

SONGWRITERS & POETS (June 4, 7:30pm) ARTIST BIOS



MICHELE VAN KLEEF

Saturday, June 4, 7:30pm: Songwriters & Poets

Wilsonville's own Michele Van Kleef plays groove rock, featuring her classically trained, soulful voice, ranging from the reminiscent sounds of Janis Joplin to the compelling melodies and pure tones of Joni Mitchell. Van Kleef delivers a lively, yet touching musical performance with songs written from her heart that move the listener to feel what inspired her to write. Her music is based in storytelling with memorable melodies and sung with haunting vocals.

Van Kleef has toured extensively, sharing the stage with the likes of Sara McLachlan, Train, Indigo Girls, Ani DiFranco, and Jethro Tull. Performers on Van Kleef's solo album "After All" include the legendary bass player Tony Levin and Nate Query from The Decemberists. Van Kleef's music featured was on three episodes of TV's "Keeping Up with the Kardashians.," the movie trailer for the Johnny Cash Story "Walk the Line," and the spoof of

the same film, "Walk Hard." Van Kleef's band *Mackabella* had several song placements including VH1, Fox, NBC, T-Mobile, 90210, lifetime, MTV, "South of Nowhere," and "Roswell."

www.michelevankleef.com @michelevankleef

JOAQUIN LOPEZ

Saturday, June 4, 7:30pm: Songwriters & Poets

Joaquin Lopez is a performing artist, musician, and mental health counselor whose work is grounded in personal transformation, self-expression, and Latino Queer identity. As an actor and performer, he has worked with theatre companies: Milagro, Sowelu, Hand2Mouth Theatre, BagNBaggage, WP Theater in New York, and the Oregon Shakespeare Festival. In 2019, he released *UNIVERSO*, an electro-pop album that pays homage to his coming-of-age as a gay man.

Joaquin served as the Arts & Culture Manager and the Manager of Leadership Development during his time at Latino Network. Recently, he was appointed by Portland City Council as *Creative Laureate for the City of Portland*.

www.joaquinlopezmusic.com @joaquinlopezmusic





STEPHEN COHEN

Saturday, June 4, 7:30pm: Songwriters & Poets

Stephen Cohen, a.k.a. 3 Hand Stephen, is a performing, recording and visual artist, writer, composer and singer-songwriter. He has performed in concerts and at festivals across the United States and in Belgium and Spain. *Baggy Red Pants and Other Stories*, Stephen's book of short stories, lyrics, poems and visual art, was published in 2021. *The Return of The Tree People*, Stephen's newest record album with his band, The Tree People, as well as the companion hardcover book of lyrics, photos, drawings, written music and stories about The Tree People and the songs, was released in the spring of 2022.

www.3handstephen.com @threehandstephen



STEPHANIE STRANGE

Saturday, June 4, 7:30pm: Songwriters & Poets

Strange & the Familiars' storytelling songs guide the audience into the supernatural Strange World, a world in every way like ours with a magical twist. Combining crafted lyrics laced with dark humor, with rock and blues guitar and orchestral cello and drums, Strange leads captivated audiences from a neighborhood in NE Portland to the dreamscape and back home where humanity sits at a crossroads.

Strange & the Familiars' inspirations include the fantastical comic book themes of Neil Gaiman and Alan Moore, the gothic humor of Tim Burton, and the drama of storytelling theatre. They have supported national touring acts like Floater and Bria Skonberg, performed at festivals across the Pacific Northwest including SXSW and Folkfest, and have been featured in *Oregon Music News*, *Voyage LA*, *Geek in the City Podcast*, *Portland Radio Project*, *KBOO*, *KPSU*, and more.

<http://strangeandthefamiliars.com> @strangeandthefamiliars

MERRIDAWN DUCKLER

Saturday, June 4, 7:30pm: Songwriters & Poets

Merridawn Duckler is a writer and installation artist and the author of *INTERSTATE* (dancing girl press) and *IDIOM* (Harbor Review, Washburn Prize). Her fiction, poetry and CNF, often on arts related themes, has been published widely in journals and anthologies and has been the recipient of literary prizes and awards, most recently at Invisible City, Woven Tale Press,



Smartish Pace, and others.

Duckler's plays have had performances in Arizona, California, New York, Oregon, Washington, Nevada and Alaska and her commission by the estate of Rick Bartow produced at sold-out run at the Newport Performing Arts Center. Residencies include Yaddo, Squaw Valley, SLS in St. Petersburg, Russia, Southampton Theater Conference, Bertha Anolic Visual Arts Fellowship to Israel, Post Graduate Writers Conference in Vermont, HBMG Foundation National Winter Playwrights Retreat, Napa Valley Writers Conference, Poets on the Coast, Horned Dorset, Composer//Librettist Studio, Nautilus Music Theater, Spokane Playwrights Lab. She's an editor at *Narrative Magazine* and the international journal *Evental Aesthetics*. She's a member of Blackfish Gallery in Portland, Oregon. www.merridawnduckler.com @merridawnduckler

V. FALCÓN VÁZQUEZ

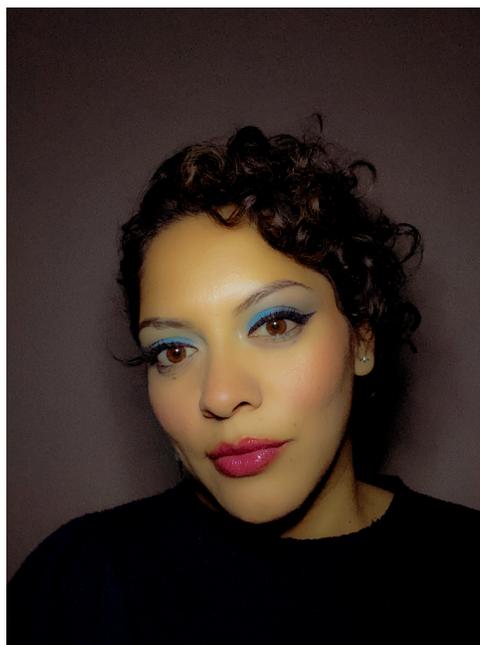
Saturday, June 4, 7:30pm: Songwriters & Poets

Falcón Vázquez is a contemporary poet shedding light on social, cultural and gender issues through the awareness of self. Integrating body, mind, and spirit she allows the audience to become aware of their own identities and realities, shifting the perspective that even though we go through our own stories we are not alone. In her work she has created a fusion of different writing styles giving a unique life to each poem challenging the norms of poetry and many times prefers to write in free verse venturing out to experience an abstract truth.

By creating space for healing verses and raw emotions, Falcón Vázquez has discovered poetry as a medicine for the heart and soul. Learn about her many books, publications, anthologies, EP poetry collections, and videos on her website:

<https://vfvpoetry.wixsite.com/website>

@vfvpoetry



ALBERTO MORENO

**Saturday, June 4, 7:30pm:
Songwriters & Poets**

Alberto Moreno is an un-documented, emerging poet and writer whose poetry touches on the ecstatic divine and the immigrant experience. Alberto served as the columnist for *El Hispanic News* for three years and also served as the Governor-appointed board representative on the Oregon Humanities Council. In this capacity he pushed for the appointment of the first Native American Poet Laureate. Alberto was invited to read at the Governor's Inaugural Address.

@errant_poet