

# Alexis Harte Band

**"On a scene with no lack of smart, resourceful singer-songwriters, the Bay Area's Alexis Harte has long distinguished himself with lovingly detailed tunes that transform his rootsy influences into a lithe, personal sound."**

**- Andrew Gilbert. "Essential Picks" San Francisco Chronicle**



"It's a big red sun, itching to explode, to take us all in a fiery fold, to take us all back home," Alexis Harte crows on "Mayflies," the opening track of Big Red Sun, his latest CD.

Completely self-released, the track unexpectedly reached

#1 on commercial station KOHO/Washington, edging out latest from Wilco, Norah Jones and U2 for week of November 9-16, 2009. The CD made numerous critics lists in 2009 and was played on AAA stations across the US.

What resonated? Lyrically, Harte's vision of an imperiled world—played out in images of environmental and urban decay—became a backdrop for the album's exploration of relationships as fragile but ultimately powerful sources of solace. It was soundtrack for the end of a difficult year.

But with musical roots extending into acoustic folk, bluesy Americana, and even electrified Afro-pop, Harte's songwriting has never been monochromatic. His songs are powered by an examination of everyday moments, in which his sharply drawn details loom larger than life. It's a cinematic effect that recently landed Harte a co-publishing deal with Lionsgate Entertainment.

## Top Kudos

- Signed multi-year co-publishing deal with Lionsgate Entertainment
- Shared Bills with Taj Mahal, Cat Power, Ritchie Havens, Dar Williams and more
- *Mayflies* from *Big Red Sun* reaches #1 on commercial station KOHO/Washington, edging out latest from Wilco, Norah Jones and U2 for week of November 9-16, 2009
- Featured regularly on KFOG, the largest AAA station in the region, and one of best known in the U.S
- *Junebug* chosen as Top 12 Independent Release by Performing Songwriter Magazine
- *Sunlight Loping* is Editor's Choice in *Acoustic Guitar* Magazine

Harte's performing career has also widened recently, as he and his band have played top Bay Area venues like the legendary Fillmore (with Taj Mahal), Mystic Theater (with Dar Williams), Uptown Theater (with Cat Power) and Slim's and been dubbed "up and coming world-class rock" by San Francisco's KFOG radio. Touring has ranged the West Coast, as well as world/folk festivals on the East Coast and Europe.

Intelligent lyrics and sparkling riffs—highlighted by the superlative musicianship of Alexis Harte Band members Aaron Brinkerhoff (drums), Randy Weaver (upright bass), and Marc Mowrey (keys/piano/accordion)—inspired *Acoustic Guitar* magazine to make a previous CD, *Sunlight Loping*, an Editor's Top Choice. It also earned Harte a coveted new artist feature in Hear Music/Starbucks stores. These industry props echo the band's devoted following, grown in local clubs and coffeehouses over the past few years.

Harte's songs have also found widespread exposure through national television shows (ABC's *Castle*, What About Brian, UPN's *Jack And Bobby*, WB's *Jake 2.0*, PBS's *Now with Bill Moyers*, and many more) and, increasingly, film.

Though he's poised on the verge of mainstream success, Harte's songcraft shows no sign of artistic compromise, but rather a deepening of his signature aesthetic: poetic, concise rootsy songwriting galvanized into a high-energy acoustic live show.

## Radio Play

A sample of stations spinning Alexis Harte include:

### Local/National

**KFOG** San Francisco, **KPFA** Berkeley, **KALW** San Francisco, **KZYX** Mendocino, CA, **KWMR** Bolinas, CA, **KPOO** San Francisco, **KCRW** Santa Monica **WUMB** Boston, **KDNK** Carbondale, **KDUR** Durango, **WWOZ** New Orleans, **KVLR** Twisp, **WUIS** Springfield, , **WCHG** Hot Springs, **KLCC** & **KVRM** Eugene, / **KDVS** Davis, **WMVY** Vineyard Haven, **KDHX**, St. Louis, **KPFT** Houston, **KVNF** Paonia, **WERU** East Orland, **KVMR** Nevada City, **KDHF** St. Louis, **KDEC** Decorah, **KAXE** Grand Rapids, CO, **KOPN** Columbia, **KFAN** Fredericksburg, **KOHO** Leavenworth, **WHFC** Bel Air, **WUIN** Wilmington, **KBCS** Bellevue, **WTMD** Towson, **WHRV** Norfolk, **KNBA** Anchorage, **WBSD** Burlington, **KKCR** Hanalei, **WDIY** Bethlehem, and more

**International:** La Otra Musica **Radio 105** Cadiz, Spain **Radio Milo 103.1** FM Mol, Belgium / Roots Revival **Radio ATL 105.9** MHz Bree, Belgium / **Zundfunk Radio**, Munich, Germany / **Radio Fedra** in Serbia and Montenegro, and more

## What folks are saying about AHB.....

### Print Media

**ACOUSTIC GUITAR MAGAZINE "EDITORS' CHOICE":** "Northern California singer-songwriter Alexis Harte could pass as a Scottish or English expatriate on this second self-produced CD, as he channels bits of Donovan ("Sweet Tooth"), Nick Drake ("Lap Dragons") and Al Stewart ("Puddle of Stars") along with a little gratuitous Tom Waits vocal process. But his knack for catchy melodies, fresh lyrics, and deftly textured arrangements (integrating balafon, accordion, violin, and reeds into the mix), as well as crisp acoustic fingerpicking and taut soloing, confirm the original folk-rock sensibility he's forged since trading his Marshall amp head for an early 60s sunburst Gibson acoustic guitar. A former ecologist in Brazil, Harte tempers his folkie romanticism with worldly rhythms and prismatic poetry for a bracing effect overall -- Derk Richardson

