

LAURIE LEWIS & FRIENDS

You can't measure Laurie Lewis' 30-year career with the usual commercial yardsticks. If you listen down the backroads of acoustic Americana, however, you'll soon realize this soft-spoken, sweet-singing California fiddler, singer and songwriter is something very special.

LOS CENZONTILES FEATURING SANTIAGO JIMENEZ

Los Cenzontles ("The Mockingbirds") is a Mexican music ensemble that celebrates the innovation and imagination of Mexican music, weaving together centuries-old musical traditions with contemporary sounds of the world stage. Jimenez has won a National Heritage Fellowship for lifetime achievement in traditional Tex-Mex music.

LOUDON WAINWRIGHT III

Loudon Wainwright III, one of America's most cherished music icons, just released his new album "Recovery" on Yep Roc. Produced by Joe Henry, it is a stunning collection on which the Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter revisits some of his earliest works.

MARTY WILLSON-PIPER (OF THE CHURCH) & THE MOOD MAIDENS

Marty is constantly cited as a seminal influence on generations of guitar players and has written songs with or for Grace Slick, Susannah Hoff, Linda Perry, Charlie Sexton and Aimee Mann as well as working on albums with Roger McGuinn, Jules Shear, Brix Smith, David Gedge and Rob Dickinson.

MAURA O' CONNELL

From her first appearance as a lead vocalist with the celebrated traditional Celtic group DeDanaan in 1981, to her latest solo disc, O'Connell has married an unmistakable deep, rich, flexible voice and her signature talent for finding what's most potent in the heart of a song.

MIKE FARRIS & THE ROSELAND RHYTHM REVUE

Farris has been winning fans with his vibrant fusion of rock, soul and gospel music since his days in the Screamin' Cheeta Wheelies. His most recent release, "Salvation in Lights," is a traveling tent-revival of an album, using the musical language of spirituals, timeless stories of struggle and soul to tell a uniquely redemptive story.

MOONALICE

Moonalice is band of seasoned players exploring new musical territory with a passion. G.E. Smith (Saturday Night Live, Bob Dylan), Pete Sears (Jefferson Starship, Rod Stewart), Barry Sless (Phil Lesh & Friends, David Nelson Band), Ann & Roger McNamee (Flying Other Brothers) and Jim Sanchez (Dr. John, Boz Scaggs) conjure up a heady brew of roots, rock, rhythm-and-blues, and more, peppered with spirited doses of improvisation and surprise.

NICK LOWE

The "Headmaster of British Rock," Nick Lowe has been performing for over 40 years, but is as fresh today as the first time he stepped on stage. There are no tricks or short cuts here. Far from it. His songs are as solid as the earth, yet carry no lingering hype or heaviness.

ODETTA

Odetta is an African-American singer, actress, guitarist, songwriter, and a human rights activist, often referred to as "The Voice of the Civil Rights Movement." An important figure in the American folk music revival of the '50s and '60s, she was a formative influence on dozens of artists, including Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and Janis Joplin.

THE OPERA DUKES

The Opera Dukes ask the question, "What would happen if you mixed Bluegrass and Opera?" Members of San Francisco Opera's Adler Fellowship lend their stentorian and virtuosic voices to some special arrangements of opera arias.

PEGI YOUNG

After several years of performing with Neil Young's various touring ensembles, including members of Crazy Horse, and legendary musicians Donald "Duck" Dunn, Jim Keltner and Booker T. Jones, Young gained the self-assurance she needed to make a record as well.

PETER ROWAN BLUEGRASS BAND

Peter Rowan was one of the major cult bluegrass artists of the '80s, winning a devoted, international fan base through his independent records and constant touring. A skilled singer/songwriter, Rowan also yodels and plays numerous stringed instruments and the saxophone.

POOR MAN'S WHISKEY

Poor Man's Whiskey plays Californicana, a blend of acoustic music shaken with rock-n-roll attitude. Through fermentation and distillation, they've crafted an original and modern American music that inspires you to shake off the day's burdens, dance, shout and laugh.

RALPH STANLEY & THE CLINCH MOUNTAIN BOYS

After over 60 years in the business, he's still the best banjo picker and tenor singer in bluegrass music. Born in 1927 in rural Southwestern Virginia, Ralph draws heavily on the musical traditions of the area, which include the unique minor-key singing style of the Primitive Baptist Church and the sweet down-home family harmonies of the Carter Family.

RED WINE

Italian group Red Wine is one of the premier bluegrass bands in Europe, actively touring since 1978, with a style that embraces traditional and contemporary bluegrass, country, gospel and swing.

