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Stevie Nicks Illusion



Tribute to Fleetwood Mac

SATURDAY, JUNE 8 | 8:00 PM

Soft Machine



SATURDAY, JUNE 15 | 8:00 PM

Wings of Eagles



Tribute to the Music of Eagles

SATURDAY, JULY 6 | 8:00 PM

Ticket to Ride



Tribute to The Beatles

SATURDAY, AUG 3 | 8:00 PM

Jimmy's Buffet



Tribute to Jimmy Buffet

SATURDAY, AUG 10 | 8:00 PM

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Pete "Pops" Escovedo

PETE "POPS" ESCOVEDO'S FAREWELL CONCERT: A MULTIGENERATIONAL MUSIC LEGACY

By PAUL BEREZETSKY

In the dimly lit ambiance of the Music Box in Little Italy, the stage was set for an evening that would etch itself into the annals of San Diego's musical history. Pete "Pops" Escovedo - the venerable percussionist whose name had become synonymous with rhythm and soul - took to the stage for his final performance in America's finest city. Joined by his talented sons, Juan and Peter Michael Escovedo, and an ensemble of exceptional musicians, Escovedo delivered a farewell concert that transcended mere entertainment, weaving together a tapestry of familial bonds, cultural celebration, and musical brilliance.

As the spotlight hit the stage, Pete Escovedo - now 88 years young - exuded a charismatic presence that belied his age. The trio playfully engaged in light-hearted banter, and their ribbing elicited laughter from the audience. It was a touching display of familial camaraderie, a testament to the enduring bonds forged through a shared passion for music.

But the Escovedo legacy was not confined to this generation alone. As the night unfolded, a new chapter in the family's musical saga emerged. Peter Michael Escovedo IV, Pete's grandson, made a surprise appearance on stage, joining his grandfather for an impressive rap and dance routine. The crowd erupted into applause as the young Escovedo showcased his talents, a testament to the multigenerational nature of the Escovedo musical dynasty.

The interplay of rhythm was electrifying, as Juan commanded the congas, Pete dazzled on the timbales, and Peter Michael drove the beat from behind the drum kit. Their synchronicity was mesmerizing, a testament to years of collaboration and musical intuition. Joined on stage by Pete's wife, Juanita Gardere, the Escovedo clan radiated warmth and affection, inviting the audience into their musical family with open arms. Throughout the night, the Music Box reverberated with the infectious sounds of Latin jazz, each note a testament to Escovedo's unparalleled mastery of percussion. The horn section blared with precision, their melodies soaring above the pulsating rhythms, while the audience cheered in exuberance after every song. It was a celebration of life, love, and the unifying power of music.



Myron McKinley

But the evening held more than just musical virtuosity; it was a showcase of diversity, culture, and the universal language of rhythm. Myron McKinley, the esteemed keyboardist and musical director for Earth, Wind & Fire, graced the stage with his innovative jazz compositions and funky renditions of beloved classics. Backed by a band of exceptionally talented musicians, McKinley's performance was a tour de force, captivating the audience with his boundless creativity and infectious energy.

As the final notes faded into the night, Pete "Pops" Escovedo stood before the crowd, his smile radiant and his eyes alight with passion. "If you keep coming out to see me, I'll keep performing," he declared, eliciting cheers from the audience. It was a promise of continuity, a vow to keep the music alive for generations to come.

For those who were unable to witness this historic event firsthand, fear not because the concert will be immortalized on video, ensuring that Escovedo's farewell performance will echo through the ages. Details will be made available at www.concerts.cafe, offering music lovers around the world the opportunity to experience the magic of Pete "Pops" Escovedo's final bow.

In the end, Pete "Pops" Escovedo's farewell concert was more than just a musical event; it was a celebration of a life well-lived, a legacy enduring, and a reminder of the profound impact that one man can have on the world through the power of rhythm and melody. v

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HIP HOP & R&B LEGENDS SET TO IGNITE ESCONDIDO

BY FLORENTINO BUENAVENTURA

DJ QUIK, JON B, RODNEY-O & JOE COOLEY AND KAHLIL NASH AT THE CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO

Escondido, CA – For fans of hip-hop, R&B, and hometown pride, Saturday, August 3rd at 7:30 PM is a date to remember. The California Center for the Arts in Escondido is set to host an extraordinary concert featuring the legendary DJ Quik, the soulful Jon B, the dynamic duo Rodney-O & Joe Cooley, and San Diego's own rising star, Kahlil Nash.

The venue, located at 340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido, CA 92025, promises an intimate setting with top-notch acoustics, making it the perfect spot to experience these iconic artists live. Tickets are available at ArtCenter.org, and the box office can be reached at 800.988.4253 for more information.

DJ QUIK

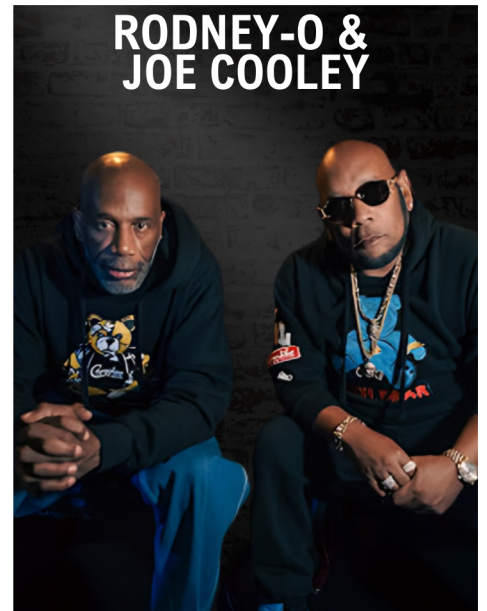


DJ Quik, a name synonymous with West Coast hip-hop, needs no introduction. Known for his smooth beats and lyrical prowess, Quik's live performances are the stuff of legend. Ruth Kingcade, Community Advancement Manager for the California Center for the Arts Escondido, says it best: "To have the legendary DJ Quik perform at the California Center for the Arts, Escondido is exciting. I have seen him twice and he always puts on a good show. He never fails in his performance. I cannot wait till I see him perform in my backyard."



