

NEWS



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‘THE BOBS’ OPEN EVENINGS OF CULTURAL ARTS SEASON

Sunnyvale series also to include bluegrass, folk, Hawaiian, and Irish music

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Sunnyvale Theatre’s Evenings of Cultural Arts season opens Saturday, September 8 at 8 p.m. with a concert by the irreverent *a cappella* group, The Bobs. The eclectic concert series, which features monthly concerts through April 2013, will also include performances by Fishtank Ensemble, County Trio, Dr. Elmo and Wild Blue, Kat Parra Latin World Ensemble, Maurice Tani and 77 El Deora, The Patrick Landeza Project, and the Black Brothers.

The Bobs – September 8, 2012

Billed as the original band without instruments, the Bobs are celebrating their 30th anniversary and have recently resumed touring. Created by a pair of unemployed singing telegram deliverers, The Bobs burst into the limelight in the early 1980s with their unexpected *a cappella* covers of songs, including the Talking Heads’ “Psycho Killer” and The Beatles’ “Helter Skelter,” and wildly imaginative originals drawn from the headlines and everyday life.

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Nominated for a Grammy, featured on the Emmys, the group has headlined the prestigious American Songbook series at Lincoln Center and opened for both Frank Zappa and The Grateful Dead. The current iteration of The Bobs includes founding members Matthew “Bob” Stull and Richard “Bob” Green, along with Dan “Bob” Schumacher (Monkey Puzzle, Kickshaw) and newest member, Angie “Bob” Doctor (Clockwork).

Fishtank Ensemble – October 20, 2012

The LA-based gypsy band Fishtank Ensemble returns, performing selections from its latest CD, *Woman in Sin*, “a veritable boatload of fabulous,” according to *USA Today*. Like the generations of traveling Roma musicians that inspire them, Fishtank Ensemble incorporates folk music from seemingly every corner of the globe to create its own unique style.

French fiddler Fabrice Martinez amassed his authentic gypsy repertoire during seven years spent as an itinerant musician Europe, traveling in a mule-drawn caravan. Classically trained vocalist and violinist Ursula Knudsen also plays the musical saw. Serbian slap bass player Djordje Stijeopovic played with leading Sephardic and Balkan bands and is widely considered one of the world’s best rockabilly players. Ace flamenco guitarist Douglas “el Douje” Smolens honed his craft in the gypsy caves of Granada, Spain.

County Line Trio – November 24, 2012

For more than 50 years, the legendary and prolific Kingston Trio has held the record as the only group in music history to have four simultaneous Top Ten albums. Their phenomenal popularity spurred the revival of American folk music and paved the way for artists like Joan Baez and Bob Dylan. The County Line Trio faithfully renders the

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biggest Kingston Trio hits, including “Tom Dooley,” “Scotch and Soda” and “Where Have All the Flowers gone?”

With polished three-part harmony, acoustic guitar, and banjo and a liberal dose of comic banter, Bay Area residents Tod Brendlen, Dean Hammer and Bob Lawrence capture not only the sound, but also the spirit of the Kingston Trio’s live concerts. Mike Sanders accompanies on bass.

Dr. Elmo & Wild Blue – December 15, 2012

Though he’s best known for his quirky, Christmastime hit, “Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer,” Dr. Elmo is a seriously talented banjo performer of no small note. The Kentucky native and former veterinarian leads an outstanding bluegrass band known for its exceptional harmonies and virtuoso musicianship. Wild Blue includes guitarist and lead singer John Pierson, bassist and tenor Larry Carlin, mandolinist Dana Rath (Modern Mandolin Quartet) and award-winning fiddler Kenny Blacklock. Their varied holiday show includes critically acclaimed versions of the traditional “Greensleeves,” Bach’s “Jesu, Joy of Man’s Desiring,” bluegrass tunes like “December Rain” and “Here’s to the Lonely,” plus, of course, that very famous novelty song that has now sold more than 11 million copies worldwide.