RICHARD THOMPSON

Richard Thompson was named by Rolling Stone Magazine as one of the Top 20 Guitarists of all-time and the recent recipient of both an Ivor Novello Award for Songwriting and the 2006 BBC Lifetime Achievement Award; the iconic British folk rock legend is one of the world's most critically acclaimed and prolific songwriters.

RICKY SKAGGS & KENTUCKY THUNDER

This Grammy Award winner continues to do his part to lead the recent roots revival in music. Ricky has brought the genre to greater levels of popularity in the past few years than the father of bluegrass music, the legendary Bill Monroe, could ever have imagined.

RIDERS IN THE SKY

Riders in the Sky are truly exceptional. By definition, empirical data, and critical acclaim, they stand "hats & shoulders" above the rest of the purveyors of C & W - "Comedy & Western!"

THE ROAN MOUNTAIN HILLTOPPERS

The Roan Mountain Hilltoppers get their unique sound from their ancestors. For years, entertainment in the Appalachian mountains consisted of "hoedown get-togethers," and those that could afford radios. All involved are extremely talented individuals doing their best to keep the music alive.

ROBERT EARL KEEN

Among the large contingent of talented songwriters who emerged in Texas in the '80s and '90s, Robert Earl Keen strikes an unusual balance between sensitive story-portraits and raucous barroom fun.

SAMANTHA ROBICHAUD

20 year old Samantha is a lively, youthful Atlantic Canadian fiddler with Acadian roots who first picked up the fiddle at the age of 4 and has never put it down. She has always demonstrated a strong love for all styles of fiddle playing; her drive to perfect a unique feel and style has also been influenced through classical training.

SONS & BROTHERS

"WestGrass" is the term the Colorado-based band uses to describe its presentation of acoustic music that combines elements of western, gospel, bluegrass and old time fiddle music. "We draw on the traditions of Bluegrass and Old Time and use these elements to describe and present experiences relevant to life in the West, and more specifically, here in the mountain west."

STEVE EARLE & THE BLUEGRASS DUKES

Steve Earle's gripping new album, "Washington Square Serenade," is a loving tribute to the '60s, folk music and the city that gave them all a nurturing home, New York City. "That period changed pop music," Earle says.

TEA LEAF GREEN

Tea Leaf Green's powerful version of jam rock allows the band to feature their diverse songwriting sensibilities and astounding amounts of raw talent.

THREE GIRLS & THEIR BUDDY

With music that is always deeply personal, naturally eccentric and spiritually weighted, not to mention expertly performed, Buddy Miller is considered an auteur and a virtuoso. This special performance includes *Emmylou Harris*, *Patty Griffin* and *Shawn Colvin!*

TIFT MERRITT

"I first heard Tift Merritt some years ago during a writer's night at a small club. She stood out like a diamond in a coal patch, and everyone there knew she carried a promise of great things to come. She has more than fulfilled that promise." - Emmylou Harris

