

PETTY PARTY

Alongside Neil Young and Bob Dylan, Tom Petty has one of the most distinctive voices in rock music. And when you have a distinctive voice, it gets spoofed a lot by comedians. So I ask Mike Campbell, longtime lead guitarist with Petty's band The Heartbreakers, which comedian does the best Petty impersonation? After giving it some thought, Campbell laughs. "Ask Jimmy Fallon, he'll give you a good answer," Campbell says.

Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers are touring behind 2014's *Hypnotic Eye* — a record many critics say is a return to roots for Petty and his band. "It's a nice compliment," Campbell says. "We didn't approach it that way. We do the best songs we can at the time." Campbell agrees many songs on *Hypnotic Eye* harken back to the energy of early Heartbreakers material. "There are certain songs I get an extreme adrenaline rush playing," Campbell says, mentioning timeless Petty hits like "American Girl," "Runnin' Down a Dream" and "Refugee," but adds, "Right now I'm enjoying learning the new songs from the album."

So what are the roots of Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers? "'50s and '60s stuff," Campbell says. "The stuff we grew up listening to." In fact, Campbell's favorite guitar is a '59 Les Paul. "Most of my inspiration, the guitarists who inspired me, played Les Paul," Campbell says, adding that his '59 "has a tone no other guitar makes."

Listen for the tone when Tom Petty and The Heartbreakers play with the legendary Steve Winwood 7:30 pm Thursday, Aug. 7, at Matthew Knight Arena; prices vary. — *William Kennedy*



GHOSTS OF THE SOUTHWEST

Tucson, Arizona, duo **Sweet Ghosts** took their name from a poem by Jack Gilbert: "Again and again we put our sweet ghosts on small paper boats and sailed them back into their death ..." And listening to Sweet Ghosts' latest release *Certain Truths*, it is easy to imagine "sweet ghosts on small paper boats." The album is melancholy and acoustic with the pitch and drift of a boat on water.

The twosome, comprised of Katherine Byrnes (known as a backup singer for Amos Lee) and Ryan Alfred (also of Calexico), find inspiration in the Southwest desert, "though perhaps not directly in terms of instrumentation and compositional ideas from the area," Alfred clarifies (writing to *EW* from the dressing room of a bullfighting arena in Madrid).

"Tucson is a very open, dry, warm town, and I spend a lot of time just biking around the city, hiking in canyons," he says. "I think that sense of space and openness has definitely seeped into my life, and found its way into our music, which has a very open, relaxed feel."

Gilbert describes the duo's sound as "ambient folk-Americana, taking inspiration from classic singer-songwriters like Kris Kristofferson and decorating it with light orchestral touches and electronic details." A description particularly apt for *Truths* track "Detroit." Alfred's husky tenor and Byrnes' alto intertwine in a tale of dive bars, vacant junkie eyes and empty streets, culminating in a refrain of "Hallelujah" delivered like coyotes calling to one another from a distant ridge.

Sweet Ghosts play with the seven-piece **Roselit Bone** and Eugene's **Cañada** 9 pm Wednesday, Aug. 6, at Sam Bond's; \$7. — *William Kennedy*



EVERYTHING BUT THE BATHROOM SINK

Miranda Lambert is one of country music's top female artists, but she has a gutsy-ness and grittiness that many women in country lack. She's got sass and strength as well as suffering and insecurities, and isn't afraid to reveal any of it in her lyrics. Lambert, who is performing at Sweet Home's Oregon Jamboree, just released her fifth album, *Platinum*. She also just turned 30, and along with that milestone came self-scrutiny and pangs of aging.

On *Platinum*, she sings the song "Bathroom Sink," a tune about looking at your body in the mirror and reaching for acceptance of what you see. She's OK with the real work of eating well and exercising to stay in shape, but there's nothing wrong with turning to a box of hair dye. On the album's title track, she cracks, "What doesn't kill you only makes you blonder." The song "Gravity Is a Bitch" is a rumination on saggy butts and boobs.

Throughout the whole album, she comes across as a wisecracking older friend with life lived and experience to give. Back on "Bathroom Sink" she talks about a mama that taught her how to pray and how to drink and how to clean the bathroom sink. She also says, "I thank Him for his patience and I take my medication." These snapshot moments of real life come boldly through, despite her superstar status. It's clear that even though Miranda Lambert is 30 and happily married, she's not done rebelling or telling us all how it really is.

Miranda Lambert plays the Oregon Jamboree main stage, preceded by **Blackjack Billy**, **Joe Diffie** and **Justin Moore**, at 9 pm Friday, Aug. 1. For ticket information, visit oregonjamboree.com.

— *Vanessa Salvia*