Adding a touch of R&B flavor to the mix, **Jon B** is set to serenade the audience with his silky vocals and timeless hits. A mainstay in the R&B scene since the mid-90s, Jon B has captivated fans with his smooth sound and heartfelt lyrics. Known for chart-toppers like "They Don't Know" and "Someone to Love," his music has a timeless quality that resonates with listeners of all ages. Jon B's soulful style and emotive performances will perfectly complement the hip-hop heavyweights on stage, providing a rich, diverse musical experience that promises to be unforgettable.

Rodney-O & Joe Cooley, pioneers of the West Coast rap scene, the duo has shaped the genre with their unique sound and energetic performances. Iconic tracks like "Everlasting Bass" are sure to get the crowd moving. Their influence extends into contemporary music, as seen in Kendrick Lamar's use of their music in his renowned diss track aimed at Drake. Rodney-O & Joe Cooley's set promises to be a highlight of the evening, showcasing the timeless appeal of their music and their significant role in hip-hop's evolution.



Rounding out the lineup is San Diego's own **Kahlil Nash**. This rising star is known for his fresh sound and electrifying stage presence. Nash's performance is a nod to the vibrant local music scene, making this concert a true community event.

An Night to Remember

This event, in partnership with **Concerts.Cafe**, is more than just a concert—it's a celebration of music and community. The California Center for the Arts Escondido has a reputation for hosting stellar events, and this one promises to be no different. Whether you're a longtime fan of these artists or just looking for a fun night out, this concert has something for everyone.

Grab Your Tickets!

Tickets are flying fast, so don't miss out. Head over to ArtCenter.org or call the box office at 800.988.4253 to secure your spot. This is one summer event you won't want to miss!

Get ready for a night of unforgettable music, legendary performances, and good vibes. See you there! ❖



Pizza Port CFO Jesse Cardella at the new Belmont park Pizza Port



PIZZA PORT COMES TO BELMONT PARK

BY VINCE MEEHAN

Pizza Port Brewing Co. has opened a new location at San Diego's Belmont Park. Visitors to the famous fun zone can now enjoy some of San Diego's best pizza and craft beer between rides on the Giant Dipper roller coaster, or any of the other carnival style rides at the park.

Jesse Cardella is the CFO at Pizza Port and was on hand to enjoy the opening with a throng of invited guests who were treated to free beer and pizza, as well as unlimited rides on the attractions. Cardella sees the opening as a natural extension of the natural Southern California vibes that has made Pizza Port a San Diego favorite for 37 years.

"Belmont reached out to us, they were working on a lot of fun stuff for their 100th anniversary and wanted to bring in a fun new pizza partner and brought us a design that was really exciting for us," noted Cardella. "It was a concept that fit in really well for us as well as an opportunity for us to get our food and beer to a lot of fun-loving people around town."

Cardella added that Pizza Port has now reached out beyond it's surf and turf roots to expand beyond the surfline. "We started in making pizza in Solana Beach in 1987, and began brewing in 1992. We now have five locations in Solana Beach, Ocean Beach, Imperial Beach, Carlsbad, San Clemente and are opening a new location in San Marcos. But, we now distribute beer all throughout the entire state of California as well as Arizona and Nevada."

At Belmont Park, the pizza is sold by the slice and is served hot out of the oven and is the perfect match for its cold local craft beers such as Swami's IPA, California Honey Blonde Ale, and Chronic Ale. Pizza Port also features rotating seasonal beers that stay on tap for three months at a time.

Pizza Port has also been serving its beers at Petco park for eight years and is available at Pechanga Arena as well. But the Belmont Park location feels very natural for Pizza Port given its longtime beach roots. Cardella took the opportunity to savor his favorite beer Backyard Explorer IPA, a seasonal beer, which will soon be pulled off the tap. He seemed to relish the beer combined with the smell of hot pizza and the ocean air. "Good food and good beer brings good cheer, that's our motto, and it fits in really well in this environment here at Belmont – so this was a pretty easy decision!" ❖



