

Bromberg to rock Convention Hall with blues, Americana

By JACK FICHTER
Cape May Star and Wave

CAPE MAY — David Bromberg released a self-titled album in 1971 — a mix of blues, country, rock and a little gospel influence — that received airplay on rock stations and college radio. His guitar playing was stellar and his lyrics often funny or ironic.

Fast forward 51 years and Bromberg is on the road in the mid-Atlantic states with a performance set for Aug. 9 at Cape May Convention Hall.

He released albums throughout the 1970s and played guitar on many other artists' albums, including working with two of the Beatles. Bromberg said he met George Harrison at a Thanksgiving dinner where they wrote a song together.

"He was a good guy, very unpretentious and very talented," Bromberg said.

Neither he nor Harrison had arrived for Thanksgiving dinner with a guitar, so they used a gut string beginner's guitar belonging to the host's daughter.

"We passed the guitar back and forth and without trying wrote a song," Bromberg said.

The song tells the story of

holdup men with the lyric "wealth is the disease and I am the cure."

Bromberg said he realized the talent of the Beatles when he heard a recording made from their stage monitors at Shea Stadium, which was filled with screaming fans.

"It was clear that they really couldn't hear anything, and they were perfectly in tune," he said.

His second Beatle experience was playing on two of Ringo Starr's solo albums. "He told me some things I had no idea of that really

changed the way I looked at a few things," he said.

Bromberg said he started playing guitar at the age of 13 when a case of the measles kept him in bed, playing along with tunes on the radio.

An early influence was a record he found in his parents' house entitled "A Guide to Jazz" that Bromberg said was curated by a "French intellectual." Bromberg said he studied a track over and over again on the album, "Working Man Blues," by Sleepy John Estes.

Bromberg took guitar lesson from blues legend the Rev. Gary Davis, paying him \$5 per session.

"He was extraordinary, one of the best guitar players to walk the planet, but his singing was outrageously good," he said.

In 2020, Bromberg released a new album called "Big Road," which received

more radio airplay than any album he had released in decades, he said.

Bromberg does not use a set list at his concerts.

"We decide on the first tune, maybe the first two tunes before we start and then I just play what I feel like playing," he said.

Among favorites you can expect to hear in Brom-

berg's concert, "Diamond Lil" from his 1972 album with his chorus of "A man should never gamble more than he can stand to lose," and the finger picking on "I Like to Sleep Late in the Morning," in which he tells listeners he doesn't like to wear shoes.

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