

San Francisco Chronicle

**BANDWIDTH****Paul Manousos**

Delfin Vigil

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"I got hooked on wanting to play the piano at age 5 and went after lessons like most kids beg for the latest and greatest toy," says Paul Manousos, who lives in Alameda. The kid crooner behind the keys always played songs his mom liked -- "Alfie," "Moon River" -- songs with big, soaring melodies. At 15, Manousos joined his first band. His older brother would drive him back and forth to rehearsals. "The girlfriends of the other guys in the band campaigned for me to sing lead. So sing I did." But singing from behind a piano off to the side of the stage was a bit too Billy Joel for Manousos, who added the guitar to his stage presence. He



Bandwidth

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spent much of the '90s with beloved Bay Area band Power13, which released two strong albums, the latter produced by Steve Fisk (of Nirvana, Soundgarden, Screaming Trees fame). Fisk was one of the first to wave Manousos off into solo territory. With his second album due out in the fall, Manousos, at 40, has established his solo musical homerun stroke. "If people who read this think I look familiar, they may have seen me in an eMusic promotion up at Century Theatres playing a song called 'Beautiful Girl,' " explains Manousos. "It's completely surreal when people stop me on the street to ask if I'm the guy who sings the song about the beautiful girl."

[MP3: "Beautiful Girl," Paul Manousos]

Lineup: Manousos, vocals, piano, acoustic guitar, harmonica; Peter Canton, bass; Darrin Fox, electric guitars; Andrew Griffin, drums, percussion.

1. Paul Manousos' music should be filed between:

Bob Dylan, Elvis Costello and you might want to shuffle in a little Otis Redding.

2. The soundtrack to what movie would your music best match?

Yet-to-be-made pop culture paean to romanticism by Quentin Tarantino.

3. If you could collaborate on a song with any person, living or dead, who would that be?

John Lennon.

4. If a junior high school asked you to play a cover song at the next talent show, what

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song and school would you choose?

That would be Pleasanton Elementary in Pleasanton. And I think I would play a really intense version of Bob Dylan's "Masters of War" -- you know, shake things up a bit. Or Shakira's "Underneath Your Clothes."

5. What is the meaning of life?

If I knew that I wouldn't be trying to sell snow cones in Antarctica.

Check them out: [www.paulmanousos.com](http://www.paulmanousos.com); [myspace.com/paulmanousos](http://myspace.com/paulmanousos)

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