



GARTH BROOKS

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PARTY ON, GARTH

POP COUNTRY SUPERSTAR AND OCF'S 50TH HIGHLIGHT SUMMER CONCERT SEASON

By Will Kennedy

It's summertime in Eugene and the livin' is sometimes easy, while other times it's a mad dash to get out of town before all the campsites fill up. If you find yourself with an evening to spare, however, there's all sorts of good live music to enjoy all summer long. You can also enjoy those warm evenings outdoors — that is, if you can stand the pollen.

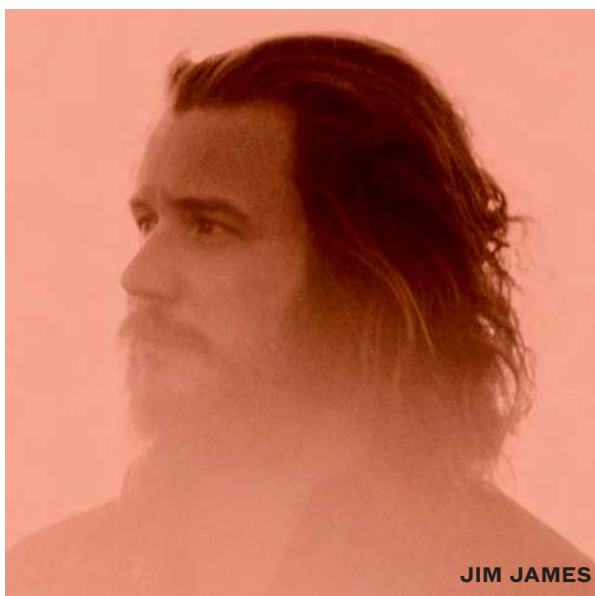
Every summer concert season means Cuthbert Amphitheatre kicks into gear. This year offers a few pleasant surprises and lots of familiar faces — can we just give **Michael Franti** and **Rebelution** keys to the city, for crissakes?

On the bright side, there's **Steve Martin** and **Martin Short** at Cuthbert Amphitheatre Saturday, July 20, and the **Beast Coast** tour comes to Cuthbert July 27, featuring **Joey Bada\$\$** and **Flatbush Zombies** among others.

On Aug. 11, funk legend **George Clinton** and **Parliament Funkadelic** bring their *One Nation Under a Groove* tour to Cuthbert supported by **Dumpstaphunk**, **Fishbone** and many others. Catch Clinton before he retires.

At press time, the Cuthbert schedule feels a little slim — yet another season when Bend's Les Schwab Amphitheatre concert line up cleans the floor on Eugene's schedule. Let's hope the good folks behind Cuthbert have a few surprises left in store.

Heading to Eugene's indoor venues, **The Minus 5** plays Friday, June 14, at Sessions Music Lounge, supported by Decemberists side project **The Eyelids**. Also at Sessions Music Lounge is Portland garage rock band **Summer Cannibals** Sunday, June 16, and Austin



JIM JAMES

Photo by Neil Krug

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indie rockers **Okkervil River** play Sessions Music Lounge Sunday, June 23.

Some shows coming this summer to the venerable WOW Hall include **Fellowship of the Wing** with **John Kadlecik** Thursday, June 13.

In addition, Eugene's OG ska punk scene stalwarts **The Cherry Poppin' Daddies** celebrate the release of their 11th studio album *Bigger Life*, Friday, June 14, at WOW Hall.

Catch Portland soul band **Adebisi**'s EP release party June 28. Another show not to miss at WOW Hall this summer is **Thunderpussy**, Monday, July 22.

Unlike in years past, McDonald Theatre is pretty active this summer. Some shows not to miss include the electro-disco-funky sounds of **Chromeo** Monday, June 10, the post-rock of **Godspeed You Black Emperor** Wednesday, Aug. 21, and the literate indie folk of **The Mountain Goats** Saturday, Sept. 7.

In the Whiteaker, Old Nick's hosts **Elizabeth Colour Wheel**, **Drowse**, **Planning for Burial** and **Entresol** Monday, July 15, and **Deaf Kids** Monday, Aug. 26.

But I suppose some of the biggest music news in Eugene this summer concert season is pop country mega-star **Garth Brooks** emerging from retirement Saturday, June 28, at Autzen Stadium.

That show sold like a gazillion tickets in about two seconds, though (it's sold out), so good luck scoring some. I guess it just proves Garth still has a lot of friends in lowest-common-denominator places.

In addition, the Oregon Country Fair turns 50 this year, and to mark the occasion they really brought it with the music lineup. Artists performing at this year's OCF

include **Phil Lesh**, **Dandy Warhols** and **Jim James** of **My Morning Jacket**.

Happy Birthday, OCF! You're 50 now. Just don't start voting Republican.