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Pavlo will perform a concert of Mediterranean-flavored music at 7:30 p.m. Friday at Saint Mary's University's Page Theatre.

welcome to Pavlo's party

By **Käri Knutson**
Winona Daily News

Going to see guitarist Pavlo play is a bit of a party.

"It's about having a good time," Pavlo said. "We only have a couple hours so we have to make the most of it."

You can hear the audience hoot and holler during his live performances, which he refers to as a two-hour Mediterranean escape. Pavlo brings the party to Saint Mary's University's Page Theatre on Friday.

Pavlo started playing guitar when he was 10, studying classical and Flamenco but playing rock and blues for fun. His parents are both from Greece so he'd often listen to Greek music. The result: his own style of Mediterranean music.

This style hybrid wasn't readily accepted by record labels. He was told he was "too ethnic" but never doubted himself or his music, proudly displaying all his influences.



IF YOU GO

What: Pavlo
When: 7:30 p.m. Friday
Where: Saint Mary's University's Page Theatre
Tickets: \$20 or \$14 for senior citizens and \$12 for students, available at www.pagetheatre.org or at the Performance Center box office, (507) 457-1715.

"Audiences don't really care what you call it," Pavlo said. "They'll either like it or they won't."

Pavlo and his band play more than 150 dates a year, traveling the world. He once played in a

Rush tribute band. (His manager recently scheduled a chance for Pavlo and his band to meet Rush during after a London concert.)

Don't expect to hear "Tom Sawyer" in concert, but you will hear some rock 'n' roll flavor.

"Obviously, we're not spitting out blood like Gene Simmons but we definitely do entertain," Pavlo said.

Sometimes Pavlo goes out into the audience to dance with people. Sometimes he invites a lady or two onstage.

Pavlo firmly believes music is meant to be an expression of multiple influences. His seven recordings have sold more than 500,000 copies. PBS just signed Pavlo to do a concert special that will air in the summer of 2008.

He credits the Internet with helping him find open-minded audiences.

"There are no boundaries for music," Pavlo said. "That's the beautiful thing about it."