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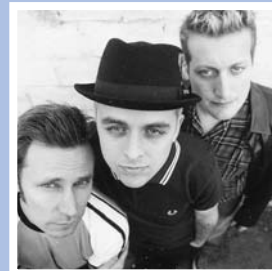
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Music for Youth Benefit Concert

Anyone who has attended Blue Bear knows how supportive and just plain cool the environment is for aspiring musicians of all ages. But non-musicians or timid hopefuls may not be as familiar with the Bear and what a great resource it is for San Francisco. And in a time when music education in our public schools is virtually non-existent, Blue Bear's youth programs have taken on an even more valuable role in the community.



Bonnie Hayes will kick off Blue Bear's first Music For Youth Benefit Concert

Despite our many successes over the past 34 years, we, like many nonprofit organizations, continue to struggle to balance the rising costs of our superb programs with the level of income we're able to raise through tuition alone. Over the past year we have initiated sliding scale support to keep Blue Bear classes affordable for lower income students

(page 3). We've also expanded our offerings for younger students (pages 3 and 5).

This fall we are presenting our first annual Music for Youth Benefit Concert, aimed at raising funds to specifically support these youth, scholarship and sliding scale programs, while increasing awareness of Blue Bear in the community at large. Our Benefit Committee has been hard at work to make this year's benefit a big success.

The concert will be anchored by our own Grammy-nominated singer/songwriter Bonnie Hayes with additional special guests to be announced soon. Both as a mom and as a former teenaged Blue Bear student herself, Bonnie has a keen sense of the importance of music in the lives of young people. (She's also designed and run our youth Summer Camps for two years running.) In addition to the concert, there will be a silent auction offering special rock and roll memorabilia as well as dinners, tickets to events, and other goodies. We'll announce the date of the event once our venue is nailed down.

With all there is to do, we need your help. We are currently looking for corporate sponsors to help support the event in the amounts of \$500 and up. If you or your parents work at a company that might be interested, please contact us for more details. And we can always use more volunteers to assist with the silent auction, sponsor drive, and event coordination. Thank you to everyone who has helped so far and we look forward to the best event ever!

For more information, or to offer sponsorships, donations, or volunteer help, please contact David Schwartz, Benefit Producer at davidspot@gmail.com, or Kaitlin McGaw, Development Director at kaitlin@bluebearmusic.org.

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Golden Rules for Musical Success

We asked a few of our teachers if they had any words of wisdom that could help students on their road to musical success. Here are some responses:

Natalia Bortolotti's Golden Rule: "Do it because you love it. That is the ultimate success. Everything else is just icing on the cake."

Lindsey Boullt's Golden Rule: "Stay true to yourself."

Bonnie Hayes's Golden Rule: "Musical success isn't the same as commercial success, so my advice would be different if you were asking how to "make it" in the music business. You are a musical success if you play music in an authentic way, if you actively pursue progress in your playing, and if you enjoy playing. Anything else is gravy."

And sitting back in Room H with the fan on and the red light from his amp twinkling, recently retired guitar guru Greg Cooper may have said it all most succinctly:

Greg Cooper's Golden Rule for Musical Success: "Practice."

Staff & Teacher Features

Jim Peterson is playing with Mitch Woods and His Rocket 88's at the Pori Jazz Festival in Pori, Finland in late July. He'll also be at the Marin Brewing Co. with MoFone this summer and is finishing up a recording project, collaborating as a composer and arranger with guitarist Scott Foster.

Michael Foley's new CD *Fear & Forgiveness* has just been released on Gray Rock Records. The album features Michael on guitar and vocals and captures the American music landscape with a winning combination of heart and musicianship. You can get your copy at Blue Bear!

Matthew Montfort will perform this August in Barcelona, Spain at the St. Carles International Guitar Festival with a trio version of his world music band Ancient Future. This is a larger festival put on by the same organization that brought his duet to Spain in 2003. Matthew will be representing new directions in guitar from the USA with his scalloped fretboard guitar. Ensembles from Portugal and Italy are also on the bill.

Kent Brown's live jukebox cover band Suite Love Express has been busy playing around San Francisco, and has been rocking at some Blue Bear student weddings as well!

Long time staffer **Jason Garoian** has defected from the cozy womb of the Bear to the wilds of Marin, where he will be filling his brain with details of punctuation, grammar and style as an editorial assistant at *Acoustic Guitar* magazine. He misses the



Carol Snow and **Justin Flores** are in production mode with The Foundry on "Syntax: A Reading, Danced," their text/dance project awarded a Creative Work Fund grant. August 12-13! Tickets and info at www.ODCTheater.org.

