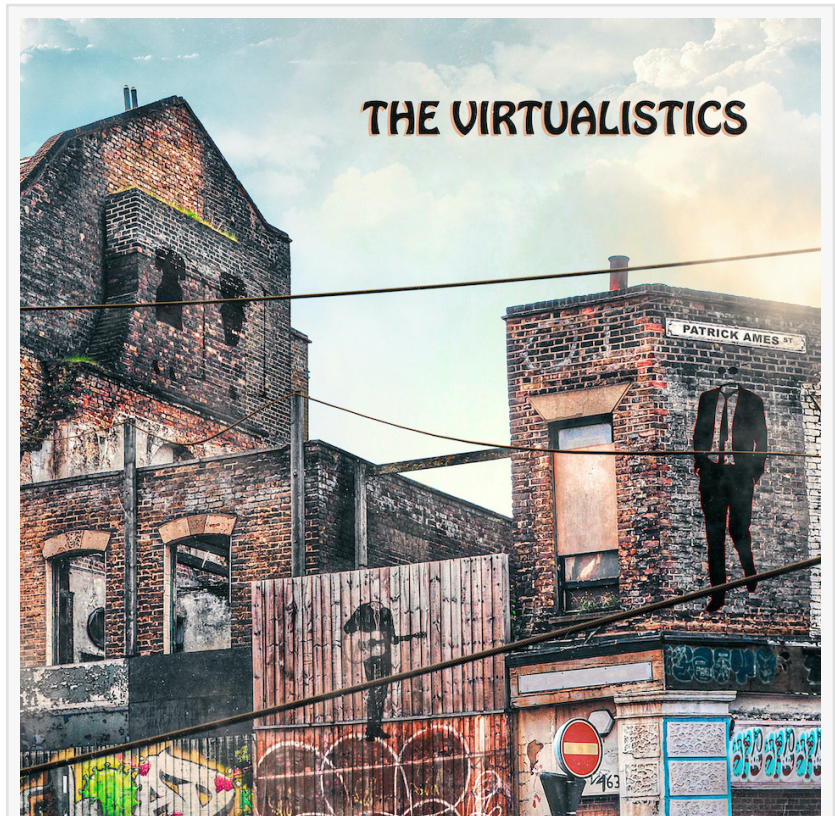


Patrick Ames Evolves Lyrically Potent Blues, Funk, Soul and Folk Sound on "The Virtualistics"

The acclaimed songwriter's new album features 8 songs written during the pandemic. Its release is accompanied by the official music video for "Help People Up".

NAPA VALLEY, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES, June 18, 2021

/EINPresswire.com/ -- Composer and writer [Patrick Ames](#) continues to evolve his lyrically potent signature cocktail of junkyard blues on the new LP, "[The Virtualistics](#)", released June 16th on music platforms. The album contains 8 songs written during the pandemic by the Napa Valley-based artist, each one hopeful and resilient in its own distinct way. The album title was inspired by the nature of the recording style; although Patrick Ames writes the music and lyrics, much of his collaborations with producer Jon Ireson and backup singers Chana Matthews and Mikaela Matthews, have been virtual.



Cover artwork for Patrick Ames - The Virtualistics (album)

From the pandemic-inspired post-punk of "Second Wave" and "Essential Workers" to the funk up gospel rock of "Help People Up" and "Reawakened 2020" to the spacious, philosophical "Great Bunch of Molecules" and the bluesy, fun energy of "Rubber and Glue", "Songwriter's Block" and "You Make Me Scream", Patrick Ames and The Virtualistics display a tenacious spirit throughout.

