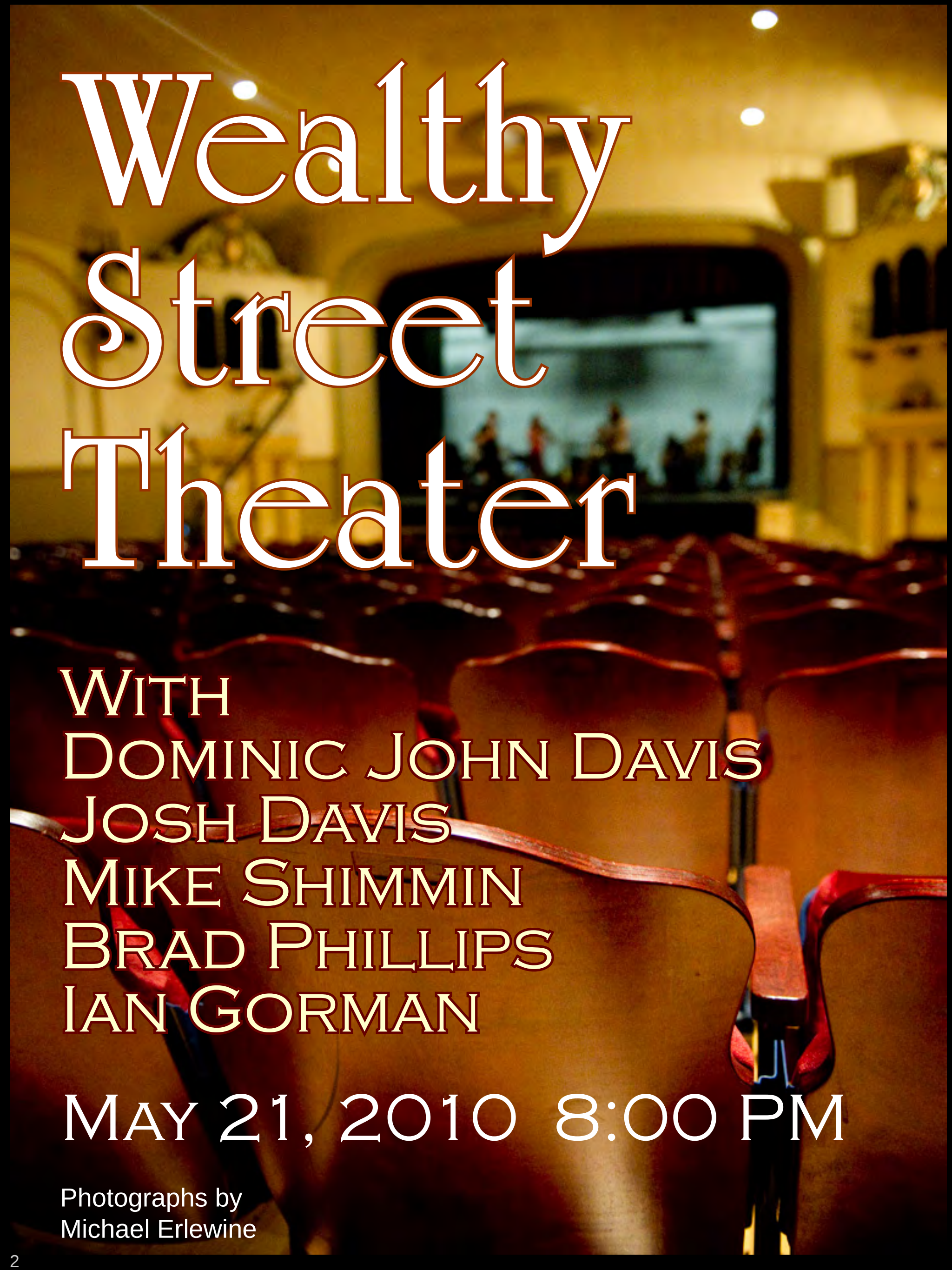


May Erlewine & Seth Bernard





Wealthy Street Theater

WITH
DOMINIC JOHN DAVIS
JOSH DAVIS
MIKE SHIMMIN
BRAD PHILLIPS
IAN GORMAN

MAY 21, 2010 8:00 PM

Photographs by
Michael Erlewine

May Erlewine & Seth Bernard at the Wealthy Street Theater

What can I say about Seth Bernard and my daughter May? After all, I am her father as well as a professional music critic, having founded the All-Music Guide (allmusic.com) and supervised over 500 free-lance music critics and writers for years.

