

PARFAIT, from page 10

Parfait can also be found performing shows at local wine bars and coffee shops from time to time, purely as an entertainer. He performed regularly at the Tea Zone's Camellia Lounge in the Pearl before it closed in 2016.

Dominic remembers seeing him perform there about a year ago.

"Halfway through I realized that I was in his living room. His personality just filled the space. The person singing up there was exactly the guy I know from lessons, exactly the guy I know from helping to create the album. It was wonderful to see that kind of authenticity in a musician," Dominic said. "Typically, to varying degrees, musicians have to wear some kind of mask when they get up on stage. Either because they think the audience needs it or they need it. That's not the case with Parfait."

In many instances, Parfait sings the same songs during his workshops that he performs professionally, and he switches between English and French, rap and soulful pop.

Today, many of his tracks also feature the instrumental and vocal talents of other Portland-area musicians.

His most recent French language single, "Cette Femme," was released earlier this year and is making the rounds at radio stations in West Africa. He said it's a song about feminism – and he imagines it must have sparked a few conversations in cars and around dinner tables in Dakar.

It will be on his next album, which he said will have a theme based on reflection. It's loosely due for release this winter and will contain a mix of French and English language songs. Sometimes he weaves the languages together in the same track.

His first overseas hit was the title track of his 2015 album, "Finally." It's somewhat of a personal anthem that he bellows beautifully in English.

In March, Parfait was named a finalist in the Bridging the Music Presents: Oregon Solo Artist Awards at the Hawthorne Theater.

emily@streetroots.org

In Loving Memory

by Aileen McPherson

How do I express these feelings you leave with me,
Like the memory of hand-sized fluffy drops of heaven,
Pull them apart a pat of butter a golden pool forms,
A drop of jam spreads warm and grand,
So delicious they melt in your hand.

Until that day after many years being away,
Singing the praise of the biscuits I was raised,
And you made them dear,
But what is this, it's rock hard I hear,
They look like hockey pucks sitting there,
And just as hard, so a laugh we had at the biscuits so bad.

You bore me up into this life,
Held me close when scared at night,
Fed my body and nourished my soul,
Helped me stand when I did fall,
Held my hand when I felt lost,
Taught lessons of life so dear,
For the journey ahead of me I should not fear.

So many things I have learned from you,
How to clean and cook, appreciate a book,
Mending jeans, crocheting soft things,
Sing out loud and be proud, dancing feet are happy feet,
Music is Magic, Happiness is Heartfelt, and Love is Unconditional,
People can be demanding, and smile even when you do not feel it,
If nothing else it confuses people.

All of this is merely a beginning to an end, a journey we all take for better or worse full of family and friends who will make it interesting until then.
These words and deeds of wisdom have helped me through the years,
And so I've passed them on to friends and others through my life,
But nevertheless I love you the best.

To Mothers everywhere, male or female matters not, thank you for always being there.

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