

## Rendez-Vous

*(A collaborative quintet of talented Austin musicians)*



**Julie Slim** (*vocal*) is a locally based Lebanese American multilingual jazz vocalist known for her vocal versatility, singing in various languages such as English, French, Arabic, Spanish, Italian, Turkish, Farsi, and Greek. Founder and leader of Rendez-Vous, she transports her audience to a different time and place with her warm vocals and interpretations of American, Spanish, French and Arabic standards from the 1920's to 1960's, set in a variety of Latin and jazz rhythms. She performs around Austin and the surrounding areas and has performed internationally in the Bahamas and Istanbul, Turkey.

Julie has also been featured with Ann Hampton Callaway in Austin Theatre Cabaret at the Scottish Rite Cathedral, and is proud to be a member of the Austin Jazz Workshop, educating elementary children about jazz music and composers. Focused on world music, Julie also collaborates with several world music bands in Austin, such as 1001 Nights Orchestra, Atlas Maior, Indimaj and UT Middle Eastern Ensemble, Bereket and Oliver Rajamani & the Mondsee Orchestra. Her Arabic band, Layalina, was featured at Copa in a world music showcase at SXSW in 2010 and the premier Formula 1 Austin event, Fanfest in 2012. In addition to two previously released CD's with Rendez-Vous, Julie has recently released her latest full-length CD, "Promenade Sentimentale," a sensual journey through the many faces of love.

Julie is also an accomplished actress with credits in The Muhlenberg Summer Repertory Theatre (The Mikado, Kismet, Tales From The Arabian Nights), The State Theatre (Man of La Mancha), The Paramount Theatre with Austin Musical Theatre (Fiddler on the Roof), and The Dougherty Arts Center (Deep in the Heart of Texas) for which she was nominated for a B Iben Payne Award in 1996.

Julie Slim has a BA in Speech/Language Pathology, an MA in Linguistics from The University of Michigan, as well as certified in the Kodaly Methodology of teaching music, Level III. She is honored to be a member of the Threshold Choir, an international volunteer organization of women who offer songs for comfort to the elderly and patients who are on the threshold of life and their families. Also, she is a member of Swan Songs, a local organization that fulfills musical wishes for the elderly. Julie believes in the healing power of music, and its gift of connecting people from all walks of life. Music is the universal language of love.



**Phil Spencer** (*creative upright bass*) is a professional bassist, educator, and collaborator, currently residing in Austin TX who has been performing and teaching for the last 15 years. With a degree in music performance from the University of Northern Colorado, he is a versatile bass player, and can play in any style you throw at him. In addition to working with Julie Slim and Rendez-Vous, he plays with a number of bands from different styles, namely with Bluesqueezebox, Jenifer Jackson, The Merles, Quiet Company, The Parish Festival, Hot Club of Austin, The Dead Sea, The Elevation Quartet, and Rent Party. He also collaborates with the Vintage 15 big band, the Abilene Philharmonic, the Central Texas Master Singers, Hora Once, Chase Gassaway, Elsa Cross, Hill Country Strings, the Austin Piazzolla Quintet, Kevin Ahart, Luke Hill and the Hot Pursuits, Will Taylor Strings Attached, Mundi, and others. He will be on tour with Austin Piazzolla Quintet in April in Colorado, New Mexico

and around TX.

*Performing at*

*Cave Without A Name* – May 13<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM

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**Shirley Johnson** (*jazzy accordion*) grew up in Pittsburgh immersed in her Croatian heritage. At the age of ten, she began accordion studies. Throughout childhood, she performed music and dances as a member of various Tamburitza groups. Traveling to Czechoslovakia, she accompanied the Pittsburg Area Slovaks on the accordion at folk festivals in Detva and Senec as well as on Czechoslovak TV and radio.

During college, as a member of the Duke University Chorale, she had the opportunity to sing at Carnegie Hall and Disney World. She studied voice with Professor Martha Flowers. After college, she performed international folk dances and became acquainted with the music of other European cultures.

Shirley played for the North Carolina Theatre's production of "Fiddler on the Roof." While living in Rome, Italy, she sang with the "Coro Misto" of "L'Accademia di Filarmonica," performing throughout Rome, including St. Peter's Basilica, Italian radio and TV, and at the Vatican for Pope John Paul II's "Papal Concert to Commemorate the Holocaust." After moving to Austin, she has performed in concerts, on radio and TV, in clubs, restaurants, festivals, and private parties. For a brief period, Shirley played accordion with the Indie rock band, "The Invincible Czars," including a showcase at the 2004 South by Southwest Music Festival. Shirley is the accordionist on "The Happytones Play Politics" CD and for Scott Morgan Biggs's 2005 short film "Hills Like White Elephants;" as well as for the Austin Lyric Opera and University of Texas Butler School of Music production of "La Curanderos." Shirley teaches accordion, hoping to pass to the next generation her knowledge and love of her instrument and music.



**Shawn Ellison** (*smooth keyboard*) has performed as a composer, arranger, bandleader, organist, vocalist, musical director, and dance class accompanist. He often performs as a soloist but is equally comfortable performing with a duo's to big band. He has been privileged to share the stage with Cat Anderson, Slide Hampton, Dizzy Gillespie, Frank Gorshin, and Phyllis Diller. In 1985, his original dance suite "Texas" was performed at the University of Texas' Bass Concert Hall. In 1986, he was asked by the Austin Music Umbrella to perform some of his original compositions in a composers' concert at the Dougherty Arts Center.

He has worked extensively with dancers and choreographers and was integral in the formation of two children's dance/movement programs, "Believe in Me" and "Something's Afoot." During his seven-year tenure as Musical Director for Something's Afoot, Shawn wrote songs and composed instrumental music for three hour-long shows performed at Bass Concert Hall in Austin. Shawn accompanies ballet classes at Ballet Austin and the University of Texas at Austin; eurythmy classes, at the Austin Waldorf School. He works with the Joffrey Workshop TX in San Antonio every summer. Mr. Ellison has performed at Tarry House, a private club, since 1989, Truluck's, Perry's, the Driskill Hotel, Eddie V's, the Four Seasons, and many other Austin venues. He has worked with Esther's Follies and Mr. Fabulous and his band. Recently, he played with the Austin Symphony Orchestra at the Long Center in a pops concert. Shawn is proud to work with the Austin Jazz Workshop.

He traveled to Scotland with the *UT Jazz Orchestra* to perform at the Aberdeen International Youth Festival; he traveled to Japan to perform with the Legends in Concert. Shawn Ellison holds a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master's Degree in Legal Studies from Texas State University.

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