the **SCENESD**
What's Going On in San Diego

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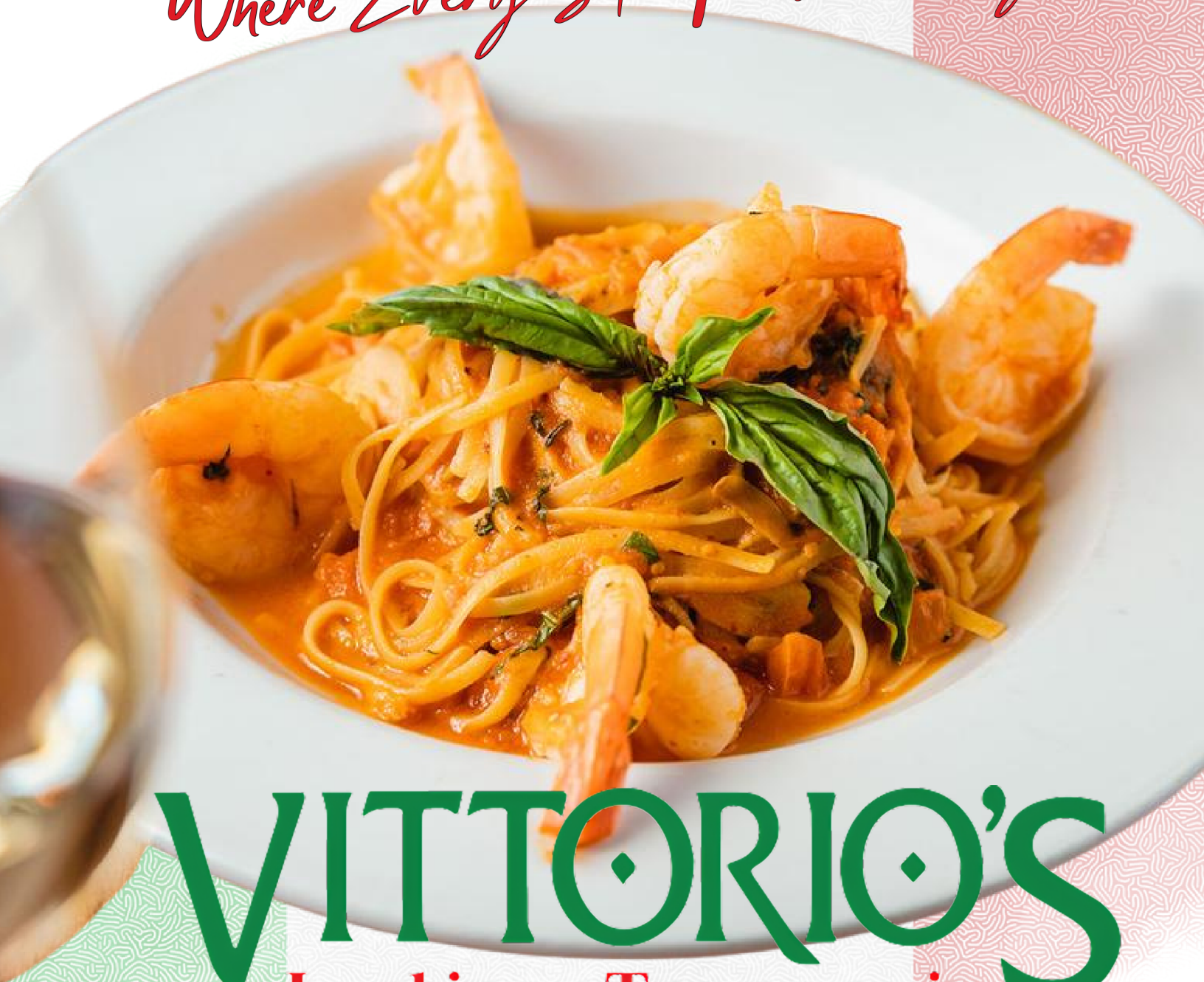
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The **SCENESD** is published for the entertainment fans of San Diego.

We are the finger on the pulse of San Diego's vibrant entertainment scene and are here to inform America's Finest City about *What's going On in San Diego*.

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THE 33RD ANNUAL SAN DIEGO MUSIC AWARDS

BY BART MENDOZA

Photos by John Coccozza, Bart Mendoza and Vince Meehan

The 33rd Annual San Diego Music Awards were held on April 30 at Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay. Easily our local music scene's biggest party of the year, the event was an 1100 seat sell out, with awards in 25 categories handed out, plus a Lifetime Achievement Award given to guitarist Stevie Salas.

Meanwhile, \$53,945 was raised for the Guitars in Schools programs, with 123 schools countywide involved to date. "And that's because of everyone here tonight," said event producer Kevin Hellman of the San Diego Music Foundation. "We raise this money because people support and care about San Diego music. They care about the music of tomorrow."

The night's highlights included performances from seven artists, showcasing just how diverse the music community is in San Diego. Taking the stage at the SDMA's were country singer Kimmi Bitter, rapper Mitchy Slick, pop rock combo We the Commas, jam band Boostive, singer-songwriter Joshua Taylor, and rocker Ash Easton, with a special appearance by Salas.

All the performances were great, but Salas really elevated the night. Inducted by drummer Matt Sorum of iconic hard rock groups Guns & Roses and Velvet Revolver, who also performed with him, video messages of congratulations from Sammy Hagar, Rick Nielsen (Cheap Trick), Ritchie Kotzen (Poison, Mr. Big) and Billy F. Gibbons (ZZ Top) were also shown, before Salas performed two songs. However, the event's top moment was likely his heartfelt acceptance speech, which touched on his early days on the local club scene, the importance of hard

work and following your dreams, closing with "I've lived, and I've worked and I've had houses all over the planet. But I've only had one home, and that home is San Diego." In a nod to his early days, Salas invited some of the musicians he knew from his youth to join him on backing vocals during his set, including Paul Shaffer (Bratz), Jack Butler (Private Domain), Paul Martinez (This Kids) and Jerry Raney (The Beat Farmers).

"Bringing everyone together for one night is truly what makes this show special," said Matthew Phillips (Winner, Best Pop Artist). "Being a part of this community is something I'm deeply thankful for. These moments are a testament to the incredible art our city creates."

"Just like every year, my favorite part of the San Diego Music Awards is being able to see and hang out with so many great local artists," said Heath Farmer of Coastal Wolves (Winner, Best Rock or Indie/Alternative Song: "Sucks to be You"). "When everyone's gigging at the same time, it's hard to get everyone in the same spot, and the SDMA's really is the one event that all the local musicians get to come out and support each other. It's less a celebration of the winners as much as it is a celebration of the San Diego music scene as a whole," he remarked. "The fact that we get to do all that and help raise money to promote music education in San Diego schools is a win for everyone."