About "The Virtualistics":

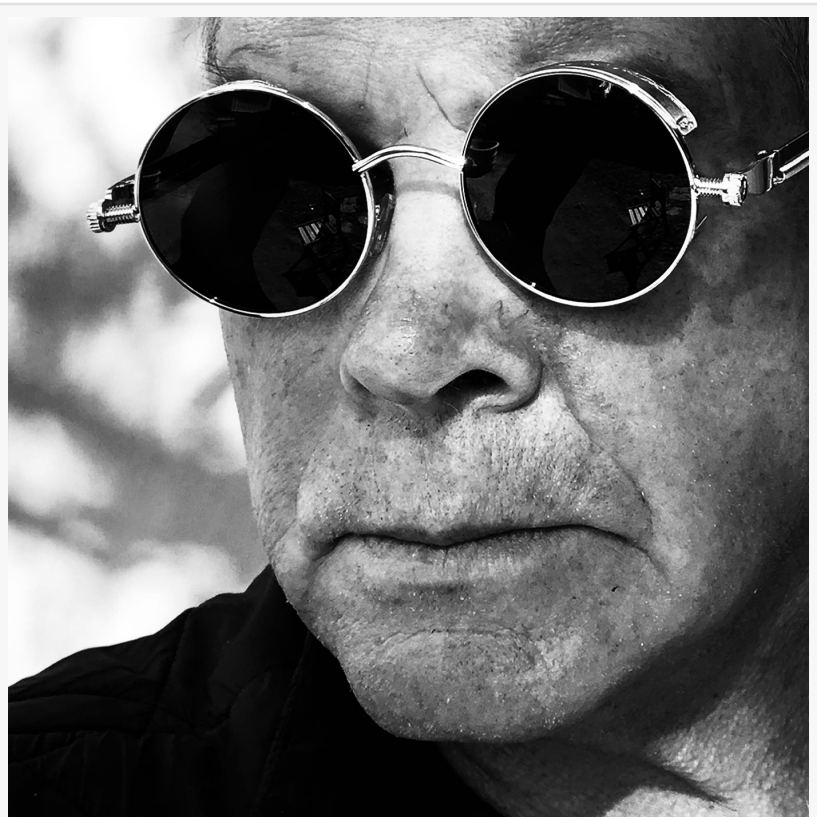
The Virtualistics. The band that never met. Remote collaboration is common but we never met during a difficult pandemic year. The four of us never practiced together. We didn't sing together

nor did we pre-plan the final sound. We were virtual entities, duly recording our tracks on various home devices and sending them in for assembly. Those famous photographs of The Virtualistics, studious musicians playing on stage, hard working in the studio, those tired looks of a fifth take, none of that happened. We never sang or played together.

Amazingly, it sounds like we were together, un-virtually, I guess is the word. It sounds like a 9-piece band that is funk'n' up the place even though we were half-depressed and struggled with work, virus, and bad politics. Half of the songs were released as singles mostly because I didn't want to be depressed and fed upon that new release excitement every few months.

It's been a year of virtual studio sessions that require large leaps of faith when you're contributing to a song that isn't finished yet and sounded like a sketch. It's like that group game where everyone adds one line to the preexisting story going around in a circle and by the time everyone speaks the story is unbelievably creative and interesting. Start with a few lyrics, add a riff or two, start weaving in counter melodies, add some phat beats – each song went around the Virtualistics circle a few times.

All these songs were recorded during the pandemic by The Virtualistics. - Patrick Ames



Patrick Ames as seen on his "Reawakened 2020" single cover art.



Jon Ireson, producer of "The Virtualistics" album and contributing musician.

Jon Ireson, Producer, says: Patrick

Ames and the Virtualistics

I mixed Patrick's last album (Liveness) at the beginning of 2020 and by May he had more new material ready to be molded. Although the lyrical themes all come from Patrick, it definitely helps that we are on the same page politically/philosophically. As the tumultuous events of 2020 unfolded, the songs he was sending me about racial and social justice, trust in science, and the hard work of affecting positive transformation in the public square were echoing my own thoughts in real time. When the world goes haywire, music is there to make sense of it.

Album opener and lead single "Help People Up" will have an official [music video](#) release on June 16. The video was created by Blue Cafe Music.

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