



ALEX DE GRASSI

Extreme Edges

De Grassi's world acoustic and YOB's doom metal.

guitar players/composers." *Now and Then* pushes the boundaries of what is normally considered acoustic guitar music, which is just fine with de Grassi, as today's music reflects so many different influences from the world's diverse cultures and musical heritages, along with changing social mores.

For *Now and Then*, de Grassi takes on popular folk tunes and gives them new life to reflect a changing landscape. In de Grassi's world, "Streets of Laredo" is clothed in 4/4 time instead of a waltz and "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" is offered as a lively, celebratory song. Bassist Michael Manning guests on "Oh, Susanna," which de Grassi re-imagines as a samba finished with

talented performer is the CD *Shortwave Postcard*, an avant-garde exploration with guitarist g.e. stinson. De Grassi's performance will include selections from these recordings and others.

Eugene's kings of doom metal, **YOB**, are causing a scene both here at home and across the ocean. With a name drawn from an old Bugs Bunny episode in which an Earth baby and a Martian baby (whose name is Boy spelled backwards) are switched at birth, YOB has completed a new CD, *Catharsis*, slated for a Nov. 4 worldwide release. *Catharsis* will be available in the United States next week.

With strong interest from European metal

Elaborations of Carbon.

Vocalist and guitarist Mike Scheidt says, "Our first demo circulated worldwide, and I got e-mails from Brazil, England, Japan, Belgium, Germany. It's a small underground scene. Doom metal and the metal and hardcore world are still pretty underground but it's a mega-devoted scene."

YOB's label began promoting them in Europe, and the Bible of doom metal, *Psychedelic Magazine*, named YOB the top doom metal band in 2002; no small feat, considering the staggering numbers of metal bands today. Scheidt is "stunned" by how well the new CD sounds and reveals that it's a bit different.

Folk singer and guitarist **Alex de Grassi** will appear Sunday at Cafe Paradiso. Though born in Yokosuka, Japan, he grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area, a product of a musical family. De Grassi started out a trumpet player at age 13, but learned his true path once he discovered the guitar and has been playing for three decades. De Grassi debuted as a Windham Hill artist in 1978 with *Turning: Turning Back*. His most recent recording, released in June, is *Now and Then: Folk Songs for the 21st Century*, on Tropo Records.

Over the years de Grassi has become known as a virtuoso guitarist, having been hailed by *Acoustic Guitar* magazine as "one of the world's finest finger-style, steel-string

a dash of banjo. Percussionist Joe Craven makes a guest appearance, performing on "Oh, Susanna" as well as "Hushabye."

De Grassi recently collaborated with Chilean multi-instrumentalist Quique Cruz on the CD *TataMonk*, exploring the sounds of South America. Another CD, *Bolivian Blues Bar*, reveals de Grassi's take on jazz standards, while *Beyond the Night Sky* showcases arrangements of lullabies from around the globe. Yet another facet of this

magazines brewing, the European division of their label, Abstract Sounds, is gauging interest levels here before agreeing to send YOB on a European tour, but a full national tour is in the works for next summer, and a European tour seems likely. YOB, which has been together since 1996, initially allied with a Canadian website, www.stonerrock.com, which connects disciples of metal worldwide with music and info. Soon after, people everywhere began requesting the debut,

"It's three songs and 50 minutes. It's not soloing really, it's all arranged stuff." To Scheidt, doom metal is "basically a mixture of the first two Black Sabbath albums, some Melvins too, and some of the modern influence, the darkness of some metal bands. Its roots are in punk, metal and '70s rock."

Scheidt, bassist Isamu Sato and drummer Travis Foster will perform Tuesday at Samurai Duck with Puny Human and Fireball Ministry. **EW**

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