

Folk Festival represents range of musical genres

By Milan Zupcic
Of the Emerald

Eugene residents, get ready to dance and sing as the 17th Annual Willamette Valley Folk Festival gets under way this afternoon on the EMU east lawn.

The free event, sponsored by the EMU Cultural Forum and KZAM radio, will continue on through Sunday, featuring a wide variety of traditional and contemporary folk and acoustic music performed by more than 20 musicians and groups.

Musical styles ranging from Celtic to Reggae, Cajun to blues and bluegrass will be performed by local as well as nationally acclaimed acts during the three-day event. Apart from the scheduled stage performances, many of the featured musicians will be giving workshops on musical style and technique on Saturday and Sunday in the EMU.

According to Bill Ullman, Cultural Forum Ethnic and Folk Music coordinator, "our biggest goal is to make the Folk Festival a learning experience and to introduce people to new cultures and musical styles."

"Hopefully in years to come, with the aid of grants and national endowments for the arts, we will be able to expand the number of performers and bring other well-known names to the event," he added.

Among big names performing this year are Queen Ida and the Bon Temps Zydeco band, who will take the stage at 8 p.m. on Saturday.

Ida's Bon Temps Zydeco band finds its roots in Zydeco music, which is a blend of the Creole, Cajun and Black communities of Louisiana. Zydeco also incorporates dixieland jazz, blues, rock and Latin music, which provides a distinctly unique and diverse sound grounded in numerous cultures and musical styles. Queen Ida, the first female band leader in the Zydeco tradition, is no stranger to Eugene audiences; however, Saturday marks her first appearance on the Folk Festival stage.

Ida has won a Grammy award and been nominated two other times. She has performed at concerts, clubs and festivals throughout North America and Europe. Along with her Saturday evening performance, Queen Ida will be giving a workshop on the Cajun/Creole culture of Southwestern Louisiana at 4 p.m., Saturday, in the EMU Fir Room.

Another well-known musician who will be gracing the Folk Festival stage Sunday at 8 p.m., is Matt "Guitar" Murphy. Over the past two decades Murphy has performed with virtually every great blues artist and has been heralded as one of the best guitarists in recent years.

Murphy combines elements of blues, jazz and rock, which results in an energetic and appealing musical style.

Other blues performances will be provided by the Peter Thorpe Blues Band and a local favorite, the Eagle Park Slim Band.

Fans of marimba music should look for Duménil and Minanzi III, who will be performing



Courtesy Photo

Grammy-winner Queen Ida and her Bon Temps Zydeco Band will perform at 8 p.m. Saturday at the Willamette Valley Folk Festival on the EMU east lawn.

this evening at 8 p.m.

Backing up Duménil and his band will be the South African singers Mangie and Theresa.

Duménil will offer a drumming workshop featuring strictly East African drumming styles and techniques Saturday at 11:30 a.m. in the Fir Room.

Other performing groups include Eugene's own Reggae All Stars, who will be performing their high energy reggae sound Saturday at 5 p.m.

Traditional folk music will be performed by Chico Schwall, and Northern Broadcasters and Fiddlin' Sue, Uncle T and Johnny will perform old-time string band music; Free Rein and Good and Country will play traditional and progressive bluegrass.

For fans of Celtic music, there are Skye, Flying Haggis, Dorothy Jackson and the Eugene Highlanders. Hispanic music listeners will enjoy flamenco guitarist Idrus Shahab, and salsa music by Sandunga and Caliente.

Singer-songwriter John Sirkus will perform contemporary folk music, Banish Misfortune and Threshold provide new acoustic music, and Hunter Davis returns to Eugene with women's music.

All concerts and workshops are free and open to the general public. People who are interested in attending the various workshops are encouraged to bring their instruments.

Et al.

MEETINGS

Foreign students organization will meet today at 5:30 p.m. in Century Room B, EMU.

Attention: All groups showing movies during 1987-88: All student organizations showing more than two films and charging admission must attend a required film programming meeting today at 3:30 p.m. in Room 337 EMU (EMU Board Room). Procedures and requirements for showing films on campus will be discussed. The 1987-88 movie calendar will be passed around for groups to sign up for rooms and dates to show films.

The International Students Christian Fellowship meets tonight at 7 at Alpha Omega house (next to Taylors').

APASU meeting today at 4:30 p.m. in Room 337 EMU. Refreshments will be provided.

LECTURES

The International Studies Association will host political science professor Dick Kraus, speaking on the ousting of Hu Yao Bung and the current situation in mainland China, today at 4 p.m. in Room 100, Hendricks Hall.

MISCELLANEOUS

PT/OT drop-in advising will be available today from 10 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Room 164

Oregon Hall, ext. 3211.

The Singapore Student Association is having a potluck dinner for Singaporeans at 8 p.m. Saturday in Gerlinger Lounge. Please bring a dish each.

Women in Transition is having an open house today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Room 318 EMU.

Classical guitar students from the University School of Music will give a free recital on Saturday at 8 p.m. in Room 198 of the School of Music.

WISTEC will offer free high-grade mason sand on first come, first served basis on June 1 and 2. To pick up the bags of sand, come to WISTEC between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. WISTEC is located at 2300 Centennial Blvd. just next to Autzen Stadium. For more information, call 484-9027.

"Safe-Sex Cabaret," a 90-minute stage show directed at gay men who are responding to the AIDS epidemic, will be presented on Saturday at Seymour's Greenery, 996 Willamette St. The show is free and open to everyone, and it is co-sponsored by the Willamette AIDS Council and Shanti in Oregon, two Eugene-based AIDS service organizations. The goal of the presentation is to provide gay men in Oregon a social opportunity to learn more about healthy ways of living and loving.

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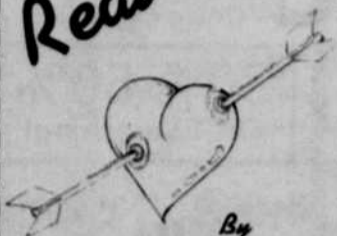
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