

EUGENE CELEBRATION 2003

ence's energy.

Furtado has a new CD available on Dualtone Records and with the American Gypsies has just released the live recording, *Live Gypsy*.

Of course the Eugene Celebration weekend just wouldn't be complete without seeing at least one local band, right? If you have to choose, make it Saturday's performance of **Mood Area 52** at the John Henry's Stage. This band will wow you with "nuevo tango," and with songs from the newest release. Smooth cello, sophisticated accordion and bountiful bass are the perfect introduction to the next local act on that same stage, **The Visible Men**. Dan Schmid from the Cherry Poppin' Daddies and Mood Area 52 plays bass to Daddy Dustin Lanker's piano. The duo performs eclectic, witty piano pop for the new millennium.

Sunday's no day for slouches. Maybe you don't know the name **Dave Coey**, but surely you know 9 Days Wonder, The Renegade Saints and Kerosene Dream. Coey is one of the men who made all of those bands possible, and he's returned with his new backing band, The **Tremor Guild**.

While not exactly a "new" band (Dave, bassist Chris Chard, drummer Bevan and guitarist Alan Toribio performed in the past incarnation of Kerosene Dream), Coey & the Tremor Guild imbue each song with a sense of excitement. If you want to rock out to some muscular jam music and rootsy

rock, the 5th Avenue Stage is your spot. Following Coey is **Luther Wright & The Wrongs**, the band who invited you to *Rebuild The Wall* with a song-for-song cover of Pink Floyd's classic concept album, *The Wall*. Canada's finest hillbilly band has a brand new release, *Guitar Pickin' Martyrs*. For an intensely bluegrass experience, let Luther be your guiding light.

Stick around for **Los Straightjackets**. These masked instrumentalists are celebrating the release of their latest CD, *Supersonic Guitars in 3-D!* Carrying on the tradition of The Ventures and Link Wray, this fab foursome plays surf rock better than you do. Wow, Billy Zoom plays sax on this new CD, DJ Bonebreak adds vibes, and Jon Spencer sings and plays theremin. That's enough to get me excited. The fantastic, otherworldly surf music keeps me energized.

Tucson-based band **Calexico** plays Sunday on the Broadway Stage. Joey Burns and John Convertino, the two core members, honed their musical skills as members of Giant Sand and Friends of Dean Martinez. Calexico's revolving cast of musicians allows each effort to move to a new realm, and the newest release, *Feast of Wire*, shows the band heading into lush territory.

Wire is a varied feast, featuring subtle piano, jazz, country-fied pedal steel and strings. The music is as expansive as the desert, sun-baked and bare-boned, revealing a powerful connection to the shifting

dynamics of life in the southwest. This shows a mature band with a foundation of bedrock, allowing the music to flow into uncharted territories, such as '70s pop (the musicians borrow a beat from Fleetwood Mac's "Go Your Own Way") and electronica (they play over a drum machine for the first time on "Attack El Robot! Attack!").

Last, but not least, I recommend **Misty River**, performing on Sunday's Wine Stage. "Where Folk, Country and

Bluegrass converge into Americana" is Misty River's motto, and ain't it the truth. Dana Abel, Misty River's accordion player, gave birth to her first child in April. The band reformulated itself as Misty Creek, without Abel, allowing her time to recuperate. Now, Misty River is back, albeit with a much-reduced touring schedule, allowing the musicians time to work on new material. This will be one of the few opportunities to see the whole band, so get out there! ★

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