

JUG NOTES

California Jug Band Association

Winter Newsletter

Vol. 1, No. 1

Welcome – A CJBA newsletter? Wow! Why didn't someone think of that before? Well it has been thought of and now it is being done. The goal of the CJBA is to bring together jug band musicians and fans from around California and the world. If we're going to “promote, encourage, foster, and cultivate” jug band music we should communicate with members what is going on. As a CJBA member this is your newsletter. If you have an idea, article, news, whatever needs to be shared with the jug band community send it to editor@jugfest.org and it will show up in the next newsletter. We'll try to do this at least quarterly. You can also tell us if you like or don't like anything about it. Feedback is good! And now on to the....

News

3rd Annual Santa Cruz Jug Band Festival

March 1, 2009 Don Quixote's in Felton, California will host the 3rd Annual Santa Cruz Jug Band Festival. From 3pm to 9pm Jug Band music will fill the Santa Cruz Mountains. This has always been a special show. At \$10 a ticket it's a bargain. And CJBA members get a discount!

Don Quixote's is a very nice music room with excellent sound. They also have good Mexican food. So come to Felton and make a day of it. While this is the only CJBA sponsored festival with a cover charge it is always well worth it. This years great line up includes:

5 cent Coffee – Neo-Junkyard Skiffle! I wonder if Doodles has any new songs for us. They should sound great in Don Quixote's.

Axelrod Ensemble – Meredith Axelrod, Bill Foss, Keith Cary. World class Jug Band Music.

Amazing Grapes – Jug Band Music like it was in the 60's.

Aesthetic Cling – Good times that stick to ya. From the California Gold Country.

Club Zayante Jug Stompers – Boogie Bruce, Bob Young and the crew deliver the real deal!

If you've heard these bands before you know what a great day and evening of music this is going to be.

Jugs on the PIG! - A preview of the Santa Cruz Festival will be broadcast on KPIG radio starting at 10 am (Pacific time) on March 1. You'll get the chance to hear some of the musicians who will be at the festival and get a taste of the good times ahead. KPIG can be found at 107.5 FM or 1510 AM on your radio dial. You can also hear live streaming at KPIG.com (amazing fact: KPIG is the mostly widely listened to radio station on the Internet!)

Future CJBA Events - We're going to be really busy this year folks.

Maker Fair – May 30 – 31, San Mateo County Fairgrounds. This event has an emphasis on not only making music, but also on creating instruments/devices that make music. It's a great opportunity for education for the CJBA. If you are interested in participating contact jugmaster@jugfest.org.

San Francisco Free Folk Festival (date still not confirmed): Last year the CJBA conducted two workshops on jug band music. This year we hope to expand participation with workshops and live performances. It was a fun time and our collaboration with the San Francisco Folk Music Club is important to both organizations.

The Haight Ashbury Street Faire - June 14 This is a brand new event for us. The CJBA will have a table at the Street Faire and a performance space for bands to play and jamming. Anyone interested? Just let us know.

The Sunnyside Park MakeMusic Event - June 20 A San Francisco neighborhood music event that is intended to combine instrument making with music playing. Another great CJBA educational opportunity. Babar Jug Band played at a Street Fair in this neighborhood. They're wonderful people.

The 2009 San Francisco Jug Band Festival - tentatively August 15 Returning to the Band Shell in Golden Gate Park for another rollickin' good time.

The 7th Annual International Jug Band Festival in Sutter Creek, CA. - September 26 & 27. The granddaddy of California jug band festivals returns for another year.

Plus – Keith Cary would like to host a Jug Band event in Winters, California perhaps in May. Winters has a gazebo that can be used as a stage during the day with jug band action moving to the Palms Playhouse in the evening. Please stay tuned for developing news.

If you or your band would like to be involved in any of these events just contact jugmaster@jugfest.org. The CJBA belongs to you.

Report from the CJBA Board Meeting – January 10, 2009

The CJBA is undertaking a number of important initiatives and can use your help! If you love jug band music (and we know you do) and think that you have unique skills that can help the organization, please let us know. In particular, the board needs help with

- Finding sponsorships - do you know of companies or organizations that might sponsor the CJBA?
- Fundraising and grants - are you good at fundraising or writing grant proposals for non-profit organizations?
- Membership - how can we recruit new members? what benefits could the CJBA offer its members?
- Publicity - do you know how to write press releases or put together publicity packets? do you have ideas about new channels we can use to publicize CJBA events?
- Collaborations - do you know of other organizations with a similar purpose to the CJBA where collaboration might benefit all?
- Newsletter - do you know a lot about writing online organizational newsletters? can you think of a "clever" name for this newsletter? - how about "Notes from the Bottom of a Jug"

If you said yes to any of these questions then we need you! Please contact us with your ideas

The Board was pleased to elect Christopher Richard as its newest member. Many of you may know Christopher as a member of Jugology, one of the CJBA's most faithful bands. Others of you may remember the hard work and organization he demonstrated as Stage Manager for the last two San Francisco Jug Band Festivals. The board is delighted and lucky to get his help and expertise.

If you have ideas or feedback for the Board on any issues please send e-mail to board@jugfest.org. The board has an "open door policy" and your comments will be listened to and get a response.

