

WINTER JAM 2006 It's an evening of Contemporary Christian music and fellowship that offers something for everyone in the family, provided everyone in the family is into Contemporary Christian music and fellowship. Pop-gospel outfit NewSong hosts, and is joined by the slightly harder-edged Newsboys, along with Zoegirl, Toby Mac and Krystal Meyers; you'll also be treated to a speaking gig by born-again author David Nasser, and that motorcycle attraction where they ride around inside the big steel ball. (*USF Sun Dome, Tampa*)

JEN FOSTER The rising, award-winning pop singer-songwriter has come to Ybor's Flirt a few times over the past couple of years; this time, it's in support of her new album *The Underdogs*, which was produced by Sheri Crow and Stevie Nicks helmsman Jeff Trott, and is aimed at catapulting Foster's soulful, personal tunes into the Big Time. (*Club Flirt, Ybor City*)

ROY HARPER The 80-year-old Harper has been performing as a sort of human monument to American roots/folk musical traditions for more than 50 years, and has been called the best interpreter of the work of people like Jimmie Rodgers still at it. He'll be joined by sideman/dobro-and-lap-steel virtuoso Johnny Bellar, and Pinellas Park's Jim Kaufman & Alice McKay will warm things up. (*Unitarian Universalist Church of Tampa, Tampa*)

FREEBO & PHOTOGLO This folk-rock pair put in plenty of years of session work before getting the chance to play their own material. Bassist Freebo spent 10 years as one of Bonnie Raitt's backing

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DAVID GANS Gans is not only the nationally recognized host of the weekly *Grateful Dead Hour* radio show, but also an accomplished singer-songwriter in his own right. While he started performing in the folk/protest/storytelling vein, Gans later came to dabble in the jam-rock of his heroes, creating an admirable mix of roots and psychedelia. Also performing are Athens, Ga.-based bandleader/singer-songwriter Ralph Roddenbery, and storied pedal steel session man Mark Van Allen (Blueground Undergrass, Gov't Mule, Indigo Girls, Shawn Mullins, a million more). (*Java Junction, Clearwater*)

RICKY SKAGGS & KENTUCKY THUNDER Big shit in the bluegrass and traditionalist country fields, Skaggs is renowned as an instrumentalist and vocalist. His virtuosity on the mandolin, guitar, fiddle and banjo is exemplary. While he's been recording forever (including a stint with the legendary Ralph Stanley), 2004's *Brand New Strings* demonstrates that his skills are still in excellent shape, and that Kentucky Thunder, his backing band, ain't no buncha slouches neither. (*Manatee County Fairgrounds, Palmetto*) —CLB

JOHN PIZZARELLI This swinging guitarist has scored big over the past decades by paying tribute to the silky jazz sounds of predecessors like Nat King Cole without merely retreading the sound. His show tonight is themed around the American songbook, so expect to hear tunes you know by heart. His group is rounded out by his