

Nightlife

One roots icon and many votaries arrive

By Dan DeLuca
INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

From early breaking albums by the Jayhawks and Wilco to forthcoming salvos from Joe Ely, Jim Lauderdale and Son Volt, 1995 will go down as a big year for roots-rock. And this week, an inordinate number of rootsy songmakers with a distrust of pop, a penchant for plainspoken language, and a Rolling Stones, Bob Dylan and Hank Williams influence roll into town.

Tonight, it's Butch Hancock and the Health & Happiness Show at the North Star. Hancock is the rambling poet of the West Texas dust whose *Eats Away The Night* (Sugar Hill) is the first to do justice to his epic, oddball, word-crazy songs. The H&H Show is the folk-rock outfit from Hoboken, N.J., whose *Instant Living* (Bar/None) is the second set of what leader James Mastro calls "songs of misery and pain presented in a cheerful and upbeat manner." The H&H Show, with ex-Television guitarist Richard Lloyd on board, play first, and then back Hancock up.

Also tonight, roots icon Johnny Cash is at the Valley Forge Music Fair. Cash, who garnered much ink with last year's *American Recordings*, is due with a rocked-out album next year. Good-writer/bad-singer Kris Kristofferson, who's just received the Don Was career-revival treatment with *A Moment of Forever* (Justice), is also on the bill.

Saturday, Philadelphia's Go To Blazes headlines a show at the Khyber with Roscoe's Gang, led by Blazes producer Eric Ambel. Blazes is about to head to Europe to promote *Go To Blazes And Other Crimes*, which covers writers as diverse as Lou Reed and Hank Williams Jr., to be released on the German Glitterhouse label. Roscoe's Gang's *Loud and Lonesome* (East Side Digital) is a rugged platter from the former Del Lords and member of Joan Jett's Blackhearts, delivered with the authority of Zuma-era Neil Young.

On Thursday, Martin Zellar, the former lead singer of Minneapolis' much-loved Gear Daddies, comes to J.C. Dobbs. Zellar's *Born Under* (Ryko) is all countrified-rock songs that home in on claustrophobic details of Midwestern small-town life.

■ Butch Hancock with the Health & Happiness Show at the North Star Bar, 26th and Poplar Streets, at 10 tonight. Tickets: \$7. Phone: 215-235-7827.

■ Johnny Cash with Kris Kristofferson, June Carter Cash and the Carter Family and John Carter Cash, at the Valley Forge Music Fair, off Route 202, Devon, at 8 tonight. Tickets: \$25. Phone: 610-644-5000. ☼

■ Go To Blazes with Roscoe's Gang and Marah at the Khyber Pass Pub, 56 S. Second St., at 10 p.m. Saturday. Tickets: \$5. Phone: 215-440-9683.

■ Martin Zellar, with Pur, at J.C. Dobbs, 304 South St., at 8 p.m. Thursday. Tickets: \$6. Phone: 215-925-4053.

Santana/ Jeff Beck/Keb' Mo'

Here's the guitar heads show of the summer. Carlos Santana, of course, is always lyrical and fluid as he plays with B.B. King-style clarity and improvisational zeal. But he tours every summer. What gives this show zing is the presence of ex-Yardbird axman Jeff Beck, the 51-year-old Britisher who hasn't been on the boards since 1989. Beck, whose *Best of Beck* is due on Epic later this month, will perform an instrumental set with Terry Bozzio on drums and Tony Hymas on keyboards. And if all you six-string enthusiasts keep your fingers



Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash hit the stage at the Valley Forge Music Fair tonight at 8. Also on the bill is down-home Rhodes scholar Kris Kristofferson.

crossed, maybe he and Santana will set off a few fireworks together.

Mellowed-down easy bluesman Keb' Mo' opens.

— D.D.

Santana, with Jeff Beck and Keb' Mo', at the Mann Music Center, 52d Street and Parkside Avenue, at 7:30 tonight. Tickets: \$14.50 on the lawn, \$25 reserved. Phone: 215-878-7707. ☼

Drugstore/ Rake's Progress

Headlining an all-ages show Saturday at Dobbs is Drugstore, an up-and-coming London trio by way of São Paulo (bassist Isabel Monteiro) and L.A. (drummer Mike Chylinski). The band's self-titled debut for Go! Disc/London covers the same dreamy landscape as their American counterparts Mazzy Star, particularly the detached vocals of Monteiro and the hazy, Velvet Underground-inspired sound of guitarist Daron Robinson.

Also on the bill are the New York five-piece Rake's Progress, frequent visitors to Philadelphia, whose latest, *Altitude* (Almo Sounds/Geffen), is about as interesting as some good yardwork.

— Sara Sherr

Drugstore, with Rake's Progress and Shadow Season, at J.C. Dobbs, 304 South St., at 6 p.m. Saturday. Tickets: \$6. Phone: 215-925-4053. ☼

Cranberries/Toad

In the past year, the Cranberries have gone from Sinead imitators to Woodstock headliners to triple-platinum rockers with the overplayed, oversaturated *No Need to Argue* (Island); they even paid tribute to Karen Carpenter and appeared on a supermodel soundtrack for *Ready to Wear*. On Tuesday, they'll headline the Wa-

terfront Entertainment Centre, and if they live up to past performances, front woman Dolores O'Riordan should be a commanding presence.

Also on the bill is the alterna-rock version of Jackson Browne, Toad the Wet Sprocket, whose latest, *Dulcinea* (Columbia), has also reached the platinum mark in the last year — causing the band to achieve the ultimate status: a web page of its own.

