

The Bandera PROPHET

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Fall Equinox celebrated eight stories underground

By Jessica Nohealapa'ahi
The Bandera Prophet

Deep in the heart of a hill resonates the drum's beat, the flute's whisper, the cello's wave and song's echo. One drop of water at a time, stalactites reach for stalagmites rising from the cavern floor. The music wraps around these living formations, filling the space between them, until at last they are joined as one. Celebrating the Fall Equinox, the Cave Without a Name hosted Rudi & The Rudiments, with featured performer Amanda Pascali & The Family, for an evening concert 80 feet underground.

On Saturday, Sept. 18, guests descended 126 steps and took their seats in The Throne Room, amidst rippling pools, a cool pebble floor and dripping limestone ceiling. Singer/songwriter/shaman/showman Rudi Harst lead the night with a collection of songs that ranged from ceremonial to reggae to folk rock, celebrating the first day of Autumn. Halting applause for the duration of the show, he encouraged the audience to clap with jazz hands, so to allow the most important member of the band - the cave - to carry the final sound of each acoustic performance.

Accompanying Harst (guitar, flute, dulcimer, harmonica, Tibetan bowls) were Kevin Lewis (bass), Dan Klein (trombone, conch), Kiko Guerrero (cajon), Michael Madison (djembe), Carl Rush (percussion), Addison Freeman (violin, cello, viola and mandolin) and Pascali.

Describing her style as Immigrant American Folk Music, singer/songwriter Pascali said her music is “too foreign for here, too foreign for home and never enough for both.”

Voted the 2021 Houston Chronicle’s Best Musician of the Year, Pascali, a first-generation American, internationally acclaimed musician, and geologist, is based in Houston, writing and performing music not “from any one place, but a mixture of many places.”

For 30 minutes, representing the symbiosis of light and dark, the performance took place in total blackness, with only sound from all directions filling the room and the senses.

To see more on Harst, and Rudi & The Rudiments, go to www.rudiharst.com.

For more on Pascali, go to www.amandapascali.com, www.facebook.com/amandinapascali/ and on Instagram @amandinapascali.

The Cave Without a Name was found in 1938 by three children. It earned its name during a naming contest, when a young boy said it was too pretty to have a name. It is located at 325 Kreutzberg Road, Boerne, 78006.

Upcoming events include Voice of the Cello - Joseph Kuipers with the Texas Cellos, on Saturday, Oct. 9; The Haunted Show - 2021, on Saturday, Oct. 30; An Evening with Slaid Cleaves, on Saturday, Nov. 6; Sounds of the Season - 2021, on Saturday, Nov. 27; and Winter Solstice - Rudi & the Rudiments - 2021, on Saturday, Dec. 18.

To make reservations, or for more information on future concerts and touring, call 830-537-4212.