

EL COSMICO

a music update newsletter
by orchid music design

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“Doing and making are acts of hope, and as that hope grows we stop feeling overwhelmed by the troubles of the world. We remember that we — as individuals and groups — can do something about those troubles.” - Corita Kent

Known for her vibrant and innovative serigraphs that combined bold typography, vivid colors, and powerful messages rooted in themes of peace, love, and activism, pop artist and ex-nun Corita Kent spent a lifetime committed to the symbiotic relationship between art and social gatherings, with both serving as catalysts for meaningful connections and positive societal change.

In a time where it often feels too easy to fall into despair and disconnection, it's essential to be reminded that the efforts of creating and gathering can themselves be forms of activism. As Sister Mary Kent puts it, “To create means to relate. The root meaning of the word art is ‘to fit together,’ and we all do this every day.”

Now in its seventeenth year, the time has come again for the momentous gathering of the Trans-Pecos Festival of Music & Love, cultivating community and artistic engagement underneath a bazillion stars.

This music update proudly showcases a plethora of seminal masterpieces and hidden gems from the artists set to grace the stage. Moreover, it's overflowing with fresh releases from other talented artists that seamlessly integrate into the El Cosmico Soundtrack.

Babe Rainbow released a new EP entitled *Fresh As A Head Of Lettuce*, which includes the track “[Sunshine](#).” The song encapsulates the band’s sun-bleached slant, with swirling keyboards set against a steady groove that never relents, like a wave taking you all the way to shore.

Skyway Man has a new album falling to Earth later this year. The first single, “[Long Distance Healing](#),” presents a more urgent and energetic affair than the artist’s previous efforts. Floating above a pulsating piano bed, reminiscent of the Velvet Underground’s “[I’m Waiting for the Man](#)” or Pulp’s “[Common People](#),” songwriter James Wallace creates a dynamic voyage with carefully orchestrated synth-flourishes and horn sections that makes you believe the far-out artist has finally arrived.

We get a surprise dream collaboration between Wilco and Cate Le Bon, who herself is no stranger to Marfa, Texas. The Le Bon-produced track “[Evicted](#)” sets out without deviating too far from Jeff Tweedy’s acoustic leanings, but as the chorus comes in with cascading keyboard accents, it starts to feel like the band has entered new territory, and they’ve let us all come along for the ride.

Zamrock band WITCH released their first song in 38 years, “[Waile](#).” A staple of their 70s live set but never recorded, the track is brought to life by the kinetic percussion ensemble and the playful interaction between Emmanuel “Jagari” Chanda and the Zambia background singers. With a blend of psychedelic rock and traditional African rhythms, “Waile” demonstrates why the band’s acronymized name stands for “We Intend To Cause Havoc.” Here, havoc never felt so good.

Celebrating nearly two decades of musical magic is nothing short of extraordinary for a festival. As we bid farewell to the original location of the Trans-Pecos Festival, we do so with a grand salute. In the words of the ever-inspiring Corita Kent, “Cherish the present moment, for the vibrancy of that moment has the power to transcend all confines.” This marks the end of an era but the beginning of a timeless legacy.