

Michelle Shocked bringing dance tunes, 'fonk' to Valley

By Thomas Conner
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*I thought I knew what I was doing
I was wrong
Mistakes I've made and lived to tell
I tell them in a song.*

— *Over the Waterfall*

Michelle Shocked is an American musician.

She takes to the road like an old-time Southern minstrel, toting her musical influences in a handkerchief on the end of a stick over her shoulder. She stops along the road to spin yarns with folk music, blues, bluegrass — sometimes

all three in the same song.

She's a musical melting pot, forging her own stylistic blend she calls "fonk." Her new band melds her east Texas swing roots with a newly discovered groove and maintains Shocked's penchant for being unclassifiable.

"I consider my music to be truly American music," Shocked said. "I think American musicians are selling themselves short if they limit themselves to one genre. If you're American and you're just playing within one

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