

---

THE

# PERSPECTIVE

---

Newsletter and Tour Schedule for Michael Massimo

---

Vol. 1

"All The News I See Fit To Print"

No. 1

---

## MASSIMO QUILTS DAY JOB, ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR NEW ALBUM AND TOUR

That's right. I'm no longer working for THE MAN. Due to a lost account at the ad agency where I was working as a traffic coordinator, I have been laid off and I couldn't be happier about it. I have no plans to ever return to the land of the day job. (Yay!) I can now turn my attention to being a full-time working musician. That means playing as many shows as humanly possible

(see back page) and writing new material for a new album, tentatively titled *Precious Seconds*. This new album will be a full band studio effort (!) and will be recorded in Orlando, FL during the Fall. Twiddling knobs again will be engineer/producer, Ed Self. Some of you may remember Ed for his fine work on *Live in N.Y.C.*. Material for the new album will include songs I've been

playing live for a while but never recorded such as the title cut and Too Much Fun as well as plenty of brand new songs (!) yet to be written. In order to write these songs I am retreating for the summer to my beach house rental in Long Beach Island, NJ. So this may be the last time you hear from me for a while. I plan to do a few shows in the Jersey Shore Area (Buckelews/Sea Shell-

Beach Haven, The Cove-Hazlet, Dr.Gimpi's-Atlantic Highlands), however these dates have yet to be nailed down as of press time. Remember, you can always stay in touch and get gig updates through the hotline: (908) 906-9891. With any luck, the CD will be finished by Christmas. Expect an early '98 release with an all out van tour of the Northeast in the Spring.

### ***Live in N.Y.C.* almost sold out**

There are only a few copies of the CD left. If you've been waiting to buy one because you know you can always pick one up at my shows, that window of opportunity is closing! Once they're gone it's doubtful I will do another pressing. CD's can be ordered by calling (800) 641-8995 or by sending a check for \$10 to MM, PO Box 141, Edison, NJ, 08818-0141.

### **The raves keep coming!**

Live In NYC is a studio-quality live recording of the singer/songwriter/acoustic guitarist. His insistent, emotional vocals are of the caliber of the defining acoustic artists from a generation earlier. At home in a coffee shop, at an outdoor festival, or performing for a black tie crowd at a classical venue, Michael's talent is real and his songs are convincingly heart-felt.

The Renegade, Feb. 1997

## Fan appreciation gig update

First, I would like to thank everybody for all your support over the past year. from club owners to DJ's and especially the fans, your appreciation for my music is what keeps me going. (Special thanks to the TKE's at UCONN for giving me a place to stay and showing me a good time!) To express my gratitude, I've been trying to put together some fan appreciation concerts where there would be no cover charge, free beer, and an opportunity to hear some new songs as well as a great

hard pop band and fellow musical allies, Fickle Musheads. "Got my friends and ice cold beers, my favorite songs ringing in my ears..." The first idea was to have it at a NYC club. Unfortunately, even though I have offered to play for free and pay for beer, I have yet to sell the idea to any club owners. (Fools!) The second idea is to have an outdoor concert/keg party (must be 21 or over to drink)/barbeque/jam session at my summer rental in Long Beach Island. This could still

be a viable plan provided my neighbors are up for it (who cares?), my housemates are up for it (they will be persuaded), and the police will grant some permit that I'm sure is necessary for this kind of thing (who cares?). I welcome any other ideas you may have; please call the hotline with any suggestions. Rest assured, I'm trying very hard to make something happen. Watch your mail for invitations. Tentative date is Sat. July 12th. Trust me - it will be worth the trip.

Until next time, here's hoping every day is a "Good Day To Be Alive"

Peace and love,

---

THE

# PERSPECTIVE

---

Newsletter and Tour Schedule for Michael Massimo

---

Vol. 1

"All The News I See Fit To Print"

No. 2

---

## MASSIMO MISSING: PRESUMED CUTTING AN ALBUM

Just a few more days and I am Florida bound. Along with getting a killer tan and a killer buzz this summer I've got a bunch of great new tunes written for this next album. I can't wait to record it!

Expect some surprises and prepare for some tunes to actually rock. The album is loosely based on the concept of time and hearing it from beginning to end should make for a nice musical journey. Tentative song list is as follows: *Too Much Fun* - a rock dialogue with the Devil, *Lucky* - story song about a gambler and the horse he bets on,

*Asylum* - NYC cynicism, *Come Out and Play* - love song (one of only two!), *Precious Seconds* - angry rock in  $\frac{9}{4}$  time, *Forever* - a philosophical jam, *Back To The Wood* - story song with a nature theme, *Something To Find* - love song, *Touch The Sky* - story song about flight and recovery from loss, *Good Day To Be Alive* - a happy, feel good tune. You can get a sneak preview of some of these songs Thursday Sept. 4 at Downtime (see below).

I plan to return home around Christmastime and have a listening party sometime in

January(?) (see below). A four part tour will start around March with each leg of the tour taking me to different parts of the Mid-Atlantic region. I'll focus on central Jersey and NYC first, then Philly/Jersey Shore, down into Delaware, through D.C./Baltimore, into CT/RI/Boston and finally from Albany downward to the lower Hudson Valley (Whew!) If anyone has any tips on venues/radio in these areas, please call.

The album will be serviced to radio stations in these markets about a month before I arrive there to do shows. For showcas-

es in major cities I will finally have a band behind me as so many of you have suggested in the past. To all you musicians out there, I'll be holding auditions for band members when I get back. Needed: drummer, percussionist, bassist, lead guitarist, backup singers. Those that suck need not apply.

That's all for now. Next year promises to be the best one yet. Keep in touch through the Hotline (908-906-9891), I always check it and I would love to hear from you. Enjoy your winter - I'll have a gin and tonic for you on the beach. See you in '98!

### Fan issued summons for playing "N.Y.C."

POTTSTOWN, PA - Mr. Andrew Diem of High St. was pulled over less than a block away from his home by Officer Fritz of the Pottstown Police Dept. who cited a vague noise violation as the cause for the stop.