When I first started to really hear May's music, I was not sure what happening. Was this music really as good as my music-critic sense told me or was I just her father and anything she did was great with me?

It took a while, but gradually I realized that the girl was a fine singer and an even better song writer. In my book, good song writers are rare. Anyway, the long and the short of it is that I have a very talented singer/songwriter for a daughter. How great is that for an old musician and dad? I can tell you: it is great!

And then when I first met Seth Bernard, I was asking myself: who is this guy that my daughter obviously is infatuated with? As a father I was naturally all about checking out who is dating my daughter. When I saw how Seth handled a crowd, what an entertainer he is, how much he cares for people and how people loved him, not to mention how very talented he is both as a musician and a songwriter, I liked that... a lot.

As I watched them singing love songs to one another in our little restaurant, the "Two Sisters Café," I knew something important was happening. I could see it in their eyes as they looked at one another, as they sang to one another, and it is still going on, as you will see from the photos of the two of them looking at each other in this album. I was knocked out!

Seth and May have been together going on six years. I have watched them grow as a music duo and have also seen how they have grown closer together as life partners. So it was with much anticipation and enthusiasm that I showed up at the Wealthy Street Theater for their double CD-release show. I was also there to photography this event.

The Wealthy Street Theater in Grand Rapids, Michigan is something I wish there were a lot more of. It is owned and operated by the community and exists only to support that community with quality events. An old vaudeville-style theater, it has been completely restored to its original condition, modernized in that it now contains state-of-the-art sound, lights, and recording facilities for both audio and video.

I will let the photos do the talking from here on, and there are a lot of them, since this album is also for photo selection for the band, so be warned. I do want to say something about the remarkable band of musicians that are accompanying here. Seth and May put on a great duo show, just the two of them. However, when they team up with some of the finest musicians in the state, it only gets better. Here is a brief introduction to the band members.

Dominic John Davis

Dominic John Davis has recorded on so many albums that a list would fill this page many times. He is "the" in-demand session player when it comes to bass for an entire collective of musicians, aside from his job as bass player for the roots group "Steppin in It." Dominic plays standup, electric, and any other kind of bass you could imagine, and he plays them too perfection. A bass solo from Dominic is

something to remember.

Dominic John's work with Seth and May came out of the fact that he has played bass on pretty near all of their albums and has become such an important ingredient to their sound, that it is hard to imagine this group without him.

Josh Davis

Josh Davis is the lead singer, guitar player, and songwriter for the well-known roots band "Steppin; in It," a group that has toured all over the U.S. for years to rave reviews. Davis also has his own single act and albums such as "Fool Rooster." Josh Davis is a genuine singer/songwriter, and while that phrase is overused today to describe almost any folk artist, as an experienced music critic I can testify that Davis is a wonderful singer, a veteran songwriter, and an amazing multi-instrumentalist, known for his elegant guitar work, and more recently his tasty keyboard playing.

Mike Shimmin

Mike Shimmin has played drums with many groups, perhaps most notably the progressive-Celtic group "Millish." Shimmin, originally a jazz drummer, can cross over and play a wide variety of other forms of music, everything from rock n' roll to Latin, and folk music. Shimmin has travelled widely, including an eighteen-gig, eighteen-day tour of Germany.

In recent years, Mike Shimmin has been recording and performing with May and Seth more and more of the time and he is their drummer of choice, when he is available.

Ian Gorman

Recording engineer Ian Gorman is "The Man in Demand" when it comes to sound engineering, and has produced the sound on virtually all of the albums Seth and May have recorded, not to mention mixing, mastering, and recording literally dozens of other bands.