How did it feel to take home a trophy? "It felt humbling," said Riston Diggs (Winner, Best Hip Hop/Rap Song: "Life of a Dreamer"). "There's a lot of great talent in this great city, what an honor it is to be recognized amongst my esteemed colleagues."

This feeling will carry me all year long, for sure!"

Mohavisoul (Winner, Best Country or Americana Song: "Hurry Up and Wait") frontman Randy Hanson concurs. "I was amazed and stunned and euphoric," he said. "Hurry Up and Wait" was really a song for all of us, and I guess it hit home for many of you. We had also just released our new self-titled sixth album the day of the awards show, so we had a lot going down and this was the amazing 'cherry on top' of this delicious day of music and closure." He notes the considerable talent amongst the nominations. "We were so honored, as the other artists in this category were awesome too. Luckily, I had given some thought to any possible speech and thank yous, as it takes a village to make music like ours."

"Taking home the trophy felt weird in all the right ways," said Farmer. "Although Coastal Wolves has only been a thing for about a year and a half, I have been going hard in the San Diego music scene for over a decade. This was the first SDMA I got for one of my own projects." Ironically, Farmer took home a trophy for a song he almost cut from his album. "The people close to me who know this have all been helping me to take a step back and realize that the reservations I originally had for putting the song out were really just a result of my overthinking, which I think is common for a lot of artists," he said. "Remember, the award is for a song called "Sucks to Be You" and although I love the song and think the lyric is fun, I didn't want to put that message out into the psyche of our listeners. I voiced these concerns to the people I trusted beforehand and tested the song out to new audiences and the response was pretty surprising. So, I guess the lesson there is don't overthink things and listen to the people you trust."

"Winning both awards I was up for was a great feeling and gives me so much forward momentum into all the projects I have cooking in my studio," said Jonny Tarr (Winner, Best Pop Album & Album of the Year: The Rules). "It has brought such a feeling of recognition and validation that I feel massively energized."

Does winning an SDMA set the bar higher for an artist's next release?

"Absolutely!" remarked Jessie Burns of the Brothers Burn (Winner, Best Hip Hop/Rap Artist). "We're always pushing ourselves to exceed our creative limitations, and in that, implementing new tools, different sounds, various styles, and new collaborations."

"Definitely," Tarr agreed. "I want to keep improving my production, recording and mixing abilities with a view to be invited to produce records for other people. I never want to stop learning and improving. I feel like I am on the right path but always know I can work harder and hone my tools."

Plans are already in the works for the San Diego Music Awards 34th edition.

"The best part of (the SDMA's) is the same as every year," commented Diggs. "It's watching the community of musicians and creatives come together and be celebrated for their work. Whether you're a nominee or taking home the trophy, we're all deserving of feeling like winners," he said. ❖

www.sandiegomusicawards.com





Flood Aid, a benefit concert for victims of San Diego's recent rains, will take place on July 28 at the Jackie Robinson YMCA. The outdoor tribute event will feature performances from **Laurie Beebe Lewis & Electric Underground (Mamas & Papas)**, **All Fired Up (A Tribute to Pat Benatar)** and **Supreme Legacy (A Tribute to Diana Ross & The Supremes)**.

San Diego Beatles Fair celebrates its 20th Edition with a day of Fab Four Fun on September 7 at Queen Bee! On hand will be The Revolution Band, showcasing the Beatles entire career, complete with three costume changes, plus appearances from **The 63eatles**, **Oasiz**, **Come Together** and **The Suzanne Gladstone Trio**. Meanwhile, **True Stories**, featuring **David Fleminger** and **Alicia Previn**, will perform a special Tribute to Neil Innes and The Rutles! Additional guests tba.

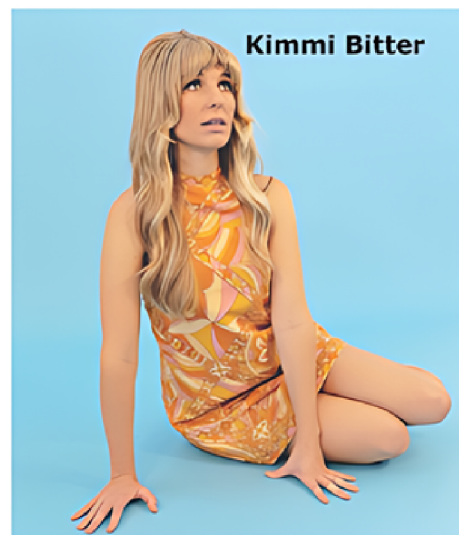


David Fleminger

This year's **Concerts on the Green** music series kicks off on July 21 at Kate Sessions Park. The free, all ages event will be hosted by Pacific Records, and feature performances from five of the labels recording artists: **Sandollar**, **Charlie Rae**, **Jonny Tarr**, **Slack Key Ohana** and **Kela Sako**. Tarr took home a 2024 SDMA for both "Best Pop Album" and "Album of the Year" for his release, *The Rules*. Meanwhile, Slack Key Ohana's song, "Nahenahe Ka Leo o Ka Wahine U'i" took home an SDMA for "Best World Music Song."