Diem had been listening to "Music" in his Jeep with the top down. (How much noise could a solo acoustic album possibly make?) When he asked the officer to cite the violation he was being charged with (a basic right for every U.S. citizen), the officer asked for Diem's Social Security number (what did he need that for?). When Diem refused to give the number, the officer threatened him with jail (!) and called two more police cars (the whole force!) to the scene evidently as reinforcements against such a dangerous criminal. Together the cops were able to successfully negotiate the Pottstown Law Code Book and write a ticket. Ten days later, Mr. Diem appeared before Judge Joseph Paladino to enter his plea of not guilty.

At a later trial date, the officer blatantly lied on the stand about the volume of the stereo and the direction the car was traveling. Miraculously, the charge was dismissed! Also a sport ute owner, the judge was sympathetic to the fact that louder volume is required on the road with a soft top vehicle. Rock on, Judge!

**THURSDAY SEPT. 4th  
8:00PM**

**CD SNEAK PEEK!**

Hear the new songs before they're recorded and have a drink with me before I go!

**DOWNTIME**  
251 W.30th St., NYC  
(212) 695-2747

### Complications force fan ap. gig cancellation

I tried. BELIEVE me. It was a good idea on paper and I will find a way to get it done. I really want to do something nice for you guys. However, this time I could not fly my proposal past the Ship Bottom town council. Nor was I able to get the necessary signatures from my neighbors on a peti-

tion that was required by law. Not to mention the hassles of carding people to prevent the legal implications of underage drunks (not every one on my list is 21). And, noise violations on LBI are *expensive*. Hundreds of dollars.

If I'm going to have a party, I'm going to have a

PARTY. Not some lame, toned down version of a party approved by THE MAN. I decided to put my time/energy/\$ into writing/recording great songs for this next album. My apologies. Next bright idea: a listening party for the new CD in Jan. before it's release.

---

THE

# PERSPECTIVE

---

Newsletter and Tour Schedule for Michael Massimo

---

Vol. 2

"All The News I See Fit To Print"

No. 1

---

## MASSIMO RETURNS HOME New Album Nears Completion

"Where's the new album?", you ask. "When's it coming out?" "Why is it taking so long?" "What's up with the band?" "Wasn't that you I saw on the corner with a squeegee babbling to yourself?"

First let me say it's

good to be back home again and welcome to all of you new to my newsletter; glad to have you aboard. I have survived numerous storms/floods, mountain biking accidents (old women and minivans don't mix), parrot attacks, computer seizures, and various

automotive catastrophes to record this album, but it's finally done. The recording, that is. Now there's mixing, mastering, designing the insert, forming a band etc., etc., etc. Seriously, it's enough to make someone take up a safer, less stressful career like profes-

sional cliff diving or lion taming. Maybe I'll join the bomb squad. "Delays, delays; you're killing days..." Anyway, expect a *Precious Seconds* CD release party sometime in June. Watch your mail for invitations. In the meantime...

### **Upcoming Appearances (All dates subject to change, Call venue to confirm. Visit [concerts.calendar.com](http://concerts.calendar.com) for updates) :**

**Friday April 17, 5pm - WBZC 88.9 on-air interview** Pemberton, NJ (609) 894-8900 studio line

**Saturday April 18, 8pm - Music Among Friends Cfehse,** Shannon Lounge, 106 1st St., Hoboken, NJ (201) 659-6300

**Saturday April 25, 9pm - Cappuccino's** Colonial Village, Rt.27 & Parsonage Rd., Edison, NJ (732) 632-6400

**Monday April 27, 9pm - Triumph Brewery** 138 Nassau St., Princeton, NJ (609) 924-7855

**THURSDAY APRIL 30, 8:30pm - DOWNTIME** 251 W.30th St., NY, NY (212) 695-2747

**Friday May 1, 10pm - Drew University** The Other End, Madison, NJ (973) 408-3747

**Sunday May 3, 4:30pm - Burlington County College** WBZC FunFest - Stage 3, Pemberton, NJ (609) 894-9311

**Wednesday May 6, 10pm - SUNY at Stony Brook** The Spot, Stony Book, NY (516) 632-6770

**Saturday May 16, 9pm - Cappuccino's** Colonial Village, Rt.27 & Parsonage Rd., Edison, NJ (732) 632-6400

**Saturday June 6, 8pm - Greene's Beans** 313 High St., Hacketstown, NJ (908) 979-0022

**Saturday June 20, 8pm - Barnes & Noble** 1805 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA (215) 665-0716

### **Orlando Observations**

It's true what they say, "There's no place like New York", and there isn't. All of Orlando seems about as big as Greenwich Village. Yes, the weather is nice, but it's like living in one big retirement home. Anything you attempt to do becomes an exercise in patience. Life is pretty boring there, but beer is cheap. Tiny lizards are everywhere.

There's an anti-Yankee, redneck, Joe Shotgun, Johnny Pickup Truck quality woven into everything that I found a little unnerving with signs like "WE DON'T CARE HOW THEY DO IT UP NORTH" posted behind the bar. Otherwise, the nightlife is good. The warm weather ensures women aren't too heavily dressed.

Attended an acoustic

showcase at the city's best venue, the Sapphire. Met Janis Ian when she played there. Local musicians were very supportive ("Hi" Von Ra, Roger Docking, Tribe). Gigging in the area was cool ("Hi" everyone at Scruffy Murphy's), not as high pressure (a lot of people are from out of town and on vacation).

The abundance of pawnshops adds an air of desperation to the place. Seeing the shuttle lift off first hand was awe-inspiring. Drove my car on the beach in Daytona. Now *that's* a town. Even when it's not Spring Break season. You always feel like you're on the set of Baywatch. But I digress. Orlando was a nice place to visit, but my home is here in the Garden State.

### **Let's Get Digital**

I now have an outpost on the net - [Mmassimo@aol.com](mailto:Mmassimo@aol.com). I invite you all to email me and let me know what your addresses are. While I will still send the PERSPECTIVE via snail mail, those of you with a computer can get it in electronic form.

