

influences are obvious, though the band pays homage not only to funksters like Herbie Hancock, but to great rockers like Jimi Hendrix and Eric Clapton.

Together they combine their diverse musical backgrounds (Eastburn started out on the viola) into a fusion of rock from all ages. As a result, The David Samuel Project's sound can only be described as somewhere between the rock of the late '70s, the power ballads of the '80s and the funkier pop bands of the early '90s. Samuel's guitar solos especially, along with his edgy voice, hint of the power ballad. Recently the band added vocalist Tiffany Tyler, filling out their sound with harmonies.

Definitely more rock than pop, The David Samuel Project is more likely to attract Jet fans than 'NSYNC groupies. Check out their sound at davidsamuelonline.com or garageband.com — *Alana Yankus*



Debra Arlyn

GENRE: Pop

CROONING SINCE: 1995

While certain young pop divas (you know who) are struggling with the transition from teen pop stardom to building a lasting career, Debra Arlyn, a singer songwriter from Corvallis, is in the enviable position of having skipped the teen pop phase altogether, leaving her poised to take her career in just about any direction she chooses.

Having just turned 20, and with the release of her second CD, *Thinking Out Loud*, Arlyn is beginning to gain the attention of some big record labels. While she thinks that would be great, Arlyn says that she could also be happy joining the caravan of I-5 troubadours, plying their songcraft up and down the west coast. "The artistic side of it, fulfilling my needs as an

artist, is the most important part of it to me," she said. Young, blonde and attractive, with a confident grace, Arlyn certainly has the telegenic appearance that might draw the big labels, but trying to build her into yet another diva would be a shame.

A self-taught musician, her songs show a maturity in style and range, and her singing voice is strong and nuanced, capable of finding many levels of emotion within her songs, which revolve mostly around themes of love and relationships. "My mother calls me a hopeful romantic," Arlyn said. "I've had a lot of experience with love, so that's what I write about." Debra Arlyn is playing at Luna in Eugene on Friday, July 1. — *John Ginn*

Marty Baggen Project

MEMBERS: Marty Baggen (guitar, vocals, songwriting), Terri Takahashi (bass), Guy Brooksbank (keyboard), and Carolyn Krueger (backup vocals)

GENRE: Adult alternative rock

ALT ROCKERS SINCE: 2004

According to band's website, The Marty Baggen Project sound is intended for the "often neglected 25-45 year old demographic." A quick perusal of MBP's songs is enough to recognize the accuracy of their aim. The band's exclusively original material invokes elements of Peter Dinklage, REM and Tom Petty, though the lack of a physical drummer alone probably rules out the under 25 crowd. Instead, they rely on synthesized percussion programs to drive their quartet. This is not necessarily a bad thing. "We're really happy with the setup we have now," says Baggen. "I think I'm the only one without a master's degree, [the band members] are just amazing musicians, they learn the songs really quickly."

Baggen's home studio in Corvallis was the birthplace of the band's two albums, *God Plays Dice* (2003) and *Born Fearless* (2005). "The whole thing is like running a daycare," Baggen says with a laugh. "Trying to get four people together with all original material, it's not like a cover band." MBP has kept busy playing primarily Corvallis venues. Eugene gigs are on the horizon, though nothing is concrete yet. Albums and song downloads are available at www.martybaggen.com — *Dave Constantin*

Microcosm

MEMBERS: Tim Lower (bass), Matt Royston (guitar), Paul Yanello (guitar), Simon Ghionea (keyboards), Miles Thompson (brass, not pictured), Clenton Roman (per-

MARTY BAGGEN PROJECT



cussion, not pictured), Chris Olds (drums)

GENRE: Groovadelic dance/trance

TRIPPING OUT SINCE: 2003

We sat down with bassist Tim Lower for a quick session.

Most of you seem to be pretty progressive people, beyond music. How many bike to practice?

There are three of us that ride on a regular basis. Matt was a bike messenger for 13 years, so he's tenured and amazing and just loves to be on his bicycle. Since we have this studio space it's really easy to just leave all your equipment there, hop on your bike and go play some music. It's a beautiful thing.

Favorite show so far?

May Day was a great crowd, I felt good and it was awesome. The Magnificent May Meltdown was a light crowd, bad weather, and I'd hurt my back that day, but the stage was beautiful and as soon as we started playing my back felt better.

How would you recommend preparing oneself for a Microcosm show?

Stretching. (Laughs) Keep your mind open. Be prepared to hear different kinds of music, not just four-on-the-floor rock'n'roll. We have a lot of world influences.

Microcosm's new CD *Higher Unconsciousness* is available at www.microcosmmusic.com — *Josh Gates*



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