



Binge On Folk Music

A healthy dose.

The term "binge" is usually used in connection with unhealthy eating, drug use or drinking. But in epicurean terms, music can also be pursued with such fervor. With that said, music lovers, get ready for a healthy three-day folk binge.

Bluegrass fanatics cometh as Sam Bond's Garage welcomes the raw, backwoods sounds of the **Shiftless Rounders** on Thursday, Feb. 10. The Vermont duo Phill Saylor Wisor (banjo) and Ben Sidelinger (dobro) layer twangy vocal harmonies with masterful banjo and dobro plucking.

Their most recent release, the aptly titled *Ghost in the Radio*, is like listening to old Folkways records through an ancient Victrola. Featuring their producer, Jim Armenti, on clarinet, "Big Round Moon" evokes images of Benny Goodman and Townes Van Zandt sipping mint juleps at twilight. Armenti adds an almost time-in-a-bottle quality to the Rounders' brand of rootsy folk music.

Their picking work is next to virtuoso. And even if you're not into the twang, there's that historical dimension, that old Americana flavor in this music. Lyrically, the duo embodies a listless, introspective darkness, offering honest and vivid stories you just don't get in music these days. Fans of Palace Music, Smog or even Eugene's own Mikah Sykes will enjoy the Shiftless Rounders.

Next stop on our folk music jaunt is Café Paradiso, Friday, Feb. 11 for the Irish music duo **Matt and Shannon Heaton**, a mix of traditional Irish and American styles. Shannon's timber flute melodies are sharp and extremely dynamic, as she showcases the instrument's diverse range. On the song "F Stop," from the Heaton's latest CD *Dearga*, Shannon zips through dozens of notes in a matter of seconds. Even at a heightened pace in songs such as "Three Days to Go," her sound remains gentle and serene.

Matt Heaton, a classically trained guitarist, builds an important backbone with his sturdy guitar and dobro strumming. Together the two create music with a spiritual synergy that shines through.

Winding things down on Saturday night, Café Paradiso is again the place to be as acoustic warrior **Keith Greeninger** and special guest **Nini Camps** offer one final dose of folk.

"The incessantly touring Nini Camps is a self-proclaimed road warrior. Her fierce live performances showcase her diverse ability behind the guitar."

Somewhere between Kenny Loggins and Michael Bolton, Keith Greeninger's music has an epic, dramatic quality to it. His powerful, robust voice showcases a kind of drawl and vibrato you hear a lot in modern adult-contemporary country music and makes you feel as if something immensely important is about to happen. His second CD, *Back to You*, features songs that everyone can relate to, tackling issues of social injustice, hard times and love. A storyteller in song, Greeninger paints masterful portraits of humanity in both

its splendor and strife.

The incessantly touring Nini Camps is a self-proclaimed road warrior. Her fierce live performances showcase her diverse ability behind the guitar, utilizing slides and effects pedals against a variety of hard-hitting rhythms. Her debut CD, *Lovepie*, rages with a folk-rock sound comparable to the likes of Ani DiFranco. Her vocal depth and range is the highlight of tracks such as "I Thought You Knew." She is touring in support of her new EP *Drivin' You Out*. **EW**

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