

The Belleville Outfit Press Coverage Monterey County Herald May 15

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Mac McDonald: Golden Oldies

The Monterey County Herald

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With the variety of acts playing all over Monterey County, you'd think it was Nostalgia Week. Let's see, there's the Kingston Trio Friday night at the Golden State Theatre, various versions of The Coasters, The Drifters and The Platters (see story on page 10), also at GST, a Duke Ellington tribute featuring an all-star cast of local jazz musicians and War, Malo and the Marshall Tucker Band all playing at the Castroville Artichoke Festival (see story above).

You could even add Mary Anne & Ames Anderson, the duo better known as Simple Pleasures, who can play virtually any (OK, that's stretching it a bit) classic rock, soul, pop, folk, Celtic, country, Hawaiian and rock tune. And by request, to boot.

They're playing Saturday night from 7:30 to 9:30 at The Works in Pacific Grove. And try not to request any of the songs on The Herald's "worst song" list. "Muskrat Love," for example.

Of course, it's not all nostalgia and classic rock this week. The Jazz & Blues Company in Carmel, for example, is doing a doubleheader weekend with jazz singer/pianist Tony DeSare ([tonydesare.com](http://tonydesare.com)) on Friday night and jazz guitarist Mimi Fox ([mimifoxjazzguitar.com](http://mimifoxjazzguitar.com)) on Saturday night.

DeSare is one of those talented young singer/ instrumentalists who seem to be popping up regularly with the Great American Songbook as their guiding light. His repertoire ranges from Cole Porter and the Gershwins to Billy Joel, Elton John and Ray Charles.

Fox is a well-known presence on the

Northern California jazz scene, not only as a performer (frequent Kuumbwa Jazz Center and Monterey Jazz Festival appearances), but she's the chairwoman of the guitar department at the innovative Jazz School in Berkeley.

She's also been named winner in five consecutive Down Beat Magazine International Critics Polls (2003-2007).

The great Joe Pass said of her: "She plays with tremendous fire. She can do pretty much anything she wants on the guitar." High praise coming from a true legend.

Show time each night is 7:30. Tickets are at 624-6432 or online at [www.krmlradio.com](http://www.krmlradio.com).

Anna Nalick's show last night (Wednesday) at Ol' Factory Cafe was postponed and will be rescheduled for later next week. So, in the meantime, just go online at [annanalick.com](http://annanalick.com). and pine away.

So, speaking of the Factory, Austin, Texas by way of New Orleans sextet The Belleville Outfit will perform there Saturday night.

This group of twentysomethings play a toe-tapping mixture of Western swing, Gypsy jazz, some bluegrass and American roots music.

The violin player Phoebe Hunt is phenomenal (reminds me a bit of Elana James of Hot Club of Cowtown), with some great Grapelli-Reinhardt-style guitar-violin interplay on the original "Caroline."

And the group's twin guitars, Rob Teter and Marshall Hood seem to be able to play any style of music with ease and panache.

The group's great debut CD "Wanderin'" is currently No. 11 on the Americana Music Association's Americana Airplay Chart.

Show time is 8 p.m., \$10 at the door. Check out the Web site at [bellevilleoutfit.com](http://bellevilleoutfit.com).

She's been described as "Billy Holliday meets Norah Jones at Americanaville," which is awfully clever but doesn't quite get to the mysterious essence that is singer/bassist Amy LaVere, who is back for a third time to Monterey Live on Wednesday night.

LaVere has a winsome, child-like voice that works in perfect contrast to her songs, which often have a sardonic edge (sample: "killing him didn't make the love go away") that sound endearing coming from her.

Judge for yourself at [amylavere.com](http://amylavere.com). or on her Myspace site.

The tribute to Duke Sunday night at 7:30 at Monterey Live features some of our best jazz musicians, including vocalists Adama Abe and Kotomi Abe; pianists Phillip Crawford, Eric Shifrin and Dick Whittington; saxophonists Roger Eddy and Paul Tarantino; bassist Heath Proskin; guitarist Gino Raugi; flutist Kenny Stahl (flute); drummer Andy Weis.

Proceeds from the concert will be donated to UNICEF and will provide humanitarian aid to children in Iraq.GO!