



## ARTICLES

NAPA REGISTER, 8/07/05, NAPA BANDS DRAW BIG CROWD TO COPIA SUMMER CONCERT SERIES...

"The biggest party in town last Thursday night was on the lawn at Copia. As the setting for performances by a pair of popular wine country bands, it was loud, frisky and fun. While a crowd of over 400 didn't do much dancing, there was a lot of groovin' in place on the sloping amphitheater lawn as the Moonlight Dance Band and the Brian Cline Band each got to perform close to an hour's worth of repertoire. Led by local guitar stalwart Leigh Wyckoff, the Moonlight Dance Band mixed up tasty jazz with bright Caribbean rhythms and themes. Cline and company blended originals and a bunch of rock classics.

The nine-member Moonlight Dance Band swelled to 10 as Tower of Power veteran brassman Mic Gillette alternated on trombone and trumpet to fill out silver-tongued trumpeter Don Maas' slick arrangements. The group's post-intermission set ranged from the jazz-rock-with-a-hook of "Rocky J" -- which had soul-stirring Ylonda Nickell wailin' on sax and fiery Michael Meredith on potent percussion -- to the R&B funk of "What Is Hip?," the three-decade old classic from the East Bay's Tower of Power. The set featured some very nice songs composed by keyboardist Winston Wallace. One was as breezy as an afternoon on a Caribbean island, featuring some torrid guitar licks from the bandleader and an extended thematic solo by the pianist. This was mojito music, sort of Cuban big band with a gringo accent. Equally attractive was a song from the group's "Moonlight Cafe" CD. Titled "Spanish Dreams," the material conjured up a sunny afternoon in a Spanish village square overlooking the Mediterranean. Providing additional rhythmic spark were drummer Gary Mass, bassist Kirk Brown and congasman Larry Silverman. Tilley Key lent her dynamic vocals to set opening and closing numbers.

Singing lead vocals and playing electric and acoustic guitars, Cline led his quartet through a set of original songs that alternated with covers, including Queen's "Crazy Little Thing Called Love" and the Doobie Brothers' "Long Train Runnin'." Including Dan Hayes on electric guitar, Jason McGrath on bass and David Parker on drums, the quartet proved strongest with its instrumental licks, like the nice guitar work on Maroon 5's "This Love." Its weakest moments were the vocals offered for the original songs. A nice finish to the Cline set was the 1973 Dobie Gray hit, "Drift Away," recently revived by Uncle Kracker.

All in all, it was a fun night at Copia. Napans got to party with bands they know and like. And, as trite as it might sound, a good time was had by all." Written by Pierce Carson

## NAPA VALLEY LIFE MAGAZINE, JULY/AUGUST 2005, COPIA TO FEATURE LOCAL BANDS AT THIS YEAR'S OUTDOOR SUMMER CONCERT SERIES...

"On August 4, 2005, COPIA will be featuring two popular local groups as part of their Outdoor Summer Concerts Series. It's been a few years since local groups have taken the stage for this series, but out-and-about performance manager, Richard Miami, came across these groups at local events and decided the time was right and so were the groups. After hearing Moonlight Dance Band at Yountville Days last October and Brian Cline Band at a holiday event with the Napa Valley Conference and Visitor's Bureau, Miami was convinced it was time to feature some of the area's best talent on their summer series. Not only will the groups be providing great music and high energy performing, but it is also hoped that they will be bringing their large local fan base to COPIA. "We would love to showcase COPIA for fun, letting your hair-down entertainment - a great place to enjoy a beautiful Thursday night of music making." "We'll be offering grilled burgers and sausages, salads, sandwiches along with a selection of wine and beers out on our Terrace Grill starting one hour before show time. And since the concerts are now on Thursdays, concert patrons will have the option of early dining at Julia's Kitchen." says Miami.

The 2005 series features a new Thursday evening time slot and a great line-up of music perfect for this outdoor setting: pop/soul, Cajun/Zydeco, funk, rock, jazz, bluegrass and blues. The series offers everything from favorite local musicians to legendary blues harmonica player, Charlie Musselwhite. COPIA hopes to appeal to locals with a time slot which won't cause as many conflicts for people involved in the hospitality and tourist industry, and also by pulling in some favorite local groups. "Most local groups only get to perform in the street fairs and festivals in this area and I wanted to provide a real concert setting for these great groups," says Miami. On performance nights, the Terrace area will open at 7:00 p.m. with concerts beginning at 8:00 and ending promptly at 10:00 p.m. "You can pack in a wonderful night out and still be in bed by 10:30 or 11:00," says Miami.

