

Katie Christopher



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- [Radio Roundtable](#)
- [Attorney Profile](#)
- [Crosstalk](#)
- [Songwriter Profile](#)
- [Industry Profile](#)
- [Guide/Directory](#)

[Everything Radio](#)

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- [Club Reviews](#)
- [Demo Critiques](#)
- [Disc Reviews](#)

**Columns**

- [A&R Report](#)
- [Assignments](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Close-Up](#)
- [Film, TV, Theater](#)
- [Heart & Soul](#)
- [Mixed Notes](#)
- [New Toys](#)
- [Nightlife](#)
- [Promoter Profile](#)
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[Tim Reynolds](#)   [Shannon Hurley](#)   [Tim Fagan](#)

[Rossana](#)   [Mike Baas](#)   [Crosby Loggins](#)

**Tim Reynolds**  
*The Mint*  
Los Angeles

**Contact:** [Hugh@bluemountainartists.com](mailto:Hugh@bluemountainartists.com)

**Web:** [www.TimReynolds.com](http://www.TimReynolds.com)

**The Players:** Tim Reynolds, vocals, guitars.

**Material:** This artist has played several tours with the Dave Matthews Band as half of an acoustic duo, and also as a member of Dave Matthews & Friends. Tim Reynolds is the real deal in a world of wannabes. His grasp of rhythms is remarkable, with each song filled with complex changes. Obviously, Reynolds' music fits the Matthews' mold perfectly, the way he explores different genres, styles and the world's music at large. Jam-like in many respects, his songs avoid being repetitious, and verge on experimental when he shifts from one style to the next effortlessly.

**Musicianship:** Throughout his set, Reynolds maintained an as-tounding combination of chords over layers upon layers of different rhythms and abstract patterns. As he strung his guitar lines together, the instrument and the musician became one. His vocals, though spare, complement his playing nicely. But, there's no mistake about it, his playing is the focus of his art.

**Performance:** With his eyes closed and his guitar held tightly to his body, Tim Reynolds presented the essence of a premier musician. Actually, he didn't need to do much more than play. His playing was so intense and so utterly passionate that it moved air. The audience crowded the stage, absorbing every note he created, and Reynolds never let them down. This artist



Photo By: Bernard Baur  
**Tim Reynolds: Acoustic singer/songwriter with amazing appeal.**

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**HIP HOP DIRECTORY**  
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gave his all every second of his performance -- and it was substantial.

**Summary:** If you haven't heard of Tim Reynolds, know him now. He is a musician's musician -- a real player. He's an artist of such immense talent that even superstars, like Dave Matthews, are attracted to him. Catch one of his shows, and you will be too. It's guaranteed.

--**Bernard Baur**

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**Shannon  
Hurley**  
*Hotel Café*  
Hollywood



Photo By: Lisa Elaine Scott

**Shannon Hurley: A professional performer and songwriter who delivers catchy, intelligent songs that are KCRW worthy.**

**Contact:** Shannon Hurley, 818-445-2099; info@shannonhurley.com

**Web:** www.myspace.com/shannonhurley; www.shannonhurley.com

**The Players:** Shannon Hurley, keyboards, vocals; Ben Eisen, bass; Sam Cunningham, drums; Marina V, guest vocals; Jamie Blyth, guest vocals.

**Material:** Shannon Hurley represents the culmination of three years of "Don't Call Us Tori" showcases, which are currently presented monthly at Karma Coffee House in Hollywood. Hurley, re-cently named on *Rolling Stone* magazine's list of "Top 25 bands on MySpace," is a gifted songwriter. Her songs have a universal theme of relationships and are perfectly suited to KCRW, especially "Shame."

**Musicianship:** Hurley presents her songs in very simple arrangements, with rhythms skillfully provided by Eisen and Cunningham. Hurley's vocals are crisp and clean, never overpowering. Marina V provides complementary harmonies on "Garden Path," while Blythe's backup vocals on "Shame" bring the song home and make it industry worthy.

**Performance:** Although the "Don't Call Us Tori" showcases are the brainchild of Hurley and her partner, Steven Leavitt, Hurley played last on the bill, providing the icing on the cake in a strong show. Hurley was especially impressive on her solo acoustic song, "Running Away With Myself," which would sound even better with more instrumentation. She has learned the importance of good audience interaction and practiced it through-out her set. Hurley's music was presented in a feel-good, easy listening manner. She closed her set on a positive note with an upbeat tune entitled "Where I Stand."

