

Sampling Eugene Sounds

BY BRETT CAMPBELL

For music lovers, the big EC is an opportunity to sample some of the fascinating sounds from around the planet, played by our own friends and neighbors.

• **Manischewitz** (Fri 6:30 pm, Wineries Stage): Part of the stable that includes Mood Area 52, Manischewitz is a jazzier quintet featuring sax, guitar, accordion, cornet, bass and drums. It's fun and not just for jazz nerds.

• **Albino!** (Fri 8:15 pm, 5th Ave. Stage): One of the great musical experiences of my life was seeing the great Nigerian godfather of Afrobeat, Fela Kuti. Fela's passed on, but his many musical offspring include this new Berkeley-based, 14-piece all-star Afrobeat ensemble formed by members of Fela's old band as well as **Spearhead, Sonny Okosun, Hamsa Lila**, and others.

• **Black Swan Jazz Band** w/ Marilyn Keller (Fri 10:15 pm, Wineries Stage): This Portland-based classic jazz outfit specializes in the all-too-oft neglected early jazz of Bix Beiderbecke, James P. Johnson, Fats Waller, Hoagy Carmichael, Dixieland, early blues, ragtime and Duke Ellington's "jungle."

• **11 Eyes** (Fri 11 pm, Luckey's): Tim

McLaughlin's innovative blend of funk, turntable madness, fiery percussion, and punchy horns deserves to set at least one agenda for 21st century improvised music. You can dance to this big sound, too.

• **Paul Prince** (Sat 10 am, Sat Market Stage): Unlike so many western guitarists whose knowledge of "exotic" cultures seldom strays beyond superficial sound effects, Paul Prince combines deep study and performance of Polynesian and African music with superb technique and musicality to produce a happy hybrid: music of shimmering complexity that sounds simple and beautiful.

• **Soromundi Lesbian Chorus of Eugene** (Sat 11 am, Sat Market Stage): This community chorus sings uplifting music from many of the world's music traditions, including South Africa, Nigeria, gospel, swing, Latin America and The Hebrides.

• **Eugene Taiko** (Sat noon, Sat Market Stage)— One of the most powerful forms of percussion in the world, this traditional Japanese drum ensemble, featuring a precise choreography of movements by the athletic drummers, creates a striking visual as well as aural experience.

• **Café Ramblers** (Sat 12:30 pm Wineries

Stage): One of the most enduringly appealing forms of jazz inspired by American swing emerged in the cafés of 1930s Paris. Some of Eugene's best musicians formed Café Ramblers to carry on the tradition, as well as updating it with swing, country blues, even tangos.

• **Sun Bossa** (Sat 2 pm, Sat Market Stage): Seems like Brazilian bossa nova, that smooth, sultry staple of luminaries like Joao Gilberto and Stan Getz, is making yet another comeback. Another good choice for a lower-voltage EC experience.

• **Mike Denny and the All Stars** (Sat 2:15 pm Wineries Stage): If you've lived in Eugene for awhile and you care about music, it'd be hard to miss guitarist Mike Denny.

• **Danny Barnes** (Sat 4 pm Wineries Stage): I first encountered the rangy banjo master Danny Barnes when I heard his punk-bluegrass group, the Bad Livers, in Austin. Now Barnes has used his proximity to Seattle to form partnerships with guitar god Bill Frisell, fiddle master Darol Anger, and a host of other fine musicians. He's also developed his songwriting skills, exploring the various terrains of American roots music to good effect, even doing settings of William Blake's poetry. He's one of the

Northwest's finest musicians and worth checking out in any context.

• **Jenaguru Marimba** (Sat 5:30 pm Sat Market Stage): The EC is party time, and there's nothing quite so bouncy and upbeat as the Zimbabwean celebration music played by the various marimba ensembles associated with Eugene's Kutsinhira cultural center. The irresistible beat and interlocking polyrhythms are a joy to listen and dance to.

• **Son Mela'o** (Sat 8 pm, Wineries Stage): If you like Buena Vista Social Club or even the modern salsa of Tito Puente or Eddie Palmieri, try this dozen-member aggregation (trumpet, vocals, sax, flute, congas, bongos, timbale, and the Puerto Rican *cuatro*) that plays the delicious Cuban traditional dance music called *son*. It's some of the most fun music in the Western Hemisphere.

• **Mood Area 52** (Sun noon, 5th Ave. Stage): When you get tired of guitars, try this cooler yet compelling confection of accordion, bass, sax, cello, and sometimes violin, performing not just traditional tangos but also more modern styles and blending in other elements as well. Just one of the most unusual and enjoyable bands in town, always worth catching. **EW**



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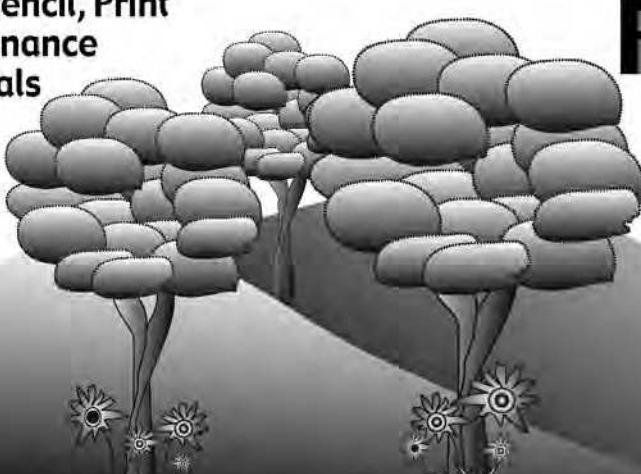


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