

play the old songs note for note.

What do you enjoy most about being a musician?

Everything. I love the people who come out to listen. Watching music on TV is passive, uninvolved. People who come out, they're participating in music just as much as I am. I just love playing music. I love the sound, the feel of my fingers on the strings. I love the vibration of the guitar as it leans against my chest. I just love it all.

David Jacobs-Strain plays at 8 pm Friday, April 14 at Luna. \$10 stu. adv./\$14 gen./\$16 dos.
-John Ginn

Chasing Away the Tax Day Blues

It's tax day, April 15, and you've just sent your forms off to Uncle Sam. Bummed; you're bummed; you've just paid a lot of money to a bunch of bums. It's a bummer.

Fortunately, there's a cure for that. The **Harlem Gospel Choir** is in town on this very night, the perfect antidote for all that bummedness. Imagine the scenario:

- You:** I hate tax day. It's not a good day.
- HGC:** We hear you, brother. Come on, sing with us...
- You:** No!
- HGC:** Amazing Grace, how sweet...
- You:** La la la, I can't hear you!
- HGC:** How sweet the sound, that saved...
- You:** No way! Forget it!
- HGC:** That saved...
- You:** That saved a wretch like me!

And suddenly there you are, almost against your will, singing songs about metaphorical lost sheep and letting your little light shine on the darkness of the world, and you are clapping and whooping and having a rousing good time.

Formed in 1986, Harlem Gospel Choir was founded by Allen Bailey, who was inspired by a Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration at the Cotton Club. Gathering singers and musicians from various black churches in Harlem, the group has become one of the most widely known and traveled gospel choirs in the world. Its mission is two-fold: To make the world a more loving and peaceful place, and to create a better understanding of the African-American culture, gospel music and how it relates to the black church. The theme of every performance is bringing people and nations together, and giving something back.

And for nearly 20 years now, that's exactly what they've been doing, raising the roof on venues all over the world, sharing stages with Diana Ross, U2, The Chieftains, Bono, and, most recently, the multi-media group Gorillaz.

Gospel is not a passive musical style. Do not expect to lean back, eyes closed, and gather in the sound. Participation is encouraged, and toward that end, there will be a free workshop on Tax Day Eve open to anyone wanting to learn more about spirituals, slave songs and traditional and contemporary gospel. Those attending the workshop can join the choir onstage (concert ticket required) for a song at Saturday's performance.

The Harlem Gospel Choir hosts a free gospel workshop, Friday 7:30pm April 14 at the Hult Center and performs 8 pm Saturday April 15 at the Hult Center. \$18/\$22/\$26.
-John Ginn

Lukewarm Jam

Given that the bluegrass scene has taken off like a rocket all over the bar circuit in Eugene, it's easy for bands like **Blue Turtle Seduction** to get lost in the mix with all the other silly-named groups with mandolins, violins and harmonizing vocals. Straight from the back country of Lake Tahoe, Calif., these guys try to mix it up with what they call a "High-Altitude Bohemian Tribal Funk Grass" sound that includes everything from world music to hip hop to the skank rhythms of reggae and ska.

All the genres in the world couldn't begin to describe these guys. The harmonies in songs like "Changing Lanes" sound like a generic country album and the attempt at a hip hop verse in "Breakfast" is cornier than watching *Snakes on a Plane* with a \$5 tub of Orville Redenbacher. Their saving grace is that the band members are quite talented with their instruments.

If your desire for yet more bluegrass in Eugene hasn't been satiated yet, then maybe these guys will do it for you.

Blue Turtle Seduction plays with Ken Babbs the intrepid traveler/capn and the Prankster/Skypilots, UTF the Next Step and The Great All Merge at 8 pm Thursday, April 20 at the WOW Hall. \$13 adv./\$15 dos.
- Dan Hoyt



Harlem Gospel Choir

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