

tening to the pleasant picking of a uke.

So if you're interested in trying out the mini guitar, where's the best place to start? Well, how about at the **UkeToberFest**? Event creators and fellow Ukulaney members Brook Adams and Keith Blackwell saw an interest and a market for the festival and decided that this year is the year to expose the uke to the rest of Eugene.

This one-day event will offer workshops, jam sessions, hula, a swap meet, open mic, four concerts by a dozen or so local uke acts and a presentation from Buck Mueller on the history of Hawai'ian music, where you can learn interesting facts about the ukulele like how uku lele is Hawai'ian for "jumping flea."

The festival events will be at various Eugene venues including Rogue Brewery, DIVA, Saturday Market Stage and Cozmic Pizza; just check out their website (www.brookadams.com) for an exact schedule and prices.

The UkeToberFest begins at 9:15 am Saturday, Oct. 27. Price varies depending on event. — Deanna Uutela

Czech It Out

The members of Uz Jsme Doma (pronounced 'ooj-smay-doma' and loosely translated as "Now we're at home") began their career playing secret shows, not because of hype or manufactured mystique, but because they had to. When the quintet formed in 1985, rock 'n' roll in then-Czechoslovakia was considered illegal, an antisocial and decadent form of Western capitalism. The band's first gig was a hush-hush performance on a riverboat in Prague, and for the next four years leading up to the Velvet Revolution, concerts were clandestine meetings in off-the-map places, undisclosed until right before the show for fear of the police finding out and cracking down. Uz Jsme Doma grew out of that widespread paranoia when music was literally dangerous and art represented freedom, and their spazzed-out, avant-punk sound is a cacophonous rejoinder to that era.

Equally influenced by Frank Zappa's absurdity, Pere Ubu's art-damaged dissonance and the Residents' satiric experimentalism (all of which they discovered via smuggled tapes), Uz Jsme Doma's music is a freakishly convulsive hybrid of rock, jazz, punk and ska. Saxophones skronk; guitars gangle; melodies mutate into math equations; rhythms ride bucking time signatures; voices vociferate in operatic Czech. It's a hyperactive Slavic goulash that's hard to study to, but an unforgettable, visceral experience live. And after 16 years of touring, including a visit to the U.S. at least once a year since 1995 and the first cultural contact to Bosnia after the '95 Dayton Accords, Uz Jsme Doma is a must-see, frenetic and fun shot in the arm. The word's out; hopefully, the cops won't come. Uz Jsme Doma, Capillary Action and On the First Day ... They Were Kittens play at 8 pm Thursday, Nov. 1 at the WOW Hall. \$10 adv., \$12 door. — Jeremy Ohmes

The Dawning of the Red Heads

Imagine running through a field with long reeds gently stroking your bare arms; your sideburns tickle your jaw as the cool breeze dishevels your already dirtied hair. In stride with you in this slow-motion daydream are young and old comrades with flowing hair, obnoxious sunglasses and impeccable taste in vintage clothing. The October sun beats down on you as ominous gray clouds come in and try to ruin your vibe, but your army of cool prevails to the sounds of tambourines and love. Can you dig it, you millennial hipsters, you?

If you feel you can paint a better picture than the one above after listening to **The Parson Red Heads'** first full-length album, *King Giraffe*, please write a letter to the editor: The rest of us are just flat-out feeling it. Following a psychedelic rock revival led in part by the success of the Brian Jonestown Massacre and The Dandy Warhols' documentary, *Dig!*, Parson Red Heads sound like everyone you have already heard, but it resonates well. To sum up the album: tambourines, guitar solos, '60s folk-pop crooning and keyboards that transport you to another era. Oregonian founders Evan Way (vocals, guitar), Brette Marie Way (drums, vocals), Erin Way, Sam Fowles (guitar, vocals), Charlie Hester (guitar, vocals) and Dane Garrard (bass) play with up to 12 members at a time to intensify their neo-free love, "free and easy" tour experience. If only Joel Gion could make an appearance on tambourine.

The Parson Red Heads play with Patrick Hayden and Brian Hall at 8:30 pm Sunday, Oct. 28, at Sam Bond's Garage. 21+ show. \$5. — Katie Cornell



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