

SPLINTERED SUNLIGHT

Splintered Sunlight formed in 1992. "Splintered" quickly became the most popular Grateful Dead Tribute band in the Philadelphia area gaining praise from Dead Heads and Non Heads alike. Since that time, Splintered Sunlight has become a permanent fixture for music in the Mid Atlantic region, recently celebrating their tenth year of performances at the "Stone Pony" in Asbury Park, NJ by headlining two weekend shows at that legendary venue. The band has also maintained a weekly residency at Brownies 23 East in Ardmore, PA for the past eight years.

Splintered Sunlight has a play list of well over two hundred songs, spanning the thirty year career of The Grateful Dead (as well as numerous other classic rock songs) from which it skillfully crafts each shows set list, carefully endeavoring to not repeat songs - let alone set lists-in the same or even nearby venues.

Splintered Sunlight and its members have performed with Bob Weir of the Grateful Dead, as well as former Grateful Dead members, Donna Jean Godcheaux; and pianist Tom Constanten. They have also performed with longtime Grateful Dead collaborator Merle Saunders and Jimmy Herring guitarist for "The Dead". In addition Splintered has shared the stage with many notable Dead related acts including Kingfish, Jorma Kaukonen and Jefferson Starship among others.

The band takes its name from the Grateful Dead song "Box of Rain".

Walk into Splintered Sunlight
Inch your way through dead dreams
To another land
Maybe you're tired and broken
Your tongue is twisted
With words half spoken
And thoughts unclear
What do you want me to do?
To do for you to see you through?
A box of rain will ease the pain
And love will see you through...

Splintered Sunlight is;

Butch Sochorow – Lead Guitar & Vocals.

Butch's ability to sound like Jerry Garcia both with his voice and the guitar is simply "eerie".

Anders Alfelt – Bass & Vocals.

The de facto musical director of the group, Anders is also an accomplished jazz player.

Jerry Horan – Drums.

Jerry is a founding member of Splintered Sunlight.

Aaron Roussakis – Drums.

Together with Jerry, Aaron creates the pulse of the band.

Mike Borowski – Keyboards & Vocals.

Mike is gifted musician whose piano playing has a Bruce Hornsby esque quality.

Tom Donovan – Rhythm Guitar & Vocals.

The newest band member, Tom was formerly with Relix Recording artists "Solar Circus".

To find out more information on Splintered Sunlight, you can visit the bands website at www.SplinteredSunlight.com.

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The music never stops

By: JIM McCAFFREY , Main Line Ticket, Ardmore, PA 09/21/2004

"Walk into splintered sunlight Inch your way through dead dreams to another land" -

"Box of Rain" by Robert Hunter

Dead dreams rest in Ardmore Thursday nights.

"It's been slow this summer," Brownie's 23 East owner Joe Rufo admits of his weekly Thursday night shows featuring Splintered Sunlight. "A lot of our regulars are out on tour with The Dead."

You'd have to be living in another time, in a forgotten place to not know The Dead has to do with music, not zombies.

The Dead is the famous San Francisco rock band around which an entire, distinctly American sub-culture has grown.

Splintered Sunlight is the spiritual heir of that community.

Both groups have developed a devoted following dedicated (pun intended) to freedom, music, fun, dancing, adventure, and the serendipitous exploration of synchronicity in life and music.

Some claim these attributes are little recognized American values fundamental to our self-image but ignored, even feared, in the modern culture at large.

The Dead was formerly and better known as The Grateful Dead until lead guitarist, vocalist and group founder Jerry Garcia died Aug. 10, 1995. Since then, the surviving members have elected to call themselves The Dead. The distinction acknowledges Garcia's loss and recognizes that his band died with him.

Many people are surprised the famous traveling circus and psychedelic community survives Garcia. The gentle smiles, twirling dancers, the sweet smell of patchouli and smoke, and the spaced out, zombie cries of "Oh, wow" continue as The Dead and its various spin-off bands continue to fill auditoriums, stadiums and concert sheds across the country.

