



TWO STEPS FORWARD

Sometimes you just need to stop and hear the music

“No big bands ever play Eugene.” I frequently hear variations on this sentiment repeated by local music fans — and it drives me nuts.

This year alone saw **SZA**, **Brockhampton**, **Travis Scott**, **Tori Amos**, **Kehlani**, **Tyler the Creator**, **Ty Segall**, **Protomartyr**, **Shins**, **Bedouine**, **Foo Fighters** and **A Perfect Circle** come through town. That’s just off the top of my head — a deeper dive would produce even more, but as it stands that’s a list of some of the year’s biggest names in music.

Did all these shows sell as well as they should? Many did, some didn’t, but that’s another issue. The issue is closely connected, however, to the persistent notion “no big bands play Eugene.” It’s hard to sell tickets to audiences that refuse to see the bounty that’s offered to them.

So grow up, Eugene. You’re more than the college freshman that never goes west of Hilyard and yet complains there’s nothing to do here. We aren’t Seattle, San Francisco or Portland, but we’re a damn fine music town, and it’s time we started acting like it.

My list of best 2017 shows from touring acts includes DC’s **Priests** and Tennessee’s **Notes** at now-defunct all-ages Whiteaker music venue, The Boreal (RIP). The Priests show also featured an opening slot from fantastic Portland post-punkers **Lithics**. Other great shows included indie rockers Ty Segall and Protomartyr at Hi-Fi Music Hall. What were some of your favorites?

The local scene also saw growth in 2017. Eugene post-rockers **This Patch of Sky** toured nationally behind *These Small Spaces*, their debut on mid-major label Equal Vision Records. The year also saw new releases from **Endr Won**, **VCR**, **Gazelle(s)**, **Paleons** and the always prolific **Sammy Warm Hands** to name only a few.

My pick for best local show would be the July 4 *Mini-Merica* music fest at Hi-Fi, which showcased a dizzying array of local talent. If you have yet to see Stones-y local rockers **Holler House**, Portland/Eugene post-rockers **Childspeak**, **Thom Simon**, **Surfsdrugs**, **Egotones** or the circus-y punk rock **Pancho + The Factory**, do yourself a favor and catch them in 2018.

Speaking of Pancho + The Factory, intel says they’ve been hard at work somewhere deep in the Whiteaker on a debut recording due sometime next year. Eugene’s local scene is really great right now. Catch it while you can. 2018 also promises an album of original music from Eugene’s **Halie Loren**.

2017 wasn’t all good news: the end of The Boreal, the displacement of Black Forest (gotta love their free show policy), the dissolution of fantastic local hardcore act **Nove-las**, an on-balance underachieving WOW Hall and a depressing lack of music venues in Eugene’s campus area. College kids, while still interested in music, seem increasingly difficult to sell tickets to.

All this being said, Eugene’s house scene is strong, and live music at Wandering Goat in the Whiteaker is resurgent. Looking forward to *New Year’s Eve Psychedelic Ball* at Hi-Fi, featuring Portland’s **Psychomagic** and **The Shivas**.

Also looking forward to **Queens of the Stone Age** Jan. 27 at the Hult Center, as well as the two-night *Burger-a-Go-Go*, featuring **Death Valley Girls**, **The Coathangers**, **Den-gue Fever** and **Summer Twins**, coming up in February at Hi-Fi.

It all makes Eugene’s music scene in 2017 seem a bit like its dating scene: tons of eligible singles and not enough ways to connect them. Let’s keep working. ■

MUSIC LISTINGS

THURSDAY 12/28

AXE & FIDDLE Micah McCaw, Flies w/Honey—8:30pm; folk, indie, n/c

B&B LOUNGE Karaoke—9:30pm; n/c

THE BARNLIGHT Karaoke w/ Breezy Bee—9pm; n/c

BEERGARDEN Matt Edewaard—7:30pm; singer-songwriter, n/c

COWFISH 90s Night!—9pm; n/c

DEXTER LAKE CLUB Karaoke w/ Jared—9pm; n/c

THE DRAKE 80’s Night—10pm; live DJ, n/c

HAPPY HOURS Crystal Harmony Karaoke—8pm; n/c

HI-FI LOUNGE Jerry Joseph & the Jackmormons—9pm; rock, \$12-\$15

JIMMY’S ON 11TH Lloyd Tolbert Band—6pm; n/c

LUCKEY’S Grateful Dead Family Jam—10pm; dead covers, open jam, \$3

MAC’S Dueling Pianos w/Skip Jones & Hank Shreve—6pm; n/c

MAX’S DJ Victor—10pm; hits, old standards, requests, n/c

MCSHANE’S Acoustic Underground Open Mic—7:30pm; n/c

MULLIGAN’S PUB Karaoke—9pm; n/c

OLD NICK’S Symptoms, Fabled Automatic—9pm; punk, \$5

OVERTIME BAR & GRILL Blues Jam w/Dave Roberts Annual Party—7pm; n/c

SAM BOND’S BREWERY Temple Under the Stars & Loose Change—7:30pm; proceeds benefit Covenant Youth Home shelter in Uganda, n/c

