



Beth Peerless, Where's it at: Hounds of Heaven a new group, with familiar musicians

By: **Beth Peerless** (beth@2bpeerless.com)

POSTED: Thursday, May 10, 2018 - 6:44 a.m.

UPDATED: 3 DAYS AGO



Familiar Monterey Peninsula musicians Bob Langford and Jon Zobler have joined forces to form Hounds of Heaven, and will be performing Friday at The New Wharf Theater on Fisherman's Wharf. (Courtesy photo)

In a bid to reinvigorate what has sustained them, the musicians who make up the new concert group Hounds of Heaven are debuting their specialized song list Friday at The New Wharf Theater on Fisherman's Wharf hosted by Big Sur Vineyards. Local music fans may recognize the names of these musicians who have called the Monterey Peninsula home for decades and may recall seeing them in various configurations at local venues and private events from the early 1970s on.

Bob Langford, Jon Zobler, and Frank Lucido, Jr. are the core of the group that specializes in vocal harmonies and layered guitar parts, with deep cut covers and original music the focus of their program. Drummer Gary Machado joins them to lay down the backbeat. Another lifetime local, singer/songwriter Tom Faia, will open the concert at 7 p.m. with a set of his original music. Doors open at 6 p.m. For show tickets in the 150-seat theater, check out the Eventbrite page under the band's name. The cost is \$15 plus fee, or take your chance at the door.

I met up with the guys at one of their rehearsals last week and had the chance to talk with them and hear what the new band is all about. Having been friends with Zobler and Langford for what seems like forever, we reminisced on the good ol' days when there was plenty of work for musicians locally. That was because back in the '70s, folk rock bands had any number of venues to perform at. Places like Kings Cross Station, Latitude, Hatch Cover, the Buckeye and many others that catered to a large and interested audience of baby boomers and military personnel eager to get out and about. Since then, Fort Ord military base shut down, the baby boomers grew up, mostly, and the cost of living in coastal California has driven young people away to less expensive environs.

When the disco boom hit in the late '70s, it sort of hammered the greater music scene for a bit. When that phase waned, back came the live music scene and the Langford/Zobler Band was born. They were one of the premiere rock'n'roll dance bands, playing larger venues like the nightclub The Boiler Room as well as the intimate pubs and restaurant/bars. As time passed, the band would add members, break-up, join again for reunion shows, reboot as something new, or work in other bands as back-up musicians. But now we're looking at what is hoped to be a continuing concert/private event band that would rather eschew the bar/club scene and instead cater to a sit down listening audience, like the show this Friday.

The ancient history for Langford and Zobler is set in the early '70s when a mutual friend, Todd Epstein, moved to this area from New Jersey and with his influence, brought them into various acoustic gigs together, either as a duo or trio. Zobler, who was friends with Epstein in New Jersey, followed his lead to the area and established himself both as a musician and as the proprietor of Cornucopia Health Food Market. Langford and Epstein played in the band Hallelujah together, which featured some of the heavy hitters on the music scene back in the day.

Advertisement

Oyster Trading Company
Oyster Trading Company is back to celebrate spring with bright designs and splashy colors.

Come see our unusual goods from unusual places like Kashmir, Guatemala, Istanbul, Bhutan, Tibet, Nepal, Thailand, Madagascar, and Uruguay.

231 Main Street, Next to Fox Theater, Salinas City Center

Friday, May 4, and Saturday, May 5 - 9:30 to 5:30
Sunday, May 6 - 11:00 to 4:00
Monday, May 7, to Saturday, May 12 - 10:00 to 5:00
Next trip - Iceland September 10 - 18th, 2018

[CLICK HERE](#)

With all that water under the bridge, there are a lot of people here who know and love these guys and will most likely be out to hear the Hounds of Heaven. Lucido is a lifelong resident who mostly played in bands that appeared at private events. He was also a DJ in high school at Carmel. The two bands he was in that might be familiar to some who grew up around here were The Screwdrivers and Pony Express.

OK, what about the band name and the music? "Hounds of Heaven" was a famous poem by English poet Francis Thompson. There are many references to this poem in other sources, and one of them was in a Stephen King book Langford was reading, "Mr. Mercedes." It just struck him as a cool name and in breaking it down for practical purposes, the guys said the Heaven part refers to their "heavenly harmonies" and the Hounds to the more blues-edged music they play.

Their choice of deep cut covers is their way of exercising their chops on music that most people are not familiar with. With their arrangements, they hope that it won't really matter who composed the tune. Some of the names associated with their tastes are Bruce Springsteen, Tom Petty, Don Henley, Hall & Oates, Steve Winwood and John Fogerty. Original songs will blend in with the covers since they'll have the same vocal ensemble treatment, in two and three-part harmonies. As well, the blue-eyed soul, classic R&B, and slinky Southern blues styles they are fond of work well with the rich studio sound they prefer, allowing the band to shine because of its polished guitar band sound.

That same night at the Golden State Theatre, a vocalist with amazing chops is performing. Rufus Wainwright comes to Monterey as part of his West Coast Tour. He'll be playing music from all his albums in a solo setting. Opening for him is his sister Lucy Wainwright Roche. The New York-born, Montreal-raised singer/songwriter has released seven studio albums, three DVDs, and three live albums, including the fantastic Grammy-nominated "Rufus Does Judy at Carnegie Hall," which captured his celebrated Judy Garland tribute performance at the London Palladium in 2007, and the album "Release The Stars," which went Gold in Canada and the U.K.

Wainwright is a unique artist and one that I've always enjoyed seeing in concert. He's often irreverent and witty in his between song banter, but he can really take your breath away with his gorgeous voice. In addition to being a celebrated contemporary pop singer, he has made a name for himself in the classical world. He's written an opera titled "Prima Donna," which traveled to a number of concert halls. He has a new opera commissioned by the Canadian Opera Company based on the story of the Roman Emperor Hadrian and Antinous. It premieres in Toronto in October 2018.

The Friday show starts at 8 p.m., and there are tickets available in all price ranges, from \$42 to \$75. Visit www.goldenstatetheatre.com to purchase tickets in advance or get yours at the theater box office.

Have a local arts and entertainment event you want to tell us about? Contact Beth Peerless at beth@2bpeerless.com



RECOMMENDED CONTENT

Born Before 1985? California Will Pay Up To \$355/Month Off Your

Promoted by [Monthly Saving Club](#)

Here's Why Guys Are Obsessed With This Underwear...

Promoted by [Weekly Brief I Mack Weldon](#)

California: Best & Worst Refinance Mortgage Companies of 2018

Promoted by [Comparisons.org](#)

Casinos Don't Expect You to Do This. But There's Nothing They

Promoted by [SocialCasinoApps](#)

Baseball roundup: Amador Valley ends De La Salle's winning streak

Skeletons from Ha

[Gallery] Wife Dies Hours After Giving Birth. Then Husband's Gut Tells Him To Log Into Her Pregnancy Blog

Promoted by [Direct Expose](#)

Award-Winning Dermatologist: "If You Have Thinning Hair, Watch This Now"

Promoted by [Vital Updates](#)

Warrant: Teen recorded students' sex act in school bathroom

Trump's North K

Marketplace

Join us as we bid farewell to our accompanist of 30+ years

To Pauline, ...with Love

Friday May 11 • 7:30PM
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Salinas
Adults \$20
Students Free

Saturday May 12 • 7:30PM
First Presbyterian Church, Monterey
Adults \$25
Students Free

[The Camerata Singers](#)
John Koca, Artistic Director & Conductor

[CLICK HERE](#)

digitalfirst
© 2018 Digital First Media