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1991 folk festival Friday



A lively dance band from Portland, Pa'Lante, will perform Friday night at 7 on the Main Stage. Courtesy photo

Dip into Pa'Lante's spicy salsa music

Pa'Lante, an eight member salsa band from Portland, will close out Friday's musical performances at 7 p.m. on the Main Stage.

The band has been thrilling audiences in the Northwest since 1985 with their authentic percussion and rhythmic Latin salsa sound. They combine flute and violin with saxophone and trombone which enables them to offer a wide variety of beats.

From cha-cha to merengue, salsa to charanga, bolero to cumbia, bomba, plena and guaracha, Pa'Lante is a lively dance band, offer-

ing nothing less than an energetic and consistently outstanding performance.

Band members include Nick Gefroh and Scott Wardinsky, percussion; Peter Piazza, trombone and violin; Francesco Marmalejo, saxophone and flute; Brian McDonald, piano; Edwin Blanco, lead vocalist; Molly Little, vocal and percussion, and Eduardo Marquez, bass and vocal.

The band is well-known on the Northwest festival circuit and has performed at the Eugene Celebration for the past three years.

Pa'Lante was voted "the hottest new jazz band in Portland" by *The Oregonian* in 1985.

Amateurs compete for Main Stage gig

Amateur musicians will have a shot at performing on Main Stage, if they can beat out the competition in the Folk Festival's New Song Competition.

The Second Annual McKenzie River New Song Competition takes place on the McKenzie Stage in the EMU Fir Room on May 17, from 1 to 4 p.m.

"Last year's coordinators thought of the contest," said Julie Lear, festival coordinator, "and since it was so successful, we decided to continue with it this year."

Only the first 20 people who signed up will be allowed to perform. A waiting list was started, but the spaces remain full.

"We had several applicants beyond the necessary," Lear said. "I am still getting calls, but unfortunately the contest needs a limitation."

Each singer is allotted eight minutes for two original songs. The first song is a warm up and the second is

the song that is judged. Each singer must perform the song live, and back-up musicians are allowed.

Since there was no screening of the contestants' music, the different types of songs remain unknown. However, there is an underlined clause in the rules that states lyrics cannot be offensive, Lear said.

"There were no preliminaries so we have no idea what kind of singers we have attracted," Lear said. "We have tried to get our publicity out to everyone with posters all over town."

Through mass publicity and overall openness of the contest, Lear predicts that a wide variety of performers will participate.

Lear expects that some songs will address political and social issues that may be of interest to the audience and the judges.

The judges for the contest are: Ed Coleman, co-director of the Folklore and Ethnic

Studies Program; Diane Dugaw, assistant professor in the English department; and Lee Jones, performer in a local quartet called The Tones.

Cash prizes are awarded to the contestants who place first, \$75; second, \$50; and third, \$25. The top three also qualify to perform their songs at 3 p.m. Saturday on the Main Stage.

The only change from last year's contest is that professional singers who are already performing at the Folk Festival do not qualify to participate in the contest.

"We want to keep this an amateur contest," Lear said. "Last year two out of the three winners were already performing on Saturday."

With this change Lear believes the event can be a local amateur contest, rather than one with professionals having an advantage.

—Kristin Genzer

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