Singer-songwriter **Gaby Aparicio** has recently made a video for NPR Music Live Sessions. She performs her original song, "Matter." [live-sessions.npr.org/videos/gaby-aporicio-gaby-aporicio-featuring-kimo-shim](https://www.npr.org/videos/gaby-aporicio-gaby-aporicio-featuring-kimo-shim)

Cathryn Beeks new album, *The After Times*, will feature twelve songs backed by Jeff Berkley & The Banned. "I'm releasing one song publicly every few months with a video. The first song out is, "I love Ramona."



Kimmi Bitter

2024 SDMA Song of the Year winner **Kimmi Bitter** will be on tour through August 1, with dates across the western U.S., wrapping up in Escondido.

Jim Croce's 1973 single, "Time In A Bottle," scored a Silver disc from the U.K.'s BPI this month. They are the equivalent of the U.S. RIAA.

Keyboardist **Taryn Donath** will be heading out for a month-long tour of Brazil, opening May 26 in Paraty and wrapping up on June 21 in Buzios.

Congrats to South Bay combo **Electric Mud** – they scored the opening spot at The Rolling Stones May 7 concert held at Glendale, Arizona's State Farm Stadium.

Rock combo **Guild Of Others** has a new video out for their song "Elysium," from their self-titled debut album. The recording has a number of notable guest musicians: Vocals - Michael Sadler (Saga), Keyboards - Derek Sherinian (Dream Theater), and Bass - Tony Franklin (The Firm, Blue Murder)

Reggae favorite **Hirie** headlines the Island Vibe Music festival taking place on August 10 at the Embarcadero Marina Park North.

An upcoming 3-CD box set from British label, Grapefruit Records, *Can't Seem to Come Down – The American Sounds of 1968*, includes **Iron Butterfly's** classic, "In A Gadda Da Vida." The version of the song included is the original single edit.

Guitarist **Mike Keneally** (Frank Zappa, Dethklok) and multi-instrumentalist **Marcelo Radulovich** have continued their collaboration with a new album, *Wednesday*. "What sets this one apart is mostly a deeper dive into what we've exploring instrumentally, emotionally and sonically," said Radulovich. "Two of the tracks in Wednesday are fairly long and are full on dream-like explorations into sound, rich and colorful and strange." The reason the album is instrumental? "Instrumental music is easy for us and very fun," he said. "Songs with lyrics and vocals are a bit more involved, but we are working on a follow up to our first song-based album BASK (released in December 2023). "BASK 2 should be done in the Fall most probably." Plans are for the duo to continue the "days of the week" series. "The albums are really cathartic and a treat to work on," Radulovich remarked. "I estimate "Thursday" should be ready by the end of Summer, though we both have a few other projects on the table, so we'll see."



Saxophonist **Daniel Nielsen** has begun work on a new album. "**Nathan James** is producing this one," he said. "I'm shooting for thirteen cuts, seven originals and six of my favorite blues covers from my live set. Nathan is playing guitar and helping me develop and record my original material. I don't have a deadline but expect to have CD's in hand by summer's end."

Jazz guitarist **Wayne Riker** has a new quartet. The group plays their first gig on June 1 at the Laurel House Concert series in Oceanside.



Eve Selis hosts a CD release event for her new album, *Dark Sky Blue*, on June 1 at Mount Soledad Presbyterian Church. Selis will be joined by a full band and string quartet, with special guests, **The Voices Of Our City Choir**.

Mike Stax (The Loons / Ugly Things) provides the liner notes for a new 11-disc box set covering the complete works of legendary Dutch band, Q65, 1966 – 2000.



Cathryn Beeks

The After Times

BY BART MENDOZA

A tireless champion of San Diego's music community, as well as a member of several combos, including "Lady Psychiatrist's Booth", singer-songwriter Cathryn Beeks is focusing on her own music this month with the release of a new solo album, *The After Times*. The impetus was Beeks induction in the San Diego Music Hall of Fame last year. "Jeff Berkley told me, 'This is your year, dude! You're being inducted into the Hall of Fame, you should put out a record, too!' Beeks said. "So, I gathered about 20 songs that I had written since my last release in 2019 and we sifted through and found the best dozen. Berkley and his group "The Banned", provide backing on the recording."

According to Beeks the solo billing is also for pragmatic reasons. "After Matt Silvia (guitarist) left San Diego in 2017, I retired my band name, 'The Ordeal.' So, this collection is just under my name. Because 'Cathryn Beeks and Jeff Berkley and The Banned' was just way too long!" she joked. *The After Times* features ten originals and one cover, Bobbie Gentry's 1967 hit, "Ode to Billy Joe". "All of the original songs were written by me, with some magical tweaks from my producer, Jeff Berkley," noted Beeks. "These songs mean a lot to me. They're pretty personal, but also relatable, I think. A few were written during isolation and were my way of coping with the world, the loss of my dad and my sweet dog Penny. Others are upbeat and hopeful."

The first single from the collection is "I Love Ramona", which was nominated for best folk or acoustic song at this year's SDMA's. "It was released on Mother's Day, with a video that features all of the women who make Ramona such a special place," Beeks said. "The plan is to release a video every four to eight weeks, eventually the whole album." Beyond the songs themselves, Beeks is thrilled with the musicians involved. "I mean, the music itself is incredibly rad," she said. "The players are the best in the biz. Jeff Berkley on guitars and banjo, Josh Hermsmeier on drums, Rick Nash on bass, Josh Weinstein on keys, Ted Stern on pedal steel and Joshua Taylor and Sandi King brought my backing vocal arrangements to life. They all truly are San Diego's version of (famed session recording musicians) the Wrecking Crew!"

