



Garaj Mahal plays the McDonald Theatre Thursday, April 22.

Eclectic Jazz

Garaj Mahal, Manischewitz span jazzy genres.

A 2000 jam session brought together four ace musicians with a résumé spanning stints with Sting, Steve Kimock, John McLaughlin, Bela Fleck and Chick Corea. That fate-tempting meeting was the root of the formation of **Garaj Mahal**, a four piece consisting of bassist Kai Eckhardt, guitarist Fareed Haque, drummer Alan Hertz and keyboardist Eric Levy.

Haque was born in 1963 to a Pakistani father and a Chilean mother. Extensive travels to Western Europe, the Middle East and Chile exposed Haque to a wide variety of music at a young age.

Eckhardt, born in 1961 in Mainz, Germany to a German mother and Liberian father, was raised in Germany and West Africa.

Hertz's background is solidly in the San Francisco Bay Area, where he is among the region's most sought after drummers. His collaborations with Steve Kimock (Zero, Other Ones, Phil & Friends), Bobby Vega (Zero, Jefferson Starship, Quicksilver), and Frank Zappa alumnus Ray White in 1998 became known as KVHW.

The group produces timeless jazz but doesn't stop there; the dish is livened up by a combination of funk, fusion, blues and world beats that causes **Garaj Mahal** to stand out in a crowded scene.

Eric Levy hails from the Windy City and was steeped in Chicago's gospel and blues traditions as well as jazz and classical. Interestingly, as Levy proceeded with his musical education at Northern Illinois University, Fareed Haque became his professor. Now, master and disciple jam together. What each member of the foursome brings to the mix is his own spice, seasoned by diverse backgrounds and experiences.

Together, they blend most deliciously into a pleasing assortment of grooves. The group produces timeless jazz but doesn't stop there; the dish is livened up by a com-

bination of funk, fusion, blues and world beats that causes Garaj Mahal to stand out in a crowded scene. Garaj Mahal's first studio album, *Mondo Garaj*, has recently been released to wide acclaim, and a second album is in the works. Garaj Mahal plays the McDonald Theatre on Thursday, April 22nd.

Local jazz quintet **Manischewitz** is set to celebrate what would have been the 80th birthday of Henry Mancini, a versatile and multi-talented composer who brought soothing and invigorating themes to popular film and television programs.

Mancini was responsible for the irrepressible coolness of *The Pink Panther* and *Peter Gunn*. (Mancini scored all of the *Pink Panther* movies.) He took John Wayne to wildest Africa with the soundtrack for the 1962 movie *Hatari*. The film *Breakfast at Tiffany's* just wouldn't be the same without the Mancini-composed and conducted score. "Hubcaps and Taillights," "Mr. Yunioshi," and "Moon River" (with Johnny Mercer) never cease to thrill.

Born Enrique Mancini in Cleveland on April 16, 1924, he first burst onto the scene as a pianist-arranger for the Glenn Miller Orchestra, then under the direction of Tex Beneke. Hollywood welcomed Mancini with open arms, during which time he penned the unforgettable tunes we revere him for today.

Mancini's compositions were performed by the best jazzers of the time, allowing jazz buffs to go nuts and the casual music fan to revel in his inventive artistry.

This cross-musical love affair is being kept alive by Manischewitz: coronet and accordion by Michael Roderick, also of Eugene's Mood Area 52, Los Mex Pistols, Scrambled Ape, Wheel of Meat and RocketBoy Arts Records; alto sax by West Coast Rhythm Kings' and Mood Area 52's Kee Zublin; drums by James West (Justin King, Norma Fraser, the Habaneros); guitar by Gung Ho Recording Studios' owner Billy Barnett (who also plays guitar with other local celebrities, like Dan Jones and Ed Cole); and double bass by Eugene jazz musician Hamilton Mass.

The Mancini celebration happens Friday at the Downtown Lounge. **Mood Area 52's** tango-inspired original compositions will open the festivities, with film clips and Manischewitz following. For all you music lovers and philatelists, a commemorative postage stamp honoring Mancini, who died June 14, 1994, is scheduled for release on April 13th.

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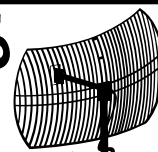
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