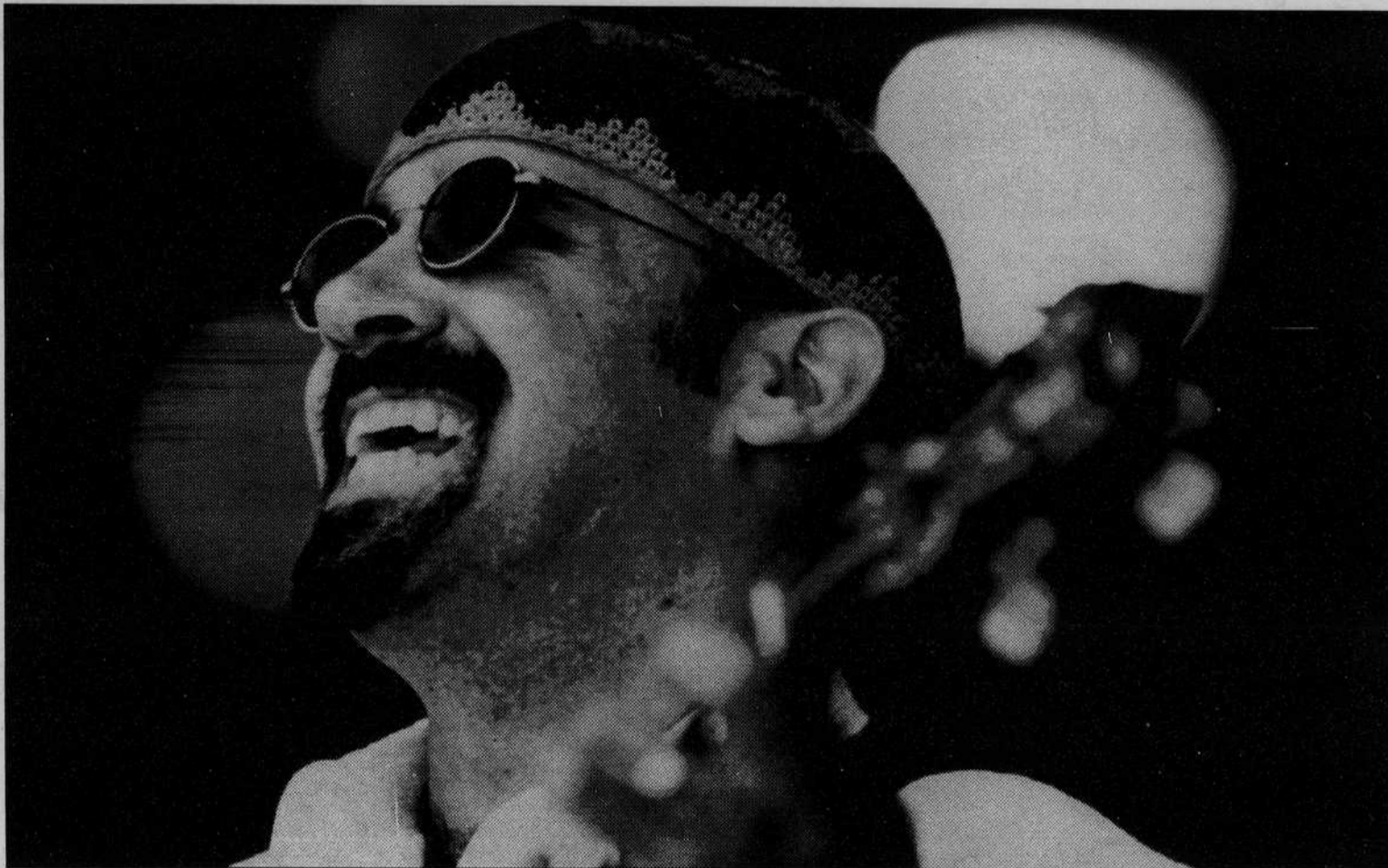


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Calendar-a-go-go online
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Thursday, November 29, 2001



Slide guitar and banjo player Tony Furtado is no stranger to the Northwest music scene.

Courtesy Photo

ROOTED in American music

The Tony Furtado Band brings its blend of delta blues, Celtic, Appalachian and jazz sounds to Eugene on Friday

By Jen West
Oregon Daily Emerald

Whether audiences enjoy dancing or simply absorbing the music, the Tony Furtado Band offers something for everyone with its "new American roots" music. The band has just begun the Western U.S. tour that brings it to Eugene.

The Tony Furtado Band will perform with openers Living Daylights at the Wild Duck Music Hall this Friday.

Though this is its first time performing at the Wild Duck, Tony Furtado is no stranger to Eugene.

During the past few years, he and his band have played at the Willamette Valley Folk Festival and the Eugene Celebration.

The band consists of slide guitar and banjo player Tony Furtado, electric guitarist Gawain Matthews, drummer Aaron Johnston and bassist Myron Dove.

"The whole Northwest is really awesome and extremely receptive," Furtado said.

He said they plan to play songs from a variety of their albums, as well as some new music they will be recording in the studio this winter.

Furtado said he, his manager and his publicist invented the new catch phrase for the band's type of music, called "new American roots." He said it comes from the bluegrass world and is a blend of delta blues, Celtic, Appalachian folk and jazz.

Douglas Fuchs, president of Flying Ink Media, who booked the event at Wild Duck, described the music as a blend of many styles, from slide blues to Colorado jam.

"They do more than play to a watching and waiting audience," Fuchs said. "(The music) is something you can get up and dance to."

Many of the band's songs are laced with lively Celtic rhythms that start toes tapping.

"Ever since I was a kid, I loved to listen to and play Irish music," Furtado said. "When I was a little boy, I decided to play the banjo."

Furtado said he remembers seeing Doug Kershaw, the "Ragin' Cajun," who was famous for carrying an umbrella case full of fiddle bows.

Furtado said he is also excited for Friday's performance because a special guest, Celtic accordion player Johnny Connelly,

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Orchestra puts 'rock-symphonic twist' on Christmas music

■ The Rose Garden in Portland will host Trans-Siberian Orchestra's Christmas rock opera Dec. 9

By Jen West
Oregon Daily Emerald

Since the 1995 release of the song "Christmas Eve Sarajevo 12/24," the Trans-Siberian Orchestra has reinvented Christmas music. They have mounted a national tour for their popular rock opera "Christmas Eve & Other Stories" that will bring them to Portland this holiday season.

The Theatre of the Clouds at the Rose Garden will host the Trans-Siberian Orchestra's production Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m.

"It's like 'Phantom of the Opera' with more rock edge to it," said Paul O'Neill, producer, composer, lyricist and guitarist for the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. "It's a full-scale musical production that brings together the stirring elegance of a

classical orchestra along with the power and fury of a hard-rock band surrounded by stunning lighting."

O'Neill said part of the inspiration in creating the Trans-Siberian Orchestra was the desire to find a way to take music to a deeper emotional level, and he believes rock operas accomplish that by setting the songs in the context of a story.

O'Neill originally created the CD's centerpiece song, "Christmas Eve Sarajevo 12/24" for his rock opera "Dead Winter Dead" in 1995. The song was based on the true story of a cellist who continued to play outdoors amid the gunfire and violence surrounding him in his native city of Sarajevo.

"This album was an attempt to capture the magic that Christmas Eve somehow — against impossible odds — seems to work on the human spirit," O'Neill said.

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Musical director, co-writer and producer Robert Kinkel (left) and founder, lyricist, co-writer and producer Paul O'Neill give Trans-Siberian Orchestra its life.

Courtesy Photo