



Oakdale musician Chris Fury released his debut album, "From the Darkness."

Following his heart

Guitarist offers inspiration through his music

By RICK CHALIFOUX

OAKDALE—On Sunday night, Oakdale musician Chris Fury held a release party in Amityville for his debut album entitled "From Darkness" — consisting of 13 spirited, invigorating instrumental guitar tracks showcasing his exceptional talent. In the days leading up to the highly anticipated release, which has been more than five years in the making, the musician spent some time detailing the inspiration behind some of the tunes and how his commitment to music has helped him lead a fulfilling lifestyle with a promising future.

Fury grew up in Bohemia and graduated with the Connetquot High School Class of '03. His interest in music began early, and his first experience with an instrument came when he started playing the viola in elementary school. After high school, he attended Binghamton University, where he graduated with a double major in music and electrical engineering. Although predominantly self-taught, he says that one of his college professors inspired him to broaden his horizons and expand his musical talents further. This led to his decision to stay at Binghamton for an extra year to complete his music degree and pursue a career as a full-time musician.

"I really fell in love with music and found my voice during college," said Fury. "While studying music theory, I learned about a lot of the 'rules' that exist in music. Through constant practice, I was able to generate some cool and creative ways to break those rules and create my own musical sound."

Fury brings a refreshing sound to the music scene, with a unique style spanning multiple genres. His sound fuses the grace and funk of the Red Hot Chili Peppers' John Frusciante with the technique and virtuosity of world-renowned shredders like Joe Satriani, Steve Vai and Yngwie Malmsteen. Along with those he learned from while earning his music degree, Fury has studied under accomplished guitarists such as Tom Hess (Rhapsody of Fire) and Greg Howe (solo artist with Michael Jackson and Enrique Iglesias). The end result is a rousing, sonic blend that is strikingly original.

"Guitar isn't just an instrument to me," said Fury. "It's a way of life."

"From Darkness" was composed over a five-year period, with some of the earliest ideas originating in his college dorm room. Each of the 13 tracks that made the cut (narrowed down from about 30) centers on different subjects, complete with a unifying theme that ties them all together.

"The title is about creation in general and the idea of creating something from nothing," said Fury. "Music has always been an outlet for me, and being able to take something and express it musically is really the greatest feeling in the world. It's a feeling that transcends words."

The song "In Your Eyes" is dedicated to his wife, Christine, and was composed the day before his wedding in

2011. Another track is titled "Autopilot Disengaged," which serves as a metaphor centered on the idea of stepping up and taking control of one's own life.

"That song is about following your dreams and going for it," said Fury. "It's so easy to get sucked into a mundane, unfulfilling lifestyle, and many of those who stay on autopilot end up suppressing their dreams and living a life that they never actually chose. The second I said that I wanted to do this album, I felt like I grabbed the helm and actually began steering my life where I wanted it to go. It can be scary once you make a choice like that, and conventional wisdom might tell you otherwise, but ultimately it's been worth it and right now I'm making a living by doing what I love."

Fury also fronts his instrumental rock guitar band, The Chris Fury Trio. His music is an eclectic mix of progressive rock, fusion, blues and jazz elements with the guitar in the forefront. Based in Brooklyn, the band features bassist Ian Underwood, a Berklee College of Music graduate, and Chris Markwood, a reputable Los Angeles session musician. Performing Fury's original compositions as well as ambitious cover tunes such as Eric Johnson's "Cliffs of Dover" and Jimi Hendrix's "Little Wing," The Chris Fury Trio performs at an incredibly high level of skill and technicality.

Additions to Fury's resume include music in movies, an introduction song for a Major League Baseball player and active session musician work. In 2009, he successfully auditioned to work with hip hop Gold recording artist Keith Murray (Def Jam) and has performed headlining concerts with him. Other artists Fury has worked with include Whyteout (BlackBox), Jerry Robinson (Sony), Jac&Jill and Peter Leo. In 2010, his track "Reborn" was featured on the exciting compilation album "Shrouded in Sound: New Guitar Music for a New Decade" with 14 other artists from around the world. Two of Fury's songs are featured in a documentary film about handball in Brooklyn entitled "One Wall: Kings of Coney Island."

The reception for his work has been extremely positive thus far, and Fury is now looking to build off the momentum generated by his first album release. An east coast tour will likely begin either this summer or early fall. As his solo career continues to evolve, Fury offered some words of advice for aspiring musicians looking to take the wheel and forge a similar path.

"Listen to as much music as possible, practice until your fingers bleed and follow your heart," he said. "Also stay open-minded and get together and play with others, because there's nothing like feeding off the energy of other musicians."

Fury's last words of advice — "Always be inspired."

To learn more about Chris Fury and to purchase "From Darkness," visit his website at www.chrisfury.com. ■

Outside Deck
Is Open for the Season!

Tuesdays
"Lobster King Crab Legs Bake"
Roasted Corn, Steamed Lobster or King Crab Legs, Barbecue Chicken, Roast Corn, Mussels, Corn on the Cob, Potatoes
\$34.95 Available inside or out

Thursdays (Starts June 20th)
"Summer Family Fun Day"
Bring the kids for a Fun Family Night Out on the Beach! All Ages!
Live Acoustic Music & Casual Menu
Available Single, Fish Sandwich or Fried Chicken - Popcorn On the Side
\$22.95 (includes parking)

Fridays
Live Band & Dancing 8 to 10 pm
\$8 cover charges 4 to 6:30

Sundays
"Sun, Sea & Relax" with Live Acoustic Music on the Lawn 2 to 7

500 Shore Dr. Oakdale 631-589-0248 www.theshoppies.com