Perhaps more amazing is that the music continues to live not as an anachronism but as an evolving, vibrant, continuing legacy of a uniquely American musical tradition.

"Jam bands" continue to reach new audiences and achieve a continuing popularity through groups like Phish, the Dave Matthews Band, Bruce Hornsby and The Range, String Cheese Incident and Splintered Sunlight. Their genre of music mixes all the elements of rock 'n' roll - blues, country, soul, pop - with the improvisation and invention of progressive jazz.

The jam band spirit of musical exploration, fun and risk imbues Splintered Sunlight. The band was formed 10 years ago. Its musical home is Brownie's, where the band has played for eight years.

In its time there, Splintered Sunlight has opened for a number of nationally famous acts that have played with the Dead or members of that band, including Zero, former Grateful Dead members Donna Jean Godcheaux and Merle Saunders and The Steve Kimmock Band.

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It doesn't seem right to call a group like Splintered Sunlight a tribute band. They are not performing a schtick. They are not like, say, a Rolling Stones tribute band, where somebody tries prancing like Mick Jagger and somebody else attempts a note for note Keith Richards guitar solo.

The Splintered Sunlight tribute to The Grateful Dead is more attitude than imitation. The band's sound engineer and manager, Larry Levin, has worked with Dead-related bands Merle Saunders and Kingfish.

"There has to be that element of weirdness if you're going to be a Grateful Dead tribute band," he muses. "But our jams are Splintered Sunlight jams. The improvisations are true to our musical selves."

Levin notes, "We don't have bad nights anymore, but I still say this band musically takes more risks than any other band I have ever worked with. When there's a train wreck on stage, when they fall or fail, they laugh."

Lead guitarist and vocalist Butch Sochorow comes closest to caricature when he eerily channels the vocal inflections, the guitar picking nuance, and even the look and demeanor of Garcia.

"I used to see Butch at [Grateful Dead] shows where we would be in the taping section together," Donovan recalls. "He really studied."

Levin adds, "There are some nights when he will put an inflection in his voice Garcia only sang on the studio albums and never used in concert. It really sounds like Garcia. It's chilling."

Yet Sochorow still manages to appear unstudied in his manner. He is, in a word, cool, loyal to the ethos of Splintered Sunlight and not an imitator of The Grateful Dead.

Levin notes, underlining this point, "Our drummer, Aaron Roussakis, and our keyboardist, Mike Borowski, never saw The Grateful Dead."

Bass player Anders Alfelt assures that he does listen to Grateful Dead bassist Phil Lesh. "I listen to what he plays," Alfelt admits. "But if I try play like him, it doesn't sound right. I have to play my way. It's more the way Splintered Sunlight plays."

Donovan adds the group has over 200 songs in its playlist.

"You could see us six to seven weeks in a row and not see us play the same song twice," he notes.

The set lists can be quirky and stray away from the standards penned by The Grateful Dead. They've been known to include songs by Warren Zevon, The Beatles, Black Sabbath and the Kinks. Thursday, the set list included "I Want to be Sedated" in tribute to the life of Johnny Ramone, who had died that day.

Splintered Sunlight fans return faithfully every week.

"This is like church," Chris Hill says. "I'm here every Thursday."

The band's equipment manager, who calls himself Mr. Mario, agrees.

"People come every week for the fellowship," he comments.

Rufo creates the environment where fellowship can thrive with \$2 beers, 10-cent wings and drink specials.

"I wasn't a Grateful Dead fan before these guys started playing my club, but I am now," Rufo says. "This is a great audience. They spend money and tip well. Everyone on my staff wants to work Thursday nights."

For more on Splintered Sunlight, including future dates, go to www.splinteredsunlight.com.

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The Stone Pony, Asbury Park NJ.

According to the vice president of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Robert Santelli, "the club has already earned its place in history as one of rock 'n' roll's great venues. Most rock critics and historians that I come in contact with on a regular basis feel that The Stone Pony is one of the greatest rock clubs of all time."

