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JAGUAR
PRODUCTIONS

music BY BRETT CAMPBELL



Azuquita plays the Shedd,
Thursday, June 3.

Going Global

Musical sounds from around the planet can be heard in Eugene.

Our government's recent unilateral actions may have driven millions around the world to detest American policy, but here in Eugene we can celebrate global consciousness by listening and dancing to rhythms from across the planet. One of my favorite events last year was the Rhythms of Mass Percussion concert at Agate Hall, which showed how percussion music from three continents could range from subtle and mellifluous (gamelan), to irresistibly danceable (samba, African dance).

On Sunday, June 6, you can hear and learn percussion music from Cuba, Africa, Ireland, Indonesia, Brazil and more at the **Eugene World Rhythm Festival**. The free event, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Amazon Park, includes workshops for kids and grownups, performances by Cuban percussion master **Jesus Diaz** (who's played with Santana, Planet Drum, and many others) and local musicians including drummers **Alan Tarpinian** and **Brian West**, and groups **Samba Ja**, **Gamelan Sari Pandhawa**, **Steel Magnolias**, and more. You can even bring your own drum to the closing community drum circle. You can also hear the softer side of percussion (as well as flute, voice, and fiddle) when Gamelan Sari Pandhawa's small ensemble performs at Cozmic Pizza on Sunday, May 30.

Global rhythms also abound this weekend at Café Paradiso. On Friday, May 28, the club hosts the rich Middle Eastern dance music of **Americanistan**, featuring zither, harmonium, flute, bagpipes, and drums. And on Sunday, May 29, Paradiso hosts **Scrambled Ape**, which plays brass music from Eastern Europe, New Orleans, Eugene, and Toonland (specifically the wonderfully dizzy cartoon music of Raymond Scott).

Ape also opens for the amazing **Dirty Dozen Brass Band** at the WOW Hall on Thursday, May 27. Experiencing this group's bouncy gospel and jazz funeral music in New Orleans was one of my personal musical high points. They've accompanied stars from Elvis Costello to Widespread Panic to Dave Matthews, and produce some of the most purely joyous music you'll ever hear or dance to.

Still more global rhythms emanate from The Shedd on June 3 when the Portland-based quintet **Azuquita** brings bolero, son, and guaguanco music to town. If you liked *Buena Vista Social Club*, you'll groove to

these traditional Cuban dances, whose origins come from Africa, Spain, and the Middle East.

Percussion music makes for great spectacle as well as dance, as the ever-popular touring show **Stomp!** proves year after year. Back in Eugene for two shows at the Hult Center on June 8 and 9, the British-based dance troupe invariably amazes audiences with its members' ability to conjure melody, dance, and theater out of trash can lids, brooms, poles, oil drums, even matchsticks. It's a truly unique visual and musical experience.

Percussion also rules at the UO on Sunday, June 6 when the **University Percussion Ensemble** plays an afternoon concert featuring more than 140 percussion instruments from around the world in music by don Derby, David Lang, Darius Milhaud's classic percussion concerto, and much more.

That's only one of a series of attractive concerts at the UO as the music school's academic year reaches its climax. The big news is the **UO Opera Ensemble's** fully staged production of Henry Purcell's wonderful Baroque opera, **Dido and Aeneas**. Director and harpsichordist Mark Kaczmarczyk has pulled off some terrific productions in unlikely places, and this time he's chosen the UO's new Lillis Business School atrium. The show will also feature other classical pieces on the theme of the oft-difficult relationships between women and men. Kaczmarczyk's productions never fail to entertain — don't miss this one.

The UO music calendar has too many other gems coming up to cover here, but I'd especially recommend the May 27 choral concert and June 5 gospel show — see the music school website for details.

Cello fans have had it good this year, what with Yo Yo Ma, Matt Haimovitz and others hitting town, but how many jazz cellists have you seen? **Erik Friedlander** is blazing exciting new trails in both composed and improvised music for cello and various ensembles, and on June 8, he brings his latest project, **Maldoror**, to The Shedd's chapel.

Inspired by the proto-surrealist poems of doomed 19th-century poet Isidor Ducasse (nom de plume: Lautréamont), Friedlander improvised solo cello responses to the texts, concocting a kind of soundtrack to Ducasse's mad verse. Should be a fascinating, intimate show by a great musician.

CW