

Alfonso Maya



The Secret is Out

It's summertime, and the livin' is easy, especially when music, wine and food samples are involved. And a kids' craft and play area to keep the little ones happy? And kids 15 and under are free? Sign me up, bro.

The first annual **Summerfest** at Secret House Winery promises all this and more as it highlights some of the best local food, music, wine and beer in a daylong celebration.

Organizer Darrel Kau says he and the owners of Secret House decided to do "something different from the commercial concert venue." Summerfest stemmed from a desire to counter the proliferation of summer concerts with high ticket prices. Kau envisioned an affordable "best of" event for the whole family. "This is the first time we're doing this, and we're hoping it breaks even so we can do it again," Kau says. "It's in a vineyard, it's not as formalized as an amphitheater . . . so you just come on in and walk around. There's lots of space to lounge and fields to play in. It's very inviting."

Kau targeted some of the area's best music. The fest starts at 2 pm with **The KoKo Lovetot**, representing with slightly funky cool jazz. It gets hotter as the day goes on with the spicy salsa of Eugene's fa-

vorite Latin musicians, **Lo Nuestro**. After that, sampling time starts at 3 pm! The \$10 ticket is a small price to pay for the ample samples coming your way: the wines of Secret House, of course, plus the local brews of Ninkasi Brewing Company and the foods of Mario Bros., Three Forks Wok & Grill and Larson's Fine Chocolate and Ice Cream.

The day could end there, and I'd be happy, but it's just getting started. **Norma Fraser** will perform soulful roots reggae, sung in her warm Jamaican patois that makes any event seem like a tropical holiday. You get a little gritty in the mix with **Justin King and the Apologies**, who kick out rock and roll with King's virtuosic guitar. **Disco Organica** follows, with "trip hop lounge that grooves the soul."

No Eugene "best of" celebration would be complete without the blues, and you can hardly do better than **The Vipers with Deb Cleveland**. They're known and loved by blues fans everywhere, and they draw this celebration of what's great about summertime in Eugene to a close. Summerfest begins at 2 pm Saturday, June 23, at Secret House Winery (88324 Vineyard Lane, Veneta; for directions see www.07summerfest.com). \$10, youth under 15 free.

— Vanessa Salvia

Modern Troubador

Stereotyping of Mexicans isn't limited to Republican congressmen; it's easy to assume that a troubadour from Cuernavaca must be playing norteño or ranchero or any of the various varieties of Mexican pop/rock. But **Alfonso Maya's** warm, intimate tunes appeal as much to straightforward folk music fans as world music types.

Maya's songs emerge from the trova tradition spawned in eastern Cuba. The similarity of the trovadores name to "troubadours" is probably no accident: As part of the socially conscious Nueva Cancion movement that originated in the 1960s, these traveling singer-songwriters conveyed news, political satire and social concerns around the island. Borne on breezy bossa nova, son and other Latin American rhythms, the style migrated to Mexico, finding a sympathetic home in the now bustling arts capital of Cuernavaca.

Sometimes melancholy, sometimes impetuous, Maya's loping trova ballads can evoke Gilberto Gil's early sound. From sly digs at commercial music (couched in hook-laden melodies) to cheerful celebrations of the underground scene to wistful songs of lost love, Maya's memorable melodies leap across language barriers to the hearts of listeners.

Alfonso Maya plays at 7:30 pm Saturday, June 23, at Cozmic Pizza (\$8), and at 7:30 pm Sunday, June 24, at Green Salmon in Yachats. — Brett Campbell



Lightning Dust

sound like Black Mountain. And The Cave Singers don't sound like bassist Derek Fudesco's old band, Pretty Girls Make Graves. Far from it: The trio's spare tunes, which hover around old-timey but sometimes suggest classic rock done up acoustic style, are haunted by their singer's scratchy, impassioned voice.

Lightning Dust creates moody, often bleak, relatively slow tunes, with the exception, on their new self-titled album, of the almost disconcertingly jaunty "Wind Me Up." Amber Webber's voice is sweet and thick and dark as molasses, winding stickily through songs that are grounded in Joshua Wells' gracefully straightforward piano lines and occasionally, as on the melancholy and gorgeous "Castles and Caves," layered with just the right amount of cello. "Jump In," on which Wells shares the vocal lead, has a carnival-like piano bit that might snag the ears of Jason Webley fans. Wells has a conversational delivery that adds

to the peculiar sideshow vibe that sparks some of the songs, but Webber's tremulous, powerful voice is the star here. At her most plaintive, Webber brings to mind PJ Harvey; the band's more dirge-like and dreamy tunes suggest Cat Power replacing Nico with the Velvet Underground. Lightning Dust creates hymns for empty rooms with rain-struck windows; their music calls up images of cobwebs in bright corners, clean clothes in the dirt and other such contradictory visions. Lightning Dust and The Cave Singers play at 9 pm Sunday, June 24, at Sam Bond's Garage. 21+ show. \$5. — Molly Templeton

Light on Dark

Pieces of other bands from farther north arrive in town this week in the form of **Lightning Dust** and **The Cave Singers**. But don't be fooled: Lightning Dust, the new project of Black Mountain members Amber Webber and Joshua Wells, doesn't

Musical Complexities

The members of **The Walton Complex** have been struggling for years to get the band organized and find a sound that's cohesive and represents who they are. The

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FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 9PM
The Co-Stars
Indie pop and rock from Eugene

SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 9PM
Papaw's Blue Jelly Band
Rockin' blues from Corvallis veterans.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 8PM
Widower
An almost country band from Brooklyn, New York

Fresh Fish/Italian - Authentic Oregon since 1911