You can hear Beeks play the best in San Diego music weekly via her long running podcast, Listen Local. ❖

CathrynBeeks.com | ListenLocalRadio.com

CONCERTS

CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR THE ARTS, ESCONDIDO

JUNE **14** **OLD CROW MEDICINE SHOW**
8 PM

JULY **19** **KT TUNSTALL**
7:30 PM

AUGUST **3** **DJ QUIK FEATURING JON B. |**
RODNEY-O & JOE COOLEY |
KAHLIL NASH
7:30 PM

AUGUST **8** **THE SIX STRING SOCIETY AND**
CCAE PRESENT: TAIMANE
7:00 PM

AUGUST **23** **LYRICAL GROOVE**
7:30 PM

SEPTEMBER **22** **SAMARA JOY**
7:30 PM

OCTOBER **4** **SAN DIEGO - TIJUANA JAZZ FESTIVAL**
7:30 PM

OCTOBER **20** **BLACK VIOLIN**
6:30 PM

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MAY 31 & JUNE 1

**NORTH PARK MUSIC FEST
MINI PARK, NORTH PARK**

Two days of fun in the sun, with a killer lineup that includes a great mix of local and national acts. During the festival attendees can take in a reunion performance from Louis XIV, an acoustic set from Peter DiStefano of Porno For Pyros, or music from more than two dozen other acts, such as Ty Segall, Particle Kid, Transfer, Earl Thomas, King Whisker, Gilbert Castellanos and Rebecca Jade (pictured left Louis XIV)

JUNE 7

**ALVINO & THE DWELLS
LOU LOU'S, NORTH PARK**

Led by virtuoso guitarist David Fleminger, alongside musical siblings Tony (bass) and Didier Suarez (drums), this instrumental trio blends surf and 1950's film instrumentals, resulting in the perfect soundtrack for any evening out. Fleminger is also a member of several other top area bands, but with Alvino & The Dwells, he really gets to stretch out his playing, and never fails to impress.

JUNE 8

**PARLIAMENT FUNKADELIC
BEACH HOUSE, MISSION BEACH**

One of music's all-time greats, funk / R&B legend George Clinton, brings his group, Parliament Funkadelic, back to San Diego for an evening at the beach. Though he hasn't released a new album since 2018, Clinton has six decades of great music to choose from, with "Flashlight," "Atomic Dog," and "Give Up the Funk (Tear the Roof Off the Sucker)" amongst the dance floor fillers sure to be included in this concert's set list.

JUNE 12



**AMBROSIA
BELLY UP TAVERN,
SOLANA BEACH**

Still featuring original members Joe Puerta (bass), Burleigh Drummond (drums) and Christopher North (keyboards), 1970's-era hitmakers Ambrosia's music takes in a lot of influences, from prog to jazz, with soulful pop / rock a specialty. This will be a greatest hits show, with all the classics, from "Holding On To Yesterday," to "Biggest Part of Me," plus a couple of surprise covers to top the set.



**ALISON BROWN
BAKER BAUM CONCERT
HALL, LA JOLLA**

Former La Jollan / Grammy winning banjo player, Alison Brown, returns for a show at acoustically impressive Baker Baum Hall. Since 1981, Brown has released a string of acclaimed albums, most recently 2023's On Banjo, with her latest single being a collaboration with Steve Martin, "Bluegrass Radio."

**TOP 5 CONCERTS
SPOTLIGHT SHOWS**

BART MENDOZA

Presented by Rainbow Promotions, LLC

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the
SAN DIEGO
SMOOTH
JAZZ
FESTIVAL

Photo Courtesy of the San Diego Symphony

HOSTED BY ERIC DARIUS
June 22-23, 2024
The Rady Shell at Jacobs Park



SATURDAY JUNE 22



Kenny Lattimore



Pieces of a Dream



Spyro Gyra
50th Anniversary



Will Donato and Blake Aaron

SUNDAY JUNE 23



Boney James



Gregory Porter



Alex Bugnon



Jeff Ryan and Greg Manning



Jazz In Pink

All acts and times are subject to change without prior notice.

TICKETS AND INFORMATION

562-424-0013 • www.sandiegosmoothjazzfestival.com

San Diego Music Release News by Bart Mendoza

NEW AND UPCOMING SINGLES:

Benches – “Naïve,” Alison Brown & Steve Martin – “Bluegrass Radio,” Andra Day – “Chasing,” Jon Foreman – “I Propose A Toast,” Jonathan Karrant – “My Mother’s Eyes,” Matthew Phillips – “Time Fades Love,” Safety Orange – “Wisn Up,” Bagwell & Troy – “Too Many Roosters,” “Love Out of the Blue,” and “When I Came to the River.”



NEW AND UPCOMING ALBUMS & EP'S:

Blair Gun - *There Are No Rival Clones Here*, Andra Day – *Cassandra (cherith)*, Riston Diggs- *Live in Studio (Beachbreak Sessions)*, John January Band – *True*, Adam Jones – *Now and Then*, Lost Saints – *Certified*, Eve Solis – *Dark Sky Blue*, Solar Barges – *It Can't*, Various Artists - *An All-Star Tribute To Shania Twain* (vinyl reissue includes Juice Newton “Come On Over”),



NEW AND UPCOMING VIDEOS:

Kimmi Bitter – “Cowboy Kind of Girl,” Guild Of Others - “Elysium,” David J - “Oh No! Not Another Songwriter!,” Michael Tiernan - “The Perfect Path,” ❖

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SLACK KEY OHANA

by BART MENDOZA

No doubt about it, San Diego based, Hawaiian themed combo, Slack Key Ohana, is having a pretty good year. In early April their latest album *Hawaiian Cowboy* entered the I-Tunes World Music Chart at #1. Then on April 30, they took home a trophy from the San Diego Music Awards, winning in the Best World Music Song category for their song, "Nahenahe Ka Leo o Ka Wahine U'i." It's Slack Key Ohana's second SDMA win, following 2022's Best World Music Album score for their self-titled debut release.

