

Thriffin' For a Melody

Home of Buddy Holly and Waylon Jennings. Stompin' ground for **Thrift Store Cowboys**. Yep, it's Lubbock. Lubbock, Texas. Say "Lubbock" a few times and it starts to sound exciting. The Thrift Store Cowboys grew up in the West Texas panhandle around Lubbock and Fluvanna (another small town name that's fun to say) and soaked up the area's rich musical history. All but one of the band's six members were under 21 when their 2001 CD *Nowhere With You* was released, so these younguns have a lot of growing up ahead of them. Still, the songs they showcase on www.myspace.com reveal similarities to Old 97's, but with more sweetness and tenderness than I've heard from that band in a long time. "Days We Remember" sways with a Mexican flavor thanks to snappy accordion, and would go great with hot salsa and cold Corona with lime. "Trails of Light" starts out like a tear-jerking ballad, with weepy violin and somber notes, but soon finds its legs and end up punchy. "Sleepy Engine" is anything but sleepy, with a kicky train-on-the-tracks rhythm that's enhanced by sparkling violin. Speaking of which, Amanda Shires is billed as "fiddle and vocals" but at least on the tunes I heard, she ain't playing fiddle-style. Her lovely way with the instrument, however it's played, adds a delicacy I love.

The group released a second CD, *The Great American Desert*, in November of 2003. It's more of the same energetic, slightly dusty tunes that can only originate from the great open spaces of Texas. In addition to packing about 50 originals into a full-on, high-energy, three-hour set, the group honors their influences by playing covers of Jimmie Rodgers, Buck Owens, Bob Wills, Old 97's, Elvis and more. Yeah, Lubbock is in the middle of nowhere, but as the band says on its website, www.thriftstorecowboys.com, "anywhere's walking distance if you've got the time." The Thrift Store Cowboys play at 9 pm, Thursday, August 4 at Luckey's. \$3-\$5. —Vanessa Salvia

Family Reunion

The day Jerry Garcia passed away was a rough one in Eugene. In the 10 years since his death, much has changed in the world. One constant remains: the draw of the man's music, not just with the Dead, but in his solo work as well. In that spirit comes the **Cozmic Garcia Birthday Bash**, held at Cozmic Pizza on the 63rd anniversary of Jerry's birth.

Jerry profoundly affected many people in this community. Many folks moved here because of the rich Dead history in the area. While those who

mer Dead collaborator Martin Fierro brings his outfit Elijah to the stage. Fierro began his work with the boys in the 1970s, blowing his horn onstage with the band on a number of occasions. Drawing on some serious Dead ties, his lineup includes the always entertaining Melvin Seals, former keyboardist of the Jerry Garcia Band, as well as former members of Merl Saunders Rain Forest Band. This band was "born the day Jerry died," so they should be the perfect fit.

In addition to making music and Father's Day gifts (ties), Jerry also made some serious

A Return to the Power of Three

Some people have mused that the age of the power trio is over, relegated now to jazz combos and fond, fading memories of Cream and the Jimi Hendrix Experience. Then along comes the **Eric McFadden Trio** to remind those naysayers what made the ass-kicking, prog-rock three-pieces of the '60s and '70s so cool to begin with — but McFadden's band does it all acoustic.

To those in the know, Eric McFadden has long been a guitar demi-god, sent to resurrect honest rock from its stale tomb. After crossing chords with some musical giants, including Les Claypool, Bo Diddley, Joe Strummer, Keb' Mo' and the Reverend Horton Heat, McFadden set out on tour with the immortal P-Funk Allstars, where he surely learned everything he didn't already know about pure musical energy.

Because of the stripped-down approach, the key to any trio has always been finding three talented musicians who don't just play well together, but seem to play on a single, telepathic plane. EMT has apparently hit on this magic formula. James Whiton's mastery of the amplified, stand-up double bass must be seen to be believed. A classically trained bassist, Whiton has blended symphonic discipline with powerful, inventive chops, creating new dimensions of unexpected texture. Frequent EMT drummer Paulo Baldi is currently off working with his other band, the widely beloved Cake, but his replacement for this tour is Jeff "The Commander" Anthony, who helped launch the band back in 2002.

EMT's hard-hitting, experimental rock-fusion harkens back to a purer time in music, to something less packaged and closer to a real expression of an artist's angst-driven forays into the great unknown. If you missed McFadden's stops in Eugene with any of his other projects, don't miss EMT this time for a chance to see a real rock hero in a stripped to the bone setting — and to witness the mighty power trio's return to glory. The Eric McFadden Trio plays as the musical guest at John Henry's Broadway Revue 10 pm Sunday, July 31. \$3-\$5. —Dave Constantin



never tasted the Dead magic at its best may not quite understand it, Jerry was father, friend and family to many. Immediately following his passing, many events took place to bring the community together. Lately it seems these "family reunions" are becoming more scarce. Enter Cozmic Pizza!

If you do enter Cozmic Pizza on Monday, here's what you'll find. At 7:30 pm there will be a screening of a Grateful Dead concert film from June 26, 1987. This begins (and concludes) the all ages portion of the evening. After the kiddies have gone off to bed, the real fun begins (don't it always?) as for-

art. He was an accomplished watercolorist and local Fenario Gallery is putting on a display of original J. Garcia artwork.

While it has been ten years since Jerry's death, this is a birthday celebration. Cozmic provides the pizza and beer, Elijah provides the music, Fenario Gallery the art. In the Deadhead world, though, it's always been the crowd who has provided the "x" factor. Bring it!

The Cozmic Garcia Birthday Bash takes place Monday, August 1. Film starts at 7:30 pm, music at 9 pm. —Jeff Winicour



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