WACO BROTHERS

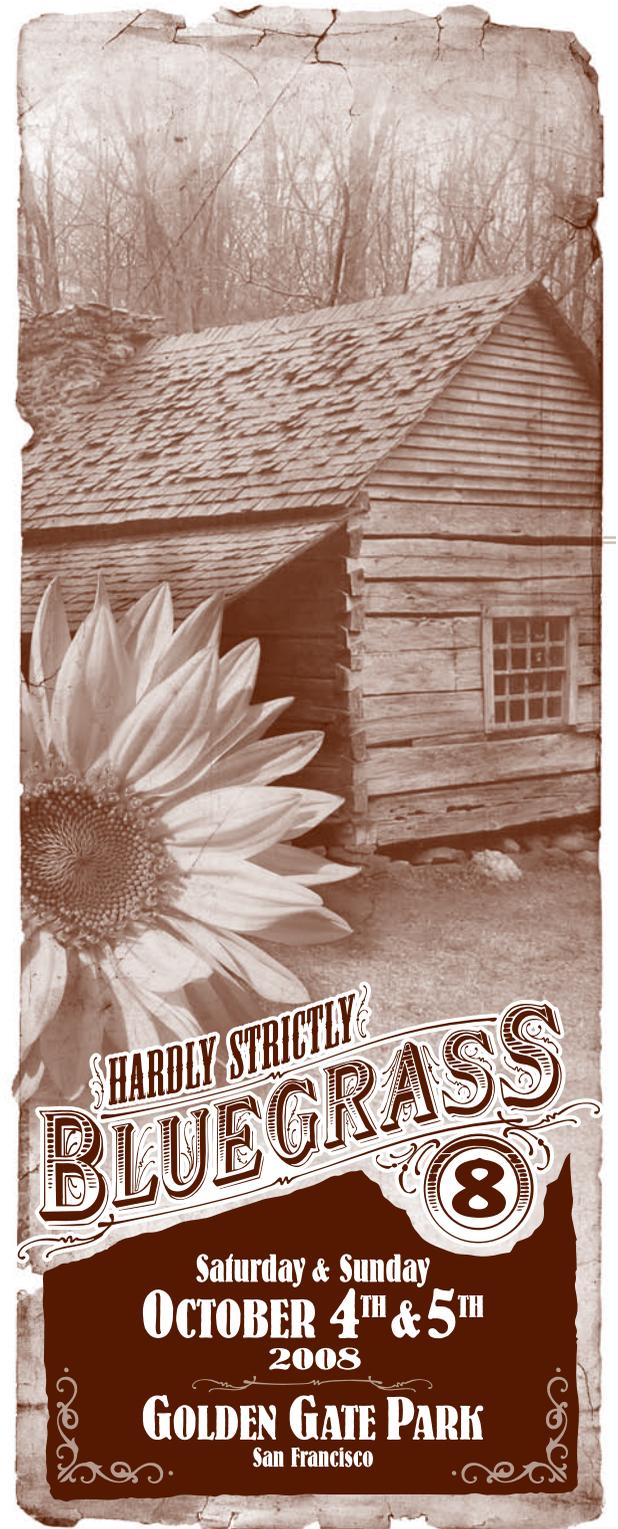
Subtlety is for the weak, so the Waco Brothers chosen the path of optimum mayhem and tomfoolery. In their rollicking career, they have been called everything from the flagship act of the alternative country "movement" to pure butchery. Both are likely to be correct.

THE WAYBACKS

The Waybacks draw freely from the old school and the old world, but the Waybacks are no throwback. They've been erroneously pigeonholed as a bluegrass band and celebrated as purveyors of "acoustic mayhem."

THE WRONGLERS

Warren Hellman of the Wronglers is the founder of Hardly Strictly Bluegrass! His love of bluegrass and old-time music permeates every aspect of his life, and his excitement at playing on stage for an audience brings him a huge sense of involvement and satisfaction.



ALISON BROWN QUARTET WITH JOE CRAVEN

Alison Brown has composed and played her way into the affections of fans of jazz-hued acoustic music with a unique voice on a relatively unexplored instrument, the 5-string banjo.

ASLEEP AT THE WHEEL

Asleep at the Wheel have been awarded numerous Grammys and have won praise from the likes of Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan, George Strait and Van Morrison. They have been called the “post-modern kings of western swing,” and given their storied history, it is a title that few would question.

BAD LIVERS

The Austin punk-rock scene got hip in the ‘90s to the Bad Livers’ wide-ranging set lists, which included material from Monk, Mississippi John Hurt, Roky Erickson & Merle Haggard. The members reunite for a special rare performance of progressive bluegrass.

BAND JOE & THE WHYTE LAYDIE

A short story told in two songs by Warren Hellman and members of an acoustic version of Moonalice.

BEN KWELLER

Young artist Ben Kweller, who grew up in the small east Texas town of Greenville, quotes “country music was the soundtrack to my life. It’s definitely shaped who I am as an artist.” He caught the ears of Evan Dando, Jeff Tweedy and even Dave Matthews, who signed Kweller to his indie label ATO.

BILL EVANS STRING SUMMIT WITH MEGAN LYNCH

Bill Evans String Summit is a collective of well-known new acoustic all-stars who come together five or six times a year to perform original instrumental music, including generous helpings of Bill’s tunes. Today’s lineup includes National Champion fiddler Megan Lynch.

BILL KIRCHEN

Known as “the Titan of the Telecaster” for his big, twangy licks and diverse musical styles, Kirchen’s signature sound has been dubbed “Dieselbilly” as it incorporates elements of country, blues, rockabilly and western swing.

BONNIE “PRINCE” BILLY

Will Oldham (aka Bonnie “Prince” Billy) has been called an “Appalachian post-punk solipsist” and is notable for his unique voice, which has been described as “a fragile sort-of warble frittering around haunted melodies in the American folk and country tradition.”

CARLENE CARTER

This prodigal child of country music royalty (granddaughter of Maybelle Carter of the original Carter Family, daughter of June Carter and Carl Smith & stepdaughter of Johnny Cash) has been making a name for herself since her debut in 1978.

CYNDI HARVELL

Georgia-born, Oakland dwelling Cyndi Harvell makes “folk-rock, salt and peppered with southern poetry.” Her natural voice and hook-filled songs will make you want to take off your shoes, close your eyes and listen.