Also, all my latest concert information is now listed on [MusiCal, concerts.calendar.com](http://MusiCal.concerts.calendar.com) (no www). As always, you can still get gig info on the MM Hotline (new area code) 732-906-9891. Either way, please keep in touch. I'd love to hear from you.

Me at Disneyworld

**Hotline: (732) 906-9891 Email: [Mmassimo@aol.com](mailto:Mmassimo@aol.com) Gigs: [concerts.calendar.com](http://concerts.calendar.com)**

**Address: P.O. Box 141, Edison, NJ 08818-0141**

Michael Massimo uses **D'Addario** strings exclusively

---

THE

# PERSPECTIVE

---

Newsletter and Tour Schedule for Michael Massimo

---

Vol. 2

"All The News I See Fit To Print"

No. 2

---

## NEW ALBUM COMPLETE!! RELEASE DATE SET!!

I've been waiting to print those words for over a year now. It's true; the CD is actually done!! Shipped to the plant this week. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW:** The CD release party will be on FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 8:00PM at DOWNTIME, 251 W.30th St. (@ 8th Ave.), NYC (Easy to get to from anywhere in the tri-state area; just 1 block from Penn Station.) The cover charge will be \$15. I know you're think-

ing that's kind of steep but here's what you'll get: a *Precious Seconds* CD (9 songs, 16pg color booklet with lyrics, and autographed), a one hour plus show of Massimo favorites old and new supported by my new band The Characters, drink specials (it is Friday after all), T-shirt giveaways, a snack treat on every table, and the ambiance of the newly renovated Downtime (complete with a brand new 3rd floor -

The Midtown Lounge).

Not a bad deal when you think about it. Why December you say? Truthfully, I need all the time in between to further ready the band and advertise the show. Expect radio and retail to receive it a bit earlier. Credit card orders will likely be handled through IUMA (1-800-850-IUMA, [www.Massimo.iuma.com](http://www.Massimo.iuma.com) - not up yet).

In the future, watch for a few college

shows (Rutgers, Villanova, Sacred Heart, Lehigh, College of NJ, Drew, Fairleigh Dickinson, Monmouth), showcase slots at the Philadelphia Music Conference and N.E. Folk Alliance (hopefully!), a listing on the Billboard Talent Net, more advertising than anyone can stand, and a show opening for Cliff Eberhardt in CT next year. "I'm just getting warmed up!" - A.Pacino

**Thursday October 1, 9pm - Cryan's**, Metuchen, NJ (732) 549-2040  
**Fri. Oct. 2, 9:30pm - Tumulty's**, New Brunswick, NJ (732) 545-6205  
**Sun. Oct. 4, 1:45pm-Burlington Cnty Col.**, Mt.Holly,NJ (609) 894-9311  
**Wednesday October 7, 8pm- Dark Star Lounge Songwriter's Circle**  
158 W.72nd St., NYC (212) 362-2590  
**Wed. Oct. 14, 8pm - George's 5th St. Cafe**, Philadelphia, PA (215) 925-3500  
**Friday October 16, 9pm - Cappuccino's**, Edison, NJ (732) 632-6400  
**Saturday October 17, 8pm - Eureka Joe**  
168 5th Ave. @ 22nd St., NYC (212) 741-7500

**Fri. Oct. 23, 9:30pm - Tumulty's**, New Brunswick, NJ (732) 545-6205  
**Saturday October 24, 8pm - Borders**, Bridgewater, NJ (908) 231-0111  
**Tuesday October 27, 8pm - North Star**, Philadelphia, PA (215) 235-7827  
**Friday Nov. 6, 8pm - Borders**, East Brunswick, NJ (732) 238-7000  
**Saturday Nov. 7, 9pm - Cappuccino's**, Edison, NJ (732) 632-6400  
**Thursday Nov. 19, 8pm - Villanova Univ.**, Villanova, PA (610) 519-7211  
**Thurs. Nov. 21, 8pm-Barnes & Noble**, Philadelphia, PA (215) 665-0716  
**Sunday November 29, 3pm - Borders**, Princeton, NJ (609) 514-0040

And now another episode of...

## GIGS FROM HELL! or How Not To Tour!

And now in the interest of taking you all along for the ride (bumpy as it may be), surf the learning curve with me as I recount a tale of the not-so-glamorous side of touring:

It's fall 1996. "Live in N.Y.C." has been selling well. It's even enjoying some moderate airplay, especially on some CT stations. I figure it's time to take to the road, to the towns where it's gaining ground to see if I can spark some more interest with my live show. Settling on the New Haven area, I poll the local radio stations for a list of good clubs to play. Along with the obvious (Toad's Place - I can't get in) I am told about a relatively new establishment in town called Barbakan. Although I was able to obtain no more information about this place (amazingly no one else in town had ever heard of it) I book a show there anyway (duh!). Being the diligent PR person that I am, I forward my press kit to the local paper for whatever exposure they can afford me.

Upon my arrival in New Haven, I check into my hotel and pick up a copy

of said paper. I am described as "strained, urgent and gurgly(?!)...His dogmatic acoustic playing is strongly strummy...No shortage of longing plaintive wails. Massimo assails the masses Oct. 4 at Barbakan." Joy. That should bring the people out in droves. Undaunted, I soldier on to the gig convinced I can "assail the masses" successfully. I'm much better in person, I think. I'm sure they'll like me if they just get to know me.

Difficult to find, in a horrid section of town, Barbakan is immediately recognizable as one of those clubs that's simply in a bad location. The kind of place that changes hands every six months as previous owners flee from the scene, wondering what the hell they were thinking when they opened the place while imagining ways their latest business failure can be described as a tax write-off.

Once inside, I notice the distinct sound of techno dance music filtering in from upstairs. I let it go for now but surely this is not a good sign for a per-

former whose main goal is to move people internally rather than getting butts to boogie. I set up my gear and turn to face the crowd which consists of.... no one. Not even the bartender. I decide to investigate the sounds of funkiness upstairs.