Lindsey Boullt (far left) is back in the studio in pre-production mode with keyboard ace Tony Stead. They're working on a follow-up to Lindsey's ear-opening tour de force *Harmonics In Shift*. www.lindseyboullt.com

Sandy Cressman (below) will be performing a "Jazz and the Music of Brazil"

concert this summer at the Stanford Jazz Festival. Look for her CD release shows at Yoshi's in early August for *Brasil, Sempre no Coração (Brazil, forever in my heart)*.



curious montage of people and sounds that comes together at the Blue Bear front desk and promises to visit often.

New staffer **Jason (Hawk) West** will have some weekend tours this summer as flautist with The New Up, a band that includes a Blue Bear alum and that was formerly managed by head desk staffer **Bernadette Bohan**. Bernadette, meanwhile, is making the soundwaves happen in her Haight abode as she explores a fusion of Indian chant, rock instrumentation and free expression with a core group of musical cohorts. She was recently rumored to be installing a wah-wah and effects on her harmonium.

Adult Bands Continue to Rock

* Taking a few minutes to sit down with Jim Peterson was as engaging and informative as being one of the students in his band workshops at Blue Bear. He has been involved with these workshops since their inception in 1971 (wow Jim, you don't look a day over 30!) That is, Peterson was a student in Blue Bear workshops as a spry young man and today leads a majority of them at the school. Bands taught by Peterson and other great professional musicians include Basic and Intermediate Rock and Blues, Blues, Contemporary Bands, R&B/Soul/Motown workshops, and the Jazz Ensemble.

Peterson is a seasoned teacher, band leader and multi-instrumentalist and has traveled extensively playing music throughout the world. The last few years have found him at jazz festivals in Italy,

Greece, Holland and France. Students not only learn a ton, but are thrilled to share the stage with Peterson as he rips incredible sax solos and collaborates on the various tunes that students have selected.

Peterson makes a point to have all of the workshop players and singers challenge themselves. He focuses on musicianship, band dynamics and the most important ingredient for a successful workshop, a good attitude! But Peterson believes that after all the learning, practicing and performing are over, one important question remains: did we have fun doing this, or what? As a student of his for two quarters, I can vouch that indeed there is a lot of learning, and I can



Jim Peterson presides over fun and fundamentals.

honestly say that it's the most fun I've had in a learning environment to date!

The band workshops are ten weeks at Blue Bear and finish with a performance at the Tongue & Groove night club. They are a great place to explore, develop and become a more proficient musician and performer and to really enjoy the ensemble experience!!!

— Bernadette Bohan

Youth Bands Making Their Mark



Know Clue: the heart of Rock and Roll.

For all time, 2005 will be remembered as the year that youth bands first lit up Blue Bear's halls and rocked the block. From after school bands to our five week-long Summer Camps, the school's programs for young people have really expanded.

The early part of the afternoon at the Bear is usually pretty quiet. When the girls in the self-named band Peach Fuzz arrive they punctuate the day, bringing a fresh excitement. "They're really funny together," says instructor Kent Brown. "They're always being goofy and teasing each other." The five band members, all 12 and 13 years old, are really starting to develop some chops after their three quarters together. This is particularly amazing considering that several had never touched their instruments before the class began. Their growing set list includes numbers from The Beatles, Cream and The White

Stripes. They're also in the process of working on their first all-original tune. Peach Fuzz has been getting quite a bit of press. They were recently featured on the WB Network's Daily Mixx Show. In addition, a documentary crew has been filming their progress.

Know Clue is the moniker of another after school band: five 10-year-old boys who are learning, practicing and stirring it up here at the school. They have been focusing their unbridled energy under the tutelage of Lindsey Boullt. The guys were already friends and had named the band before they even got to Blue Bear. They walked in wound up and ready to go.

"They have the wild energy of Rock 'n' Roll, the vision of heroes and the discipline of a jail break," comments Boullt.

Loose Screws is another high energy unit that was studying at Blue Bear. They came to the school already possessing some real skills. "It was incredible to watch them grow," says their teacher, Jason Garoian. "I couldn't believe how good they got. When they played their show at the end of ten weeks, I was elated. They were so incredible. It was easily the best thing I've ever taken part in."

Young people have an amazing ability to dive in and take chances. This sense of fearlessness, bolstered by the immediacy of Rock and Roll, makes for some very interesting possibilities. If you haven't yet had the opportunity, make sure you drop by and catch a gig sometime.

A Scholarship Who's Who

We had more scholarship applicants in 2005 than ever before, and it was difficult to narrow the field down to just ten. Thanks to the generous support of our 2005 Scholarship Sponsors, we were able to

give a number of Honorable Mention scholarships to some of the very talented applicants who did not make the final group. The Finalists include four guitarists, five singers and a drummer.

Adam (guitar) and **Alex Nash** are 14-year-old twins who play, perform and write together. They look forward to honing their songwriting skills with Bill Spooner and to finding a bass player to jam with!