DARRELL SCOTT BAND

Darrell Scott is a powerful musical spirit – a Grammy-nominated artist, an award-winning songwriter and a first-call session musician. He is a master of both the infectious, Southern-Rock riff, and of the instruments that bring them to life.

DAVE ALVIN & THE GUILTY WOMEN

Dave’s music is a braid of different American styles: blues, country, rock ‘n’ roll, pop, folk and R&B, and in each strand, he favors the California accent. Today’s performance includes Christy McWilson, Amy Farris, Laurie Lewis, Sarah Brown, Lisa Pankratz, Nina Gerber & Cindy Cashdollar.

THE DEL MCCOURY BAND

The Del McCoury Band enjoys the praise of traditional bluegrass lovers and tie-dyed clad ‘Del-Heads’ alike. Del has proven not to be a relic of bluegrass music’s past, but an architect of its future.

THE DESERT ROSE BAND

The Desert Rose Band was called “the highly evolved Burritos” by Chris Hillman, which was a reference to his former band, the Flying Burrito Brothers. Like the FBB, they combine ‘60s style “country-rock” with bluegrass, honky-tonk and the introspective singer-songwriter tradition and are known for their powerful live shows. The band has just launched a reunion tour which brings the group together for the first time in 15 years!

DRY BRANCH FIRE SQUAD

Dry Branch Fire Squad is renowned for its spry mix of front-porch standards, modern ballads and the old-time sounds from which bluegrass first sprang.

EARL SCRUGGS

Scruggs spent more than 20 years with the Foggy Mountain Boys, one of the most famous bands in bluegrass history, and is noted for creating a banjo style (now called Scruggs style) that is a defining characteristic of bluegrass music.

ELVIS COSTELLO’S HIGH WHINES & SPIRITS

Simply put, Elvis Costello has established himself over the last 4 decades as one of the most respected, creative and influential songwriters and artists in the world.

EMMYLOU HARRIS

Emmylou is truly a modern innovator. For over 30 years, she has flowed effortlessly between genres achieving popularity in pop, folk and country. The common bridge is an exquisite vocal style and a gift for discovering the heart of a song.

FROM THE JAYHAWKS: MARK OLSON & GARY LOURIS

Led by songwriters/harmonizers Gary Louris and Mark Olson, the Jayhawks found great critical acclaim. The duo’s new album, “Ready For the Flood,” captures the stripped down, finger-picked guitar playing and Laurel Canyon sound of an earlier time and echoes with the combined experience of two kindred spirit reuniting to do what they do - and love - best.

GLOBAL DRUM PROJECT FEATURING MICKEY HART & ZAKIR HUSSAIN

Mickey Hart’s 3 decades as the innovative percussion engine of the Grateful Dead earned him Rock & Roll Hall of Fame status and worldwide notoriety. Years of constant touring also afforded him a platform for introducing his lifelong interest in multicultural sounds to the American public. The all-star percussion ensemble Global Drum Project includes Hart, tabla virtuoso Zakir Hussain, conguero Giovanni Hidalgo and Sikiru Adepoju on talking drum.

GOGOL BORDELLO

Gogol Bordello is a multi-ethnic “Gypsy Punk” band from the Lower East Side known for its theatrical stage shows. Their sound is inspired by Gypsy music, as its core members are immigrants from Eastern Europe. The band incorporates minor-key accordion and fiddle & saxophone with cabaret, punk and dub as well as multiple languages.

THE GOURDS

The Gourds are an Austin-based good-time, honky tonkin’ band with enough quirk and underground appeal to more than earn the “alternative” in “alternative country-rock band.”

GREG BROWN

Iowa native Greg Brown’s songwriting has been lauded by many, and his songs have been performed by Willie Nelson, Carlos Santana, Michael Johnson, Shawn Colvin and Mary Chapin Carpenter. Rolling Stone Magazine called him “a wickedly sharp observer of the human condition.”

GUY CLARK & VERLON THOMPSON

The emotional level of Guy Clark’s work, as well as the admiration and esteem of his peers, consistently transcends sales figures and musical genres. He’s performing with Verlon Thompson, a man whose craftsmanship as a guitarist and harmony vocalist can be heard on some of the finest recordings made in the last 20 years.

HAZEL DICKENS

Great traditional singers are rare these days. Rarer still is the great traditional singer whose songs are powered by important social issues. Hazel Dickens is such a singer. Her music achieves a stunning synergy of strength and conviction that is not easily forgotten.

