

Folk Festival

Farrera's passionate songs to enchant festival audience

Inspired by the wealth of culture and human diversity found in the South American Continent, Irene Farrera captivates audiences with powerful vocals and passionate rhythms.

Born and raised in Venezuela, Farrera has been performing since she was nine years old, when her father gave her a cuatro (a four-string guitar) for Christmas. As a child she recruited her brothers and sisters, forming her first band to entertain family and friends.

Her professional career has spanned about 15 years. With a repertoire that includes the contemporary sounds of Brazil and the Caribbean, Irene sings in Spanish, English and Portuguese.

Performances by Farrera leave audiences mesmerized and inspired. Farrera plays local shows weekly. She performs every Tuesday night from 7 to 9 p.m. at Tres Hermanas Restaurant (99 W. Broadway) and alternating Thursday evenings from 9 to 11 p.m. at the Rainy Day Cafe.

The Hult Center's newsletter described Farrera by saying she "is a fine artist, musically excellent and culturally informed, bringing to the stage an exciting, upbeat program of music."

Whether playing solo or with her tropical band, Farrera has had great success at festivals, colleges and clubs. She also wins praise from those who may not understand the language but are able to respond from the heart.

It was written in the *Oregonian* that "Farrera writes moving odes to the spirit of love - for one another and for our environment - in song forms that mix samba, calypso and other styles into a gorgeous pan-American sound."

Farrera said her music is a message of unity and understanding among all the peoples and races of the world.

"Our music transcends political boundaries," she said. "We remind [audiences] in their hearts that we all live in a very small planet, and that it is now time that we start celebrating everything that we are."

Farrera's message is timely and clear. Her idiom is music - the music of an entire continent, the music of the heart of the trop-



Strongly influence by the culture and human diversity found in South America, Irene Farrera and her band will perform as Saturday night's headlining band. The band's Latin sound have pleased many crowds.

The Irene Farrera Tropical Band

Performance: Saturday, May 20
8:30 p.m. on the main stage

ics and the music of the people of Latin America.

The Irene Farrera Tropical Band has established itself also as a popular live act at clubs and festivals throughout the Northwest. The band recently released *Walking in the Jungle*, which consists entirely of Farrera's original compositions.

The band consists of Farrera on vocals and acoustic guitar; Sean McCoy on keyboard, trumpet and flugel horn; Teresa Knight on congas and percussion; Mike Flitch on drums; and Al Criado on bass.

The Irene Farrera Tropical Band will perform at the Willamette Valley Folk Festival as the headliner Saturday night at 8:30 p.m. on the main stage.

- Trista Noel



Folk music fans enjoy the Willamette Valley Folk Festival year after year. With such musical variety, each year is unique.

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