

There's sometimes more gabbing than guitar playing when the ladies of Magnolia Buckskin get together to jam.

"For me, it kills two birds with one stone," says singer and multi-instrumentalist Natasha Platt.

"It's a social and creative outlet for me and I don't get too many outlets like that in my day. It's really nice to hang out with these gals because we laugh and eat cheese and crackers. If anything, that's our drawback. We tend to do a bit more chatting."

Despite the social aspect of the rehearsals, the four women of Magnolia Buckskin are very serious about creating roots music to be proud of.

"I've been in bands with guys and they play one song once and go on to the next one," she says. "When we rehearse, we might spend the entire night playing two songs. But we'll really work it out."

Formed 18 months ago, Magnolia Buckskin has already positioned itself as one of the leading roots country acts in the city.

Band members Platt, Emily Triggs, Kathy Cook and Marti Smith have been part of the local roots music scene for a number of years.

So when Smith called Platt with an idea to form a "bohemian cowgirl" folk group, Platt couldn't say no.

"We ended up in Emily's living room and the voices just blended really nicely and the harmonies were there," she recalls.

"It was so much fun. We got a real kick from it."

Magnolia Buckskin plays tomorrow afternoon at the Ship & Anchor with guests The Ruminants. It's a great chance to check out the band's amazing four-piece harmonies and solid song-writing skills.

"The harmonies come really naturally to us," says Platt. "I often take the low harmony, but we all just seem to know where to go."

"The instrumentation is always the big question mark though because there are several multi-instrumentalists in the band. So it's always like, 'Am I doing the accordion or a banjo or percussion?' It's really fun because you can completely change a song



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depending on the instrumentation and the tempo."

CLOSURE LEFT GAP: When A Bar Named Sue closed last year, it left a big hole in the city's roots, folk and country scenes. Many of the same bands which graced the Sue's stage will pay homage to the venue tomorrow night and Sunday night.

The Marquee Room is hosting *The Sue Is Dead! Long Live The Sue!* roots music weekender, which will feature such acts as Tim Hus and the Rocky Mountain Two, Matt Masters and the Gentlemen of the Rodeo and the Greg

Cockerill Band on Saturday and The United Steel Workers of Montreal, The Agnostic Mountain Gospel Choir and The Ramblin' Ambassadors on Sunday.

Tickets for tomorrow night's show are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door while Sunday's gig is \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.

Tickets can be purchased from The Marquee Room or The Uptown Stage and Screen box office (610 - 8 Ave. S.W.) or visit www.theuptown.com.

FOLK FEST: The Canmore Folk Festival announced its 2009 lineup yesterday and it looks as if it'll be a good one.

Irish Descendants, Harry Manx, Blackie & the Rodeo Kings, Luke Doucet & White Falcon and Carlos del Junco are among the acts confirmed for the festival, which runs Aug. 1-3 at Canmore's Centennial Park.

Tickets go on sale in May.

Visit www.canmorefolkfestival.com for more information.

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The women of 'bohemian cowgirl' group Magnolia Buckskin.