I discover a scene not to be believed, very Sodom and Gormorah-like. More like Studio 54 than the Bottom Line. Much dancing, yes, but also women writhing in cages and many looks from around the room that say "Who invited Garth Brooks over there?". Oh well. Back downstairs to do what I came to do.

After a few minutes of performing, two ladies from upstairs who've come down to investigate this foreign sound of an acoustic guitar ask if I could do something with some *soul*. Thinking on my feet, I suggest something by the Black Crows (figuring that's about as close as I'll get to sounding like soul). Remarkably they misinterpret my suggestion as a racial slur, thinking I'm calling them a couple of black crows!

Sensing an increasing air of hostility in the room, I decide to bail, certain that God is laughing his ass off somewhere.

While packing up, I am approached by a man whom I'd not seen earlier but who was there the entire time. He said he enjoyed my music very much, even bought a CD and signed my mailing list. He offered to buy me a drink at one of the better establishments nearby. I graciously accepted.

Over the course of a few brews, I received an invaluable education on the acoustic scene in the area, from radio and retail to better clubs to play in town. But soon he had to leave and though I do not remember the man's name I will never forget the hospitality he showed me. Thank you wherever you are.

Of the many lessons in this story (including "Do more research before you leave the house") the best one is this: the precious seconds like the kind that man spent with me are what inspire me to keep doing what I'm doing.

Angels are in disguise all around us.

---

**PO Box 141, Edison, NJ 08818-0141 Hotline: (732) 906-9891 Mmassimo@aol.com**  
**For the latest gig info visit [concerts.calendar.com](http://concerts.calendar.com) or [tourdates.com](http://tourdates.com)**

---

# THE PERSPECTIVE

Newsletter and Tour Schedule for MICHAEL MASSIMO

Vol. 3

"All The News I See Fit To Print"

No. 1

## BAND DEBUTS AT CD RELEASE PARTY

With over 100 people in attendance, the CD release party was a huge success! I would even consider it historic (for me anyway). Thanks sooooo much to all who came! Let me say that again because it's worth repeating: THANK YOU!!! The band (Lane Myers-elec. guitar, Jack Glassman-bass, Joel Layton-drums, Adam Mazza-congas, Andrew Diem-bg vocals/aux. percussion) really kicked ass and gave fresh interpretations to the new songs as well as breathing life into tunes from the first album. People even danced! Those that stuck around for the late night set were treated to some modern rock covers by STP, Foo Fighters and Jane's Addiction. But why don't you hear about it from someone else besides me. Here's a colorful, eyewitness account as told by longtime fan, Chris Sheppard:

Like a poisoned monkey, I tilt back a 40 ounce with my homeboy from Jersey. Ye Olde Rock Show Beckons. "Hot Dogs! Get your hot dogs!" No thanks, man, got to get to the Rock Show. My man Massimo has been bustin' his arse to put this thing together for months, man! Got to be on my way, Mr. Eddie Vendor! The wind blows as cold as a witch's teet but that won't keep me from my Rock Show! This is what it's all about. The CD Release gig. And I say to myself, "Do the people understand what it takes to get to this point?" All the late nights of drunken frustrations, ripping open the manic musical soul, creating the art not just for yourself but maybe to help make other people's lives better and spread understanding and good in this world. We need it! As John Lennon so aptly wrote, "You

laid it down for all to see." Watch out!

The big man at the door took my money, gave me my disc and I was quickly off to the bar. 2\$ drafts really make me move! Get out the way! Man you've got to love the electric atmosphere, pre Rock Show. People anxious to hear the new tunes, drink up and forget about our harried lives for a couple hours. There were many Massimo fans in the joint and it was good to see everyone there to support our boy - feel good for him on his night because we all know how much of himself he gives up to make this happen for our enjoyment! Massimo fans appreciate the passion. They are passionate people themselves.

Then the sonic waves poured off the stage and the people were

impressed! The new stuff was powerful and moving and spiritual; the older songs were born again. The crowd rejoiced because Massimo was rocking us hard and we said "yeah this shit is great, it's all worth it and damn I hope he makes it, I need another beer because I feel my feet moving and my soul stirring, looking at the expressions on the faces, feeling, thinking 'wow', so many beautiful girls in the house and the celebration of potent Massimo music is making everyone happy!"

Next band gig: Feb. 26th, 9:30pm at the Bitter End (see below) Both CD's (as well as *Precious Seconds* t-shirts!) can be ordered by calling (800) 850-IUMA or by visiting Massimo.iuma.com (Should be up by the time you read this).

### Sat. 1/16 - 12th Note Coffeehouse

United Methodist Church, 2600 Main St., Stratford, CT  
203-375-5851 *Opening for Cliff Eberhardt!*

Sat. 1/23 - Cafe Seattle Haddonfield, NJ 609-354-2220

Fri. 1/29 - O'Neals Pub Philadelphia, PA 215-574-9495

Sat. 1/30 - Borders Bridgewater, NJ 908-231-0111

Sat. 2/6 - Borders Princeton, NJ 609-514-0040

Thurs. 2/11 - Rutgers College (tent.) , New Brunswick, NJ

Sat. 2/13 - Cappuccino's Edison, NJ 732-632-6400

Fri. 2/19 - Borders Wayne, NJ 973-785-0037

Sat. 2/20 - Cafe Seattle

Tues. 2/23 - North Star Bar Philadelphia, PA 215-235-7827

All dates subject to change. Call to confirm.

