

## GRACEFULLY

Seattle musician **Whitney Monge** calls her sound “alternative soul,” but don’t expect Aretha Franklin or Al Green — not quite, anyway.

“Alternative soul means music coming from a place that we all have: our soul,” Monge says, admitting she’s influenced by heavyweights from soul music, but her sound is a mix of rock and blues. “It’s music that’s relatable. It’s music you can feel,” she says.

Monge picks her song “Gracefully,” from 2014’s *Steadfast EP*, to sum up her sound. “Maybe because it’s saying, ‘Hey, I’m not perfect but that’s OK,’” she says. “I think it’s my Taurus rising sign talking there.”

“Gracefully” has an “Amazing Grace” inspired melody line over uptempo acoustic guitar, gentle flourishes of Keb Mo-style pop-blues electric guitar and Monge’s notable voice — a natural mix of Bonnie Raitt and India.Arie’s earthy tones. In “Gracefully” Monge sings: “Sometimes I do things I don’t believe in ... I remember I’m still learning, I’ll be learning ‘til I’m old.”

Monge always makes Eugene a tour stop, most recently playing last spring’s Out/Loud Queer Women’s Music Festival at WOW Hall. “I love Eugene!” Monge says. “Be prepared to have a blast with me and my friend **Kim Archer** on our Best Coast Tour.”

Whitney Monge and Kim Archer play 8:30 pm Wednesday, Jan. 14, at Axe & Fiddle; Cottage Grove; free. 21-plus. — *William Kennedy*



**BUGSY'S** MondayBug—7pm; Acoustic, n/c  
**COWFISH** Inclusion w/Aaron Jackson & Guests—9pm; Bass-house, electro, n/c  
**MAC'S** Hank Shreve & Friends—6pm; Blues, n/c  
**PORKY'S PALACE** Karaoke—8pm  
**SAM BOND'S GARAGE** Bingo—9pm; n/c  
**THE SHEDD** Mark Hummel's Blues Harmonica Blowout—9:30pm; Bluebird Record tribute, \$17.50-\$35  
**VILLAGE GREEN** Neil Johnson—7pm; Solo guitar, n/c  
**WANDERING GOAT** Open Mic—7pm; Originals only, n/c

### TUESDAY 1/13

**5TH ST. CORNUCOPIA** Jesse Meade w/Jana Meszaros—9:30pm; n/c  
**AXE & FIDDLE** Open Mic—6:30pm; Habitat for Humanity benefit, don.  
**THE CITY** iPod Night—6pm; n/c  
**COWFISH** Work-Nite Vibin' w/ Stephen Rose & Guests—9pm; House, hip hop, n/c  
**EMBERS** Ladies' Night Dance Party w/DJ Victor—8pm; n/c  
**THE GREEN ROOM** Karaoke—9pm  
**GOODFELLA'S** Karaoke—9pm; n/c  
**HOT MAMA'S WINGS** Open Mic—8pm; n/c

**LEVEL UP** Ninkasi Karaoke Night w/KJ B-Ross—9pm; n/c  
**LUCKEY'S** Kasheusday w/Chad Kashuba & Lindsay LePon—9:30pm; Comedy, variety, \$2  
**MAC'S** Roosters Blues Jam—7pm; n/c  
**THE O BAR** Karaoke—9pm  
**SAM BOND'S GARAGE** Bluegrass Jam—9pm; n/c  
**VILLAGE GREEN** Neil Johnson—7pm; Solo guitar, n/c  
**WANDERING GOAT** Loam, lostodyssey—8pm; Glo-fi, beat music, don.

### WEDNESDAY 1/14

**5TH ST. CORNUCOPIA** Karaoke—9pm

**AXE & FIDDLE** Whitney Monge, Kim Archer—8pm; Alternative soul, n/c  
**BLACK FOREST** Karaoke—9pm  
**THE BLIND PIG** Karaoke w/Jim Jim—9pm  
**THE COOLER** Hump Night Trivia w/DR Dumass—7pm; n/c  
**COWFISH** Rotation Live w/ Connah Jay & Guests—9pm; Hip hop, indie dance, n/c  
**DEXTER LAKE CLUB** Acoustic Sessions w/Morin, Sorseth & Peter Giri—7pm; Acoustic, n/c  
**GRANARY** Mama Jan's Blues Jam w/Brian Chevalier—8pm; n/c  
**THE GREEN ROOM** Karaoke—9pm; n/c

**JAZZ STATION** Jazz Band II & the Oregon Jazz Ensemble w/Mark Taylor—7pm; \$6-\$8  
**JERSEY'S** Karaoke—8pm; Ladies night, n/c  
**LUCKEY'S** Kl & the Architetx—10pm; Hip hop, \$2  
**MAC'S** Gus Russell & Paul Bioni—6pm; Jazz, variety, n/c  
**NEW MAX'S TAVERN** Lonesome Randall—7pm; Rock historian, n/c  
**MULLIGAN'S** Open Mic—8:30pm; Variety, n/c  
**OAKSHIRE PUB** Philip Etherington—5pm; Singer/songwriter, n/c  
**OLD PAD** Trivia Night—9pm; n/c  
**POUR HOUSE** Karaoke—9pm  
**SAM BOND'S GARAGE** Forest Beutel—9pm; Country blues, \$5

**TAYLOR'S BAR & GRILLE** DJ Crown—10:30pm; Hip hop, top 40, dance, n/c  
**VILLAGE GREEN RESORT** Natty-O & Gaye Lee Russell—7pm; n/c

## CORVALLIS (AND SURROUNDING AREAS)

**FIREWORKS RESTAURANT**  
**MO** Southtown Open Mic—9pm; n/c  
**SQUIRREL'S TAVERN**  
**SA** Benefit Concert for Lina DeMorais—8pm; \$5-\$15

## LIVETRONICA

Electronic dance music is hotter than ever, nowhere more so than in Eugene. “Eugene has been an incredibly supportive place for our band to really thrive and to develop our own unique sound,” says Nathan Asman, who alongside guitarist Keith Randel and drummer Travis Lien makes up the Eugene-based livetronica act **Hamilton Beach**.

“The livetronic-EDM [electronic dance music] scene is very strong and nurturing here,” Asman says, “and there’s no way we would be where we are as a band without the music scene here.”

There’s a misconception amongst live music fans that EDM is just people “twiddling knobs” or “pressing play” or, in short, EDM artists lack real musical chops. However, Asman feels Hamilton Beach blends the best of electronic music with the excitement of seeing a conventional band play live.

“I feel like we bring a level of musicality and musicianship to the electronic music scene that isn’t really there with generic DJ-style acts,” Asman says, stressing that even though Hamilton Beach is “electronically based” they are still a live band, not a typical EDM act.

“The fact that we are actually playing the music in real time, not just pressing play or only messing with faders and knobs, definitely separates us,” Asman says.

“Nothing can replace the spontaneous joy of live music,” Asman adds, continuing, “We take the improvisational aspects of jam bands and jazz artists and infuse them with electronic synths and percussion. The intent of such a combination is to return the audience-to-musician relationship that lacks in so many otherwise phenomenal electronic musical experiences.”

Hamilton Beach plays 10 pm Friday, Jan. 9, at Luckey’s; \$5. 21-plus. — *William Kennedy*



NATHAN ASMAN OF HAMILTON BEACH

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