Opening is the Jackson Browne version of Jackson Browne, Milwaukee singer-songwriter Willy Porter. He was recently signed to Private Music, which will reissue his indie debut, *Dog Eared Dream*.

— Sara Sherr

The Cranberries, with Toad the Wet Sprocket and Willy Porter, at the Waterfront Entertainment Centre, 1 Harbour Boulevard in Camden, at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday. Tickets: \$25 reserved; \$17.50 lawn. Phone: 800-833-0080. ☼

Bjork/Aphex Twin

The last time Icelandic diva Bjork was in Philadelphia she was fronting the Sugarcubes, an Arctic version of the B-52's. Two solo records later, the space-age princess headlines an all-ages show at the Troc on Wednesday. If Bjork live is anything like her latest record, *Post* (Elektra) — a playful combination of trip-hop, jazz and futurist anthems — then this could be one of the summer's highlights. The ideal opening act is ambient boy Aphex Twin, a.k.a. Richard James, on the road behind his recent *I Care Because You Do* (Elektra).

— S.S.

Bjork, with Aphex Twin, at the Trocadero, 10th and Arch Streets, at 7 p.m. Wednesday. Tickets: \$16.50. Phone: 215-923-7625.

■ Joan Baez plays the Keswick and Wilmington's Grand Opera House. Page 19.

☼ Indicates wheelchair-accessible.
☿ Indicates assistive listening devices.

Concert Halls

BACK YARD BARBECUE AND MUSIC FESTIVAL Corestates Spectrum, Broad St & Pattison Ave; 215-336-3600. ☼
Tonight: KC & the Sunshine Band, with Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes (8). Sat: Blessid Union of Souls (noon), Robin S (2 p.m.), Immature (8 p.m.), Sun: Dotie Whitmore (5:30 p.m.), Mark Collie (7:30 p.m.). Plus Sports Village, food, children's activities. \$5. 11 a.m.-11 p.m. today-Sat, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sun.

KESWICK THEATRE Easton Rd & Keswick Ave, Glenside; 215-572-7650. ☼
• **Bela Fleck & the Flecktones** \$18.50. 8 tonight.
• **Joan Baez** With Dar Williams. Sold out. 8 p.m. Wed.

TROCADERO 10 & Arch Sts; 215-923-7625.
• **The Friggs** With Thee Misfit Toys, Gimme, the Trip, Corelto. \$5. 8 tonight.
• **SNFU** With Bouncing Souls. \$9; \$7 advance. 7 p.m. Sat.
• **Bjork** With Aphex Twin. \$16.50. 7 p.m. Wed.

VALLEY FORGE MUSIC FAIR off Rte 202, Devon; 610-644-5000. ☼
• **Johnny Cash** Featuring June Carter & the Carter Family with John Carter Cash, Kris Kristofferson. \$25. 8 tonight.
• **The Statler Brothers** \$27.50. 8 p.m. Sat, 7 p.m. Sun.
• **Jim Bailey** "An Evening With Judy Garland." \$20. 8 p.m. Tue.

WATERFRONT ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE 1 Harbour Blvd, Camden; 800-833-0080. ☼
• **Van Halen** With Skid Row, Our Lady Peace. \$30 & \$38 reserved; \$22.50 lawn. 7 p.m. Sat.
• **The Cranberries** With Toad the Wet Sprocket, Willy Porter. \$25 reserved; \$17.50 lawn. 7:30 p.m. Tue.
• **Barry Manilow** \$30 & \$40 reserved; \$17.50 lawn. 8 p.m. Thu.

Santana With Jeff Beck, Keb' Mo. Mann Music Center, 52d St & Parkside Ave; 215-878-7707. ☼ \$14.50-\$25. 7:30 tonight.

Primus With Helmet. Tower Theater, 69th & Ludlow Sts, Upper Darby; 610-352-0313. ☼ Sold out. 8 p.m. Sat.

Christine Lavin With Frank Christian and David Roth. Upper Merion Township Bldg Park, 175 W Valley Forge Rd, King of Prussia; 610-265-1071. \$6; free for seniors & children 16 & under. 7 p.m. Sun. Moves indoors in case of rain.

The Dells With Ray, Goodman & Brown. Dell East, 33d & Dauphin Sts; 215-477-8611 or 215-336-2000. ☼ \$9-\$15 reserved; \$6 lawn. 8 p.m. Mon.

Joan Baez Grand Opera House, 818 N Market St, Wilmington; 302-652-5577 or 800-374-7263. ☼ ☿ \$24-\$34. 8 p.m. Thu.

Clubs

On the waterfront

Asylum 1517 N Delaware Ave, just south of Berks St; 215-427-1087. Industrial. Sun, Terminal Sect.

The Barbary Delaware & Frankford Aves; 215-552-8971. Variety. Sat, Hoser, Wasted Potatoes, Magabondu, She Became Grey.

Dave & Buster's Columbus Blvd, south of Callowhill St (Pier 19); 215-413-1951. ☼ Variety. Tonight, The Business. Sat, Belladonna. Sun, 3some.

Katmandu Columbus Blvd, between Callowhill & Spring Garden St (Pier 25); 215-629-7400. ☼ Variety. Sun, Tonight, Innasense, Fuzzy Bunny Slippers. Sat, Leroy Hawkes & the Hipnotics. Inka Inka, Innasense.

Maui Delaware Ave, between Columbia & Frankford Aves (Pier 53 North); 215-423-8116. ☼ Variety. Tonight, Phebe & Brian, Slippery, New Generation X. Sat.
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