

# Schpaybo is Back With Pure Rock n' Roll

By ALAN K. STOUT

Times Leader Staff Writer

## Schpaybo wants to take you home.

The area musician wants to take you back to the sounds of loud, guitar-fueled rock 'n' roll.

And with his new CD, "Long Way Back," he feels he's purged himself and his listeners of today's trite pop sounds - sounds that he considers senseless and derivative.

"I grew up in an era when music required talent to record and perform, rather than just using all artificial drums and synthesizers," says Schpaybo in a conversation with The Times Leader.

"A monkey could be pushing the buttons in the studio and making those sounds. You top that off with sub-moronic babblings and 2 minute-long intros of wind and train whistles and car horns and devil chants. ...

"It's just meaningless nonsense."

"Long Way Back," says Steve "Schpaybo" Spirko, is a no-nonsense record. It is the follow-up to his 1997 self-titled release, and like its predecessor was recorded at Sound Investments studios in Scranton. Schpaybo - who is known throughout the local music community through his work in area bands and at The Music Store in Wilkes-Barre - says he began recording the album shortly after he finished the last

album.

I just have that desire to create music," he says. "The first record got a real good response, but I wanted to make something that in my own eyes would be better. I had a goal in making the largest-sounding hard-rock CD ever recorded and I think I accomplished my mission."

The new CD contains seven tracks, two of which "Stress" and "Heartshock" also appeared on the first album but have been remixed and re-mastered.

"'Stress' got me to the semi-finals of 'Atlantic Records Best Unsigned Band in America,' " he says. "Everybody who heard that song, from local people - friends and strangers - to major people in the record industry have been telling me that song is a hit "Heartshock" also received airplay, and a lot of people in the radio business really liked that one."

Other tracks include "Out of Time," "For Barbara's Love" and "Fail In Love Eyes." All five of the new tracks were written over the past two years and are based on Schpaybo's own encounters.

"Like Muddy Waters said, 'You've got to listen to the words in the street,'" Schpaybo's says. "These are just everyday life experiences that I think the masses could relate to. A lot of the things that happened to me happened to them also.

"Though maybe not on such a grand scale," he added with a laugh.

Schpaybo wrote, produced and arranged all of the songs on the CD and played guitars, sang and played drums. Guest musicians included Bob Bartoli and Chris London on guitar, Len "E" and Rick Lesoine on bass. Ian Ritter and Rob Nicoletti on vocals and Nell Braunstein on drums.

The CD is available at Gallery of Sound stores and The Music Store, 170 Mundy St., Wilkes-Barre Township. A CD release special will air live at 8 p.m. on Sunday on WMEFM (95.7. 97.9) - The Bear.

And rest assured, says Schpaybo, the guitars will be burning.

"The record just makes a statement of what I personally believe about rock music," he says. "A Gibson Les Paul through a Marshall Amplifier is just the ultimate power sound. Nothing can ever really duplicate that. ...

"You put my record on, and it's like you're getting shot point-blank with a Titan rocket right through your forehead. You know Schpaybo's here that's for sure."

**WHAT:** Schpaybo's 'Long Way Back' CD radio party

**WHEN:** at 8 p.m. Sunday

**WHERE:** WXBE-FM (95.7, 97.9), The Bear

**WHAT'S GOING ON:** Schpaybo will field questions, play a few cuts from his new album and give away CDs and T-shirts.

**INFO:** 819-3353, 287-1567 or [www.spearco.net](http://www.spearco.net)