### FRI. FEB. 26 - BITTER END (w/band)

147 Bleecker St., NYC 212-673-7030

Sat. 3/6 - Eureka Joe 168 5th Ave., NYC 212-741-7500

Sat. 3/20 - Cappuccino's

Thurs. 3/25 - Lehigh College Bethlehem, PA

Wed. 4/7 - Dark Star Songwriter's Circle

158 W.72nd St., NYC 212-362-2590

Sat. 4/10 - Cappuccino's

Fri. 4/16 - Barnes & Noble Hoboken, NJ 201-653-1165

Wed. 4/21 - Wagner College Staten Island, NY

Wed. 5/12 - Bucks Cnty Coffee Co. Princeton, NJ 609-497-6877

For the latest dates visit [concerts.calendar.com](http://concerts.calendar.com) or [www.tourdates.com](http://www.tourdates.com)

## Band To Play Bitter End

Those of you who missed the band at Downtime will have another opportunity to see this ever-better group at one of the Village's best venues, The Bitter End. Yes, The Bitter End, stepping stone to some of the biggest names in the business, place where the bulk of "Live In N.Y.C." was recorded will host me and the band on FRIDAY FEBRUARY 26th at 9:30pm (sharp!). Expect to hear some brand new, post-album stuff as well as some "hits".

Very important gig. Finally performing not as a solo acoustic opener but as featured band act. Last time I brought 8 people - very embarrassing. Promises have been made. I hope I can count on your continued support through 1999 as things get bigger and better. Remember without you, the fans, I'm nothing. We are becoming quite a force. Let's work together for the betterment of musickind. Independent music is alive and well and living in NJ!

1999 looks to be one of the most exciting years yet! As you might expect, things are kicking into high gear in support of the new album. Aside from complete and total world domination (I watch too much *Pinky and The Brain*) plans for the year will center around "getting the word out" in stores, on radio and in the press. Sure *you* know who I am, but there are so many others who don't and how can we deny them the rambling repartee of these newsletters? Doing this myself would prob-

ably kill me and, as enticing as that sounds, who would feed my fish? To this end I'm trying to work out some kind of distribution deal and plan on hiring a radio promoter as well as a public relations person.

Also, I plan to cultivate an ever-increasing web presence through several CD sites as well as setting up an official site of my own. All of this means you will hopefully hear about me from someplace else besides here. Expect on-air appearances, in-store shows and a severe tour

schedule. A spring trip to Boston is planned as well as the usual "summer concert series" in Long Beach Island. The band will showcase every couple of months in NYC, and in NJ and Philly on alternate months.

Through all of this I'm going to try and write more (I say this in print so I'll feel guilty when I'm not writing. Bug me about it when you see me next). I've already finished some songs for the *next* album. Meanwhile, I'm going to "party like it's...." 1989.

**Email:** [Mmassimo@aol.com](mailto:Mmassimo@aol.com) **CDs:** (800) 850-IUMA, [Massimo.iuma.com](http://Massimo.iuma.com) **Hotline:** (732) 906-9891

# PERSPECTIVE

Newsletter and Tour Schedule for Michael Massimo

Vol. 3

"All The News I See Fit To Print"

No. 2

## PRECIOUS SECONDS GETS AIRPLAY MASSIMO WEBSITE LAUNCHED

"Hello. Yeah, it's been a while. Not much. How 'bout you?" (70's music trivia quiz: Who's the artist/song?) Well, there it is. The list of stations currently playing Precious Seconds as of press time. If anyone actually witnesses a station spinning a cut from the album, please let me know. Maybe they're all lying to me. To get your favorite song played and hear for yourself, give 'em a call. I'll let you know about new stations as they happen. Of course all this airplay means I'll be inviting myself over to some of these stations for a visit. Watch for on-air appearances in your area.

And yes, the website is finally done: [www.michaelmassimo.com](http://www.michaelmassimo.com). Where to go for all things Massimo. Link directly to Musi-Cal for the latest show info, or to any of four CD websites where you can get stuff and hear samples. There's even a listener survey so you can tell me what you really think (be gentle).

WECS 90.1	Wilmantic CT	(860)465-5354	WKDT 89.3	West PointNY	(914)938-2127
WMNR 88.1	Monroe CT	(203)268-9667	WLIU 88.3	SthamptonNY	(516)287-8289
WVOF 88.5	GreensFallCT	(203)254-1253	WNYK 88.7	Nyack NY	(914)358-1710
WWUH 91.3	W.HartfordCT	(860)768-4701	WPNR 90.7	Utica NY	(315)792-3069
WDTS 620AM	GeorgetwnDE	(302)856-5400	WRHU 88.7	HempsteadNY	(516)463-5105
WVUD 91.3	Newark DE	(302)831-2701	WRPI 91.5	Troy NY	(518)276-6248
WBIM 91.5	Bridgewtr MA	(508)697-1366	WRUR 88.5	RochesterNY	(716)275-9787
WBRS 100.1	Waltham MA	(781)736-5277	WSIA 88.9	StatenIslndNY	(718)982-3057
WTCC 90.7	SpringfieldMA	(413)781-6628	WSPN 91.1	SaratogaSpNY	(518)580-5787
WRBB 104.9	Boston MA	(617)373-4339	WVBR 90.3	Ithica NY	(607)273-4000
WMBR 88.1	CambridgeMA	(617)253-7777	WJFF 90.5	JeffersvilleNY	(914)482-4141
WHSR 530AM	Baltimore MD	(410)516-3884	WNYO 88.9	Oswego NY	(315)341-2101
WERU 89.9	E. Orland ME	(207)469-3088	WRUB 770AM	Amherst NY	(716)645-3370
WMEB 91.9	Orono ME	(207)872-3686	WCVF 88.9	Fredonia NY	(716)673-3420
WMHB 90.5	Waterville ME	(207)872-3686	WCWP 88.1	Brookville NY	(516)299-2683
WNCW 88.7	Spindale NC	(828)287-8000	WDCV 88.3	Carlisle PA	(717)245-1661
WZMB 91.3	GreenvilleNC	(252)328-4783	WFNM 89.1	Lancaster PA	(717)291-4098
WZMB 91.3	GreenvilleNC	(252)328-4783	WIXQ 91.7	MillersvillePA	(717)872-3333
WCPE 91.1	Cranford NJ	(908)709-7464	WMUH 91.7	Allentown PA	(610)821-3239
WFDU 89.1	Teaneck NJ	(201)692-2013	WRSK 88.1	SlipperyRckPA	(724)738-2931
WGKR 540AM	Jersey CityNJ	(201)200-3556	WIUP 90.1	Indiana PA	(724)357-7971
WLFR 91.7	Pomona NJ	(609)652-4780	WLHU 90.3	Lock HavenPA	(570)893-2523
WNTI 91.9	HackettstownNJ	(908)852-4545	WQHS 730AM	PhiladelphiaPA	(215)898-9553
WRNU 610AM	Newark NJ	(973)353-5187	WRKU 640AM	Kutztown PA	(610)683-4059
WBZC 88.9	PembertonNJ	(609)894-9311	WSYC 88.7	ShipensbrgPA	(717)532-6006
WGLS 89.7	GlassboroNJ	(609)256-4319	WXVU 89.1	Villanova PA	(610)519-7200
WBAR 87.9	New York NY	(212)854-6538	WHRV 89.5	Norfolk VA	(757)889-9401
WBCR 590AM	Brooklyn NY	(718)859-6314	WVCW 105.3	RichmondVA	(804)828-1057
WHRW 90.5	BinghamtonNY	(607)777-2139	WGDR 91.1	Plainfield VT	(802)454-7762
			WRUV 90.1	BurlingtonVT	(802)656-0796

