

HAPPENINGS

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STAFF PICK OF THE WEEK By BRUCE FESSIER

What: Thelonious Monster, with Bob Forrest, 10 p.m., Pappy and Harriet's, Pioneertown. R&B artist Solid Ray Woods opens at 8 p.m. Free. (760) 365-5956 **Why:** Band rivaled Red Hot Chili Peppers as L.A.'s most likely post-punk to succeed in the 1980s.

Cafe show is a cabaret, old chum

BY BRUCE FESSIER

The Desert Sun

David McBride probably wouldn't sell many tickets to his cabaret show this weekend if they advertised him as an insurance broker specializing in risk management deals.

That's one reason his act at the Rock Garden Cafe in Palm Springs is titled "Icons: A Tribute to the Music of Sinatra, Bennett, Manilow and More."

McBride is a singer whose 30-year career in insurance has enabled him to pursue his passion for music. He's performed in Florida theaters and nightclubs for almost six years. He's now he's on a national tour that takes him into Palm Springs Saturday and Sunday following a performance at the M Bar and Restaurant in Hollywood on Thursday.

Promoter Irwin Rubinsky met McBride at a concert in Palm Springs earlier this year. He was impressed by an album McBride recorded and the rave reviews he's earned.

He's also excited that McBride is bringing a full rhythm section instead of playing with just an accompanist or recorded tracks.

McBride often performs with a full orchestra, and he's been able to afford that because of the money he's made from the insurance industry.

"I love live music," McBride said in a telephone interview. "I don't like pre-recorded. So, because I have the resources to do it the way I want to do it, I've been able to collaborate with some of the finest musicians in the business. My musical director is supremely terrific. So everything I do is true to each artist (he salutes). I don't do impressions of them. I celebrate their music and

deliver it my way."

McBride, who admits to being in his 50s and having a daughter who is 30, will weave together three songs by Frank Sinatra and the Rat Pack, three by Tony Bennett, three by Barry Manilow, three by Michael Bublé and one song by Johnny Mathis as he tells how each song relates to his life.

He'll be accompanied by his music director, Phil Hinton, who has worked with such artists as Paul McCartney, Elton John, Andrew Lloyd Webber and Howard Keel as an arranger and conductor for the BBC. The rhythm section is rounded out by drummer Jay Lewis and bassist Bill Saitta from the desert.

McBride, who is based in Fort Lauderdale, studied theater in college and performed in nightclubs until he was 30. He went into sales and marketing to support his family, but he re-evaluated his life about six years ago.

"You go full circle," he said. "I did this head-on for a long time and I kind of put it away and raised my family. Then, I did a lot of personal growth and development. You just go to your roots. What is the real reason you're here? What can you give to other people? It's always been music for me. I just love the whole process."

McBride is inspired by the stories Sinatra told and the fact that Bennett is 85 and still going strong. He ends his show with a Manilow segment that allows him to play piano while Hinton gets an orchestral sound on his keyboards. "Barry Manilow is probably one of the most incredible musicians that ever lived," he said. "He has done so many albums — the (music of) the '40s and the '50s. We get the audience going on that part."



COURTESY PHOTO

David McBride will perform "Icons: A Tribute to the Music of Sinatra, Bennett, Manilow and More," 8 p.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday at The Rock Garden Cafe, 777 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs.

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Cabaret show

What: "Icons: A Tribute to the Music of Sinatra, Bennett, Manilow and More," starring David McBride

When: 8 p.m. Saturday and 4 p.m. Sunday

Where: The Rock Garden Cafe, 777 S. Palm Canyon Drive, Palm Springs

Tickets: \$20. Full dinners also available

Information: (760) 861-7749 or (760) 327-8840

events

May 28: Meditation, 10 a.m., Joslyn Center, 73750 Catalina, Palm Desert. (760) 340-1431

May 28: Book signing and reception with author Peter Bart, 5-7 p.m., Just Fabulous, 515 N. Palm Canyon Dr., Palm Springs. Free. (760) 864-1300

May 29: Golden Age of Mexican Cinema Festival featuring "Cuando los hijos se van," 1:30 p.m., La Quinta Public Library, 78275 Calle Tampico, La Quinta. (760) 564-4767

May 29: Guide Dogs of the Desert May Graduation, 2 p.m., Guide Dogs of the Desert, 60735 Dillon Road, Whitewater. Free. (760) 329-6257 or www.gddca.org

May 30: 13th annual Memorial Day Flower Drop and flight exhibition, with activities for kids, band performances and other events beginning at 10 a.m. Palm Springs Air Museum, 745 N. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs. \$7-\$14. (760) 778-6262 or www.PalmSpringsAirMuseum.org

May 31: Teen time at the library, with computer games, Guitar Hero and Nintendo Wii. 3:30 p.m., Palm Desert Public Library, 73300 Fred Waring Drive, Palm Desert. Free. (760) 346-6552 or www.rivlib.net

May 31: Sun City Summer Square Dances, open to the public. 6:30 p.m., Sunset Clubhouse, Sun City Palm Desert, 36890 Del Webb Blvd., Palm Desert. \$5. (760) 200-1626

June 1: Met Opera encore performance Wagner's "Die Walkure," 6:30 p.m., Century Theatres @ The River, 71800 Highway 111, Rancho Mirage. \$15-\$22. (760) 323-1244 or www.theoperalady.org

June 1: Met Opera presents "Die Walkure" encore performance, 6:30 p.m., Regal Palm Springs Stadium 9, 789 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way, Palm Springs. \$18. (760) 323-1244 or www.theoperalady.org

June 2: Foreign Film Series, featuring "Bevedere" (Bosnia), 2010, 90 min. An ethnic cleansing survivor discovers her nephew is selected for a reality show produced by the enemy. 6 p.m., Palm Springs Art Museum, 101 Museum Drive, Palm Springs. Free. (760) 322-4800 or www.psmuseum.org

June 2: LGBT documentary "March On" screening, following the 2009 National Equality March in Washington, D.C., through the lives of five LGBT families. 7 p.m., Camelot Theatres, 2300 E. Baristo Road, Palm Springs. \$10. (760) 333-8304 or

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GET LISTED

SUBMIT TO Weekend, The Desert Sun, 750 N. Gene Autry Trail, Palm Springs, CA 92262; phone (760) 778-4618; Web mydesert.com/calendar
The final deadline to submit or revise any Weekend listing is Friday, two weeks before publication.