



Zen and the Art of Musical Maintenance

Kitchen Syncopators sign off

If you never existed as a band, can you break up? Yes. And no. The Kitchen Syncopators are trapped in this Zen koan right now, with an uncertain future beyond the shows they have booked in May.

Frank Lemon and Woodrow Pines shared a floor in a tool shed in western Oregon in 1998. They both loved old Southern music, so they traipsed off to New Orleans, for a few years sharing a shotgun house in the 9th Ward. They'd return for the West Coast's glorious summertimes, performing old-timey string music, blues, ragtime,

anything past the end of May." Lemon, who has new music under the name Gill Landry, also said, "Mentally we're each in our own world."

While that doesn't sound too hopeful, the band's nature has always been mercurial, without an agenda, without even a set membership. This month, the band is

Lemon on steel guitar, Bob Scarecrow on drums and washboard, Ryan (a Nawlins friend) on upright bass and Charlie Bean on piano. The Kitchen Syncopators released seven albums, and Lemon said, "We

The Kitchen Syncopators
9:30 pm • Sat. 5/20
Sam Bond's • \$6

I wouldn't say we're breaking up because we never really existed

jazz and jug. Via email from Portland, Lemon recently shared some insight into their current situation.

"We didn't 'break up' but we won't be doing the Syncopators so much in the future as we each have our own original projects we're working on," he said. "I wouldn't say we're breaking up because we never really existed as a certainty, but we're not booking

feel like that's enough." They recently recorded a live album in Sedona, Ariz., which they hope to have available at the show. Further disappointment for Sync fans — they won't be appearing at this year's Oregon Country Fair, so this upcoming Sam Bond's show will likely be, in Lemon's words, "Our last show in the Willamette Valley for a good long while." **EW**

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