More stations being added weekly. Email me if you'd like to be updated.

In other news, a review of the new CD can be found in the latest edition of the online music magazine, *rantrrave*. Just go to [www.rantrrave.org](http://www.rantrrave.org) or wait for the

email version of this letter and click on the link. And soon *Precious Seconds* will be available in stores all across the Northeast. (Which also means in-store

performances; I will, of course, keep you in the loop.)

And by the way, the song quoted above is "I'd Really Love To See You

Tonight" by England Dan and John Ford Coley. If anyone wants to play "70's music trivia" email me your questions. The first person to stump me gets a free t-shirt.

### HOW TO MAKE A PRECIOUS SECONDS CLOCK

I'm sure by now you've seen the images of broken clocks in the artwork of the new CD. What you may not know is these clocks still work! And the way they tell time is deceiving, the hands will always be in the right place but the numbers are shifted so that certain hours seem to be longer than others. Makes a great bar clock, an interesting trick to play on your drunk friends or on yourself if you're not really paying attention. And should you desire one for your very own, it's very easy to make one.

You will need: a very basic wall clock, scissors, tape, Crazy Glue. 1) remove the clear face plate and discard, 2) pull clock hands, clock

mechanism, and number plate off clock frame, 3) you should be left with one solitary piece of plastic - break it into 4-5 pieces, 4) cut the number plate to match the size & position of the pieces - back tape in place, 6) one piece at a time glue the clock pieces and mechanism together keeping in mind the hands have to rotate freely when they're stuck back on, 7) put hands back on, insert battery. Some bending of the hands may be necessary to clear clock shards & other hands (second hand may have to be sacrificed). There you have it. A new way to waste time.

### REVIEWS

#### Dec.'98 Songwriter's Monthly

Michael has stumbled upon brilliance with his latest album. His incredible attention to song details have made this album laced with an abundance of exciting musical moments and passages. He has questioned every note for its appropriateness in serving the song and as a result has ended up with an album where nothing is in excess and nothing is missing.

From the jagged guitar hooks and syncopated rhythms that snare you on the title track, to the solid story in tracks like "Lucky" and "Touch The Sky" that captivate your attention, this is a fulfill-

ing album. This could be the album that takes him to the next level. Savor it.

- Allen Foster

Also check out the full interview in the same issue. (For a back issue or subscriptions call 800-574-2986).

Don't forget:

**BITTER END**  
**MAY 14th, 9:00**  
**BE THERE!**

Email: [Mmassimo@aol.com](mailto:Mmassimo@aol.com) CDs: call (800) 850-IUMA or visit website Hotline: (732) 906-9891

Upcoming Shows: [www.Musi-Cal.com](http://www.Musi-Cal.com) WEBSITE: [WWW.MICHAELMASSIMO.COM](http://WWW.MICHAELMASSIMO.COM)

Winter  
2002

# THE RIDE

0 sense

Newsletter and Tour Schedule for Michael Massimo

"All The News I See Fit To Print"

## MASSIMO'S BACK! New Album - New Band - New Website

### BROTHER, WHERE YOU BEEN?

So maybe you didn't notice I was gone. Maybe you don't even know who I am or why you're even reading this. But if you got this newsletter, somewhere in your past we connected. Either you signed a mailing list after seeing a show (Todd's Theory or Massimo), bought a CD of mine someplace or met me in some bar where I was bound to start talking about music and you asked me to let you know when I'd be playing again. You know, the singer/songwriter you saw at some coffeehouse or bookstore, who couldn't decide whether he wanted to be James Taylor or Chris Cornell, pounding out songs on an acoustic that somehow just couldn't be loud enough, disturbing the people who came there just to read a book or just have a quiet meal, but entertaining the select few who really came to sit and listen to something new.

Yeah, I'll admit it; I tagged out for a while. But for the record let's call it "artistic growth" because that's kind of what happened. If something isn't working you need to find out why. Reevaluate motivations etc. You know, watch a lot of TV. So I took some time off. Spent some time relearning how to write a song, a good song. Joined a cover band singing Soundgarden, Rage Against The Machine kind of stuff and realized what I wanted to do all along was front my own rock band that played original songs I was proud of. Brand new stuff. Songs that incorporated all I'd learned, that I really wanted people to hear. And I simply wasn't going to play until I had exactly that no matter how long it took.

It only took three years.

### NEW ALBUM

To clarify, I've only written enough songs for a new album, called Reckoning, not recorded them (yet). It was hard getting back to writing at first after the time off. So I decided to just concentrate on lyrics first this time, forget all about being a musician and just try to be a poet. If I found I didn't have anything worthwhile to say, then I wouldn't say anything at all and I'd go back to watching TV. Turns out I had a lot to say I just needed to take some time to write it all down. (Sometimes writing is just about showing up with a pen and paper).

