



Crookston, Answer the Muse team up for benefit show



SOUNDOFF JIM CATALANO

Two of Ithaca's most popular music acts, Joe Crookston and Answer the Muse, will perform a benefit concert for

Ithaca Welcomes Refugees (IWR) at the First Unitarian Society at 7 p.m. Friday.

The show will support Ithaca's efforts to welcome refugees into community, and into our country. "All proceeds from the event will go to the efforts of IWR to help build our discretionary fund, to help refugees until they are self sufficient, or in case of an emergency. Funds may cover expenses such as groceries, medical bills, transportation, job training, household items that cannot be donated, and much more," according to organizers. Find out more at www.ithacawelcomesrefugees.org.

The program will begin with a welcome from host IWR's Walaa Horan and Ithaca City Councilperson Ducson Nguyen, the son of a refugee family from Vietnam. During the break, Carlos Gutierrez will talk about his experience as an immigrant and share his work with the unfair labor practices in our region with regard to immigrants.

Answer The Muse will begin the music portion of the evening, showcasing its blend of pop, rock and yogic influences. Crookston, who lives in Ithaca but rarely performs here as he's busy touring the rest of the country, will close out the evening with his stellar original folk songs. Learn more at www.answerthemuse.com and www.joecrookston.com.

Simrit to perform at Hangar Theatre

The Hangar Theatre will host a fascinating show on Tuesday night as Simrit Kaur will bring her one-of-a-kind performance to Ithaca.

Born in Greece and raised in the American South, Simrit is heavily influenced by Greek Orthodox chants, West African traditions and

yoga themes. Her latest album, "Songs of Resilience," was produced by Paul Mahern, who's worked with Willie Nelson, Iggy Pop and John Mellencamp.

"Our songs are about the soul, about all its experiences of love, pain, and joy," said Simrit in a press release. "These are all things that people on this planet deal with each and every day." Find out more at simritkaurmusic.com.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. show at \$25 to \$35 and available at www.hangartheatre.org.

Cosmic Joke Collective marches forward

The Cosmic Joke Collective, the monthly artists' salon held at the Lot 10 Lounge, will return at 7 p.m. Saturday with the theme of "Forward March!"

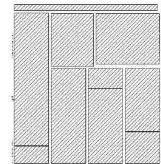
"The theme is a battle cry for the creative people of the world to continue to create, collaborate and share their art as part of the resistance to dark political climate," said host Mickie Quinn.

"There is a great Winston Churchill quote in reference to cutting the arts, and without the arts, what are we fighting for?" stated Quinn, "We have the power to connect with each other, lift spirits (as well as our fists) with art and performance. Now, more than ever, I am committed to my mission of supporting and inspiring the artists in the Collective."

This month features three new performers: Acrolette, Pierce Walsh, and Estelle Waterman, with Vee Da Bee and Brian Sincerbeaux are back for their second performance.

"I really admire the Collective's focus on creating a safe space for artists to explore and try new things while also maintaining a more intimate, music-focused audience," Waterman said. "I think I'm most excited to find more folks to collaborate with, and see what new inspirations the different themed performances bring out in me."

"I love the idea of fusing the arts, of combining talents that normally are separated either by genre, mo-





dality or friendship circles,” said Lisa Trent and Gina Newlin of Acrollette. “Music changes lives – brings beauty, elicits growth, taps into and expresses raw emotions. As does dance — and our form of expression, which is acroyoga. There is something to be said for dancing and creating to live music. The basis for our practice is yoga — which literally means ‘union.’ Joining things together. This is a perfect example.”

“What draws me to the CJC is the opportunities we get as artists for collaboration and experimentation,” said Sincerbeaux. “We are given the chance to work outside of our normal artistic modes, or comfort zones, in order to expand all our artistic horizons. I see the world of art moving towards a more collaborative experience where we are not artists of, and do not just work within, one modality. The CJC is helping to usher in this new reality.”

