

Y La Bamba

With a brand new album in tow, this is another Portland band that mixes styles, including folk, electronic music, dream pop and Latin rhythms. Led by incisive singer-songwriter Luz Elena Mendoza, Y La Bamba entrances you as much as it makes you think about its strong lyrical content. Barnato also pointed out that the band now has two Reno band members: Zack Teran on bass and Miguel Jimenez on drums. They play Friday at the Holland Project, 140 Vesta St.

Mattson 2

This duo from San Diego merges psychedelic rock with legit jazz influences. The musicianship is beyond solid, and the new wrinkle of vocals just adds more fuel to the interest behind this uncommon band of brothers (identical twins, to be exact). "They are blowing up right now," Wright said. "They just had a 10-page feature written about them in the Washington Post that called them one of the most unique bands in America." They play Saturday at Chapel Tavern, 1099 S. Virginia St.

Dick Stusso

Is it possible to be visceral and brainy at all once? Stusso answers that question with aplomb, as this Oakland musician plays folksy-indie that has a melodic bounce straight out of '70s UK glam rock. "He's a really inventive songwriter, I'd say really impactful lyrically," Kilpatrick said. For this show, Stusso will be playing with a full band. It's on Friday at Chapel Tavern.



Klaus Johann Grobe

The dance crowd will love this group from Switzerland, but there's more going on here than the thump. There's a lot of '70s German influence, down to that era's peculiar take on funk, giving KJG an edge lacking in the modern disco revival. "It's going to be a high energy show and people are going to be freaking out to see them in such an intimate venue," Wright said. They play on Saturday at the Loving Cup, 188 California Ave.

Slow Motion Cowboys

On the opposite side of the indie world is a band like this San Francisco group, by way of New Mexico. The Cowboys play a minimalist, woozy take on trad country and folk. Band leader Pete Frauenfelder is better known for his other group, loud roots rockers the Trainwreck Riders, but this is the flipside of that scratchy vinyl single. They play on Saturday afternoon at Pignic Pub and Patio, 235 Flint St.

Spirit in the Room

One of the considerably louder bands in this year's festival, this L.A. group has a distinctively arty take on the aggro. Elements of hardcore punk and doom metal are a part of their sound, but there's also heavy industrial/electronic accents that move it closer to that style. This is definitely not an easy band to categorize, and hooray for that. They play on Friday at Shea's Tavern.

Chari and The Howlin' Truth

Locals might know Chari Glogovac-Smith from her time in Reno leading popular hip-hop/indie group Knowledge Lives Forever. Her solo work is a whole new thing, with loud rock and classic soul merging with a modern take on dance music. Now living in the Bay Area, Chari's continuing to push the envelope in intriguing ways. She plays on Saturday at 40 Mile Saloon, 1495 S. Virginia St.

Stirr Lightly

Their recent, astonishing take on 7Seconds' classic "Walk Together Rock Together" from the local *Destroy All That Tradition* tribute speaks volumes, quietly. This Reno trio plays melodic indie pop that has an edge as you listen deeper, its ramshackle-but-right sound bringing an intimacy to a scene that's often blustery.

They play on Friday at the Holland Project.

Buster Blue

Finally, we get to this anticipated return for a Reno band that did a lot to popularize the acoustic side of indie rock in the scene earlier this century. A slow-motion collision between folk, country and altermo-rock, Buster Blue's sound has been missed over the past few years, so it's good to see them back. They play the opening show, Thursday at the Saint, 761 S. Virginia St.

Read more about who is playing this year's festival—and get tickets, see a full schedule and hear audio samples from the artists—at offbeatreno.com.

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