But whether these songs are released as a complete concept album or only come out as several demos or EP's depends on



## returning to the BITTER END

THURSDAY  
NOV.14th - 9:00PM

147 Bleecker St., NYC  
(212) 673-7030

money like everything else and I know it's hard to believe, but so far I haven't achieved the "rich" part of "rich and famous". Or the "famous" part either, for that matter. Is anyone feeling particularly charitable? I'd even give you Executive Producer credit on the album! You can tell everyone you work in the record business. It could really spice up your social life! Seriously, for someone willing to make a small investment, there's a lot of potential for something big. I have detailed plans for anyone that wants to know more.

But as I've always believed, art is nothing unless it's shared and that I plan to do in the way it means the most to me, live performance. Anyway, all future live shows of us playing the new songs will be available for download on the website ([www.michaelmassimo.com](http://www.michaelmassimo.com) - see below for more details).

### NEW BAND

This time around I've rounded up some very talented veterans from the NYC freelance musician scene. I'm very excited to be working with these guys.

#### Roger Sherman - drums:

(see [www.slamminggrooves.com](http://www.slamminggrooves.com)). Also the drummer from Todd's Theory): "Known far and wide as the player to have when you need serious groove and time, Roger was raised on a steady diet of the Meters, P-Funk, Led Zepplin, and salsa, which helped him develop the vocabulary and attitude to bring the funk, and then shift gears in an instant to flat out rock you. A veteran of the NYC freelance scene, Roger has been making a name for himself as a professional musician since he was 20 years old, with past gigs including touring the world with Carlos Hernandez, playing frenetic d-n-b rhythms with Jungle Gym, and the artistic noise jam band Hidden Agenda." And Roger being the freelance "cat" that he is has been nice enough to introduce me to two new players:

#### Jess Converse - elec. guitar:

"Playing in punk bands led Jess down the eastern seaboard from New Jersey to Florida before he began his studies at Berklee College of Music in Boston. While earning his BA Jess played extensively in the Boston and Providence scene before moving to NYC, then Europe in pursuit of various musical experiences. Now back in the states Jess has appeared in a series of SGI-USA events promoting world peace where he has performed regularly with Daryl Dixon (P-Funk,

(over)

Email: [Mmassimo@aol.com](mailto:Mmassimo@aol.com) Hotline: (732) 661-1941 WEBSITE: [WWW.MICHAELMASSIMO.COM](http://WWW.MICHAELMASSIMO.COM)

Michael Massimo uses D'Addario guitar strings exclusively.

[cont. from front page] Alicia Keys) and Steve Turay (SNL Band)".

**Dave Bokhour - bass:**

This guy is so in demand even I haven't met him yet, "Dave has been on one stage or another since age 10. His Mom always told him to play whatever he felt. Outside that nurturing environment he was expected to "do what bass players do" (play "in the pocket" and out of the way). After more than 20 years of reconciling these two outlooks, Dave's playing has become a unique blend of melody and groove. His goal is to create bass lines that stand on their own, yet support and drive the rest of the band, and the listener. He includes Larry Graham, Stanley Clarke and Danny Partridge among his major influences. Dave is also the co-founder of Free House Productions which specializes in sound design and original music for theatre and film. (Hey, I'm intrigued. Roger

says he's a "monster". That's jazzspeak for "obscenely talented". I can't wait to play with him).

**NEW WEBSITE**

I'm very excited to tell you all about the new website. I think it absolutely rocks. I haven't actually calculated, but it's got about 10 kermillion percent more content than the last version. (And that's a lot. Believe you me).

New improvements include: completely new design/bio/pics, numerous downloadable songs from albums and past performances, lyrics to all songs (including all the new stuff from *Reckoning* that's only being played live), a downloadable picture gallery of all my photography (including all album insert pics), links to over 100 radio stations (many of which are broadcasting live over the internet right now!), a direct mailing list/correspondence link, a diary of the Massimo music business day to day and the life that goes on around it

(The Flip Side), an archive of this and all previous newsletters and full reviews, a new feedback section and finally a list of fun links to go waste time at. Can you tell I'm excited? Do check it out, [www.michaelmassimo.com](http://www.michaelmassimo.com), and let me know what you think. A big 'thank you' to Doug Duhon for his expertise, patience and creativity in helping me bring my ideas to the computer screen.

**NO MORE MAILINGS?**

No more regular mailings that is. Only email updates from now on. The cost of mailing these newsletters simply can't compete with the lower cost (read: free) of sending email. While I may mail *The Ride* out quarterly at best, email is really the best way to stay updated on the latest news (That and the website, of course. Have I mentioned the website?).

You can use the link on the site to send me your email address or just drop a note to [Mmassimo@aol.com](mailto:Mmassimo@aol.com). Those that only know me from Todd's Theory that want to stay on this list should let me know because I won't be sending to the TT list again (I know I hate it when I start getting stuff from some band whose list I never signed). And I know some of your addresses may have changed since oh-so-long-ago but if you don't get this newsletter via email the week of the show, it's safe to say I don't have it anymore.

And I'd hate for you to lose touch now. Because I have a feeling this ride is gonna get good....

**THE BITTER END**  
**THURS. 11/14, 9:00 PM**  
**147 Ble ecker St., NYC**  
**(212) 673-7030**

[WWW.MICHAELMASSIMO.COM](http://WWW.MICHAELMASSIMO.COM)

Winter  
2004

# the **RIDE**

MASSIMO Newsletter

**SKYIDE**  
MUSIC  
PO Box 141  
Edison, NJ  
08818-0141

## 2 NEW CDs FROM MASSIMO

DUAL CD RELEASE 12/2, 9PM at THE BITTER END, NYC

### MUSIC AND THE TIME / SPACE CONTINUUM

or

#### How To Make Recording Five Songs Last Over A Year

We all know how long it's taken to get these CDs out to you – Far Too Long! You may be wondering "why?" Truth be told, nothing that came out of the studio that day in August was ever intended for release. In fact, you may recollect attempts to solicit funds in the hope of recording the full-length album, Reckoning. The only purpose that day to make a quick, down and dirty live demo just to give to clubs to book shows. But then came mixing.

