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JOHN BOGOMIL

is a contemporary spiritual writer, poet, musician and leader of the modern day Cathar movement. He has written over 500 books which reveal the original teachings of the great Cathar Spirituality uniting the cultural and spiritual heritage of East and West.



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Adam Bauer Wonderville

Wonderville is Adam Bauer's second solo *kirtan* album, following 2014's critically acclaimed *Shyam Lila*. Adam coproduced this album of all-new chants (and one cover). The broad range on this devotional celebration moves from warm and tender to robust and rooted.

Bauer's voice expresses his deeply intimate expression of devotion through sacred mantra chanting. The album presents Bauer's vocals



and harmonium in the context of a rich collaboration of traditional Indian instrumentation (tabla, pakhawaj, bansuri, sarod) and of classic Americana (mandolin, pedal steel, guitars) and features piano, cello, and other instruments played by masters of their craft. Adam makes each of these chants and the expression therein totally his own, with a gentle insistence that penetrates the space, closing the gap between singer and listener. Very likely you'll be inspired to sing along or at least hum loudly. With a lineup that includes Hans Christian, Steve Gorn, Visvambhar Sheth, Kendra Current, Lakshmi Devi, Sandy Griffith, and others, it's no wonder that the high-frequency musical flow is palpable and contagious. It's a downright hoedown at times, and at other times soars high to the sky of ecstasy.

Featuring chants to Krishna, Shiva, and Ganesha, *Wonderville* presents Bauer for the first time integrating English lyrics into his songs, and showcases an interpretation of an all-English song that has melted hearts around the world since being included in his epic live performances. Adam has brewed up a heady stew, whistling while he works it, stirring and seasoning in all the right places with reverence and authenticity. The lengthy tracks allow plenty of room for development and artistic freedom to be explored and, for the most part, perfectly landed. People get ready, there's a chant train a'comin'—y'all hop on board, ya hear?

IAmAdamBauer.com • Mantralogy.com

—L. B.

EVENTS

Music and Dancing in the Street: San Jose Jazz Summerfest Various venues, August 11–13

Every August the City of San Jose rolls out its annual Jazz Summerfest, offering a dozen stages of varying musical genres in addition to club venues, and even the inviting Hammer Theater. The proceedings begin at noon each day, and continuous performances run throughout the afternoon and well into the evening. Featured are many big names in jazz, salsa, rhythm and blues—even zydeco. Among the many headliners this year were Chris Botti, Maceo Parker, the Bay Area Salsa All-Stars with Jimmy Bosch, Jazz By Five, and Angellique Kidjo with Pedrito Martinez. The fine musical performances were enhanced by the festival's congenial layout—relatively nearby outdoor stages, food court and drink areas (wine and beer, yes!), ample room to spread your blanket and set up your beach chairs near the stages, dancing areas—and of course, the friendly atmosphere created by the genial crowd. True to form, much fun was had in the sun. It was a highly enjoyable setting for bringing a date, a mate, or even the whole family.

—ROY STRASSMAN

Getting Frank with Franken Nourse Theater, August 15

City Arts & Lectures has been sponsoring talks on cultural issues, arts, science, and ideas since 1980, all of which are currently held at the Nourse Theater in San Francisco. The kick-off event in the fall/winter series presented Al Franken as interviewed by Judson True of CA&L. Franken, as always, entertained, both seriously and comedically. In presenting material from his latest book, *Al Franken: Giant of the Senate*, he made only limited reference to the 800-pound gorilla in the room, hinting obliquely that politics is about *improving* people's lives. As you might expect, it was quite a lively evening, topped off by the author signing books. Salman Rushdie, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Michael Chabon, Francis Ford Coppola, Tom Hanks, and Atul Gawande are just a few of several notable figures who will be appearing at CA&L over the next few months.

—R. S.

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