...featured on the August 4th concert is the Brian Cline Band. This group has been a favorite at local hot spots for years, but often in their smaller configurations due to space limitations and budget. Brian Cline describes the group's style as "modern rock" with "elements of classic rock, R & B and funk." The group is heavily influenced by popular music styles of the 70's, "which is when we were kids," admits Cline. Cline is lead vocalist for the group and has written much of their original material. "Our music is melody-based with lyrics that reflect our personal experiences. In many cases, the melodies came first and the mood of the melody prompted the lyrics." The COPIA venue will give BCB the opportunity to perform their best material with their original 4-piece ensemble. Brian Cline sees this as an opportunity to show the community his group's full capabilities. For the COPIA performance, BCB will be packing in unique arrangements of favorite cover tunes, many of which are featured on their new CD, Got It Covered, as well as original compositions. When asked how the COPIA concert will impact his group and other performers in the area, Brian noted "there is much untapped talent in Napa...groups that never get exposure locally because we are saturated with cover bands and more 'commercial' groups from outside the area. I think this will be an ideal setting for us to satisfy

our local audience." Written by Christina Andrews

## NAPA REGISTER, 8/03/05, PUT ON YOUR DANCIN' SHOES, COPIA SPOTLIGHTS WINE COUNTRY BANDS THIS WEEK ...

"Celebrating what's hot in our own back yard, Copia turns the spotlight on a pair of local bands as its outdoor summer concert series continues Thursday night. Featured at 8 p.m. in the grassy amphitheater "Hot Nights, Hot Music" series will be the Brian Cline Band, along with the Moonlight Dance Band, led by popular wine country guitarist Leigh Wyckoff. Each band is slated to perform a set of songs and dancing is encouraged, notes concerts producer Richard Miami.

Serving up styles that range from acoustic pop to alternative rock, the Brian Cline Band feels it reflects a variety of musical influences, including progressive, funk, rhythm and blues, Americana and modern rock. Bandleader Cline says his quartet's music "is positive, melodic, and dynamic; being rooted in the tradition of the '60s but with the edge and style of modern rock." Including solo performances and those with the quartet, Cline is well known throughout the Bay Area for his energetic and powerful performances. Cline and his musical cohorts play approximately 120 concerts a year and have become forerunners in the San Francisco Bay Area music scene. Fans of the Brian Cline Band feel the quartet's songs break new ground with meaningful, well-crafted lyrics, unshakable hooks, and driving rhythms.

Cline launched his professional career in 1997 when he released the recording, "Hold The Keys," on his own label. The CD took almost a year to record and includes 10 originals and two bonus tracks. On the recording, Brian served the role of producer, co-engineer, played most of the acoustic and electric guitars, and performed all vocal, bass, keyboard, and electric cello parts on the disc. In February, 2000, the album was re-released nationally and in Japan by Icourse Recordings with distribution through Valley Media/DNA. Despite being released by an independent record label, all the major retail chains and online stores picked up the release and soon thereafter, it worked its way up the radio charts.

In 2001, the band's first recording, "Within Without," a six song EP, was released. On the CD, Cline added piano and cello to the arrangements. After the release of "Within Without," the Brian Cline Band was reformed in its current lineup. The quartet includes Jason McGrath on five-string fretted/fretless basses and vocals, David Parker on drums/percussion and vocals, and Dan Hayes on electric guitar and vocals. Brian plays both acoustic and electric guitars and sings lead vocals.

Earlier this year, the Brian Cline Band began to call itself BCB, and released "Got it Covered," a 14 song CD and the first recording featuring the current lineup. The CD was recorded live at Napa's Chef's Market in the 2004 season and documents some of BCB's covers often performed at live shows. The 10 cover songs range from Stevie Wonder's "Superstition" to James Taylor's "Fire and Rain." Also included are four originals, plus two remakes of originals from "Hold the Keys" and "Within Without." Written by Pierce Carson

NAPA REGISTER, 6/08/05, DISAPPOINTED BY OPENING DAY AT CHEFS MARKET...

