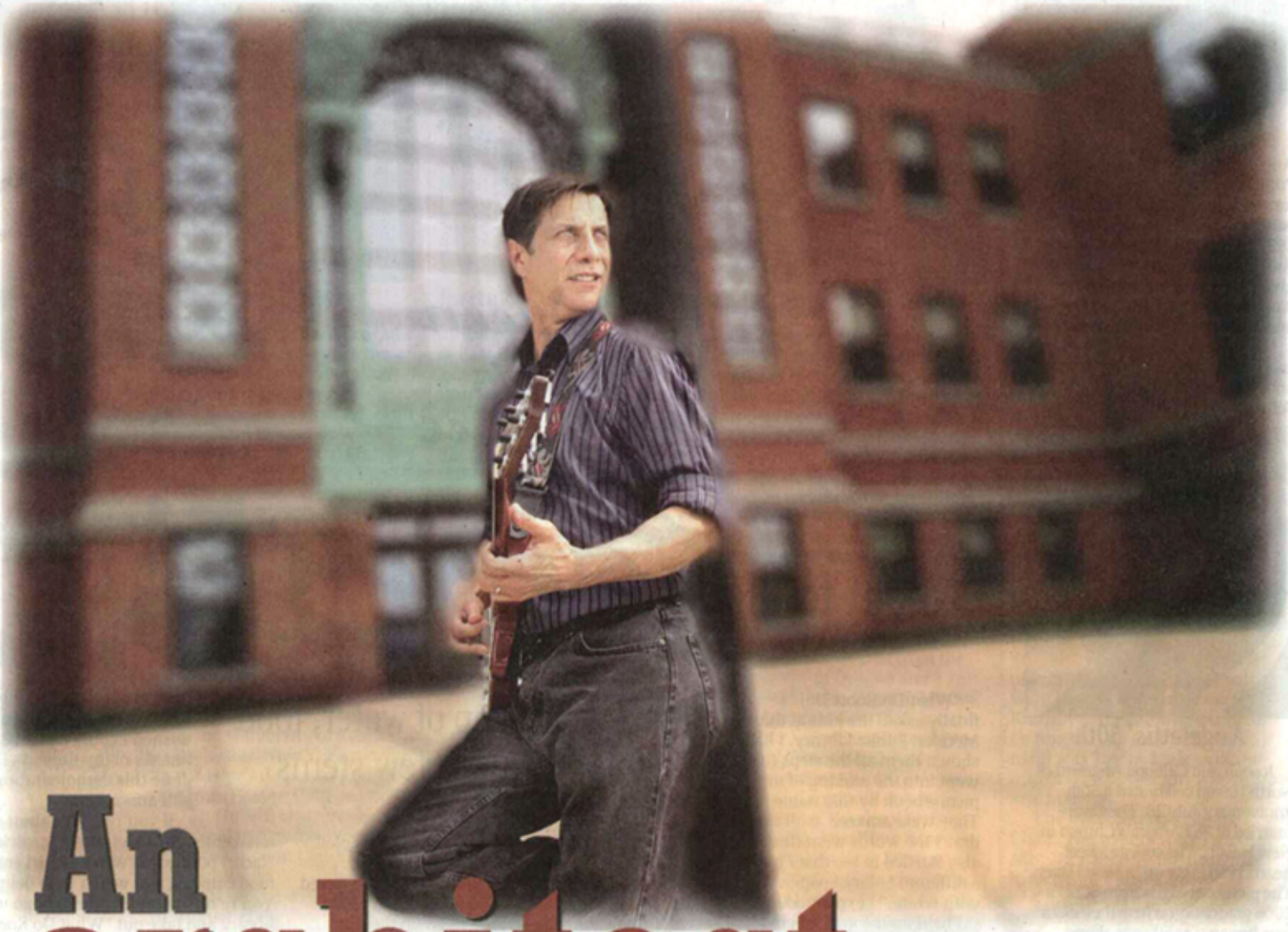




"I never thought I'd be this age, sitting here with a CD." — Ken Boroson



Peter Hvizdak/Register photo illustration

Ken Boroson of New Haven, architect and musician standing at the Truman School in New Haven, has created a CD of his own songs and has also been a principal architect who has designed and restored buildings in New Haven, including the Truman School.