On July 2 Slack Key Ohana performs at The Belly Up Tavern, alongside Hawaiian music virtuoso, Tavana.

Formed in 2021, mixing traditional island folk sounds with a vintage pop edge, Slack Key Ohana was an instant hit, quickly becoming a clubland and festival favorite throughout the Southwestern U.S. and Hawaii.

The group's core members are Brian Witkin (guitar, vocals, lap steel) and Kamaka Mullen (vocals, guitar) for acoustic gigs, with the band rounded out by Carol Witkin (ukulele, vocals) and Joe Witkin (U-Bass, vocals). For select shows and recordings, add Rand Anderson on (pedal steel) and Sean Witkin (drums). "Ohana" means "family" in Hawaiian, and all of my immediate family performs together with this band," Witkin said.

For larger shows, Slack Key Ohana even incorporates Hula dancers. "I love performing with dancers, it adds so much to

the concert experience," Witkin said. "I'd love to have Hula at every show where possible, as dance is a very important part of Hawaiian culture."

What was the inspiration behind the group? "While I've been a musician my entire life, my love of the islands and Hawaiian music inspired me to learn the art of Slack Key guitar, which is how I met Kamaka," he continued. "He started out as my Slack Key guitar teacher, then we recorded and produced Kamaka as a solo artist and the band came after that. So, the band started organically as we had already been working together."

While work has already begun on writing for Slack Key Ohana's follow up to *Hawaiian Cowboy*, Witkin notes it will be a while before any studio recording takes place. "We have enough originals now to track a new album and we play a lot of them live at our shows. However, we are still promoting *Hawaiian Cowboy*, so I don't expect the follow up to be out this year, but we will probably have a least a few more singles and possibly another live album out before the holidays."

Witkin is happy with the band's growing fanbase and opportunities, but for him the best thing about Slack Key Ohana hits much closer to home. "My favorite thing about Slack Key Ohana is that it enables me to do what I love, make music, and with my family!" ❖

www.SlackKeyOhana.com



CHEF IVANHOE FAIR BRINGS A BAJA FLAIR TO MISSION HILLS

BY VINCE MEEHAN

Ivanhoe Fair is the Chef De Cuisine at Fort Oak, the well-known restaurant located in the Goldfinch Village section of Mission Hills. Their menu is representative of the Central California coast on south to the border – and thanks to Ivanhoe – now down into Baja.

Chef Fair grew up in Baja California and was raised in a cooking heavy environment. He learned from his mother, who knew how to make all the Baja favorites. "I got cooking from my mother, so I learned at a very young age that I wanted to learn how to cook like her," explained Fair. "Because I knew that one day something might happen to her, and I would not have her – I don't know, when I was a kid I really like thought about these things and I was like, 'She's not gonna be around, so how do I learn to do these things?' – and so, I hopped on from there."

Eventually Fair moved to San Diego and began his career as a chef. "When I was young it was – I'm from Mexico... Mexicali – and it wasn't really looked upon as a good career as it is now. And then I moved to San Diego about ten years ago and I really, I found out that it was actually like, it could be a thing; especially here in San Diego, yes!"

Chef Fair became Fort Oak's Chef De Cuisine six months

ago and brought with him a Baja flair that blends perfectly with the steak and raw bar theme of the restaurant. The restaurant is actually a complex of three separate buildings anchored by the central bar and patio section, which is a recreation of the old Ford Building in Balboa Park which now houses the San Diego Air & Space Museum. There is also a formal steak room with a modern wood and tile motif as well as a separate kitchen, which looks like it used to be a coffee bar. This creates a fully visible cooking area dominated by a giant authentic Santa Maria style grill, which Fair likes everything to touch at some point. The aroma from the smoke permeates the complex and acts as an appetizer drawing people in from the neighborhood.

One item that Fort Oak specializes in is oysters, and Fair's Baja roots make him an expert in the area. Fair offers two different types of oysters on his menu, the first are called Sweet Petites from Cape Cod, and the others are Kumiai from Baja California. "So Obviously I chose Kumiai because they're from Baja California and that's where I'm from! I really like the briny saltiness of them, it reminds me of the sea; you can really taste that. And then, we've got the East Coast oysters, usually those are Sweet Petites. Those are from Cape Cod, Massachusetts and are on a different side of the spectrum. To bring it into contrast, they are more delicate, buttery and creamy. With the Kumiais, you're going to get more of a plumpy bite to them. And then the Sweet Petites they will be more delicate and really soft and they are very translucent."

Fort Oak has an oyster happy hour on Mondays from 4 - 6pm on the bar patio which features one dollar oysters and Fair says that it is so popular that he recommends getting there early to avoid a line to get in. But these oysters and other seafood are available on the menu at any time. The Oysters are served with a selection of lemon, horseradish and a homemade mignonette sauce made with pickled Shiitake mushrooms. But Fair says he likes to enjoy his oysters with hot sauce and a Mexican lager so he has also created a fermented chili sauce for the adventurous type. As for wine, he recommends a dry white sparkling wine for the occasion.

