



THIS TIME IT'S PERSONAL

James Mercer has been listening to David Bowie. Now based in Portland, Mercer is the primary songwriter and sole remaining original member of **The Shins** lineup. A quirky, indie-pop guitar act, the Shins were first heard by many on the soundtrack of the 2004 Zach Braff film *Garden State*. In that movie, Natalie Portman coaxes Braff to listen to the now-classic Shins tune "New Slang," insisting it will change his life. The Shins come back to Eugene behind this year's *Heartworms*, a record hailed by many as a return-to-form for the band. I'm talking to Mercer about songwriting as a medium, and whether you can ever get to know a songwriter based strictly on their material. "You don't get to know much about David Bowie from his songs," Mercer says. "Some artists are more like that than others." But Mercer's managed a career making music that feels both personal and emotionally remote, literate and heady but also confessional. "Early on in my songwriting this was personal stuff," Mercer says. He felt that if he simply told the truth in his lyrics, "it would be unique and different." "On *Heartworms*," he says, "it's hypothetical situations," with elements from his past "that I can use to inform the writing." Mercer continues: "The song 'Heartworms' is about a guy who's with a girl. He just knows this isn't gonna last. She's moving on, she's too good for me. That comes from relationships I've had," Mercer says, but also relationships "my friends had from back in the day." The Shins play with **Day Wave** 8 pm Monday, Sept. 25, at McDonald Theatre; \$40.50 adv., \$46 door. All-ages. — *Will Kennedy*

COWFISH Trap-House Tuesday w/ Wes Light—9pm; n/c
CUSH Poetry Open Mic—7:30pm; n/c
DEXTER LAKE CLUB Acoustic Night w/Brian Chevalier—6pm; n/c
THE EMBERS DJ Victor—8pm; current hits, standards, requests, n/c
LEVEL UP Karaoke w/Kade—9pm; n/c
LUCKEY'S Amusedays w/Chaz Logan Hyde!—10pm; comedy, open mic, n/c
MAC'S Roosters Blues Jam w/ Skip Jones & Byron Case—7pm; blues jam, n/c
MOE'S Stone Cold Jazz w/Kenny Reed—6pm; n/c
MULLIGAN'S PUB Steve Ibach—8pm; acoustic, n/c
O BAR Peter Giri—5:30pm; rock-in' acoustic, n/c. Karaoke w/ Jared—9pm; n/c
OLD NICK'S Weirdo's Experimental Open Mic w/ Jevon—9pm; n/c
SAM BOND'S GARAGE Bluegrass Jam—9pm; n/c
WHITE HORSE SALOON Karaoke w/Slick Nick—9pm; n/c
WOW HALL Whethan, Bearson, Opia—9pm; EDM, \$15-\$18

WEDNESDAY 9/27
5TH ST CORNUCOPIA Karaoke w/ Slick Nick—9pm; n/c
BEERGARDEN OKTOBERFEST Dan Cioper Band—7pm; roots, rock, n/c
BLACK FOREST Karaoke w/KJ Powers—9pm; n/c
THE COOLER Karaoke w/Caught in the Act—9pm; n/c
COWFISH Local DJ Review—9pm; n/c
HAPPY HOURS Mama Jan's Blues Jam w/Brian Chevalier—8pm; n/c
HI-FI LOUNGE Funk Night—10pm; funk jam, n/c
ISLAND HUT Karaoke w/Jared—5pm; n/c
JERSEY'S Karaoke w/Sassy Patty—8pm; n/c
LUCKEY'S Wednesday Night Groove Sessions w/The Sunday Bump!—10pm; funk, jazz, open jam, \$3
MAC'S Gus Russell & Paul Biondi—6pm; n/c
MAX'S Lonesome Randall—7pm; rock & roll historian, n/c
MOHAWK TAVERN Karaoke w/ Caught in the Act—9pm; n/c
MULLIGAN'S Open Mic—8:30pm; variety, n/c

OAKSHIRE Meadow Rue—5pm; benefit for Healthy Moves, original string band, n/c
OLD NICK'S Sutherlin, Kaitlin Sevey—9pm; country, \$5
SAM BOND'S GARAGE Phoebe Blum—9pm; singer-songwriter, \$5
SIDELINES SPORTS BAR Karaoke w/Mike—9pm; n/c
VANILLA JILL'S Open mic—8pm; poetry, music, n/c
WAYWARD LAMB Lipsync Battle—9:30pm; n/c
WEST END TAVERN BTM Karaoke—9pm; n/c
WHIRLED PIES Whirled Music Series ft. Eric Stalker—6pm; singer-songwriter, n/c