**Summary:** Shannon Hurley is not only an impressive songwriter and performer, but has truly found her niche. And, her "Don't Call us Tori" showcases offer new and experienced female singer/songwriters an outlet for their music. This artist is ready for some industry support.

--**Bob Leggett**

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**Tim Fagan**  
*The Mint*  
Los Angeles



**Contact:** [Info@TimFagan.com](mailto:Info@TimFagan.com)

**Web:** [Myspace](#)

**The Players:** Tim Fagan, vocals, guitars, effects.

**Material:** None other than John Mayer said, "Tim Fagan is a winner." The Grand Prize Winner of *Esquire Magazine's* "John Mayer Songwriting Contest," Fagan's song, "Deeper," earned him a co-writing credit and a spankin' new Fender guitar. A native of Honolulu, Fagan's moody, melodic rock songs have been featured on MTV's *Real World*, CBS's *Joan of Arcadia* and, of course, John Mayer's iPod. This artist has great ears and is a real thinking man's songwriter. His music is never predictable, or boring. In fact, his set produced one gem after another, building to a perfect crescendo with a soul-satisfying conclusion.

**Musicianship:** With his crisp guitar work and low, mellow vocals, the comparison to Mayer comes easily. Yet, Fagan's musical influences are all over the place. He's not bound by any style or genre, and his approach to the guitar is unique -- he has chops galore. His technical expertise is awe-inspiring, and his vocals fit his songs like a lamb-skin glove. This is an artist who has a lot to say musically, and the talent and ability to say it.

**Performance:** Fagan created live loops as he played, starting with a bass line in the first verse, a rhythm accompaniment in the second, a real-time lead and a foot operated percussion effect. He was obviously well prepared and, as a result, very entertaining. The sound was that of a full band, without the hassle of other players. Indeed, an artist as creative as Fagan may not ever need a full band.

**Summary:** Tim Fagan moved to L.A. about a year ago, and has booked himself over 80 gigs since he arrived here. This is one determined artist, to say the least. He is also one of the most unique acts you'll ever hear, as he easily proves that if you have enough talent, you can do it all.

--**Bernard Baur**

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**Rossana**  
*Genghis Cohen*  
Los Angeles



Photo By: Bob Leggett

**Rossana: A sensual, expressive and powerful singer/songwriter with an eclectic assortment of material.**

**Contact:** Rossana; 818-632-2113; [rossana7@earthlink.net](mailto:rossana7@earthlink.net)

**Web:** [Rossanamusic.com](http://Rossanamusic.com) Also try: [Myspace](#)

**Players:** Rossana, vocals; Larry Marciano, lead guitar; Bart Ryan, rhythm guitar, lap steel guitar; Steve Whalen, bass; Christopher Allis, drums, backup vocals.

**Material:** Rossana's music refuses to be pigeonholed as she blows through genres like

rock, pop, swing, alt-country and blues. Her sweet, throaty vocals are sensuous, expressive and powerful, in the style of Gloria Estefan. Her music would be a welcome addition on several radio stations, including KOST, KCRW and Indie 103.1. Rossana is equally impressive with her songwriting, including "Love's Train" which she co-wrote with Circe Link and Michelle Freemond.

**Musicianship:** Besides the incredible vocal chops of Rossana, her band shines on its own. The guitar work of both Ryan and Marciano is above-board, while the chemistry onstage is a work of art. Marciano simply rocks, especially on "I'm Just Sayin'." Allis' drums and Whalen's bass lay down the perfect framework for Rossana's music, while Ryan's steel adds just the right touch. Allis also adds some impressive backup vocals.

**Performance:** From her frequent dancing onstage to her constant smile, Rossana showed she was having fun. She displayed enough energy to put DWP out of business. The set was well constructed and flowed very naturally through a diverse selection of genres. And, Rossana excelled in all of them. Her voice was especially noteworthy on the slow sultry tunes like "This Love's for Real." Rossana proved she could wail with the best, and even presented a song with a country-reggae feel, providing an impressive trumpet impersonation as well. The set ended far too soon, but definitely left the packed house wanting more.

