



SHOWCASING THE CITY'S CULTURAL CORE

Fall season to present music, theater and photography

By Leigh Baldwin

Even if you've been out of school for many, many years, fall always feels like the start of something new. It may still be hot, but cooler weather is on the way (as are the holidays), and San Antonio slowly returns from vacation to a city full of vibrant festivals and seasons that showcase our cultural core.

The city's Office of Cultural Affairs has done an excellent job of gathering together some of our more famous grassroots music festivals into a fall festival season, pulling in art, film, food and wine while they're at it. It is also the opening season for performing arts, when our professional musicians return and the theater series begins. The San Antonio Symphony marks its 70th anniversary this year, only one of many significant and exciting arts celebrations coming our way.

FotoSeptiembre fills the city of San Antonio (as well as the Hill Country — several exhibitions are running in Boerne) with the work of local, national and international photographers for the month of September. One of FotoSeptiembre's most distinctive and appealing aspects is that the subject matter is wide-ranging, and the exhibitions occupy not only tradi-

tional arts venues like galleries and museums, but restaurants, libraries, office buildings and all of HemisFair Park, making the work accessible on many levels.

Come out to see Ricardo Romo's photographs of small Texas towns like Yoakum and Nixon at the Witte Museum; *Texas Seabees: Deep in the Heart of Iraq* by L.A. Shively at St. Mary's University; and George Brainard's portraits of race fans (as well as vintage cars and hot rods) at River City Silver.

Jazz'SAlive returns to Travis Park on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 19 and 20. The two-day music festival is free and open to the public, but if you would like to add something even more special to your Jazz'SAlive weekend, there is a gala on Friday night, Sept. 18, and a champagne brunch on Sunday, Sept. 20, both at the St. Anthony Hotel. Gala tickets are as low as \$125, and brunch tickets are \$35, making these special events an incredibly affordable way

They only look like the Beatles. Four professional musicians will recreate the famous four in *Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles*, Oct. 20-25 at the Majestic Theatre.

INTERNATIONAL ACCORDION FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 9-11, 2009

LA VILLITA
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

www.internationalaccordionfestival.org

Photo by: Kent A. Hall Graphic Design by: Adam Maldonado

Performers at the International Accordion Festival run the gamut from conjunto to polka to Cajun and other interpretations of the accordion repertoire. IAF is famous as one of the best dance parties in the city.

to support jazz in our community.

Keep the music flowing with the International Accordion Festival Oct. 9-11 in La Villita. IAF has been one of the best dance parties in the city for years, and if you haven't attended, you really should go! The blend of conjunto, polka, Cajun and other international interpretations of accordion music is a true testament to the diversity and global blending in San Antonio.

The San Antonio Symphony opens its fall season with a thunderous rendition of one of the most popular choral pieces ever written, *Carmina Burana*. This dramatic, sometimes chilling, piece was written in the 1930s and is based on a series of medieval poems. It has been used in countless films, from *Excalibur* to *The Doors*, and is sure to unite music lovers of all levels and tastes. This special concert is one night only, Sept. 18, so reserve your tickets very soon.

The highly anticipated Broadway musical *Mamma Mia!* arrives at the Majestic Theatre Sept. 29 and runs through Oct. 4. If you loved the recent Meryl Streep film version, come see the play it was all based on. Through the international appeal of the music of ABBA, featured throughout, *Mamma Mia!* has had sold-out runs across the globe, from Bangkok to Basel. Tickets will definitely go fast for the San Antonio showing, and there are no plans for an Austin stop on the tour, so ABBA lovers better get in line.

Continuing the nostalgic, danceable musical revue theme, the Majestic is bringing *RAIN: A Tribute to the Beatles*, Oct. 20-25. "The next best thing to seeing the Beatles" includes four professional musicians with the exact look and sound of the Beatles, from their earliest days all the way through the psychedelic era, as well as historical film footage and vintage sets.

You can buy tickets and make plans through each organization's Web site. Support the arts in San Antonio, and have a great time doing it!



FotoSeptiembre will feature the work of local, national and international photographers in galleries, museums, libraries, restaurants, HemisFair Park and other locations in San Antonio and Boerne. Above, a photograph from *The Mexico of Leo Matiz*, to be on display at the Instituto Cultural de Mexico.