Kat Parra Latin World Ensemble – January 19, 2013

“An exceptional world music ambassador,” according to *Jazz Times*, singer Kat Parra pushes well beyond the conventions of Latin Jazz to include rhythms and inspiration from Brazil, Peru, the Middle East, even 15th century Spain. She performs selections from her recently released fourth album, *Las Aventuras de Pasion*, including the crowd-pleasing Mardi Gras classic “Iko Iko,” Linda Ronstadt’s “Lo Siento Mi Vida” and a number of her originals that combine ancient Sephardic lyrics with modern Latin

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American grooves. Twice named Best Latin Jazz Vocalist of the Year by Latin Jazz Corner and nominated for Latin Jazz Album of the Year by the Jazz Journalists Association, Kat Parra sings fluently in English, Spanish, Portuguese and Ladino. She is ably backed by some of the Bay Area's best: pianist and musical director Murray Low, multi-instrumentalist Masaru Koga, bassist Chris Lopes, drummer Dan Foltz and percussionist Katja Cooper.

Maurice Tani & 77 El Deora – February 16, 2013

Like the gaudy, over-the-top Cadillac that is its namesake, 77 El Deora is a rare find for Americana aficionados. This hip San Francisco-based alt-country band is winning rave reviews here and abroad for its top-notch musicianship and smart, original songs. Their sound is reminiscent of vintage country and western, but with a good dose of rock, blues and bluegrass. Singer/songwriter Maurice Tani's "trailer park operettas" are fully realized stories with detailed settings, complex characters, engaging plots and, oh yes, dark humor. Tani and his leading lady sing knock-out male-female duets about falling in love, breaking up and other country music staples. The band includes singer Pam Brandon, fiddle player Steve Kallai, bassist Mike Anderson and drummer Ken Owen.

The Patrick Landeza Project – March 23, 2013

Slack key guitar master Patrick Landeza returns to Sunnyvale to share his warm aloha spirit, outrageous stories and exquisite finger-picking. Since his last show here, Berkeley-born Landeza has won the 2010 Hawaiian Music Award for Slack Key Guitar, been nominated twice for the Na Hoku Hanohano, Hawaii's version of the Grammy, and debuted at Carnegie Hall. In the tradition of his teachers, including Cyril Pahinui and Dennis Kamakahi, Landeza is the "real deal," deeply committed to sharing not only the music, but also his culture. The Patrick Landeza Project brings together guest musicians and hula dancers for an evening of traditional Hawaiian music, with a touch of bluegrass and swing.

The Black Brothers – April 13, 2013

Brothers Shay and Michael Black got their start performing as The Black Family with siblings Martin, Mary, and Frances at pubs in Dublin, Ireland, and still are among the emerald isle's best-known singers. The brothers, who both live in the Bay Area now, are mainstays of the Bay Area Celtic music community and still occasionally perform internationally with their famous family. Shay is an avid song catcher, renowned for his extensive knowledge of sea music and robust, hearty voice. Michael is a thrilling tenor, who is also an accomplished guitarist and banjo player. They perform with pianist Bryan Seet, cellist Myra Joy and fiddler Bobbi Nikles. Irish step dancers also will be joining the band on stage.

The intimate Sunnyvale Theatre is located at the Community Center, 550 E. Remington Drive, between El Camino Real and Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road. All Evenings of Cultural Arts programs are Saturdays at 8 p.m. General admission tickets are \$28. Discount tickets for students and seniors are \$22. Single Subscriptions start at \$80. For tickets, please phone the Sunnyvale Theatre Box Office at (408) 733-6611. The Box Office is open Monday – Friday, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., and two hours prior to shows. For additional information, call the Sunnyvale Theatre Administrative Office at (408) 730-7725, TDD (408) 730-7501, or visit *Arts.inSunnyvale.com* on the Web.

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