"The whole philosophy is that we do have a raw bar, which is essential to the whole restaurant. The raw bar has a few things, our two oysters West Coast and East Coast, also whole Maine lobsters usually cut in half. We have our shrimp too, which by the way are cooked in a port bouillon stock and then served on a bed of ice like the oysters. We also have a couple of fish, which we do ceviche-style – it's a leche de tigre – very delicious! We have our aguachile, which is made with raw scallops in a very herby spicy sauce from Mexico. And then we have Ahi tuna which we do a tartare take on it and it comes with a brioche bread, and we have our albacore tuna which we do poke-style."

Fair says he was born to cook and he relishes his time at Fort Oak. "Its definitely one of my favorite things – this food is what I grew up on and is a legacy to my mother, very much. It's a pretty cool restaurant, it's my favorite one from the Trust Restaurant Group, and it's definitely a place where I want to stay for a while." ❖



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HELIX BREWING CO. CELEBRATES EIGHT YEARS!

BY VINCE MEEHAN

Helix Brewing Co. sits within hailing distance of the 8 Freeway as it cuts across the edge of La Mesa. Tucked into it's own little micro chasm of urban chic, the brewery fits right into the motif with its literal brick and mortar foundation accented with broad exposed wooden beams overhead. Cameron Ball is the founder and owner of this legit no frills brewery and recently celebrated his eighth year of success with his closest friends – his customers!

"Yeah eight years! Just a lot of happy people and tasty beers the whole time!" beamed the crafty brewer. "We've really been just stoked the whole time with the support that we have around here the friends that we've made with everybody coming by and eight years flew!"

Ball's enthusiasm is punctuated by his heavy surfer accent as he explains the story of creating his beloved brewery. "So I come from the home brewing scene, so no professional brewing prior to building Helix. I do all the brewing, and we have a team of six others who do the pouring and operate the whole front. I mean – after the first year – I kinda got my grind here and really learned how to do it. I'm pretty efficient with everything I do here; it's like a dance that I can do here, partially asleep y'know? Sometimes I'm in here really early, sometimes late and its really fun just to you know, after eight years I still get to play with all these toys here!"

Cameron likes to brew hoppy beer that fits right in with San Diego's appetite for IPAs and the like. San Diego beer drinkers have made it clear that they love these dank beers and recently hazy IPAs have made an indelible impression on the aficionados here locally. But recently, he has broadened his horizons, which falls in line with a huge swath of the local brewers who have rediscovered some of the OG lagers and pilsners that have been mainstays of the brewing world since day one.

"Yeah so I really like making hoppy beers, you know, trying to use different hop combos is super fun. But I've been really getting into Lagers lately and it's just a new



Cameron (left) and his friends celebrate at the 8th Anniversary Party at Helix Brewing Co. (above) Guests enjoy themselves at Helix Brewing Co. (photos by vince meehan)

scene that I'm doing and I've learned a lot from that. And the response that everybody is giving back to me is, everyone is stoked!"

In fact, the brewing world in SoCal has come full circle to embrace Mexican Lagers and it seems like every local brewery has created one of their own. In Cameron's case, it is in the form of a new Mexican Lager he calls SURveza, which touches on the classic Southern California surfing scene. Many surfers have made forays in Baja for tasty waves, fish tacos and Mexican Lagers, which seem to go hand in hand. This Baja influence has created a whole slew of local Mexican Lagers, which are made with a touch of corn for a traditional sweeter finish.

Cameron grew up in La Mesa so it was very important for him to locate his brewery in his hometown. His locale turned out to be a perfect fit for his endeavor and he couldn't be happier. "So La Mesa has pretty strict areas where you can manufacture beer, so this is the only, you know, small area that allows it. We knew that we wanted to do it in the hometown here, and found this place – loved the redbrick vibe – and did a bunch of work to make it what it is now. We really strive for on-site sales, really having that cool vibe and make it really nice for everybody to come here and have some food from the food truck, you know have some beers and relax almost like it's their own house, that back yard party vibe." ❖

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#ThatBlondBassist

By Vince Meehan

Jules Welpton is one of the most high-profile bassists in San Diego. She has her own band, plays with guitar fave Roni Lee, and performs live session gigs with a who's who of San Diego's best musicians. She is all over social media with her unique hashtag #thatblondbassist and seems to play multiple times every week. She is savvy and posts photos of all her shows, all the while upping her algorithm so that her images populate feed after feed. But Jules is also a prolific teacher and she teaches her students not only bass, but mandolin and violin as well.

"Oh my goodness, I've been playing violin since I was like seven," quipped Welpton. "And I always had it in my life. I majored in it in college, got my degree in music from Humboldt State. But Welpton found herself immersed in the world of bass later on in her youth. "Somebody gave me a bass in middle school and I was like, 'I really wanna sit next to this guy in jazz band and play jazz' which was completely different from classical or baroque or whatever I was learning. So yeah I picked up bass and, I just always got the gigs playing bass so I became known as a bass player. I love it though, I love bass. I love all instruments!"



Andrew Schulz *in da house!*

Comedian Andrew Schulz was spotted at the Oxford Social Club Downtown on Friday night, May 10. Recently seen on Netflix's "The Roast of Tom Brady," Schulz hung out at Oxford after his two sold out shows in a charcoal gray two-piece accompanied by his entourage. word on the street says his drink of choice for the night was Casamigos Tequila.

Schulz is currently on the road for his The Life Tour which includes dates in Palm Springs at the Agua Caliente Resort Casino and two more sold out shows in Las Vegas and Seattle. Schulz also appears f on MTV2's "Guy Code" and its two spinoffs, the Flagrant podcast with Akaash Singh and The Brilliant Idiots podcast.

Andrew Schulz's Instagram: @andrewschulz

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