Jordan Frazier (age 11) has been in school musicals and plays, sings in the Children's Lighthouse Choir, and is participating in Blue Bear's Summer Camps.

Thomas Harrington (age 20) is a Tool fanatic and a writer of some very interesting and inventive guitar pieces. He'll take his already assured playing to the next level with private study. **Sahara Sunday Spain** (age 13) is a prolific writer of songs, combining reflective lyrics with a soulful sound beyond her years. She'll be studying composition and continuing to develop her voice.

Brittany Bonstin is another 13-year-old with a voice that belies her age. With a budding interest in Jazz, she'll continue vocal lessons at Blue Bear with Andrea Fultz. **Geanna Mohamed** (age 14) is in the Vocal Program at SOTA. With interests in Jazz and R&B, she's taking Raz Kennedy's class in Vocal Technique. **Stephanie Stolorow** and **Meklit Hadero**, at 25, are the seniors of the group. Stephanie is a singer/songwriter who's starting to perform out with her band. Meklit often sings unaccompanied, but is beginning to join in at jam sessions around town. Both are looking forward to a variety of studies at Blue Bear. We hope everyone's talents will grow and thrive, in part through their studies at the school.



Ian MacGregor
+ Tele = Music

The Keith Allen Memorial Scholarship

Keith Allen was an extraordinary musician, one of the premier Bay Area guitarists until his unexpected passing in 2004. Keith had also been a teacher at Blue Bear in the early days out on Ocean Ave.

In Keith's honor, Ned and Robin Selfe have funded an annual scholarship for a promising young guitarist. This year the Keith Allen Memorial Scholarship Winner

is Ian MacGregor. At 14 years of age, Ian is already an accomplished player. As finalist judge Jeff Massanari said, "He really tore it up on the blues." Ian, who wore a Hendrix t-shirt to his final audition, has musical interests that range from Robert Johnson to The Who, Charlie Christian to Led Zeppelin, and Monk to Dick Dale. We're confident Keith Allen would have been proud of this young player. ▶

Girls Rock!

Girls have been rockin' Blue Bear this year! All-girl after school bands, week-long rock and roll camps, and one day workshops are packing Blue Bear's performance hall. While half of Blue Bear students are girls and women, there is clearly a gender barrier in the greater rock/blues music industry. Blue Bear is taking steps to rock the future of women in music, with significant support from the Eva Leah Gunther Foundation ... not to mention upcoming 2006 Celebrity Sponsors the Donnas and Goapele.

The Eva Leah Gunther Foundation's work is inspired by the life of Eva Gunther, who was killed by a drunk driver at the age of 12 1/2. Eva had a compassionate heart coupled with a strong sense of fairness and justice. She wanted to become a teacher. Her family established the Foundation to remember Eva's remarkable strengths and achievements by helping other girls develop their own.

Thanks to the support of the Eva Foundation, girls from around the Bay are coming to Blue Bear to try out our new Girls Rock! one-day workshops, where instruments are provided and no experience is necessary. In a few hours, the girls have learned a song and performed as a band for family and friends.

The RockGrrrls Summer Camp, also supported by the Eva Foundation, not only teaches girls how to play in a band but features talks by local women musicians on the music industry. Camp Director Bonnie Hayes is bringing together women instructors and



Peach Fuzz in action

speakers who can reflect on their music careers and answer questions for these girls.

And don't neglect to check out the story of the Peach Fuzz after school band. Instructor Kent Brown has taught the band their favorite songs (the Beatles) and the practical experience of how to be in a band. The girls are already learning how to deal with media (the WB), fans (the school talent show) and big shows (playing the Bottom of the Hill)!

Here's to the ladies who rock - we salute you!

2005

2005 Scholarship Winners (l-r):
Sahara Sunday Spain,
Jordan Frazier, Ian MacGregor,
Thomas Harrington, Meklit Hadero.
Not pictured:
Brittany Bonstin,
Geanna Mohamed,
Adam Nash, Alex Nash and
Stephanie Stolorow.



