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## Tim Grobaty: Summer nights to throb with rock classics

Posted: 07/15/2010 05:50:09 PM PDT  
Updated: 07/15/2010 07:34:43 PM PDT



Chris Paul Overall will be among the performers sounding out hymns to 70s spirit at The Church of Rock and Roll, First Street and Elm Avenue, Saturday in Long Beach. (Ashley Hectus )

WALTZING INTO THE VILLAGE: "The Last Waltz," The Band's 1975 swan song and all-star evening of homag-  
e-anizing is the best of everything: Best

CD collection, best rock movie, best rock DVD and probably best evening in the history of rock music.

We weren't there in San Francisco when the original event happened, but we made it to the premiere showing of the movie, where we sat behind Van Morrison, which was the best seat in the house because he's no bigger than a garden gnome.

So, it would follow, assuming we're not lying about the format-spanning righteousness of the show, that Summer And Music's (SAM) "Church of Rock and Roll," which its promoters say is inspired by "The Last Waltz," would be the greatest rock event in Long Beach history.

OK, well now we've blown it up too big, but the "Church of Rock and Roll" show, running from 5 till 9 p.m. on Saturday outdoors at the intersection of First Street and Elm Avenue in the East Village Arts District, is certainly the sort of thing God put us here on this planet to attend with an embarrassing amount of slobbering enthusiasm.

The idea comes from SAM co-boss Rand Foster, founder and owner of Fingerprints in Belmont Shore. The CDs (and more) shop, which has outlasted all of its gigantic competitors, turns 18 on Saturday.

Foster was inspired not only by "The Last Waltz" but also by the music sliding down the canyons beyond L.A. during that same period: Joni Mitchell, the Byrds,

Jackson Browne, Neil Young and like that.

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So the free "Church of Rock and Roll" will feature many of the best local musicians performing the '70s sounds of Laurel and Topanga canyons during the four-hour event.

Among those playing, backed by a house band, will be Brett Bixby, Marika Dahlin, Korey Dane & Tess Shapiro, Guggenheim Grotto, Brook Lee & Paul Mitchell of the Brook Lee Catastrophe, Pete Marchica, Scott & Joel Owen of PawnShop Kings, Sam Outlaw, Chris Paul Overall, Micah Panzich of Paperplanes, Terry Prine of Greater California, Keith Slettedahl of The 88, Jenny Stockdale, and the house band featuring guitarist Mitchell Townsend, bassist Harris Pittman, drummer James Fletcher and keyboarder Jacob Sahagen.

As always, with these splendid SAM events, you've gotta tip your hat to the support from the Redevelopment Agency and the Downtown Long Beach Associates.

MORE TRIBUTES: A couple of other tribute-style concerts are taking place in slightly different towns on Saturday.

Up on Signal Hill (and, mark you, one day the Hill shall belong to Long Beach; shoulda happened a long time ago), fans of classic soul and the Motown sound will enjoy the band Stone Soul, playing from 6:30 till 8 p.m. in a

free concert at Signal Hill Park, 2175 Cherry Ave.

Or you can head south to Seal Beach to catch an ersatz Bono/Edge tribute to U2 by Hollywood U2 in yet another free show from 6 till 8 p.m. Saturday in Eisenhower Park (it's prettier than it sounds) at the Seal Beach Pier.

FRIDAY PLAYLIST: Well, Rand Foster and the Hectus siblings Justin & Ashley, have got us grooving to the sounds of the L.A. canyons. And these tunes specifically. You're saying, how come you don't have the Doors, but you have Joni and Jackson in twice?

Hey, when you start paying rent for this space, then you can make your own list. Till then, join the cockamamie commenters at the end of our online version.

1. "A Case of You," Joni Mitchell
2. "The Times You've Come," Jackson Browne
3. "My Back Pages," Byrds
4. "Suite: Judy Blue Eyes," Crosby, Stills & Nash
5. "After the Gold Rush," Neil Young
6. "Doolin-Dalton," Eagles
7. "Return of the Grievous Angel," Gram Parsons
8. "Faithless Love," J.D. Souther
9. "Ladies of the Canyon," Joni Mitchell
10. "Our Lady of the Well," Jackson Browne.

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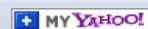
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