

# Feeling slighted, Schaybo releases new CD single

By ALAN K. STOUT

Times Leader Staff Writer

Steve "Schpaybo" Spirko has always loved loud, guitar-fueled rock 'n roll. The area musician has released two CDs, a self titled album from 1997 and "Long Way Back" from 1999, and his music has always been energetic and well produced.

Now the singer/songwriter has followed his previous efforts with "Crows Ate My Brain!" a zany new CD single that keeps the Schpaybo tradition of offbeat lyrics and burning electric guitars.

Schpaybo, know throughout the local music community for his work in area bands and at The Music Store in Wilkes-Barre, says he wrote and recorded the song in the spring. Rather than wait until he had another album's worth of material to unveil, he says he decided to make the single available immediately.

"I really personally like the song, and I'm becoming bitter because I haven't gotten a break," says Schpaybo, 46, who emphasized the song was partly inspired by his growing frustration as a recording artist. "I've spent thousands of dollars on (the first two) CDs with beautiful packaging and art work, but I just wanted to release this song and kind of vent some of my anger."

"Crows Ate My Brain!" was written, arranged and produced by Schpaybo, who also played rhythm guitar, sang lead vocals and even provided the chirping sounds of the crows. Drums were provided by

Chris Condell, while Chris London played lead guitar and Lenny Mecca played bass. Schpaybo says the recording was done at Sound Investment Studios in Scranton, also was inspired by the likes of his own favorites: artists such as Jimi Hendrix, Eric Clapton, The Rolling Stones, Aerosmith, Van Halen, and AC/DC.

Despite industry resistance, he says his spirit is unbroken.

"I think it's a really now sounding song," says Schpaybo, adding that he hears very little new musical or lyrical talent on the radio. "the reviews I get from Europe compare me with Van Halen, Aerosmith, AC/DC and The Rolling Stones. ...They're rating my records high and playing them on German radio, but locally I just can't get past the 'local' shows. But I've been partly inspired by a quote from a rather intelligent man who said 'Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition from mediocre minds.'" That, of course, was Albert Einstein.

"This song is about an artist going crazy because he feels like he's being overlooked - ala me," he adds. "There's a line in there 'The pressure and stress keep building inside, yet on more genius has gone awry.' ... That's kind of the way I feel.

"It's Just a way to vent my bitterness and my anger through my music."