"I always look forward to the time of year when the Chefs Market begins. It has always been a fun time. I had read in the paper about the controversy of this year's market, but had decided to keep an open mind. After all Akanthos and Brian Cline Band were going to be there, and I always enjoy them...The first disappointment was there were no craft booths. The market did not seem to have as many people attending, but maybe that was because there was so much open space, because of the lack of booths. So, on we went... so far no Brian Cline Band, but I was still hopeful... some produce and more food booths. Where was Molly's Angels, where was the Humane Society, where was the area where the fund-raisers had music? And how would we dig up another wine glass? And where the bleep was Brian Cline?...What were they thinking? And still no Brian. At this point my co-worker and her husband bailed. It was not even 8pm., but they had seen enough...Never found Brian Cline, missed the Bohemian Stage...I do believe this is the first market I've ever left before 8:30pm. Wake up, downtown Napa! You are going to kill the Chefs Market...I doubt I will be back this year, unless the bad judgment of this year's market is corrected." Written by Sandra Page

NAPA REGISTER, 7/25/04, BEER DOGS AND THE CHEFS MARKET...

"Chef's Market has given local business a whole new venue for introducing products to the markets. Since the first Chef's Market 10 years ago, organizations have always been committed to giving local businesses the first nod in getting booth space. The commitment extends to musicians as well.

Brian Cline discovered Chef's Market when he moved here eight years ago. A career banker who began as a regulator for the Treasury Department, he is also an accomplished musician, with more than 20 published songs under his belt. And he loves to perform.

"It was easy to see that playing Chef's Market was a great showcase for local musicians. It took a couple of years to get in, but it's a great gig, and the audience is the best. I've gotten 10 to 15 regular corporate clients from it," said Cline.

He also stated that it's a two-way street. "Many of the people who book music for their corporate parties are not nightclub regulars, and have no way of knowing who the available musicians are or how good a band would fit their event. But they can go to Chef's Market, which is a family event they are likely to go to anyway, and can not only hear the music themselves, but can see how the crowd reacts to them." Written by Craig Smith

THE CHIMES- CAPITAL UNIVERSITY, OH, 4/25/02, VOLUME 79, ISSUE 26, BRIAN CLINE BAND RELEASES NEW EP...

"Imagine if Matthew Sweet became abducted by the Borg and changed into an even better singer/songwriter. If this happened, his Borg name would probably be Brian Cline. Brian Cline is an upcoming singer/songwriter and front man of the Brian Cline Band (BCB).

The California quartet has just released their second disc, *Within Without EP*. With hints of Duncan Sheik, David Grey, and Matthew Sweet, this EP is definitely in my runnings for best record of the year. The six tracks found on the album are acoustically-driven pop-rock perfection. I doubt this album would get any smoother if you dropped it in a blender for a few days.

The EP kicks off with *Day to Day*, a 3:28 masterpiece. Cline's vocals are provokingly honest and alluring. *Day to Day*, has a definite Matthew Sweet *I Wanted to Tell You* vibe but then comes into its own with, Cline's vocals and the bands musical excellence. The track grabs your attention like a monkey in a bull dozer and then plows over all your emotions and captivates you as you are ensnared on a musical voyage.

Track three on the EP is *What's on My Mind*, a personal favorite of mine. It is a well-driven pop rock tune and drives through from beginning to end, only slipping with the occasional Bryan Adams-ish rhyme.

The whole album continues in pop rock excellence from beginning to end, with more endurance than your common "street worker"-not faltering on any level. The vibe and lyrics of the band are a much welcomed break from the "poor unfortunate me" garbage rock, which seems to dominate the mainstream. The BCB chums out tunes for people who like crafty music, not people who enjoy eating children and things of that sort. Cline's lyrics are warm and heart-felt with humanity and kindness found through them like Winnie the Pooh at a humanitarian conference, only a lot more respectable.

The entire band blends together brilliantly with a seasoned flare, which is most appreciable by the listener. The album sounds like it should be a seasoned album from a long songwriting veteran inside the second album from an upcoming artist. If we had more albums out today like this one, I might have some faith left in pop society. I can only hope Brian Cline might arise to infiltrate radio and save the souls of this generation. Overall, I give this album twelve thumbs up. If you only purchase one new artist this summer, I really suggest this one. It's crafty, well written and you don't have to listen to Cline complain about being beaten in a trashcan by his father as a kid." Written by Dan Hille

ENET7, NEWSWIRE, 4/8/01, LOCAL FAVORITE CRUISES THE AIRWAVES...

