

HotMusic

Folk comeback

The Monterey Peninsula used to be a veritable hotbed of "folk" music, thanks to outfits such as Portofino Presents (I think that was the name of the small D.I.Y. concert booker run by Barbara Murphy) and Morgan's Coffee & Tea. A week didn't go by without some "name" act coming through town — Chris Smither, John Gorka, Dar Williams, Lucy Kaplansky, the Black Brothers, just to name a few.

It looks like we're going through a mini-Renaissance of sorts, although "folk" seems a quaint and dated word to describe the diverse roster of singer-songwriters who are now playing venues such as Monterey Live, Carleton Hall, East Village Coffee Lounge (formerly Morgan's Coffee & Tea) and Ol' Factory Cafe, which is owned by Morgan's own Morgan Christopher, bringing things full circle.

In fact, a quick look at Ol' Factory's Web site (www.olfactorycafe.com — click on Happenings) reveals that more and more musical events are being booked there, and not just singer-songwriters, but rock bands, reggae bands, even



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Mac About Town

Cajun-zydeco bands (more on that in a sec).

Tonight at 8, it's something called "The Edge of Love," which singer-songwriter **Sahra Baker** (she of Songwriters

Showcase at Monterey Live fame) describes as "Three songwriters sing original songs, revealing the many faces of love . . . dark, light, songs of pain and ecstasy . . . the whole enchilada o' love."

In addition to Baker, who will be joined by violinist **Laurel Thomsen** and singer **Linda Hylle** the songwriter/performers include **Tom Lawson** (joined by former fellow Red Beans & Rice bandmember **Bishop Mayfield**) and singer/pianist **Jannie Littlepage**.

Other "Happenings" at Ol' Factory include **Novela** performing Friday night at 7:30 in a benefit for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and Saturday night the **Cachagua**

Playboys performing a fundraiser for Jane Parker and her bid for Monterey County 4th District Supervisor (www.electjaneparker.com). That's a 7 p.m. start and \$5 cover.

The 'boys, by the way, are riding high with their second CD "Surf Zydeco," which has more than just Cajun-zydeco tunes, but Old School rock, soul blues and swampabilly.

Continuing in the "folk" vein, Monterey Live hosts the return of singer-songwriter **Peter Case** on Friday night at 7:30.

Case was recently nominated for his album "Let Us Now Praise Sleepy John" in the Best Traditional Folk Album category and his "Old Blue Car" was

nominated for a Grammy in 1986. He's probably best known for his 1989 album "The Man With The Blue Post Modern Fragmented Neo-Traditionalist Guitar," which Bruce Springsteen said was his favorite album that year.

Just down the street, at the Monterey Church of Religious Science's Carleton Hall, Southern California-based folk duo **Emith** and local Celtic/folk duo **Sweetfire** will perform Friday night at 8.

Emith is singer, songwriter and guitarist **Carol Ann Ives** and former Elvin Bishop/Dr. John guitarist and singer **Stevie Gurr** mixing Cowboy Junkies atmospherics with Fleetwood

Mac and Aimee Mann pop sensibilities.

Over at East Village, the Oakland-based duo **Mia & Jonah** will perform Saturday night at 9, with local singer-songwriter **Lindsay Candra** opening at 8.

The San Francisco Chronicle described their music as a "Jeff Buckley-esque blend of country, folk and rock . . . songs of singular beauty played and sung without pretense."

Hear them at www.my-space.com/miaandjonah.

And for some first-rate "folk" music from the islands, check out award-winning Hawaiian duo **Hapa** Sunday and Monday night at Monterey Live.

This acclaimed duo,

bassist/singer **Nathan Aweau** and singer/guitarist **Barry Flanagan** fuse traditional Hawaiian music with rock and jazz forms to create a modern sound that still evokes old Hawaii. These are two superb musicians and singers (www.hapa.com) that should be a must for fans of all genres of music.

Yikes, out of space again! Don't forget the **Erotic Art Show** Saturday night at Planet Ultra Lounge; jazz flutist **Ali Ryerson** Friday and Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Monterey; **DubFX** and **3 Hour Shower** at the Hippodrome; and **Juice Newton** and **Honey Hush** at Laguna Grande Park in Seaside on Wednesday night. **GO!**

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