SAM BOND’S GARAGE Joshua Charles McCaslin of Roselit Bone, Beast of Eden—9pm; western, occult rock & roll, \$6

SHADOWFOX Open Mic—8pm; n/c

TERRITORIAL VINEYARDS TASTING ROOM Heavy Chevy Lite—7pm; rock, n/c

FRIDAY 12/29

5TH ST CORNUCOPIA Humble George—9:30pm; n/c

AXE & FIDDLE Sequel—8:30pm; n/c

BLAIRALLY Church of the 80s Night w/Chris, Jen & John—9pm; DJ, \$3

BRONCO SALOON Karaoke w/ Lindsey—9pm; n/c

COWFISH Freek-Nite w/SPOC-3PO—9pm; underground, pop, remix, \$3

DOC’S PAD Karaoke w/KJ Power—9pm; n/c

THE DRAKE Dancing—10pm; live DJ, n/c

DRIFTWOOD BAR Karaoke w/ Slick Nick—9pm; n/c

EL TAPATIO CANTINA Karaoke w/ KJ Rick—9pm; n/c

FIRST NATIONAL TAPHOUSE Amblin—8pm; acoustic, n/c

HI-FI LOUNGE Jerry Joseph & the Jackmormons—9pm; rock, \$12-\$15

JERSEY’S Karaoke w/Sassy Patty—9pm; n/c

KEG TAVERN Karaoke w/Caught in the Act—9pm; n/c

LUCKEY’S Steel Kitty, Nudie Mags, Holler House—10pm; rock, \$5

MAC’S My Band ft. Darlene Jackson—8pm; soul, funk, R&B, variety, \$6

MOE’S JAZZ Comedown ft. Barbara Dzuro w/poetry—6pm; n/c

MOHAWK TAVERN Rock n Roll Cowboys—9pm; country, n/c

NOBLE ESTATE URBAN Noble Friday Nights—6pm; n/c

O BAR Karaoke w/Jared—9pm; n/c

OLD NICK’S Purist Events Presents - The Pre-Pregame w/ DJs Dan Craig, Wes Light, Blake Rudolph & Few Chains—9pm; Don.

SAGINAW VINEYARD Jackie & Jason Cowsill—6pm; acoustic folk, rock, n/c

SAM BOND’S GARAGE Cap’n Trips—9pm; psychedelic, Jerry Garcia Tribute, \$5

SPFD ELKS BTM Karaoke—8pm; everyone welcome, n/c

TERRITORIAL VINEYARDS TASTING ROOM Atmoa Jazz—7pm; cool jazz, n/c

VALHALLA WINERY Heavy Chevy—7pm; blues, soul & zydeco, n/c

WAYWARD LAMB Glamazons Drag Cabaret—10pm; burlesque, cabaret, \$5

WHITE HORSE SALOON Karaoke w/KJ Mike—9pm; n/c

SATURDAY 12/30

5TH ST CORNUCOPIA Dark Buffalo—9:30pm; n/c

AXE & FIDDLE Appalachia, Osprey Flies the Nest—8:30pm; \$5

BEERGARDEN Firestarters—7:30pm; rock, n/c

BREW & CUE Sassy Patty, BTM Karaoke—9pm; n/c

COWFISH Sup! w/Michael Human—9pm; hip-hop, electro, top 40, \$5

CUSH CAFE Open Mic—2pm; n/c

DOC’S PAD Karaoke w/KJ Power—9pm; n/c

THE DRAKE DJ Crown—10pm; n/c

DRIFTWOOD BAR Karaoke w/ Slick Nick—9pm; n/c

HAPPY HOURS Crystal Harmony Karaoke—7pm; n/c

HI-FI LOUNGE Hillstomp—10pm; country blues, \$10-\$13

KEG TAVERN Dance Music w/J’Lynn—9pm; n/c

MAC’S Mac’s End of The Year Tribute Show ft. Steve Arriola, Skip Jones, Byron Case & Theo Halpert—8pm; \$5

