

Music for Shopping

Holiday Market entertains shoppers until Christmas Eve.

You're a person who wants to support the local economy, values hand-crafted objects, and likes one-stop shopping. Sipping a hot cocoa while browsing shelves of hand-thrown pottery, hand-knit sweaters and hand-beaded jewelry sounds a whole lot better than stumbling through the aisles of the (anti)local Mall-Wart, doesn't it? If you don't have time to crochet teapot cozies for everyone in your family (and let's face it, who does?) head down to Holiday Market, where until December 24 you can browse hundreds of booths boasting the finest locally made wares. Plus, there's an International Food Court featuring everything from soup to nuts to entertainment all day long, for all ages.



Mary Ferris

Good music makes spending money so much more pleasurable, so use this handy-dandy guide to Holiday Market's eclectic entertainment offerings. Check www.holidaymarket.org for specific days and updated show times.

Debbie Diedrich is known to many as a guitarist with the now-defunct band Babes With Axes. She's also an in-demand ukelele

instructor, and you can hear her students from grades fifth through ninth in concert as Kids With Uxes, er, Kids With Ukes. "It's like a showcase with mostly group numbers," said Diedrich. They'll play (and sing) pop standards like "These Boots Are Made For Walking" as well as some classic kid-oriented holiday tunes – but not too many!

Mary Ferris is a ukelele student of Debbie Diedrich's who will be performing on her own. A fifth grade phenomenon, Ferris sings classics by Carly Simon ("You're So Vain") and Dolly Parton ("Jolene") among many others. "She's been busking at Saturday Market, so her song repertoire has really grown!" said Ferris' mom Lisa Vertufo. The talented 10-year-old

got a ukelele for Christmas last year and now she's amazing!

Since 1989 **Balladina** has been perfecting its art of singing and playing traditional and contemporary folk-dance music using cultural instruments and wearing traditional costumes. Since forming, and studying the world's traditions, Balladina has narrowed its focus to music of the Balkans, particularly Bulgarian and Macedonian Rom (commonly called Gypsy)

dance music. It's a real treat to see exotic instruments and beautiful clothing bring to life the exciting music of this region.

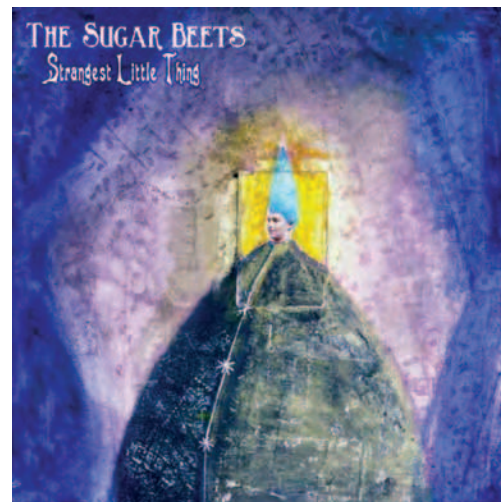
Is it Brian Cutie? Brian Cutten? While he might answer to those, it's Brian Cutean (Cyoot-ane), or **Brian QTN** as he prefers it. This wandering minstrel songcrafter knows how to turn a phrase and honor the turning of the wheel of life with humility and humor.

Throughout the rest of 2005 QTN is donating 20 percent of all CD and card sales (he designs his own decks of 52 "wordthought" cards) to Hurricane Katrina relief. His latest CD, *Heartheearth*, has a poetic truthfulness that can only come from one who has observed life with an open heart.

Though you might have to explain to your kids what a "Love Truffle" is, **Paul & Nancy's Love Truffle** is a family affair. Playing reworked Beatles songs and pop standards done with a jazzy twist, this is the same couple behind Lord Leebrick Theatre's sold out performances of the children's musical *Nisse's Dream*.

Geoffrey Mays has Eugene roots and is a welcome performer around these parts. He apprenticed with ever-popular Don Latarski and has been playing guitar for 25 years. Born in the land of the Rising Sun, Mays has lived in Japan, Hawaii, Okinawa, Mexico, France and all over North America, giving his heartfelt music a truly global outlook. His new CD, *Journeys—Within & Afar* is primarily instrumental "emotional soundscapes" as he calls them. Mays is a one-man-band, using technology in surprising ways to create astonishingly rich sounds.

A favorite on the Northwest folk festival circuit, **Red Pajamas** enters their 6th year showcasing mandolin, fiddle, accordion, guitar and piano harmonies. Chico Schwall, whom you've probably heard of under his own moniker, is a longtime member providing tasty mandolin and fiddle bits. It's a little bit bluesy, a little bit rocky and a little bit folksy. Says songwriter David Anderson, "We are mixing some 'seasonal' music into our set: 'Zat You, Santa Claus?,' a number Louis Armstrong did in the '50s, and an Irving Berlin tune, 'When Winter Comes,' done Latin style." Red Pajamas will be playing as a quartet, "with a more rootsy sound than usual." The group will perform with Accordions Anonymous on Dec. 17. You don't want to miss their holiday classic, "Carol of the Bellows" ("Carol of the Bells" with mass accordions in five parts), do you? I thought not.



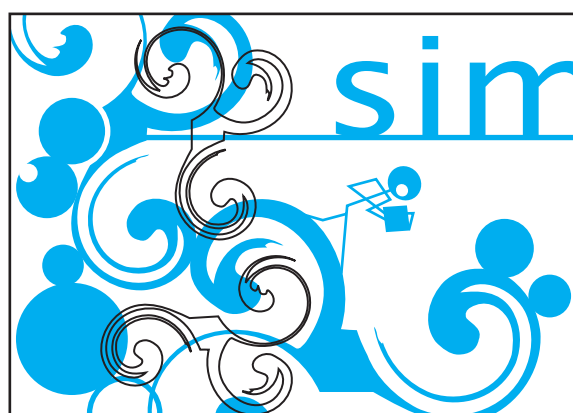
Sixty-plus women (that's the number of people in the group, not their ages!) lifting their voices together against ignorance and fear is an inspiring sight, and **Soromundi** has been pleasing audiences for more than 15 years. Literally translated as "Sisters of the World," Soromundi was founded in 1989 to honor and celebrate the strength, dignity and diversity of the lesbian community.

If dance is your thing, check out **Americanistan**, performing music inspired by Middle Eastern and Mediterranean cultures. Specializing in bellydance music, the group uses ethnic instruments, lavish costumes and several languages to create music both slow and sensual and lively and upbeat.

Eugene's perennial folk favorites **The Sugar Beets** will be unveiling *Strangest Little Things*, their first CD in five years. "We've been working on it since last spring," said 'Beet guitarist and singer Marty Chilla. "Trying to do a show during the holidays seemed kind of nutty, so we thought we'd do something at the Holiday Market," he said. Lucky for us!

One more thing. In Holiday Hall, which is the side room to the main hall, you can hear acoustic and more informal sets by main stage performers and others, like **Chip Cohen**, **Richard Crandell**, **Emily Fox** and **Eagle Park Slim**. Daily sets are at noon, 2 pm and 4 pm.

Happy holidays, and happy shopping! **EW**



simplify

the holidays

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