Although Gorman is perhaps best-known as a recording engineer, he wears many other hats, including festival organizer, promoter, and musician. He heads up his own band the "Red Sea Pedestrians," in which he plays bass and banjo. Gorman is not a regular player with Seth and May, but sat in this evening because he played on one of the albums being released.

Brad Phillips

Brad Phillips is a multi-instrumentalist who plays guitar and mandolin, but is best known for his fiddle playing and was featured with that instrument in the progressive-Celtic band "Millish." A brilliant player, Phillips recorded on the original album recording of Seth Bernard and, like Ian Gorman, is sitting in for some of the CD-release shows.

The Band

It is important to tell you that these are some of the finest musicians in the state, but to me it is more important that these folks are also really great people, every one. Together with May and Seth, they make up a perfect combination, a mixture of great music and wonderful people. I hope you enjoy the photos.

-- Michael Erlewine

May 24, 2010, Big Rapids, MI
Michael@Erlewine.net

SETH BERNARD



MAY ERLEWINE



MAY ERLEWINE PHOTOS



















TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL JACKSON

A woman with long, wavy brown hair and glasses is shown in profile, singing into a silver microphone. She is wearing a dark, long-sleeved top. The background is dark with some blurred lights, suggesting a stage or concert setting.

“HUMAN NATURE”





















































