Off to another studio to mix the project because they had more experience and equipment than the one we recorded at. And because Roger (Roger Sherman, our drummer for those of you new to the fold) said so. He's had a good track record (the only reason we didn't do the recording there, too was the lack of a place to record the drums). Roger knows this guy because he owns the house Roger was renting. Turns out, he's the perfect guy for the job (Grammy nominated, no less!) – I love it when a plan comes together.

Enter Perry Montaures. Aside from being an all around nice guy, he's got great ears, and skills when it comes to utilizing the latest technology to get what you want. No one anticipated that this live demo would start sounding as good as it eventually did. We began adding more and more tracks and soon it became clear this was something that should be shared with more than just a few people. And that's how we have the MASSIMO EP. Then another idea: "If he can make this live demo sound this good, I wonder what he can do with some of the live recordings that have accumulated over the years. For that matter, could he master stuff recorded previously to make it sound even better than when it originally did?" The answer was definitely "YES" and that's how the career retrospective CD, Now and Then, came to be.

But why did it take over a year? The short answer is available funds to finish the project; the long answer is a certain amount of perfectionism. There needed to be no compromising here. Not working on something indefinitely, just getting what you want, what you deserve, to be able to just put the CD in the player for someone and have to explain nothing, not cringe when certain parts come up. You'll notice the difference immediately; you can hear where all that time went.

But why just stop at a 5 song EP? Again \$ (remember this started out as 1 day in the studio to do a live demo – WAY over budget by now), but so much more than that – the sole purpose of this EP is just to generate fans, get people to shows, grow the mob, something short that new listeners could buy for cheap (just \$5!) at shows to get their friends into it and then bring them along next time. And something additional as a "thank you" for people who've been with us for a while. Mission accomplished. Finally.

### IF A CD FALLS IN THE FORREST AND NO ONE HEARS IT

When it comes to self-promotion, one person cannot do it all. Or actually the could if they were a well-connected PR person who does that for a living. Enter Rhonda Kelley of Rainmaker Publicity. There is so much excitement in the MASSIMO camp about this CD (it really showcases us at our best); we believe it will do what it needs to do for us and eventually get some labels to take notice.

But all this doesn't happen without publicity and people have only good things to say about Rhonda's ability to make waves. The great thing is she seems as excited about the CD as we are. She gets so many submissions that she really has to pick and choose what she likes so she can promote it with gusto. And her enthusiasm is contagious. For the next 6 months, she will be working a national campaign for us, getting the CD reviewed in significant publications and on the net, generally raising our profile. In short, Pinky, she will take us one step closer to total world domination!

### MASSIMO 5 SONG STUDIO EP

### NOW and THEN 14 SONG CAREER COMPILATION

### AND THE BAND PLAYED ON

So the band(s) you hear on the EP and/or the compilation will not be the band performing on 12/2. Sure, there have been several past lineups that you can hear on the website and on the compilation from a while back, but even as recent as the recording of the EP, things have changed. Seems things will be constantly changing, at least in the near future, and we need to come to grips with that. To wit, when we recorded the EP last August we had Dave Bokhour on bass and Jess Converse on elec., guitar (Roger is always the constant on drums). Shortly after the recording, it was decided Dave was cost prohibitive for as many shows as we wanted to play per month and while trying to find a replacement, Jess quit ("I don't want to play music anymore"). OK...

And so a period of inactivity began. I didn't want to perform at all unless we sounded like what we used to sound like; I didn't want to take a step backward. I didn't want to sell the music and our fans short (surely there were thousands of fans that would lament this scaling down of instrumentation!). So we didn't play. For a while.

Then Roger proposed the idea of doing a duo thing gig just to get some momentum back. I can't deny the fact that playing as a duo regained some of that feeling of moving forward. Soon other things began to fall into place. Again, through a Roger contact, we had a great guitar player join the fold. And he had a bassist he liked playing with that was looking for a project. And both of them rented a studio in Hoboken that doubled as a recording studio. Great! For a while anyway...

Then these same guys decided we should help pay rent for their rehearsal space. OK. And pay them, too (or at least realize they were doing us a favor by playing with us for free). NOT OK – we told them right from the start this was non-paying until we made any money from gigging. Then the bass player bailed: "this music isn't for me" (a rather sudden discovery after having played it for 2 months. Sorry every song wasn't a bass solo like you wanted. Pick a different instrument to learn next time). Well, at least the guitar player could surely see our potential: "Sorry, man. I'm not into it anymore." So he bails. With 4 gigs left on the calendar. Thanks. NOT AT ALL.

So it's back to Roger & me. Again. (As I'm taking delivery on CDs and paying a PR person to hype a show for a full band that doesn't exist). And so welcome back, Dave Bokhour. But we still need a guitar player, at least for the CD release. Enter JP Dougherty (another student of well-traveled professional freelance NJ guitarists Chris Buono (another friend of Roger's) as was the previous elec.guitar guy). He'll be on board at least for the CD release. Maybe for 1 gig a month in the future as well. We'll see what we can afford, how many CDs we sell along the way (the day job that previously provided the income to pay for everything uninvited me in June). More than likely, we'll do most gigs as a trio.

And there you have it, the current iteration of MASSIMO: Me & Roger as always, Dave Bokhour (who was in the band, than wasn't, now is again) on bass, and new guy JP Dougherty who we'll use as we can afford it. They'll be with us for the CD release at least. Musical chairs, folks. Musical chairs. That's the way it's going to be for a while. Eventually, they'll both get gigs that pay better and we'll need to find replacements again. Or we'll get huge first they'll have to stay on permanently. The only constant is Roger & I, continue to perform as a duo if it comes to that. Duo, trio, 4 pc – MASSIMO plays on. Rock and freakin' roll!!!

**MASSIMO**  
CD RELEASE  
PARTY  
12/2, 9PM @  
THE BITTER END  
NYC  
JUST GO, ALREADY!  
Don't make us have  
to tell you again!  
www.MassimoMusic.net