"NAPA - The established rock quartet that is the Brian Cline Band has done well in recent time. The band has found a solid home on the airwaves in California and beyond. Currently, thirty-four commercial radio stations carry the group's material, with the New Music Weekly charts placing "Hold The Keys", single from the album of the same name, #47 nationally. The band's success in gaining exposure is certainly not limited to radio, though. Brian Cline Band recently found their music backing the soap opera *Guiding Light*, and was not the band's first appearance on daytime television." Written by Adam Miller

NEW MEDIA MUSIC, 1/26/01, MUSICDISH LAUNCHES NEW SESSION OF ITS INDIE ARTISTS' COMPETITION, BANDWARS...

"MusicDish, a leading music industry e-Journal, has launched the first BandWars (<http://musicdish.com/bandwars/>) of the new year. The year and one half old competition pits tracks from various indie artists reviewed in MusicDish for voting by music fans. The new session of BandWars include seven artists/bands: the reigning champion Rockenfield/Speer, Malcolm Hunter, Brian Cline Band, Eric Folkerth, The Pasties, Wed, and Scott Howard."

LIVE MAGAZINE, VOL 12, ISSUE 9, JULY 2000, BRIAN CLINE BAND AT EAT'M...

"On a very windy stage, by the casino's pool, Brian Cline Band played a set at this year's EAT'M (Emerging Artists and Talent in Music) conference, in Las Vegas, that was chock full of killer guitar riffs and evocative vocals. Songs sounded a little like REM, which is a good thing, especially those with a rambling guitar line. This was more great desert music, despite the flying debris! Someone mentioned Dave Mathews as a reference point, but I think that's insulting to the band, their songs are much more dynamic. "What's That Do for Me" had a great guitar opening and expressive vocal harmonies between Cline and his drummer, while the closer, "Within" ensured that the band went out with a bang, on this kickass rocker, with southern rock overtones." Written by Sue Nami

THE LANCE MONTHLY, 3/1/00, BRIAN CLINE'S "HOLD THE KEYS" GETS NATIONAL RELEASE...

"NAPA, CA: Last year, The Lance Monthly picked "Hold the Keys" by Brian Cline as one of its monthly featured albums (May 1999) and out of the dozens of CDs this newsletter receives each month, this one was an easy choice for excellence. All of the 12 tracks are "of a soft, classic, folk-rock genre masterfully written, sung, and arranged by the artist, Brian Cline." So, it's no surprise to us that Cline has scored a major label and distribution deal with Icourse Recordings and DNA Distribution. This now means that "Hold the Keys" will be stocked by the major record shops throughout the Country and carried by the high-profile Internet retail stores. In addition, Paul Loggins (Kenny's cousin) of Loggins Promotion out of L.A. has come aboard and will be in charge of radio marketing. Says Cline, "He has worked for some real heavyweights like his cousin, Queen, Elton John, and millions of others."

Brian's passion for music can be traced back to when he was five years old. That's when the Beatles broke up which crushed him. But the group also gave him the inspiration to one day become a musician of excellence. Says Cline, "Ever since, I have had a passion for good songs, good vocals, and good musicianship."

Fortunately Brian was born into a family loaded with musicians who were all pros at one time or another, and by the time he was twelve, he was playing in a group that specialized in Rush covers. His first big break came at the age of 14 when his uncle invited him into his band as a guitarist which resulted in a lot of gigs and his first experience in a sound studio recording his talents on his uncle's tracks.

Brian's first main project was with a group called Enchant but left it in 1991 because he wanted to shift gears and go in another direction. This led to an identity crisis, which

resulted in frequent band jumping and finally a period of burnout that all musicians experience at least once in their lifetime. In most cases, burnouts are the last chapters in the careers of professional musicians, but Cline was one of the exceptions. He knew he had the right stuff and persevered.

In 1996, Brian reemerged as a solo, vocal act and an accomplished acoustic guitarist playing mostly originals which put into effect the recording of his first album, "Hold the Keys."

Says Cline, "As a result of the solo stuff, I have scored a number of publishing deals which have resulted in a lot of network T.V. placements (i.e., MTV, VH-1, Another World, and 7the Odyssey Channel), cd sales at gigs and via the Internet, radio play, endorsements, and industry attention."

Because of Brian's renewed success, it was obvious to him that his next important step would be to form a complete band which, in fact, he has. Now known as the Brian Cline Band, the new members are old high school buddy, Andrew Lion (bass), and Rob Sherman (lead guitar). Drummer, Aaron Gottlieb, who was with Cline for a year and a half, just left the group to pursue a career with a California band called Idle Society.

