



The Mother Hips

them always fresh and interesting no matter how many times you may have seen them before.

Of course, you could just as easily ignore this advice and park yourself in front of the Gypsy Caravan Stage all weekend long, enjoying live Middle Eastern and African dance and music traditions. Or maybe the Spirit Tower beckons for dance, hip hop and poetry.

Whatever path you choose, stay cool and keep listening. There's bound to be something good wherever your ears end up.

— Vanessa Salvia

People describe the Oregon Country Fair in a myriad of ways — eclectic, family-friendly, trippy, naked, granola-y, fairy-centric, out there, etc. — but boring is not one of them. If you're

bored at the Fair, then you better check your pulse. With nonstop performances, there is more music and entertainment than you can shake a devil stick at, and, honestly, the wealth of music and other events can have you spinning in circles. (People might think you're on drugs, but you're just trying to take it all in.) Here's a few suggestions so you don't get too dizzy and freak people out.

If your idea of a cappella music is barbershop quartets or Boyz II Men breakdowns, then you should do yourself a favor and check out **The Bobs**. The Grammy-nominated group has been combining vocal acrobatics with irreverent, self-deprecating humor for more than 25 years, and they've done it with nothing more than their mouths, hands, feet and "other body parts." The Bobs originally met as singing telegram deliverers

in San Francisco, and they quickly garnered attention by covering pop songs like "Helter Skelter" and "Psycho Killer," instead of the usual doo-wop standards. But it's their original songs and quick wit that have won the four-piece a faithful following. From heart transplants to Oliver North to nicknames for genitalia, no subject is off limits for the vocal orchestra. If you think it's hard singing with your tongue planted firmly in cheek, then The Bobs will show you how it's done.

But if you're pining for the days when Tom Petty, Neil Young and a slew of power pop groups ruled the FM dial, then **The Mother Hips** were made for you. These purveyors of California pop formed in

1991, and to say that they've had a long, strange trip since then would be a massive understatement. Moving up the ranks from college band to bar band to regional buzz band to signing with a major label, touring with Johnny Cash and Wilco and then breaking up in 2001 at the top of their game, The Mother Hips have experienced firsthand the fickleness of the music industry and seen their 15 minutes of fame come and go. After a five-year hiatus, the group reformed with a renewed sense of confidence and a new album. *Kiss the Crystal Flake* is a '70s rock/pop tour de force, featuring spot-on harmonies, hard-charging rockers, blue-eyed ballads and a laid-back boogie that should make every Fairgoer smile and sway



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