

# THE SUN

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## Sarcasm and folk: Tom Stahl and The Dangerfields return from hiatus

HAMBURG — Tom Stahl has been making music for 15 years. He and his band are collectively known as Tom Stahl and The Dangerfields. Due to conflicting schedules and busyness, it has been approximately seven years since the group released an album, but a new release is currently in the works.



Stahl, a Hamburg resident, moved to the Southtowns after he married his wife, Mary Lou Stahl, who is currently the assistant principal at Saint Francis High School.

**I DON'T GET NO RESPECT** - Local band Tom Stahl and The Dangerfields announced its upcoming album and a holiday concert that will take place in Buffalo. Pictured, from left: Gary Gorski, Mark Stahl, Gary Kowalski and Tom Stahl. Photo courtesy of Tom Stahl and The Dangerfields.

Tom Stahl is a singer/songwriter who plays mostly acoustic guitar, but will often play electric, while performing with his band. He picked up a guitar and began lyric writing approximately 15 years ago, when he was rehabilitating from back surgery.

“My wife thought I had a nice voice,” Stahl said, adding that he attended an open mic night at Nietzsche’s on Allen Street in Buffalo, after his wife encouraged him to perform for an audience. Afterward, Stahl was asked by Michael Meldrum, a Buffalo Music Hall of Fame member, if he would be interested in playing a show.

With only three songs under his belt, Stahl said he hammered out approximately 10 more tunes, to perform the set.

Stahl was playing solo until his band came to fruition. His brother, Mark Stahl, was a keyboard player and Tom Stahl’s friend, Gary Kowalski, was a drummer. They joined to form a band, followed soon after by their bassist, Gary Gorski.

At first, the band was known as the Tom Stahl Band. Stahl said that, after witnessing venues’ dropping the word “band” on their fliers and chalkboard ads, he said he chose to rename the group, so everyone would get credit.

“Dangerfields” derived from the Grammy Award©-winning comedian Rodney Dangerfield, who Stahl said is known for the catchphrase, “I don’t get no respect!” Stahl said he thought this was an appropriate homage and representation of his band members, “because they don’t get any respect.”

The group’s self-acclaimed genre is “folk rock with a side of sarcasm.” According to Stahl, the band usually performs downtown at places such as Nietzsche’s or The Tralf on Main Street. He said he has traveled to perform solo in places like Rochester and Cleveland, Ohio.

“We have a nice following,” he said.

The unfinished album will mark the band’s sixth release and the 10th for Stahl, including his solo albums. The release date is planned for late winter or early spring.

Tom Stahl and The Dangerfields will be performing a holiday event at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 7 at Buffalo Iron Works in the Cobblestone District of Buffalo. The event will be a “Christmas, Kwanza, Hanukkah, Festivus Extravaganza.” There is a charge to attend.

“It’s just a Tom Stahl and The Dangerfields show with a few Christmas songs thrown in there,” Stahl said. This event will be family-friendly, according to the musician.

Buffalo Iron Works is located at 49 Illinois St. in Buffalo. To purchase tickets for the band’s upcoming holiday concert, call 332-5959 or visit [www.buffaloironworks.com](http://www.buffaloironworks.com).