An architect with a guitar

When Ken Boroson turned 50, he tapped 'The Music Within'

By Jim Shelton
Register Staff

NEW HAVEN — In Ken Boroson's universe, every building has a rhythm and every song has a blueprint.

He's been the architect of both. As a respected designer of structures and streetscapes, Boroson has worked with Yale University, the city of New Haven, Wesleyan University and the Bridgeport Housing Authority. Thousands of people inhabit his work every time they visit Clinton Avenue School, Truman School, the gardens of the Elizabethan Club at Yale, the shops at 276-286 York St. and the courtyard of Yale's Old Campus.

Now he's designing music, as well. Boroson recently recorded a CD of original songs called "The Music Within" and he's anxious to see if a 51-year-old architect with a guitar has the musical chops to find an audience.

"I never thought I'd be this age, sitting here with a CD," Boroson laughs, fishing around his desk at his Peck Street architectural firm for a copy of the disc. He finds one.

"These songs are a chronicle of something I wanted to share with family and friends," he says. "Anything beyond that is icing on the cake."

The 13-song disc, engineered and recorded at Longhill Recording in Shelton, is available at Cutlers in New Haven, Exile on Main Street in Hamden and Branford, and at www.cdbaby.com. Local fans also may have seen Boroson perform in person at various Neighborhood Music School recitals.

He even has a CD launch party on the drawing board for the fall.

All this from a man whose 16-year-old son Zachary agreed to write a song with him just so long as he "didn't make it sound like that '60s stuff."

Not a problem. Boroson's repertoire includes hard rock, soft rock, blues, jazz, pop, folk and funk. He wrote the song "Feelin' Blue?" while waiting around on jury duty, and he polished off "I'm So Mad" in about 20 minutes.

But what prompted this proliferation of song writing? Turning 50, he says.

Within months of reaching the big 5-0, he was writing lyrics and musics about the things that matter to him: his wife, Linda Goodman, sons Zachary and 13-year-old Ethan, work, love, politics and being middle-aged.

Nicky Nasko of Branford, a professional musician Boroson takes guitar lessons from, encouraged him to go into the recording studio. "He was on fire, once he got in there," Nasko, who performs on many of the CD's songs, explains. "This is a guy writing about life. He was weaving so many things into it. And he's one of the nicest guys I've ever met."

For his part, Boroson sees several parallels between song writing and architecture.

"I find an incredibly strong link," the 1984 graduate of the Yale School of Architecture explains. "They're both about rhythm, meter, proportion, harmonics, embellishment, ornament. The layers of creating a

'Music': Architect's already working on his next batch of songs

Continued from F1

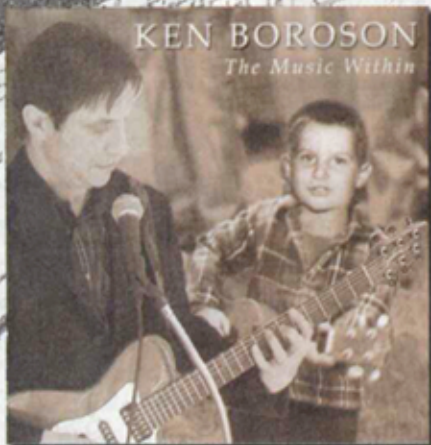
CD are like the layers of drawings in a building design. All of these things come into a harmony."

He also says that constructing songs and designing buildings are both highly collaborative.

"Architecture is the most collaborative art form," he notes. "When you get through it all, everyone has helped make it a better project. With music, the song writing is exhilarating, the crafting process is hard work and finishing it in the studio is a big relief."

Boroson's dual passions are likely to continue. Professionally, his firm is at work designing the addition and renovation of the Sheridan Communication and Technology Magnet School in New Haven, as well as a project for the New Haven Housing Authority.

Musically, his creative well is far from running dry. "I just wrote two songs last week," he says. "And I have three more songs already recorded."



KEN BOROSON
The Music Within

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Jim Shelton can be reached at (203) 789-5604 or ishelton@nhregister.com.