Cover is \$5 for the show. Visit www.facebook.com/cosmicjokecollective for more information.

Lot 10 also has a couple of other cool shows this week: Friday, Thunder Body will return, and Saturday, the Ithaca Bottom Boys (fresh off their impressive set opening for the Blind Spots on St. Patrick’s Day) and the Alex Cano Band. Visit www.lot-10.com to find out more.

Haunt set to host ‘March Metal Madness’

If you’re looking to catch some heavy rock this weekend, the Haunt will host “March Metal Madness” on Friday night.

Hosted by Ithaca’s own Ire Clad (www.ireclad.com), who have released a couple of stellar albums over the past few years, the show also will include Syracuse’s Fall of Humanity (featuring brothers Marcus and Michael Raffery (www.facebook.com/fallofhumanityband), Seneca Falls’ Many Will Fall (www.reverbnation.com/manywillfall), and Auburn’s Murder in Rue Morgue, a melodic metal band (www.reverbnation.com/danielouimette).

Cover is \$9 for the 9 p.m. show. Visit www.thehaunt.com for more information.

Slingshot Dakota to play Ithaca Underground show

Saturday, Ithaca Underground will present a show at the Chantiloft, with local favorites Teencat, Spaz-zare and The Eternal Savages joined by headliner Slingshot Dakota.

Hailing from Bethlehem, Pa., Slingshot Dakota is touring to promote its new EP, “Broken.” The synth-pop duo features singer-key-

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boardist Carly Comando and drummer Tom Patterson. “Bound together by pop-punk — and by marriage (the two) comprise one of the most unique rock bands in the United States,” according to Rolling Stone. Find out more at www.slingshotdakotamusic.com.

Cover is \$7 for the 7 p.m. show. Visit www.ithacaunderground.org for details.

More shows

After last week’s snowstorm, which put a damper on things for a few days, the local scene should be back to normal this week. (By the way, the Dawes show at the State Theatre, postponed due to the weather, has been rescheduled to Sept. 17; Strand of Oaks, also postponed, is still awaiting a makeup date.) Here are some shows to consider.

» Thursday, Monks on the Commons’ social hour will feature vibraphonist Lindsey Eastham, who studies percussion at Ithaca College. She’ll be performing from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., and there’s no cover charge.

» Thursday, the Orbiting Art Ensemble returns after a long hiatus to perform at Casita del Polaris. This iteration will feature Michael Stark (keyboards), Sarah Hennies (vibraphone), Venissa Santi (vocals), Matt Saccuccimorano (drums), Brian Wilson (drums) and Jason Tubbs

(bass), along with poems by Jonathan Frankel. Cover is \$5 for the 9 p.m. show.

» Thursday, Turkuaz will return to the Haunt. The Brooklyn-based funk band has been building a following here over the past couple of years, winning fans with its high-energy stage show. Its latest release is “Digitonium.” Find out more at www.turkuazband.com. Organ Freeman (www.organfreemanmusic.com) will open the 9 p.m. show, which has a \$18 cover.

» Friday, Angelo Paradiso of Big Mean Sound Machine and Galactic Escort Service will host an opening for his art show “Space Fruit” at Lot 10. He describes the show as “painted canvas and pen-and-ink depictions of our very possible future, foraging through space.” Members of Galactic Escort Service will be doing ambient sonic performances on modular synthesizers to coincide with the paintings. There’s no cover for the event, which runs 6-9 p.m.

» Friday, Kurt Riley returns after a long hiatus to perform in the Memorial Room at Cornell’s Willard Straight Hall. Riley and his band will be giving the world premiere of songs from their new album, “Tabula Rasa,” as well as fan favorites from his previous records, “Brighthead” and “Kismet.” There’s no cover for the 6:30 p.m. show, and all are welcome. Visit www.kurtriley.com to find out more.