HEAVY TRASH

Jon Spencer and Matt Verta-Ray are Heavy Trash! On stage and in the studio, Jon Spencer has destroyed and rebuilt American roots music with ferocity and wild abandon. His work with the Jon Spencer Blues Explosion remains an indelible totem to his enormous mojo spirit and red-hot power of deliverance.

HEIDI CLARE & ATAGALLOP

Ferocious fiddler Heidi Clare rose to prominence during the last decade as one of the founding members of the acclaimed group the Reeltime Travelers. Heidi’s playing was heard on the soundtrack for the movie “Cold Mountain” as well as on the fabled Down from the Mountain tour.

HOT RIZE

Hot Rize is approaching its 30th year in the bluegrass history book and today’s lineup features Pete Wernick, Tim O’Brien, Nick Forster and Bryan Sutton. They enjoy an acclaimed international reputation, have appeared on Austin City Limits, the Grand Ole Opry and a Prairie Home Companion, and have earned both a Grammy nomination and the International Bluegrass Music Association’s Entertainer of the Year Award.

THE INFAMOUS STRINGDUSTERS

The Infamous Stringdusters are the new vanguard of acoustic music. Well crafted songs, vivid arrangements, instrumental virtuosity, stunning improvisation, unique individuality and complete harmony.

IRIS DEMENT

Iris DeMent, youngest of 14 children, is one of the most celebrated country-folk performers of her day. She is a uniquely talented musician with an ability to write wonderful songs and deliver them with the kind of pure honesty that has been sadly lacking in modern music of any genre.

IRON & WINE

Iron & Wine is the musical project of Sam Beam, originally from South Carolina. When soft became the new loud in indie circles a few years ago, Iron & Wine quickly stepped ahead of the pack as the most arresting of the new-folk artists. The music is morose and mysterious, with impressively layered harmonies and instrumentation.

JERRY JEFF WALKER

Jerry Jeff has lived - and is living - the troubadour’s life. He is strongly associated with the progressive “outlaw” country scene that centered around Texas in the ‘70s and included such figures as Willie Nelson, Guy Clark, Billy Joe Shaver, the Lost Gonzo Band, Waylon Jennings and Townes Van Zandt.

JIMMIE DALE GILMORE

Perhaps the most distinctive element of Gilmore’s talent is his extraordinary voice. Instantly recognizable, it has been variously described as “oddly resonant” and “like a hinge that needs a shot of WD-40”; its closest antecedent in country music is probably the voice of Lefty Frizzell. But Gilmore has always been recognized for his versatile guitar prowess as well, his work often reflecting the influence of rhythm and blues when he is not crooning a heartfelt ballad.

JOE PURDY

Born and raised in bluegrass country - Fayetteville, Arkansas - Purdy fast developed an appreciation for music, listening to Sam Cooke, Otis Redding, Buddy Holly, and pretty much anything playing on the oldies station. His sweet, folk-flavored melodies coupled with the warm tones of an old Gibson guitar are enough to make an audience blush.

JOHN JORGENSON QUINTET

The John Jorgenson Quintet features guitarist John Jorgenson, a member of the Desert Rose Band, the Hellecasters and Elton John’s band. Audiences are amazed by John’s dazzling guitar work as well as his mastery as a clarinet player and vocalist. John and his band make music that is equally romantic and ecstatic, played with virtuosity and soul.

JON LANGFORD’S SKULL ORCHARD FEATURING SALLY TIMMS & THE BURLINGTON WELSH MALE CHORUS

The 30 member Burlington Welsh Male Chorus will be backing up Jon Langford, once a punker from Newport, Wales and now an alt-country musician of Waco Brothers and Mekons fame.

JUSTIN TOWNES EARLE

With Justin Townes Earle’s pedigree come mixed blessings. As the son of legendary singer/songwriter Steve Earle, high expectations are the name of the game, and he’s shown that he is up to the task.

KEVIN WELCH & KIERAN KANE & FATS KAPLIN

To say that Kieran Kane, Kevin Welch and Fats Kaplin are a band might seem like a simple, straightforward statement. Far from it. It’s nearly written into the collective consciousness that individually successful artists group themselves into bands loosely, with an air of impermanence. Needless to say, these three - accomplished in their own rights as artists, songwriters and musicians, wholeheartedly casting their fortunes together since 2003 - don’t fit the profile. Then there’s the fact that Kieran, Kevin and Fats fool freely with the organic properties of band-dom. Their refreshingly unorthodox, unscripted instrumentation and two distinct songwriting flavors (Kieran’s and Kevin’s) are united by a fluid, rhythmic pulse that give way to an intoxicating oil & vinegar-like effect.