

PJ Shapiro's got new "puzzle-boxes" for the ear and soul

by Philomi

Local artist PJ Shapiro will be featured at Somerville's Sky Bar Singer Songwriter Series March 28th and again on May 30th (show starts 8pm). Shapiro is also scheduled to play April 19th at the Sixth Ball Pub in Maynard, Mass. He is currently at work on a new cd, due out in 2006, "give or take a few years."

This fan has witnessed Shapiro's well-crafted music with the artist's intricate live guitar handiwork at Roggie's in Brighton. The songs have lyrics interesting to absorb. Also, one does not need to strain to hear the well-chosen words, at times unexpected, due to Shapiro's smooth delivery and understated yet effective diction.

Shapiro has been described as "creating minimal, yet intricate puzzle-box lyrics, accompanied by solid rhythmic grooves and addictive



melodies." He has released two cds, *I Know What You're Made Of* in 2001 and an EP titled *approachavoidance* in 2000. Shapiro recorded with Zac Cataldo at Night Train Studios. Shapiro does a superior job with sound on Mondays at the legendary Geoff Bartley's open mic at the

Central Lounge in Central Square. Of Shapiro, Bartley has said: "PJ Shapiro's art-rock songwriting is lit-erate, multi-leveled, and poetic in the best sense of the word. He constructs unusual chord voicing and textures on his exotically tuned acoustic guitar and weaves to them ideas and language that penetrate the mind. His "I Know What You're Made Of," "Constant," "Millie Plays Pretend" and the newer "The Rift" are favorites of mine. The more I listen, the more I hear. His covers of "Murder by Numbers" and "The Ballad of Serenity" are also perennial crowd-pleasers. Plus, he rocks."

Shapiro's influences include Steely Dan, Timbuk 3, Jonatha Brooke, and XTC. For more information check out <http://www.pjshapiro.com/>



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