» Friday, the Canaan Institute in Brooktondale will host a house concert with Andrew VanNorstrand and Tim Ball, two of upstate New York’s best and most versatile traditional musicians. VanNorstrand, from Cazenovia, is best known for his work in the modern contra dance band Great



Bear, while Ball, from Ithaca, is has played with contra dance bands such as Tempest, Tunescape, O'Shanigans and many others. Donation is \$15 at the door. Email mike@cinst.org to RSVP for the show.

» Friday, Consider the Source will return to the Dock. The "Sci-Fi Middle Eastern Fusion" trio features some of the most impressive musicianship you'll ever see, especially Gabriel Marin on fretless double-neck guitar, but bassist John Ferrara and drummer Jeff Mann are equally talented. Find out more at www.facebook.com/CTSmusic. There's a cover for the 9 p.m. show.

» Friday, Jennie Lowe and Michael Stark will perform at Casita del Polaris. They'll be playing "new songs with some new sounds," according to Lowe. Justin Roeland will sit in for a few tunes as well. Cover is \$7 for the 9 p.m. show.

» Saturday, the Center for the Arts in Homer will present "Women of Folk: The New Revival," featuring Lucy Wainwright Roche and Sloan Wainwright along with members of the group EVA. Tickets are \$20-\$25 for the 8 p.m. show. Visit www.center4art.org for information.

» Saturday, the New Roots Rock Band, Steel Band, Vocal Ensemble and Spoken Word Club will perform at the Dock. The event is promoted by the Grassroots Festival's youth program, "Roots in the Schools." Cover for the all-ages 6-9 p.m. show is \$5, with all proceeds benefit the Performing arts programs at the New Roots School.

» Saturday, the Districts will come to the Haunt. The Pennsylvania band is signed to the cool Fat Possum Records label, which has released their past two al-

bums, including 2015's "A Flourish and a Spoil." Opening the show is Erick Slick of Dr. Dog, and Rosu Lup, the duo of Jonathan Stewart and Josh Marsh. There's a cover for the 9 p.m. show.

» Sunday, the Trumansburg Conservatory of Fine Arts will host a spring dance-party fundraiser featuring Toivo, know for its mix of Scandinavian, Tex-Mex, Cajun, honky-tonk, European, South American and original dance tunes. Suggested donation is \$5 for the 4 p.m. show; all proceeds will be donated to the conservatory. Visit www.tbουργconservatory.org for more information.

» Sunday, Atlanta-based rapper and trap music pioneer Gucci Mane, with special guest BIA as the opener, will perform at Cornell University's Barton Hall. Widely ranked among the most gifted rappers of his generation, Gucci has been incredibly productive since his long incarceration and subsequent early release last May of "Everybody's Looking," his first album in more than a decade. Tickets for the 7 p.m. show are available at www.cornell-concerts.com.

» Sunday, the Cadleys will return to Bound for Glory. Based in Fayetteville, just outside of Syracuse, John and Cathy Cadley recall classic male-female duo such as Ian and Sylvia and Emmylou Harris and Gram Parsons as they blend country, pop, folk and mountain influences. Find out more at www.cadleys.com. There's no cover for the 8 p.m. show, which is broadcast live on WVBR from Cornell's Anabel Taylor Hall. Visit www.boundforglory.org for more information.

» Tuesday, the Kraken Quartet will return to Ithaca College to showcase its

cutting-edge blend of percussion and electronics. There's no cover for the 8:15 p.m. show, which will take place in Ford Hall in Whalen Center. (The band also will be playing a CD release show at the Haunt on March 31.) Visit thekrakenquartet.com to find out more.

» Wednesday, Cash'd Out will bring its Johnny Cash tribute show to the Haunt. Originally from San Diego, the band focuses on recreating the sound of the Man in Black's early Sun Records and Columbia-era sound with the energy of his Folsom Prison and San Quentin Prison live recordings. Visit www.cashdout.com to hear for yourself. Cover is \$13 for the 8 p.m. show.

Catalano has covered the local music scene since 1992. Follow him on Twitter at @IthacaMusicNews, and email him at jimcat@aol.com.



FILE

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