This hasn't limited his options throughout the years, though, only clarified them. "I was a cook for years," he said, until he realized it "sucked." But he still finds similarities between cooking and music: "Both are one-half art, one-half science."

The freedom with which Durenberger speaks translates into a varied and

diverse musical style. Simplistic and jazzy, his music wanders from place to place, at one point Elton John, another James Taylor. His influences, including John and Taylor, Frank Zappa and others, resulting in music that is as much a tribute as it is a variation.

"I hope I don't sound like anyone," he said, speaking of the effort he has put into developing something original, especially for number 39. "I used to plagiarize other people ... but now I find myself plagiarizing myself."

After an entire career spent on one town, it's a wonder that only now Durenberger speaks of moving, and, shockingly, taking a break from recording. And it won't be to New York or Nashville, two places he's been pressured to pack for many times before, his answer always the same: "I'll get on the Internet and be there in a minute."

No, it'll be somewhere quieter. But his primary regret will be the undoing of long-lasting ties made in Mankato, the place that offered him open arms when others didn't. Collaborating extensively with the gamut of local musicians and rounding off a decade playing regularly at the Wine Cafe, Durenberger said it's the people that make sense of an otherwise wild ride.

"I just love everybody we play for," he said.



Above: Portrait of Paul Durenberger.

Photo courtesy of Carol Marsteen



From left: Shag Smith, drums, Mike Manthei, on bass guitar, Lou Durenberger, guitar, and Paul Durenberger keyboards in 1977.

Submitted photo



Left: Paul Durenberger playing a track to "Gone With the Wind" in 1995.

Right: The Paul Durenberger band is: Paul Durenberger, keyboards and vocals, Lou Durenberger, guitar and vocals, Dan E. Duffy, bass guitar and vocals, and Carlos Boyce Jr., percussion and drums.

Submitted photos



KMSU gets ink for a reason, freedom to offer diversity

I've been publicly criticized for writing about KMSU Radio too frequently on these very pages.

When this first was brought to my attention, I thought, "Huh? I do?" And then I opened the newspaper that very day and was reminded that on the cover was a story about KMSU's reader appreciation concert featuring The Fleshtones and the Legendary Stardust Cowboy. Inside was a brief with a picture on "The Five Count's" interview with Michael "Donkeylips" Bower of Nickelodeon's "Salute Your Shorts" show.

And then I thought, "Oh, I guess I do."

But then I got to thinking



AMANDA DYLSIN
 Free Press
 Features Editor



about what I was being asked to do by my critics.

NOT write about The Fleshtones coming to town because KMSU was the host and sponsor? NOT write about the series of cool interviews Dustin Wilmes and Juston Cline of "The Five Count" are continuously seeking out and making happen — and not getting paid a single dime for their time in doing it?

It didn't take long to realize that the reason KMSU gets my

ink is because the station is doing really cool things, and without the help of advertising money. Probably because of that very fact, the independent radio station has a lot of freedom to offer diversity. As a matter of fact, I don't think I've ever heard a song repeated throughout the day. How often will Taylor Swift's latest single be played on one of our area's mainstream stations just today?

My point is that the DJs at KMSU are putting on program-

If You Listen

What
 Interview with Samm Levine of "Freaks and Geeks"
When
 11 p.m. Saturday on 89.7 FM KMSU Radio



Samm Levine starred in the popular TV show "Freaks and Geeks."

Submitted photo

ming they actually like themselves, and quality is the result. Wilmes has decided to use his time on the airwaves to put on a series of interviews with people he personally admires, especially from his childhood, which happens to coincide with my childhood and that of many others in

our age group (25-30).

"Salute Your Shorts" was one of my favorite shows as a kid, so I listened with glee to hear if "Donkeylips" still had his signature lisp. Recently, just before Halloween, "The Five Count" had on Ernie Hudson of "Ghostbusters" fame, one of my favorite movies as a kid.

And up next, 11 p.m. Saturday, Wilmes and Cline will interview Samm Levine, one of the "geeks" from the cult favorite "Freaks and Geeks." I'd go out on a limb to say that if "Freaks and Geeks" isn't my favorite show of all time, it's definitely a contender.

So my critics can say what they will. They are correct: KMSU just got even more play in Currents today.

But, in my opinion, it's definitely warranted.