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Motherlode

Their relationship has a depth that shows

Motherlode is a band of four women joined by the heartstrings, even though they are a bi-urban group. Nan Collie and Kathleen Fallon live and work in Portland, Oregon. Marie Eaton and Janet Peterson live and work in Bellingham, Washington. In the nearly ten years they've been making music



Motherlode. Back row from left-Nan Collie, Marie Eaton, Janet Peterson. In front-Kathleen Fallon.

Music

together, they have never lived in the same city. Instead, they meet on weekends to rehearse and to perform.

Motherlode will perform their all original music in concert on May 19th at the Northwest Service Center. Jan Reece will interpret for the hearing impaired. (See Out About Town for further details.) Portland audiences have learned to expect an evening of heartfelt music presented in mostly folk style. The women sing harmonies, play primarily acoustic instruments, and speak directly from the heart of their own personal experiences. In fact, their third recording (to be released later this year) will be entitled "Heartline."

The four members of Motherlode met nearly ten years ago at the Puget Sound Guitar Workshop when Nan and Kathleen discovered Marie and Janet singing harmony in the woods. It was love at first sight for all four. They almost immediately began singing together, working all week on a four part acappella harmony for the weekend performance at the workshop. They have been working together ever since. Throughout the ensuing ten years, they have continued to grow and expand as musicians as well as women.

Their musical pieces now have added layers of complexity, added depth in the lyrics, and their relationship has depth that shows.

Nan speaks lovingly of the experiences they have shared. At some point in their ten years, the women discovered that none of them have biological sisters. They believe that this may have contributed to the closeness they feel with each other. This closeness is visible on-stage and is shared in turn with the audience. Nan calls performing "one more layer to the

gift." She speaks eloquently of recovering from dysfunction through the gift of music and of the beauty of sharing that gift with others.

The four play a multitude of musical instruments, including their voices. All play the guitar and bass. One or more play cello, mandolin, harmonica, percussion, french horn, flute, Dobro (the predecessor to the Hawaiian steel guitar), keyboard, trumpet and (coming soon) the oboe. Nan says, "It feels like an incredible gift." She says music is powerful for recovery and healing, and that audience members frequently come up and express their gratitude for Motherlode's interpretation of their pain and healing.

When asked what's next for the group, Nan Collie says, "We're not killing ourselves trying to 'make it,' but we are open to the possibilities." They hope for more opportunities to play music festivals. Theirs will be one of only two Portland groups identified so far who will play this summer at the Pacific Northwest Women's Music and Cultural Jamboree in Bellingham. The other Portland group is Musica Femina. They will be joined by Cris Williamson, Tret Fure and many others. Motherlode is excited and would like to play other music festivals such as the Michigan Women's music festival, the Women's Festival held each year in Yosemite, and others in the East and Midwest. They are taking it all "one day at a time."

For an evening of musical richness guaranteed to plumb the depths of your heart, bring your inner child and join several hundred other people and THEIR inner children hearing and enjoying the gift of the Motherlode.

Paradykes Lost

It's a murder mystery! It's a satire! It's insanity! The Portland Women's Theatre Company spring production of *Paradykes Lost* is all of the above, and laughter is the order of the evening. The play, at the PWTC Theatre, 1728 NE 40th Avenue, will run through Saturday, June 2.

Theatre

Paradykes Lost was written by Lisa Kron, with improvisational additions by the original cast, all members of the WOW (Women of the World) Cafe, a women's theatre collective in the East Village in New York City. The show premiered at the WOW Cafe in the spring of 1988.

Paradykes Lost is the second show created by Kron and "the girls." In 1987, they premiered *Paradykes Alley*. Kron is a solo performer who fancies herself as "the lesbian Lola Falana." Her show, *All My Hopes and Dreams*, premiered at Performance Space 122 in the spring of 1989. Her work as a director includes productions of some of Holly Hughes' plays, including *The Lady Dick* and *World Without End*.

Paradykes Lost is a broad spoof of parlor murder mysteries...it's silly and full of puns, gags, and great characters. The cast includes a fiendish mistress of the mansion and her slightly demented butler, a starry-eyed young lady looking for romance, an odd couple of thieves, and other equally questionable characters (all women) who converge at the stately mansion of Lucretia Owner and find themselves baffled by murder, intrigue, and each other. Not since the 1982 production of *A Stake in the Heart of the Heart* has the PWTC stage seen such high caliber murder and mayhem.