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Globe-trotting guitarist unplugs for shows this weekend

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By [Bill Meredith](#)
Special to The Palm Beach Post

Friday, January 25, 2008

Singer/songwriter Davee Bryan moved to Lake Worth from Texas three years ago after having performed in Europe, the Middle East, and the majority of U.S. states.

He quickly sized up the area and realized the necessities for making a living - a good singing voice, the ability to play nearly any style, and both acoustic and electric guitars.

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With his weekend full band and solo gigs, plus steady solo slots on weeknights, the New Hampshire native now plays full-time.

"I got started in music professionally by moving to Kentucky in the mid-1970s," says Bryan, 52. "At age 21, it sounded like an adventure to me. It was a lot of fun, even if I had to start saying, 'Mom, this is a real job.' After that, I moved down to Marathon Key for a couple of years; worked in bands out of Detroit between 1979 and 1983, and then went to the San Francisco Bay area for almost 10 years."

After that, Bryan spent a similar amount of time in Houston, where he recorded his latest CD, *Is Anyone Driving This Bus?*

The 2004 disc showcased Bryan's early pop influences - Ricky Nelson, George Harrison and Eric Clapton, an artist who crosses over into his electric rock and blues influences as well (both Bryan's voice and electric guitar playing have similarities to Clapton's).

Bryan's Rockin' Little Unit trio features bassist A.J. Kelly and drummer Chris Peet, and allows the guitarist to also channel Duane Allman and David Gilmour through his slide playing and stellar Fender Stratocaster tone.

"I ended up playing slide by necessity," Bryan says. "I clipped off the corner tip of my left ring finger in a textile plant."

The style lent itself to playing the dobro, an acoustic instrument that gave Bryan additional outlets for blues influences like Bukka White, John Lee Hooker and Robert Johnson.

"I've realized that whether it's a full band or solo acoustic, it's all about moving some air and moving people's feet," Bryan says.

At a recent gig, he did both through his originals and covers of tunes by Johnson, Bruce Springsteen, Johnny Cash and the Rolling Stones.

Bryan resumes his regular Rockin' Little Unit gigs in the first half of March at both Elwood's in Delray Beach and South Shores Tavern in Lake Worth.

On Fridays, see Bryan play solo acoustic originals and covers from 6-9 p.m. at Shells, 23 S.W. Monterey Road, Stuart (772-419-0068). Saturday, he plays from 8-11 p.m. at the Thirsty Turtle, 13981 U.S. 1, Juno Beach (561-627-8991), and every Wednesday-Thursday he plays from 7:30-10:30 p.m. at the other Thirsty Turtle, 2825 S.W. Port St. Lucie Blvd., Port St. Lucie (772-344-7774).

On the Web: www.daveebryan.com.

Popular music is all about The Songs, especially when that's the actual name of the band.

The quartet is vocalist/guitarist Bob Kendall's offshoot of the Banyan Street Jug Band, and it retains the rootsy, Americana feel of that sextet while performing Kendall's originals rather than covers of 1920s material.

See The Songs (as well as new works by visual artists Derek Anstis and Terre Rybovich) from 7-10 p.m. Saturday at My Coffee House Gallery, 2036 N. Dixie Highway, West Palm Beach (561-853-5748). Cover: \$2. On the Web: mycoffeehousegallery.com.

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SeKond Nature is a Boca Raton-based original pop/rock band that actually plays more in Broward County than locally, but single-named singing guitarists Juan & Freddy have found a creative way to change that.

The duo got a slot playing every couple of weeks in Delray Beach, and created full band lineups with different personnel to play either covers or originals. See SeKond Nature at 9:30 p.m. Feb. 2 at Boston's On the Beach, 40 S. Ocean Blvd., Delray Beach (561-278-3364). Juan & Freddy also play there at 5 p.m. Feb. 8. On the Web: www.myspace.com/sekondnature!

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