Blue Bear School of Music does not discriminate according to race, color, or national or ethnic origin. Blue Bear School of Music operates at Fort Mason Center in co-operation with the Fort Mason Foundation and the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Sliding Scale "Takes Off"

Blue Bear has been granting tuition scholarships for younger musicians by annual audition since 1981, but it wasn't until last year that the school began to support music studies for all ages and levels of musicians on the basis of financial need. Co-director Carol Snow has been working at the school since 1971, and is quite excited about the relatively new Sliding Scale program. "This is such a great development," says Snow,

with heartfelt enthusiasm. "Blue Bear has always welcomed musicians at any stage of their progress. I myself came as a student with a sheaf of original songs written out in notes like a piano primer. I didn't know what a chord chart was, I'd never played with other musicians. So much at Blue Bear was a discovery and a joy for me. I'm pleased we can offer support for more students without regard to age or skill level. Looking at

the numbers, the need is clearly there." Each quarter since last Spring, more sliding scale tuition support has been granted, and so far everyone who's applied has received \$50 to \$200 per quarter toward private and/or group programs. Carol adds, "We just need to see that fundraising efforts keep up with sliding scale applications, so no one is turned away." Sliding Scale guidelines are available either on-line or at the Bear. ▶

Question Bear

Sahara Borja volunteered to be Question Bear for a day. With her journalistic fur in place, she asked:

What band or song rocked your world?

Richard Storbeck (guitar student) There're two bands, basically. Before I got interested in guitar, I was a music major on the French horn. Classical music was fun, although a little bit too egotistical, so after I got my BA I was like, freedom, wow, I like Rock and Roll a lot better! I was always interested in the Byrds, and the one song that has always 'rocked my world' was "Eight Miles High." I loved it! That's how I got interested in the 12-string Rickenbacker that I use now - the same guitar that Roger McGuinn used. The second song that just took me over to the Rock and Roll world was Jefferson Airplane's "Somebody to Love."

Bonnie Hayes (songwriting teacher) I think the Sons of Champlin were the first band that made me crazed over music. My brothers (Chris from Huey Lewis and the News, and Kevin, drummer for Robert Cray) and I listened to the Sons' record *Follow Your Heart* every single day for at least a year. We could sing all the guitar solos from memory. We were also big on Steely Dan. Later I imprinted on Ray Charles' demo for Atlantic; learned every piano lick on it.

Paul Bressie (guitar student) Gotta be *Van Halen I*. Never been anything like it before or since. Set my hair on fire (it's still red) and I've been playing ever since. That was 1978. I was 9.



Gaby Uricarriet (vocalist, guitar student) I am originally from Argentina so I'd have to say I'm influenced by the tango's passionate soul and by rock bands/musicians from my home country. Two at the top of that list would be Charly Garcia and Celeste Carballo's vocals. I've listened to all kinds of music since I was a child: rock, tango, jazz, Latin rhythms, country, Argentinean folk, blues, pop, classical. The singer/songwriter who made me think that maybe I had something to say was Alanis Morissette (her first album).

Kenn Graddick (bass student) I grew up in Detroit, so it was Motown that turned me towards music in a serious way, and of course it was listening to WJLB (Detroit's finest radio station) and that's what turned me into wanting to play music ... but the first 45 I ever bought is what really turned me on to being a musician, and that was the "Duke of Earl!"

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5 Ways to Help in 2005

- Donate to Blue Bear today online at www.bluebearmusic.org
- Include us in your company's corporate giving programs
- Sign up at eScrip.com and designate Blue Bear School of Music
- Bring your whole gang to our "Music for Youth" benefit show
- Tell a friend about Blue Bear!



Instructor Kent Brown with Peach Fuzz guitarist (see page 3)

Looking Back Through the Years

5 years ago - Former student (now teacher) Janak Ramachandran completes his eighth and last Blue Bear band workshop (with Bill Spooner) before starting up his own band with other Blue Bear alum.

10 years ago (almost) - Bonnie Hayes returns to teaching at Blue Bear after 9 years in the LA music world, which included successful hit writing for Bonnie Raitt, among others.

15 years ago - Bill Spooner leaves the Tubes after 19 wild and world-touring years, to find a new home at Blue Bear 2 years later.

20 years ago - Shaun McGonegal, Blue Bear's longest-running teacher, leaves behind the

world of juke joints and roadhouses to join the faculty as drum teacher.

25 years ago - Dennis Criteser (current Executive Director) finishes his second album, *Prehensile Tales*, with songs written while taking Bonnie Hayes's Songwriting class at Blue Bear.

30 years ago - Steve Savage (drummer for Wolfgang and Strauss, the band that founded Blue Bear) returns to the school as Director, following interim Directors Bruce Unsworth and Diane Frohman, who followed ED Denson (erstwhile manager of Country Joe and The Fish).

35 years ago - Steve and Richard Strauss, with dog Wolfgang and band

in tow, move to San Francisco with Blue Bear a mere vibration of possibility in their minds.

40 years ago (almost) - Former student (and Blue Bear CFO the past 34 years) Carol Snow wins tickets in a Teen Magazine Beatles Talent Contest, for what would be the final live Beatles concert, at Candlestick Park. (She designed a cool faux album cover, cleverly winning out over a bunch of predictable poems and portraits.)

Your tax-deductible contribution will ensure that musical memories will continue being made at Blue Bear for years to come, for young and old alike.

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