A Great Opportunity for CJBA Band Members! – Dick Wahlberg is one of foremost collectors of jazz, blues, folk 78 recordings in the world. He also is a renowned sound engineer with his own sound studio incorporating both modern and vintage recording equipment. Dick participated in the San Francisco Library event that was a part of the 2008 SF Jug Band Festival. He brought to that event a number of 78 recordings of the legendary jug bands and a gramophone so that event attendees could hear the music the way people listened to it originally. Dick has made a generous offer to CJBA band members by allowing them to survey his vast music collection for song material and to record in his sound studio using old ribbon mikes and analog equipment for that old vintage sound. After the last Board meeting, members met at Dick's with the members of 5 Cent Coffee to brainstorm about recordings and listen to old records. Since that meeting 5 Cent Coffee has returned to Dick's and recorded material that will be on the

next compilation CD they are making with Japanese jug bands. Active jug bands that have freely participated in CJBA jug band festivals regularly hold CJBA Band Member status and can schedule a get-together with Dick. Please contact jugmaster@jugfest.org for further information.

New Items on the CJBA Web Site - When you visit www.jugfest.com you'll find a number of exciting new features. The site can link you to archives of Wayne Hagen's KDRT radio show "Sounds So Sweet." This means that you can listen to the sweet sounds of jug band music (and Wayne's voice) anytime you choose. There is also the CJBA Podcast which regularly showcases selections from California's outstanding jug bands. If you're a band that wants to be podcast, let us know. In addition, CJBA member bands can also post their upcoming gigs on the CJBA Web site calendar for all our community to see.

Member Benefits - We are starting to identify interesting benefits for individual and family members of the CJBA. Recent ones we are pleased to announce are:

- Cole Street Hardware - San Francisco's premier neighborhood hardware store! CJBA members get a discount.
- Fetch Softworks - If you're a Mac user then you probably know about Fetch (<http://fetchsoftworks.com/>). It's the best FTP client for the Mac and the one we use for updating the CJBA Web site. CJBA users get a fully licensed copy for free! Normal price is \$25.

We are always looking for new benefits for our members in addition to providing them with great music. If you're not a "card carrying" member, visit www.jugfest.org for details or send us an e-mail. Getting Fetch is worth the cost of membership!

Band Profile – Aesthetic Cling

Although Aesthetic Cling has played at the last two San Francisco Jug Band Festivals, it still seems like it is a new band that people don't know that much about.

Aesthetic Cling was born as a part of the International Jug Band Festival in Sutter Creek. Organizers Andy Farenwald (aka Banjo Andy) and Wayne Hagen wanted to feature some local musicians. Since there didn't seem to be an organized appropriate band we approached some friends about performing. Julio Guerra is also known as Julio Inglasses and is one of the members of Doo Doo Wah. He is one of our favorite guitar players and saved the festival in the previous year by taking the stage and playing incendiary blues guitar while we waited for a late band. Forest Flanigan we knew from jamming at Fiddletown festivals. He is a very good singer-songwriter. They agreed to play if we would join them to make it a jug band. After a couple of get-togethers we opened the JugFest that year as the Fiddletown Jug Band. We had such a good time that we decided to do it again the next year. While practicing it was decided we should try to make it a regular jug band.

Trying to come up with a band name is hard but Aesthetic Cling was mentioned and it stuck. After playing with good friends Lora Change and Tom Sharkey, Aesthetic Cling has returned to its roots as a quartet. Banjo Andy of course gives us some of the best jug band banjo around while occasionally adding vocals or kazoo. Forest Flanigan is the lead vocalist while playing rhythm guitar or ukelele or (of course) kazoo. Julio Inglases adds his impressive guitar licks on a variety of guitars, he'll also do vocals. Wayne Hagen brings his thirty years of playing jug to the mix while adding vocal and taking the occasional break on washboard, or kazoo, or maybe even his mandolin. Standing around a single mike gives the music that old time feel while the fun and good times that the band brings to their performances makes for a truly unique experience. The songs may be old (Charlie Patton's "Sunflower River Blues" with Julio on guitar has to be experienced) or they may be new or they may be odd songs dragged into the jug band idiom. But Aesthetic Cling will get your toes tapping and put a smile on your face. Members of Aesthetic Cling are featured in a promotion for the 2007 San Francisco Jug Band Festival that appeared on KRON-TV that can be seen at www.youtube.com/watch?v=zoYuYqhf5-U .

Catch them at the Santa Cruz Jug Band Festival, March 1, at Don Quixote's in Felton. The weekend of March 8 they open for Joe Craven at the Odd Fellows Hall in Davis CA.

Check out their MySpace page - www.myspace.com/aestheticcling

In each newsletter we would like to profile a member band. We chose Aesthetic Cling for this newsletter because the newsletter editor (Wayne) knows them best. If you would like your band here just send an e-mail to wayne@jugfest.org or editor@jugfest.org and we'll get the information we need to highlight you in a future newsletter issue.

That's it for now folks. If there is something you would like to see in these newsletters, if you have something that should be in a newsletter, if you have a band that should be featured. Let us know. This is your newsletter and your California Jug Band Association! If your band has gigs post them on the Web site calendar and let everyone know.

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