



## **Rock ‘n’ Roll Exhibition Comes to UConn’s Babbidge Library Gallery**

“Good Music: An Illustrated Record of Rock ‘n’ Roll,” an exhibition of rock music memorabilia from the music archive of writer and Connecticut disc jockey Ken Best, will be on display in the Plaza Gallery of the Homer Babbidge Library at UConn, 369 Fairfield Way, Storrs, from Jan. 17 through June 30.

Photos, LPs, books, posters, memorabilia, and even neckties are a part of the treasure trove of materials brought to the UConn Library to illustrate the history of rock ‘n’ roll through historic and unique items that represent the music industry and the history of rock music.

The exhibition includes historic covers from top-selling albums such as the original Broadway cast recording from “Hair” and Carole King’s “Tapestry;” posters including Milton Glaser’s 1966 “Dylan” from “Bob Dylan’s Greatest Hits” LP; photos of major rock ‘n’ roll stars by Connecticut photographer Joseph Sia, including his famous “The Shadow” image of Jimi Hendrix at Woolsey Hall in New Haven; and a wide range of biographies, autobiographies and books about the music industry, the history of rock music and scholarly analysis of the music.

Best has hosted the Good Music Program on WHUS (91.5), the radio station at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, since 2008 and previously hosted the show on WPKN-FM (89.5) in Bridgeport, an all-volunteer, listener-supported community radio station, from 1996 until 2008. During the summer of 2015 he produced the weekly program “Walking a Blues Road,” on WHUS based on the holdings of the Samuel and Ann Charters Archives of Blues and Vernacular African-American Musical Culture, located in Archives & Special Collections at Babbidge Library.

His professional history includes writing about music for the Courier-News, a Gannett newspaper in Bridgewater, New Jersey, and serving as editor of the Weekend section at The Stamford Advocate and Greenwich Time in Connecticut. His newspaper stories were nationally syndicated by the Associated Press and the Los Angeles Times-Washington Post News Service. He also spent 10 years as a contributor writing about Connecticut news for The New York Times. His 1992 book *Eight Days a Week: An Illustrated Record of Rock 'n' Roll* (Pomegranate Books) includes 53 photos by Sia.

As a reporter and disc jockey he conducted interviews with notables such as John Phillips of the Mamas & Papas, Bruce Springsteen, Joan Jett, Richie Havens, Aztec Two-Step, Pete Seeger, Billy Joel, Jorma Kaukonen of Jefferson Airplane and Hot Tuna, session bassist Harvey Brooks (Miles Davis, Richie Havens, The Doors, among others), Meat Loaf, Peter Paul & Mary, David Bromberg and George Clinton of Parliament-Funkadelic as well as the authors of books on major figures in music such as Willie Nelson, James Taylor, Phil Spector, Johnny Cash, The Supremes, Joni Mitchell, Carly Simon, Carole King and songwriter Doc Pomus (*Save the Last Dance for Me, Suspicion, This Magic Moment*).

Best served as editor of UConn Magazine for 10 years, covered the School of Fine Arts at UConn for UConn Today for eight years and was a co-founder of the UConn 360 Podcast before retiring in June 2021.

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**CONTACT:** Ken Best

Email: [ken8days@gmail.com](mailto:ken8days@gmail.com)