CORVALLIS & THE REGION

LINCOLN CITY CULTURAL CTR—Lincoln City
TH 100 Years of Recorded Jazz w/the Cherry Blossom Orchestra—7pm; \$20-\$22
SU Sofia Talvik—7pm; singer-songwriter, americana, \$20-\$22

ECLECTIC MIXES

Musicians blend older jazz and classical music with today's sounds

Before it was a band, **Nerve** was a jam session at a little New York bar that quickly grew into a regular dance party at a bigger club and then became a touring band (bass, drums, keyboard, DJ/mix) that blends jazz, electronic music and various experimental strains into a true 21st-century sound. It's propelled by Zurich-born one-time jazz "drum god" JoJo Mayer, who in his youth backed legends like Dizzy Gillespie, Nina Simone, Sonny Fortune and Monty Alexander.

But Mayer, son of a jazz bassist, realized that much "dinosaur" jazz remained stuck in its mid 20th-century heyday and, if it were to remain relevant to younger listeners, needed to embrace today's technologies (including, lately, augmented reality) and audiences. He was inspired by his idol, drummer Tony Williams, who along with his mentor Miles Davis realized the same thing back in the 1960s.

Result: a groovy dance party that appeals to IDM and other electronica fans but also packs prog-rock/funk power and jazz's spontaneous energy — and Mayer's virtuosic drumming. Experience it at Hi-Fi Lounge Friday, Sept. 22.

More eclectic contemporary sounds are on the program Sunday, Sept. 24, at First United Methodist Church when the new **Terra Nova Ensemble** debuts with an eclectic mix of jazz, classical, klezmer and tango music. Eugene Symphony and Oregon Bach Festival players (Annalisa Morton, Mike Curtis and Sandy Holder) deploy not only "classical" instruments (oboe, bassoon and piano) in music by Bach and modern French composers, but also sax, guitar and accordion.

More contemporary-classical-meets-jazz happens Sept. 29 at Springfield's Cascade Center For Spiritual Living, when Cherry Blossom Musical Arts founders **Ben Farrell**, **Nancy Wood** and **Paul Safar** play duos and trios for voice, clarinets and piano — jazz, classical and Safar originals.

Other classical artists who range beyond that confining category take the stage at University of Oregon's Beall Hall next week. On Sept. 28, accompanied by Korean pianist Eun-Hye Grace Choi, UO saxophonist-prof **Idit Shner** plays contemporary classical music by one of the UO's most promising recent student-composers, Andrea Reinkemeyer, as well as works by Evan Paul, Olivier Messiaen and more. On Tuesday, Sept. 26, at Beall, Shner's UO colleague **Molly Barth** plays flute-focused music.

And on Sunday, Oct. 1, the **Shanghai Quartet** comes to Beall. While they're certainly adept at the usual Western classics, the band also explores wider territory, including music by traditional and contemporary Chinese composers and 20th-century composers like American Alan Hovhaness.

Shner's concert also features **Tony Glausi's** 2017 composition "Another Sleepless Night." On Friday, Sept. 29, at the Jazz Station, that superb trumpeter/composer joins local young jazz phenom singer **Halie Loren** for love songs from Cole Porter and Henry Mancini through Elton John, Elvis Presley and more.

One value in embracing a wide range of music is bringing together diverse audiences. These days, bringing together people from different perspectives is more important than ever, for reasons that transcend music.

Accordingly, **Heal the World: A Humanitarian Benefit Concert** includes songs from a vast variety of musical genres — folk songs, today's pop, musical theater and beyond. Instigated by two of our most famous local musicians, YouTube vocalists **Evyne Hollens** and **Peter Hollens**, the Saturday, Sept. 30, show at First United Methodist Church features well-known folk singers **Mike** and **Carleen McCornack**, musical theater star **Dylan Stasack**, local singer-songwriters **Keenan Hansen** and **Alessandra Ziolkowski**, the UO's acclaimed **Divisi** women's choir (where Evyne Hollens got her start), **Oregon Children's Choir**, various local high school choirs and the church's own **Restore** band.

They'll play Broadway tunes from this year's Tony winner, *Dear Evan Hansen* and *Rent*, multi-generational pop from Mumford & Sons to Simon & Garfunkel, civil rights anthems and more. Bring donations to Food for Lane County and to disaster-relief organizations. ■

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10PM FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND
HURRICANE HARVEY BENEFIT SHOW WITH: CASCADE SERENITY, DOOR NUMBER THREE JULIAN OUTLAW, KEVIN HUSTLE, LIGHTNING OUTLOOK, ROCK FORMING MINERALS, SEAN BAKUS, AND SOUL DECEPTION (\$5) (VARIETY, BENEFIT)
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23RD
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