



Crazed and quirky, with a heart of gold—that was my impression of Buffalo-based, performer, Tom Stahl. I left the BFFM concert with his CD “Shut Up and Smell the Coffee” in hand, and have been mesmerized ever since.

Stahl, former stand-up comedian, still using humor as an integral part of his guitar performances, is also a singer, father, husband and full-time teacher’s aide in Orchard Park. Stahl’s wife, Lou, is a major force compelling him to become one of the most entertaining and talented performers in Western New York. She believed in him, even when he was plagued with self-doubt about his musical gift.

His musical education is summed up in the one month of piano lessons he took at age 14. From then on, Stahl was self-taught.

His music is a collage of life. Some humorous, some deeply moving, often chaotic, Stahl has captured the insanity of our existence, and somehow, made us smile.

A good Catholic boy in his youth, Stahl pondered the priesthood once or twice. It’s still evident, in his lyrics, that he is connected to a divine source.

Resisting all his leadings, he became a truck driver, after his return from an engagement at California’s Comedy Store. Divine intervention, in the form of back surgery to relieve his pain, pushed him to leave the agony of driving and pursue other paths. “I whined, but in the end, decided to start living for the moment and enjoying every step of the journey.

And thankfully, Stahl has followed Lou’s sage advice and devoted a great deal of time to his music. He has performed at the Baggot-Inn, in Greenwich Village, Columbia University, Kerrville Folk Festival and been the opening act for Joan Osborne (What if God Was One of Us?), to name a few.

Stahl’s music is like a day at the Knox. The abstract musings of Are We Moving; the impressionistic rendering of grief in Ode to Eddy; the realism found in Simpy Ignorant are typical of the works of art that line the walls of each CD.

“Are There Angels?” I am sure...and Tom and Lou Stahl are proof positive. Catch Stahl’s performance and see for yourself.