MOHAWK TAVERN Impulse—9pm; Caught in the Act—9pm; DJ, n/c

NOBLE ESTATE TASTING ROOM Scott Austin—6pm; R&B, pop, n/c

OLD NICK’S New Year’s Eve-Eve Purple Party w/DJs Refugium, NoN & Perfidia—10pm; 80s classic, futurepop, electro, \$5

QUACKER’S Ladies Night & DeeJay—9pm; n/c

SAM BOND’S GARAGE Electric Funeral, Oregon Dirt—9:30pm; acoustic classic metal, \$5

WAYWARD LAMB Death of Glitter drag cabaret - genderqueer cabaret from PDX—8pm; \$5-\$10

WHITE HORSE SALOON Karaoke w/Sarah—9pm; n/c

SUNDAY 12/31

5TH ST CORNUCOPIA Scott Austin—7pm; n/c

AGATE ALLEY BISTRO Karaoke w/Breezy Bee—9pm; n/c

ALONG CAME TRUDY All That Glitters, black tie optional benefit for the Junior League of Eugene w/Ben Rice Band w/Paul Biondi—8pm; \$60

AXE & FIDDLE New Year’s Eve Party w/DJ Tardigrade—9pm; n/c

BREW & CUE Sassy Patty NYE Karaoke—9pm; n/c

COWFISH Sun Daze w/Aaron Jackson—9pm; bass, house, club, n/c

CUSH CAFE Open Mic—2pm; n/c

DEXTER LAKE CLUB New Years Eve Party w/Heavy Chevy—8:30pm; n/c

THE DRAKE Karaoke—9pm; n/c

THE EMBERS Karaoke w/Sassy Patty—7pm; n/c

HI-FI MAIN HALL & LOUNGE New Year’s Eve Psych Ball ft. The Shivas, Pancho + The Factory, Psycho Magic, Snow White & more—9pm; \$18-\$20

LAVELLE WINE BAR & GRILLE New Year’s Eve Dinner Party & Dance w/RIFLE—7:30pm; reservations required, n/c

LUCKEY’S The Broadway Revue Burlesque Show!—10pm; variety, \$5

MAC’S 15th Annual New Years Eve Bash w/Soul Vibrator & Soul Restoration Project, Michael Tracey & The Hi-Tones—8pm; \$10-\$30

MCDONALD THEATRE Medium Troy & The Bohemian Dub Orchestra w/High Step Society, SugarBeats, Smokestacks & Evergreen—8pm; \$15-\$25

MOHAWK TAVERN NYE 2018 Party w/Code Red—9pm; rock, country, n/c

MULLIGAN’S PUB Open mic—8:30pm; variety, n/c

OLD NICK’S 2nd Annual New Year’s Eve Speakeasy Party—9pm; 1920s costume party, n/c w/costume, \$5 plain clothes

SAM BOND’S GARAGE Dick Dagger, Jargon, DJ Smuve—9:30pm; rock, dance, \$3-\$5

SEASONS BAR & GRILL Karaoke w/Tobey—7pm; n/c

VALLEY RIVER INN Boogie Wonderland Ball w/Satin Love Orchestra—8pm; \$60

WAYWARD LAMB Studio 541 NYE Party - Inspired by the world famous Studio 54, a night of champagne, dancing & revelry—9pm; \$8

WEBFOOT Karaoke w/KJ Power—9pm; n/c. DJ Crown NYE Bash—10pm; dance & party classics, n/c

WETLANDS Tour Heads Caravan—9pm; \$7

WILDCRAFT CIDER WORKS Wildcraft Cider Works NYE Celebration w/Sol Seed & Fortune’s Folly—8pm; \$18-\$20

MONDAY 1/1

BLACK FOREST Karaoke w/KJ Power—9pm; n/c

BUGS’Y MondayBug—7pm; acoustic, n/c

CENTENNIAL STEAK HOUSE Karaoke w/Crystal Harmony & Makada—9pm; n/c

COWFISH Motown Monday w/DJ Kingsley Strangelove—9pm; n/c

THE EMBERS Sassy Patty Karaoke w/Marcus—8pm; n/c

FIRST NATIONAL TAPHOUSE Open Mic—8pm; n/c

OLD NICK’S Irish Jam—6pm; n/c

TUESDAY 1/2

5TH ST CORNUCOPIA Jesse Meade w/Jana Meszaros—9:30pm; n/c

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

HI-FI LOUNGE Reggae Night—9pm; reggae jam, n/c

LEVEL UP Karaoke w/Kade—9pm; n/c