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ARTVOICE

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Music



from Harold Arlen (“Somewhere Over the Rainbow,” sung by Judy Garland) to “Dyke” Arlester Christian (“Funky Broadway,” sung by Wilson Pickett). The cultural and musical variety is rich here, and the roots run very deep.

Today, the city is teeming with bands and performers of every stripe, and it’s much easier than it has ever been before for a local act to get some press and airplay. There’s more networking among performers, thanks to Web sites dedicated to local music, and also more small, home studios in which to make quality digital recordings. There’s also MySpace, which makes it easier to reach the world and/or easier to get lost in the crowd.

By the time it becomes common knowledge that a city outside the traditional music hubs of London, New York, Nashville and LA has a great local scene going, the phenomenon is usually past. What you get then are the wannabes who arrive from everywhere, like weeds, and choke out the native species as they struggle for gigs. Labels, radio DJs, music journalists and the like can try to milk it for a decade or more after that, and they often succeed in convincing people that there must be something in the water in Seattle, or Portland—or Glasgow for crying out loud. But the fact is, it doesn’t come from the water.

All it really takes are talented, creative musicians, good venues and supportive fans to make a vibrant music scene. Right here, right now, we have all that and more. If you wait to be told about our scene through the mainstream media, chances are you will have missed the peak of it. So get out and support the venues, performers and bands our readers have nominated. It encourages them all to put out their best. And when they do, we all shine a little brighter. At least until *Rolling Stone* magazine finds out about it.

—buck quigley

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May 2007						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
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best rock act

- Every Time I Die
- Strictly Hip
- ★ Jackdaw
- Goo Goo Dolls
- Lemuria

best blues act

- Mick Hayes Band
- Kate Engler
- Mark Winsick

best individual vocalist

- ★ Tom Stahl
- Alison Pipitone
- David Moore
- Ani DiFranco
- Lance Diamond

best vocal ensemble

- Vocalis
- ★ Buffalo Gay Men’s Chorus
- Buffalo Gateway Chorus

- ★ Jony James Band
- Willie and the Reinharts

best country act

- Old Sweethearts
- Steam Donkeys
- ★ Stone Country
- Bareback Jack
- 90 West

best acoustic act

- Brian Wheat
- Babik
- ★ Tom Stahl
- Bob Zielonka
- Ani DiFranco

best hip-hop act

- Gr&d Phee and Rhyson Hall
- Pseudo Slang
- Noble Truth and DJ Star
- Constant Climax
- Ebola Virus

best jazz act

- Latin Jazz Project
- ★ Babik
- David Kane
- Macy Favor Big Band
- Gamalon

best genre-defying act

- Lance Diamond
- Lazlo Hollyfeld
- Babik
- ★ Skiffle Minstrels
- Jackdaw

- Choral Arts Society
- Boys of Summer

best musician

- Doug Yeomans
- Ani DiFranco
- ★ David Moore
- Adam Zadok
- Tom Stahl

best club dj

- DJ Anthony
- DJ Cutler
- ★ DJ Lil Joe
- DJ Lady Atram
- DJ Julia

king or queen of charisma

- Jen Parker
- Jamie Cudney
- David Moore
- Paul Todaro
- ★ Lance Diamond

buffalo music's best friend

- Joe Rubino/Nietzsche's
- Dwane Hall/Sportsmen's Tavern
- ★ Robbie Takac/Music Is Art
- Pete Perrone/Mohawk Place
- Ani DiFranco