**THE SF EXAMINER:** "Several of the folksy, poetic (and gently woodsy) tracks from Alexis Harte's "Tumbling" have already been receiving spins on KFOG's Sunday morning standby, Acoustic Sunrise." And with good reason. With influences ranging from Celtic to the Caribbean to the Appalachians, the Bay Area-based guitarist's songwriter continues to mature and develop both lyrically and rhythmically on his third release, and he blends his superior, well-versed musicianship with a welcomingly upbeat and idealistic voice that is textured, engaging and thought-provoking, but never heavy-handed." -- Chris Patrick Morgan

**PERFORMER MAGAZINE:** From the original artwork on the sleeve to the polished vocals, song construction, and excellent musicianship, this album is first class the whole way. The energy is kept throughout without ever becoming overbearing, coming out with brilliant lyric after brilliant lyric. It is definitely evident that Alexis Harte took the time to perfect the songs and craft them properly before going into the recording studio. ... This album epitomizes everything that is good about music,... Alexis Harte's lyrics and impeccable attention to detail make this not only a catchy album, but sophisticated and thought provoking." -- Mark Kramer

**HEAR DISCOVERIES:** "Emerging Artists You Need to Hear" Alexis Harte's burnished, burly voice is an inspiration on Sunlight Loping. His temperate rock motifs lure us in, but the Berkeley native has much more in store, as metaphor and clever word play give listeners lyrics worth turning over in the mind. Check out Sweet Tooth with its melodic nod to Mississippi John Hurt's Candy Man. There are intriguing layers to every song here, and Harte's finger-picking dexterity clears a splendid path through this sonic forest.-- In-Store Poster

**PERFORMING SONGWRITER MAGAZINE:** [Harte's first CD] Junebug chosen as Top 12 Independent Release. San Francisco songwriter and ecologist Alexis Harte has stepped out of the studio musician and tour sideman shadows and produced a solo record of impressively simple, clean, cosmopolitan folk. Harte's efficiency with words and plainspoken imagery call to mind Richard Buckner; his warm, woody voice and organic melodies are akin to Dave Matthews; and his sophisticated acoustic guitar playing and arrangement are an amalgam of everyone from Bob Mould to Bill Frisell. That, said, Harte's work most certainly stands on its own merits. With Junebug, he hits and airy, uncomplicated, and innocent resonance. The arrangements on Junebug draw from Latin American, flamenco, and traditional folk influence, and the melodies slip and cast about above the spare acoustic instrumentation with clarity and ease. Harte's lyrics are kitchen-table-simple and stay rooted in the staples of nature, love, reflection without sounding self-indulgent or out of touch with reality. Junebug glides along between inconsolable melancholy and wide eyed happiness and settles into a cool, smiling personal space. -- Clay Steakley

**RELIX MAGAZINE** ...Though he's traded in parrots for crows, there is no less hope on Big Red Sun. He just refuses to hold your hand to find it. He isn't raining on the dance, he's dancing in the rain, and I suspect those who listen will join him. Despite having vocal textures and song compositions which easily hold up against contemporaries Jose Gonzalez and Alexi Murdoch (his voice sounding like the former with the latter's diversity in his repertoire), Harte hasn't garnered nearly the same traction amongst fans. It's time for a change, which is exactly what we get."

### Live Show

"You guys were a perfect fit with Cat Power and you sounded great. Looking forward to the next time!"  
--Sheila Groves, Notable Talent, Booker for Uptown Theater, Napa

Alexis Harte performed on my stage this past June 15, at the 25th annual **Health & Harmony Festival** in Santa Rosa, CA. I found Alexis' music to be absolutely delightful - catchy, appealing tunes and thoughtful, evocative lyrics, reminiscent of Taj Mahal one minute, Randy Newman the next. His tunes varied from sweet and wistful to rollocking and bluesy; all were performed masterfully and with great stage presence by the group. In fact, it was so captivating that I stopped running around, turn off my headset, and listened to a portion of his set - something I rarely make time to do. The festival audience agreed - Alexis drew and held a large crowd, and was very enthusiastically received. He appealed to old and young, and was perfectly suited to an outdoor stage. Alexis and band were also completely professional in every way - clear communications, organized, punctual, friendly, cooperative, and patient with all the little challenges of a large festival and outdoor venue. I appreciated working with him, and unconditionally recommend Alexis to other festivals.

-- Daniel Solnit, Eco-Stage Manager, Health & Harmony Festival

"The songs are great, the band excellent, which means fantastic music for your mind as well as your feet. The Alexis Harte Band is something to behold  
-- Carey Williams, Manager for **Taj Mahal**

"The thing I liked most about the group is that their music is really cutting edge and at the same time eminently listenable. They're all real musicians and that means a lot - there's a lot musical awareness in the group. Everybody really enjoyed it and I look forward to having them back again."  
-- Joey Lent, Booker, **Strings**, Emeryville, CA

"We booked Alexis Harte for the main stage. Alexis and his band filled the performance segment perfectly. They presented high quality musicianship and their eclectic original music was enjoyed by all. Highly recommended!"  
-- Jimmy Goings, GFI Entertainment, Co-Producer and Talent Booker, **Santa Clara Art and Wine Festiva**

"The band was great to work with and the students loved their sound so much they immediately asked us when we were bringing them back!"  
-- Mo Phillips, Associate Director of Student Development, **Sonoma State University**, Sonoma, CA