The Brian Cline Band is presently recording tracks for a new CD and one that they're presently working on is called, "Sea of Lies" in an unplugged style. Says Cline, "The song should end up on network TV and possibly on a film soundtrack in about a year." Written by Dick Stewart

#### ALL MUSIC GUIDE, BRIAN CLINE- ARTIST BIOGRAPHY...

"When I grow up, I want to be a musician so that I can meet new people and make people happy." Brian Cline wrote that for a school paper when he was eight years old and has been attempting to make it a reality ever since. Cline grew up in a musical family, and both his mother and uncle were professional musicians. Inspired by the Beatles, he learned a few guitar chords from his uncle and took piano lessons from his mother, and even though none of his 7-year-old friends would form a band with him, Cline's passion for music took off from there. Cline got his first professional gig at age 14 as part of his uncle's band, and he played electric guitar on his uncle's album. Shortly thereafter, he formed Mae Dae and started playing bass, writing songs, and, because no one else would, singing in the band. Gradually, Mae Dae morphed into the progressive rock band Enchant to emulate some of his primary musical influences of the time--Marillion, Rush, and Genesis. Enchant was Cline's main project until he left the band in 1991, mostly because of artistic direction. He found himself wanting to be a male Sarah MacLachlan rather than Rush or Dream Theatre. By the time he left the band, Enchant was well on their way to becoming established. They had even forged a relationship with their idols Marillion. In 1993, Dream Circle Records, under the aegis of IRS Records, released Enchant's "A Blueprint for the World", produced by Marillion guitarist Steve Rothery and with Cline still in tow. The recording sold over 25,000 copies in Europe and Japan. Cline also wrote music and played bass on Enchant's third release in 1997.

Post-Enchant, Cline found himself going through something of an identity crisis, ending up in a different band every two months. After a while, he began writing more and playing with working bands, which, if they did not necessarily satisfy him musically, they at least gave Cline a sense of structure, helping him learn how to read an audience, how to be professional, and that when you do something from the heart, that people respond. While taking time off during his wife's pregnancy, Cline developed the idea to strike out as a solo artist. Within three months, he was gigging on his own, playing original and cover material. Requests from audiences for a tape or CD to purchase came more frequently, so in early 1998 he entered the studio and recorded "Hold the Keys", consisting entirely of his original songs. The album was released on his own Dionysongs and sold at his shows. After the album, Cline began searching for musicians to play with in a full band context. Bass auditions were held, and an old acquaintance of Cline's, 5-string fretless bassist Andrew Lion, turned out to be the right fit. Aaron Gottlieb took the drummer seat after getting up on stage at a Cline gig, singing harmonies, and confidently telling Cline "If you want funky, I'm your man." Electric guitarist Rob Sherman had been in a favorite local band of Cline's, None of the Above. He was saved from the disco band he was playing in that made him wear polyester and an afro wig. His addition rounded out the newly christened Brian Cline Band. They began building up a following by playing myriad dates ranging from concerts and festivals to night clubs and corporate events, and they began recording as a full band in 1999." Written by Stanton Swihart

NAPA REGISTER, 6/11/98, CLINE RELEASES "HOLD THE KEYS"...

"After spending nearly a year in the studio fine tuning a collection of original songs, Napa's Brian Cline is set to release his debut solo CD effort, "Hold the Keys." A CD release party is scheduled from 3-7pm Sunday at Downtown Joe's, 902 Main St., where the copies of the new recording will be available for \$10 each. The artist will be on hand to sign all purchases. The 28-year-old guitarist served as producer and co-engineer for the debut recording. He played most of the acoustic and electric guitars and all the basses, keyboards and electric cello parts on the disc, which contains 10 original compositions. Joey Jam, who has performed with John Fogarty, Mariah Carey and Pete Escovedo, plays drums and percussion on the new CD release. Mark Yamamoto, who engineered and co-produced "Hold the Keys," contributes a few guitar parts on the disc as well.

Stylistically, Brian has been categorized as modern, alternative and acoustic rock. The artist says his style is a combination of his folk, acoustic, and 1960s/1970s rock influences as well as his love of modern alternative pop and rock. Cline was a founding member of and writer for the progressive rock band, Enchant. In 1993, Dream Circle Records, under the aegis of IRS Records, released Enchant's "A Blueprint for the World," produced by Marillion guitarist Steve Rothers. The recording sold over 25,000 copies in Europe and Japan. Cline also wrote music and played bass on Enchant's third release in 1997."