

It's been a while Music Fans....

Too long for many of us. I've been asked by hundreds of you who have visited us since we opened our beautiful outdoor area for dining on June 6, 2020 when I thought "live" music would return to Rancho Nicasio. My stock reply (you need one sometimes) has been "I'm not smart enough or brave enough to have a good answer."



I woke up this morning with CCR's tune **Who'll Stop the Rain** in my head. First of all, there isn't a song that I've ever heard John Fogerty sing that I didn't dig. Amazingly, in 1984, his record company at that time, Warner Bros., contacted me to see if I might be interested in being his manager. His "Centerfield" album was going to be his first release in 10 years. Although it never worked out, just being asked was one of the highlights of my career.

Second, my long time wife and best friend, Angela Strehli, and I, constantly have songs running through our heads. She as many of you know, has been singing the blues on stage and in the studio, for over 50 years. Angela has probably performed on our stages more than anyone since we took over in 1998. She often has a classical music radio station on in the kitchen just to stop the **internal music flow** in her brain! No kidding.

I've been a bit of a music junky since the 50's when Little Richard and Fats Domino entered my world, and then wound up working with musicians and songwriters for most of my adult life. In short, there has been a big hole in both of our lives without live music.

Fogerty's tune was one of many big hits for Creedence in 1970. It ostensibly was a Vietnam and political statement, as well as referring to the historic Woodstock concert the previous year which turned into a wonderful weekend in the mud.



So here we are, a year into this pandemic, a different kind of war, and living in the most divisive and racially charged atmosphere since the 1960's, experienced by quite a few of us. That period of time, not coincidentally, also spawned the beginning of much of the live music scene we have enjoyed ever since. Outdoor concerts and festivals were the place to be free and let off pent up steam.

Music, as well as sports, are the true equalizers in not just our society, but internationally. Our own very small contribution to this tradition, is something I've both enjoyed and am proud to have been part of. It is also a big responsibility for all of us who produce public events, now more than ever.

There has finally been some guidance offered by the State for both indoor and outdoor events. I'm sorry it took this long to get to the point, but our relationship with you supporters is kind of personal. I'm sharing.

As much as I'd like to announce a BBQ schedule, or even one show, I am struggling with the best way forward. As of now, proofing people for "full vaccinations" or current negative COVID tests at the door is not something I want to put my staff through, at least at the moment. Again, that's a lot of responsibility. Also, monitoring people in general, whether it be masks, distance or other behavior would be like being the "fun police" at an event built for fun. By the way no one from out of state is permitted, another ID, so much for uncle Harry visiting from Ohio.

How this all works is beyond my imagination so far. In addition, I know people who are not on board for vaccinations, including some musicians who want to play for us. What I believe about that is irrelevant. For the record Angela and I, being 75, are fully vaccinated and all our employees are or about to be as well.

I have shows "held" from August 1st into October but have no plans to announce or sell tickets until some light appears and says NOW. **We'll see that light together** hopefully.

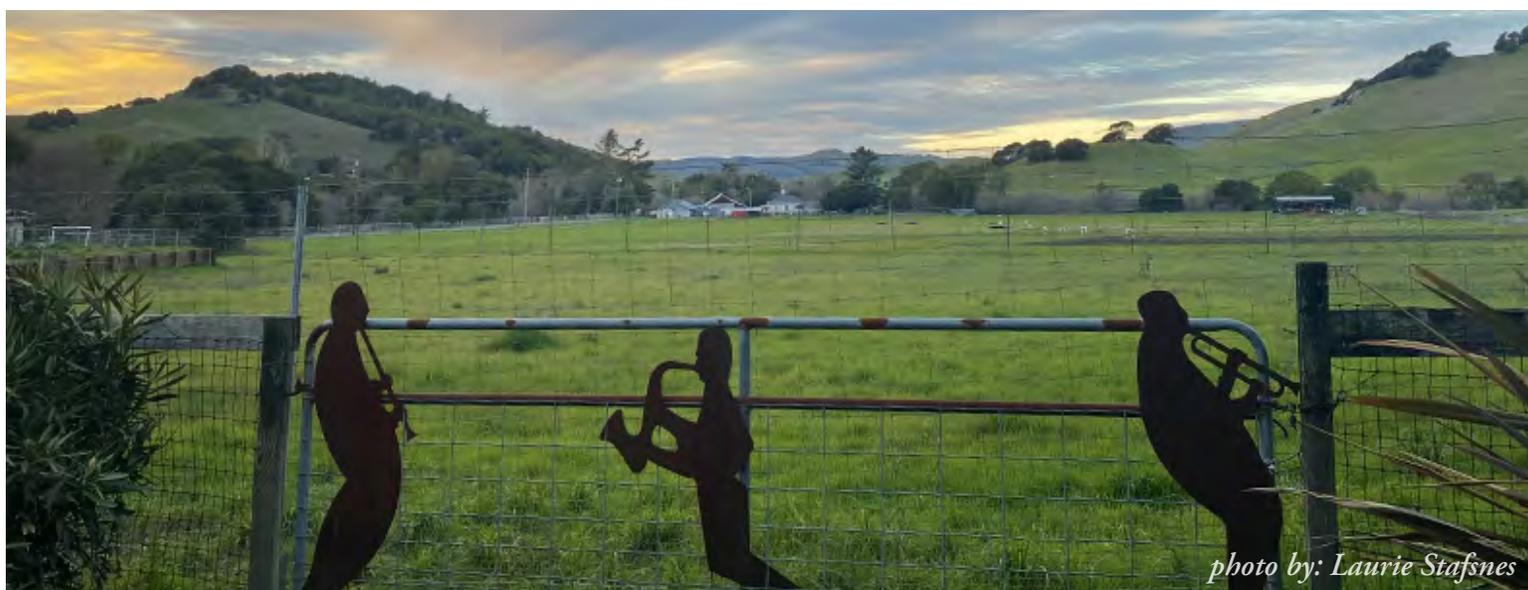


photo by: Laurie Stafnes

What could be helpful to me is for some of you to express your feelings about all this. *If you care to write your thoughts down, send it on to bob@ranchonicasio.com.* The news we all observe seems to change almost daily. My feelings about things could as well. Meanwhile, it really has been pretty glorious in Nicasio and dining there has become more popular than ever, which we are truly grateful for.

As always, thanks for being there.

See you soon.