

Folk Festival



Joanne Rand and the Little Big Band will play for the third year in a row at the Willamette Valley Folk Festival this weekend. Rand and her band have described their music as power-folk-fusion-rock and acoustic ritual. The band has recently released its first album, which they titled *The Monkey Puzzle*. Rand and the Little Big Band will perform Saturday at the Willamette Valley Folk Festival at 7 p.m. on the main stage.

Rand to perform her song-poetry

Joanne Rand and the Little Big Band are becoming regulars at the Willamette Valley Folk Festival. Saturday night will mark the band's third performance at the festival in the past three years.

Rand has been a solo artist for more than a decade and has released four self-produced albums. Her all original "song-poetry" style of music is a progressive, unprecedented blend of genres.

With roots in the Deep South, Rand spent several formative years living in the deserts of the Southwestern United States and the ancient forests of Northern California. She has also traveled to the Amazon rainforest and the wilds of Alaska, which fostered her lifelong reverence for the Earth.

In 1992, Rand formed the Little Big Band, which has toured the West Coast many times. Recently, the band completed its first album, titled *The Monkey Puzzle*.

The Little Big Band is made up of Jeff Martin on acoustic and electric bass, Jack Springett on drums and Scott Deal on congas and percussion. Their rich music provides a fitting background to Rand's unmistakable voice, and to her piano and guitar

playing.

Joanne Rand and the Little Big Band have dubbed their music as power-folk-fusion-rock and acoustic ritual. Their music often inspires audiences to get up and dance.

Performing solo, with the band and facilitating vocal workshops, Rand currently commutes between Northern California, where the band lives, and Seattle, where Rand collaborates with her brother, Jordan. In the past 18 months, Jordan Rand has written 110 wise and humorous songs that were sparked by his struggle with AIDS.

Terry Tempest Williams, a naturalist and the acclaimed author *Refuge* said, "Joanne Rand's voice has taken hold of my soul and moved me to a new recognition of our place within the natural world. Her love and rage regarding the Earth and our treatment of the Earth is gracefully channeled through a wise and deep talent. Joanne's music is an acoustic ritual."

Joanne Rand and the Little Big Band will perform at the Willamette Valley Folk Festival Saturday evening at 7 p.m. on the East Lawn stage.

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