SETH BERNARD PHOTOS









SETH BERNARD
“IS THIS
YOU?”
ALBUM































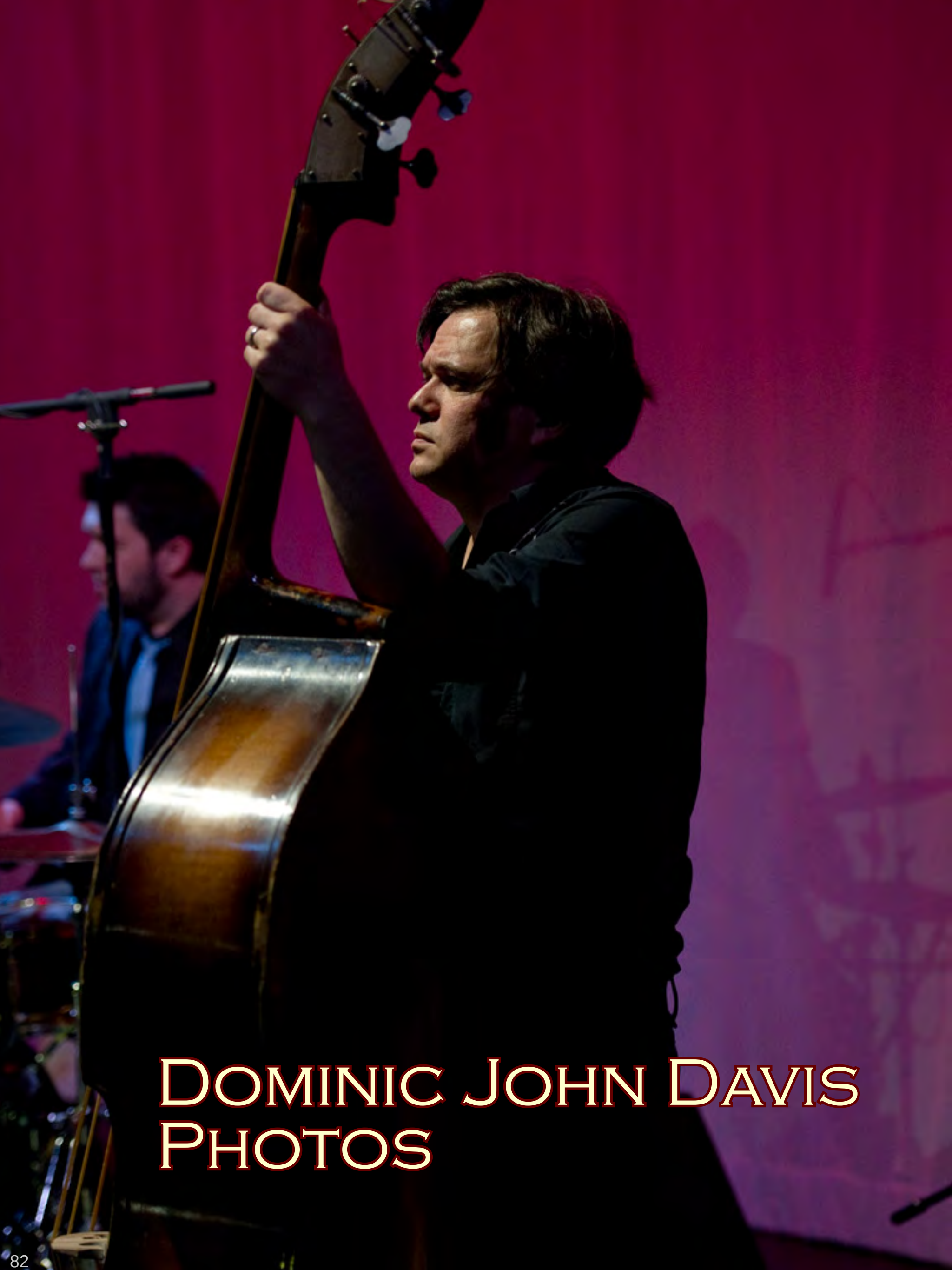












DOMINIC JOHN DAVIS PHOTOS











JOSH DAVIS PHOTOS













MIKE SHIMMIN PHOTOS













IAN GORMAN PHOTOS







BRAD PHILLIPS PHOTOS





GETTING READY FOR THE SHOW









































Michael Erlewine

Archivist of Popular Culture

Michael Erlewine is a well-known entrepreneur, the founder and creator of many large web sites including the All-Music Guide (allmusic.com), All-Movie Guide (allmovie.com), All-Game Guide (allgame.com), Matrix Software (AstrologySoftware.com), AstrologyLand.com, MacroStop, ACTastrology.com, StarTypes.com, ClassicPosters.com, MichaelErlewine.com, and recently Astrologyland.com, and others.

Erlewine was very active in the folk scene in the late 1950s and 1960s, especially in the Ann Arbor area, which included traveling with Bob Dylan (hitchhiking) in 1961. Later, as leader of the influential Prime Movers Blues Band (Iggy Pop was their drummer), Erlewine played a wide variety of venues, including the Fillmore Auditorium in San Francisco (during the "Summer of Love" in 1967), where his band opened for "Cream" during their first U.S. tour.

Erlewine was instrumental in the landmark Ann Arbor Blues Festivals of 1969 and 1970, as well as the Ann Arbor Blues & Jazz Fes

Ann Arbor Blues Festivals of 1969 and 1970, as well as the Ann Arbor Blues & Jazz Festivals in 1972 and 1973, where he did audio and video interviews of almost all performers. This led to his becoming interested in archiving popular culture and founding the All-Music Guide (AMG), which today is the largest must review site on the planet. He did the same for film, video games, and rock posters. Next to Microsoft, Matrix Astrological Software (founded by Erlewine) is the oldest software company on the Internet. Erlewine still owns and runs the company today, which is located in Big Rapids, Michigan. Erlewine is also very active in Tibetan Buddhism and Macro Photography.

Photo Equipment

In my work, I generally use the Nikon D3x and D3s cameras, with the Voigtlander 125mm 2.5 APO-Lanthar, the Coastal Optics 60mm f/4 APO lenses, and a Gitzo T2531 carbon-fiber tripod, with a Markins Q2 ball head. As for camera settings, I tend to shoot around f/11 at whatever shutter speed will bring down the ISO to 200 or so.

For this shoot, I was using the Nikkor 85mm f/1.4 and the Nikkor 70-200mm f/2.8 VR II lenses.

-- Michael Erlewine

Questions and comments can be addressed to Michael@Erlewine.net and there are other free books and PDF downloads at:

<http://www.MacroStop.com>.

Other Erlewine sites include:

www.AstrologySoftware.com

MichaelErlewine.com

ACTastrology.com

Astrologyland.com

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