**Summary:** Rossana's set is a true masterpiece, and appropriate for consumption by just about any music-loving individual. It may be cliché, but Rossana could sing the phonebook and make it enjoyable. She definitely has a future, and deserves a serious look.

--Bob Leggett

**Mike Baas**  
Club M @ Mosun  
Laguna Beach

**Contact:** Mike Baas; 949/307-9516;  
mike@mikebaas.com

**Web:** www.myspace.com/mike\_baas;  
www.mikebaas.com

**The Players:** Mike Baas, acoustic guitar, vocals; Adam Gust, drums; Kirwan Brown, bass; Alec Bridges, lead guitar.

**Material:** Mike Baas is a songwriter in the style of Woody Guthrie. He presents themes about returning to your roots and adds strong political statements in a format that would appeal to lovers of rock, pop and alternative music. Most of Baas' songs contain a positive message, although some are couched in strong language. His tune "Nothing's Gonna Bring Me Down" has strong commercial appeal, while "Eagle" is his most intense political comment.

**Musicianship:** Gust, Brown and Bridges lay down an impressive laid-back foundation, allowing Baas' acoustic guitar to be clearly heard. The instruments are well blended and the band has a great onstage chemistry. Bridges' guitar has an ethereal tone on "Koan" and "Motion" that is distinctly his own.

**Performance:** The show was a celebration of the release of Baas' full-length CD *Making the Way Back Home*, and was performed before a hometown crowd. Baas engineered a strong set which flowed smoothly and naturally like a river with small rapids, rising and falling as it progressed. His songs are as strong as the lyrics, in the style of Paul Simon's *Graceland*. The set progressed, as the club filled up, building



in intensity and becoming more complex as it unfolded. Baas ended strongly with "The Simplest Thing," showing a good sense of humor with a tongue-in-check presentation.

**Summary:** Baas is a strong songwriter, especially in terms of protest songs, and will appeal to the adult-alternative crowds. While he may be strong playing in his own back yard, he needs to get away from his comfort zone and play for other crowds. He could definitely find his place in today's music market.

--**Bob Leggett**

**Crosby  
Loggins**  
*The Mint*  
Los Angeles



Photo by: Bernard Baur

**Crosby Loggins: The son of Kenny Loggins lives up to his pedigree.**

**Contact:** Nick Hartley, 805-641-6441

**Web:** [www.CrosbyLoggions.com](http://www.CrosbyLoggions.com); [MySpace.com/CrosbyLoggins](http://MySpace.com/CrosbyLoggins)

**The Players:** Crosby Loggins, vocals, guitar; Paul Cartwright, mandolin, violin; Jesse Siebenberg, guitars, lap steel; Dennis Hamm, keys; Jarred Pope, drums; Forrest Williams, base.

**Material:** The son of 70's singer/ songwriter Kenny Loggins, Crosby Loggins bears a striking similarity to his famous dad (especially vocally). He is not simply following in his old man's footsteps; he's forging his own trail. His acoustic-rock songs are rich in melody and musically sophisticated. And, the attention given to detail and dynamics is not only impressive, it produces exquisitely beautiful music. There are long instrumental passages in most of the tunes, but they never seem too long. Indeed, Crosby Loggins is an accomplished young artist, writing and playing at a level well beyond his years.

**Musicianship:** The quality of this duo's musicianship is as exceptional as it is effortless. Compelling in their unpredictability, these artists have a musicality that many seasoned musicians never reach. Paul Cartwright is outstanding on mandolin and violin and, also, in his vocal harmonies. But, it's his fiddle playing that's fierce. Loggins lays a strong rhythmical foundation for their musical excursions, and sings with such grace it's almost angelic. Together, this pair creates a sound that is bigger and better than many full bands you hear today.

**Performance:** Loggins and Cartwright quickly captured the house. That typical din of chatter you hear during so many performances was silenced, as the music mesmerized everyone from the front of the venue to the rear. You could literally hear a pin drop. The comfortable confidence both players displayed and their ability to live in the moment of each song made this performance a magical one.

**Summary:** Although Loggins and Cartwright were the opening act on this evening, they're no opening act. They could easily headline any bill with their undeniably gorgeous music. Crosby Loggins is clearly living up to his pedigree. In fact, with his talent, he may even surpass his father's legacy, much like Jeff Buckley.

--**Bernard Baur**



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