

## The One Love Festival

Spook Hall and The Spirit Room  
260 Hull Avenue, Jerome  
Tickets at: [www.ticketweb.com](http://www.ticketweb.com)  
Saturday, February 15, 1 p.m. – 1 a.m.  
\$10

By Daniel Q. Marek  
College Times

In an age where commercialism drives the mainstream music industry, it's refreshing to see independent artists create open venues for diverse musical styles that would normally fall under the major label radar.

Creating such an event seemed to be a necessity to musician / promoter Ralo (born Lora Elizabeth Heiniemi) when she moved to the Valley from Minnesota 14 years ago.

"I saw a need for more opportunities to showcase original music in alternative atmospheres," she said. "There just wasn't a lot of that going on. I felt like I knew all these talented people and I felt like they were really under utilized."

With this in mind, she started the first annual Earth Mother Mind Jam featuring Native American rock, funk, jazz, dancers, crafts and a plethora of musical tastes.

After 14 annual events, Ralo decided to reinvent the idea to cater to the music community while making the event feel like homecoming for a family of musicians.

"I used to play in Jerome with [my old band, the] Fake Maccoys," Ralo said. "I always had an affinity for it, but Jerome is a place where you need to be invited – you can't just go up and take over. Memi Perkins' family is one of the oldest families from that area and really, without her, I don't think this whole thing would have happened," she said.

"After the Earth Mother Mind Jam last year I drove up and Memi, who runs the Spirit Room, asked how it went. I was like, 'I'm done, I'm just done.' And she goes, 'Oh, I've always had this dream of you doing it up here, why don't you do it in Jerome?' So we talked about it and by the time I left Jerome that day, I knew that I was coming back. I just decided instead of doing Earth Mother Mind Jam 15, that I'd do the One Love Festival."

Jerome, an old copper mining town, now known for its artist community and regular ghost sightings, seemed like the perfect spot for her commune-style artists to enjoy each other's company, music and the pristine view of the Verdi Valley.

The first annual One Love line-up mirrors the Mind Jam in its participants, but after several line-up changes and new projects from former Mind Jam bands, the latest festival's acts have evolved just as much as Ralo's vision for it.

Native American super-star acts like **Blackfire**, a Navajo punk band from Black Mesa Arizona who won Native American Rock Band of the Year, and the internationally acclaimed **Keith Secola** and his **Wild Band of Indians**, who's alter-native music combines traditional talking drum rhythms with modern rock, are sure to get your primitive juices flowing.

While modern funk acts like Flagstaff's horn funk explosion, the **Mother Bus**, and Ralo's own female trio **Mantra Truck** will get



Musician / Promoter Ralo

your hips shaking, art Nuevo projects like the performance art of **Vic Masters** and Jennifer Robin's latest band **The Lovelies** will get you scratching your head.

Like most years, dancers, jugglers clowns and fire dancers will dot the festival while craft tables invite you to paint, sculpt and tap into your own creative side.

A full hour of poetry will be featured in the all-ages Spook Hall, where lyricists from around the country are given time to enlighten the crowd with their fierce and humbling verse.

"This guy from **The Funktional Adix**, Andre Gavino, has his own TV poetry show down in Tucson, then there are people like **Sarge Lintecum** who is a Vietnam vet and poet who I try to work with because I like his message and what he's done since what happened to him in Vietnam – he's turned it into poetry," Ralo said.

While old acts like L.A.'s **Big Dumb Love** won't be making it, guitarist turned bass player **Barbara Tanner** returns with the laid back styles of **Chi-Hitch**.

What kind of 'Mind Jam' would it be without stretching the minds of participants? One of the most memorable acts this year comes from veteran (and last year's winner of Artist of the Year) **Slim Golba**. Slim's latest project, the **Overtones**, not only stretch musical boundaries within the reggae genre, but music as a whole.

"**The Overtones** are a band, maybe the only band in America, that plays just intonation music," Ralo said. "He has a book coming out on it. All the instruments have been refretted to this specific measure. They are possibly the only band in the world that is actually in tune. It's really super old

information and he just started pondering it and wanted to see what the difference was if he played that way."

Along with Slim, drummer extraordinaire **Chico Chism** (who won the first ever Mind Jam Lifetime Achievement) will be playing together in their side project **Big Bing Jazz Band**.

With so many brilliant artists that are ready and willing to take in new participants, One Love is beginning on the long track its sister festival began so long ago. But with Jerome as a backdrop, it's a wonder why anyone who follows the local music scene hasn't already booked a hotel room and invited all their friends up for a memorable Valentines vacation.

One Love festival will be held at the Spirit Room and Spook Hall in Jerome, Arizona from 1p.m. to 1a.m February 14. Tickets, lodging information, line ups and directions are available at [www.themindjam.com](http://www.themindjam.com).



Keith Secola