

"I think that he is truly an American treasure," said Gary about Tom Petty; "...I think everyone is a Tom Petty fan."



For Aaron, a viable tribute project should ultimately be about the music. "A lot of tribute bands will make an effort to look the part – which I think is all fine and good. With Petty 45, we thought it would be borderline ridiculous if we went out there and tried to dress and look like him." Aaron's goal in learning to perform Petty's music is to be true to the songs, and "...Pay homage to that music and to those songs, and capture all the tones and the sounds and the vibe of it all while being ourselves." As part of that, Aaron sweated the details to study the guitar tones, audio techniques and other aspects to sound

as close to Petty's guitar work as possible. Aaron also has created some videos on the group's website, www. radio45.net, that document his process in capturing the various nuances of Petty's guitar style.

In building the Petty 45 tribute, the group also utilizes videos and home movies of Tom Petty onstage during their shows to honor the man as well as his music.

U245 also was born with an admiration and fascination of U2. According to Scott, "U2 was my favorite band since I was a teenager... I 984 'Red Rocks' while I was in college and finding my own musical identity back in those days."

As in Petty 45, Aaron was drawn in by a fascination with the actual complexity and detail of U2's music; describing U2 guitarist The Edge as an artist and "painter."

Gary found fascination with the spiritual side of U2 – from his own experience in Christian music, he described U2 as "the bridge from being a church person to playing 'secular' music."

Thus far, Radio 45 and Petty 45 have performed busy show schedules in western Pennsylvania. Music fans will be able to experience both tribute projects later this month as part of the entertainment slate at the 30th Annual People's Choice Festival of Pennsylvania Arts & Crafts at Grange Park in Centre Hall. U245 will make its official onstage debut at the festival on Thursday, July 11th,

while Petty 45 will entertain to close out Saturday, July 13th. Petty 45 will also perform at the Jefferson County Fair in Brookville on Wednesday, July 17th, opening for Creedence Clearwater Revival tribute Fortunate Son. A listing of all of the group's upcoming shows can be found on their website, www.radio45.net.

Radio 45's trajectory continues forward, as their unique approach to generating music has grown a fan base and following. The group hopes that their tribute band projects will continue to add to that fan base.

For those interested in the group's tribute band endeavors, Gary's advice is: "Anything that ends in '45' – is us!"

Photos by Digital Noise Photography