Here's what the Stone Pony is saying about Splintered Sunlight... "*10-Year Anniversary Celebration, Splintered Sunlight (The Authentic Grateful Dead Tribute). This fall marks 10 years that Splintered Sunlight has been rocking' the Pony. This band has been seminal in establishing the jam band scene at the Pony.*"

"A visit to The Stone Pony has been considered a pilgrimage to rock 'n' roll fans around the world," said New Jersey Gov. Christie Whitman as she officially reopened the club on Memorial Day weekend 2000. "It is a place that is important -- not just to us, but to the world."

PW-Philadelphia Weekly

PW-Philadelphia Weekly is not only the most widely read alternative weekly in the Philadelphia region, it has the largest circulation of any weekly newspaper in Pennsylvania. Established in 1971, *PW* can be found in over 2,000 yellow boxes, in retail and entertainment locations, and in performing arts venues throughout the region. *PW* is published Wednesday.

The Philadelphia Weekly recently covered the Annual "Day of the Dead" which Splintered Sunlight has headlined for the past several years. Here is what they had to say.

"Flavor Flav and Salvador Dalí have more than big weird clocks in common--they're currently sharing timely resurrections on VH1's The Surreal Life and in this winter's major exhibition at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, respectively. And as part of South Street's Day of the Dead festival Sunday, Dalí is the featured dead person who'll be paraded in a horse-drawn hearse and then visibly resurrected in Headhouse Square. With colorful altars, floral displays and street performers, the South Street parade will pay homage to the ancient Aztec celebrations honoring deceased ancestors. Philly's favorite Grateful Dead band, Splintered Sunlight, will share the stage with Hydrogen Jukebox, and a Day of the Dead-themed exhibition of local artists at the South Street Renaissance Gallery coincides with the festivities. There's a prize for the best skeleton costume, so rummage through your closet and shake those dusty bones loose".
(Kate Kilpatrick)

Full Steam Ahead

Full Steam Ahead is a company based near Washington D.C., Entering into our sixth year of business, we have been, and continue to be involved in most of the major concert events in our area. Full Steam Ahead promotes some of the biggest events in the Mid-Atlantic Region. FSA uses grass roots, online, e-mail, and traditional forms of promotion such as radio, TV, and press to get the word out. We work with the smallest of bands to the largest presenter of music in the United States.

"Splintered Sunlight is a fantastic Dead cover band from Philly. They are very authentic and play a lot of the songs that most Dead bands don't even attempt. When they play Morning Dew or Terrapin Station it feels like indoor thunder"!

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*Here is what the fans are saying!**

“They’re awesome...see em'... they Rocked the Dead tunes...”

“Splintered Rocks! I saw 'em last night (and almost every week for many years). I'm lucky enough to have 'em in my backyard. Good people, good fun!”

“I've been to the Pony to see them and had a wonderful time. The most amazing part of the band is the guy named Butchie....His singing voice sounds so much like Jerry, it's frightening.... If you haven't seen them, I would recommend you check them out.”

“They aren't the Grateful Dead but they sure as hell could play them on TV.... these guys are the eeriest. They sound just like Jerry and the boyz, only different.”

“Have seen them more times than I can remember... definitely check em out.”

”Splintered Sunlight who, to speak in analogies, is to the Grateful Dead what Beatlemania was to John, Paul, George and Ringo.”

“They are an awesome band, very tight.”

“I'll be seein' them tonight!
Guaranteed GOOD time!”

“Hot DAMN do I love Splintered at the Pony during the winter months. What a way to kick in a new year of shows!!!!!! This one will be a hell of a lot of fun!!!!!!”

“If you've not heard these guys (playing out of Philadelphia, PA) then you have yet to experience perhaps the greatest Dead cover band ever
Butchy is an auditory re-birth of JYG. And the rest of the band is great too. If you live near Philly, do yourself a favor and check them out Thursday nites at Brownie's 23 East.”

**Taken from the following Grateful Dead community message boards:
www.tooboard.net, www.philzone.org, www.ratdog.org and rec.music.gdead.*