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"It seemed that things I was experiencing as a mom — not having a voice in society, being marginalized, exhausted — just sounded like punk rock music to me."

— RACHAEL HUANG

THESE MOMS ROCK



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MERI SIMON — MERCURY NEWS PHOTOGRAPHS

Tiffany Petrossi mixes rock 'n' roll with the life of a mother of two. Her children's artwork hangs on the wall behind her, in the kitchen of their San Jose home.



ROB SHAW — SPECIAL TO MERCURY NEWS

Mom-rockers Joy Rose performs with her band.

Mamapalooza

Friday

Where: Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley

When: 9:30 p.m.

Tickets: \$10

Call: (510) 841-2082

Saturday

Where: Slim's, 333 11th St., San Francisco

When: Noon-4 p.m.

Tickets: \$12; under 12 free

Call: (415) 255-0333

Sunday

Where: Little Fox, 2209 Broadway, Redwood City

When: 7 p.m.

MAMAPALOOZA FEST PUTS SPOTLIGHT ON MUSICAL MOTHERS

By Marian Liu

Mercury News

Tiffany Petrossi is the new Power Mom. Only instead of a suit and heels, she straps on a guitar and writes songs about, well, being a mom.

The San Jose mother of two is one of a small but growing number of women around the country who are using motherhood as a muse to make music, a little-known phenomenon insiders call the Mom-Rock Movement. For these women, inspiration lurks even in life's most mundane moments, leading to such fun tunes as "Eat Your Damn Spaghetti" and "Pee Alone."

"My children," said Petrossi — before being interrupted by her 2-year-old son Liam, who was desperate for an avocado sandwich — "motivate me to go for it."

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Music: Listen to music clips and find online links to the many mothers involved in Mamapalooza at www.mercurynews.com/entertainment

it big because of it. And they have one word for those who might question whether they're more gimmick than genuine: Mamapalooza.

The fledgling music fest designed for mothers has grown from nine performers in New York City three years ago to more than 200 bands performing in eight locations na-

Unlike celebrity singers who seem to rise to fame despite being mothers, mom-rock musicians like Petrossi are hoping to make



Daughter Gabriella, 6, works on homework and son Liam, 2, listens as Petrossi rehearses. Petrossi is performing at this year's Mamapalooza.

week, with performances in San Francisco, Berkeley and Redwood City.

Fueled in part by the urge to shatter stereotypes about motherhood, some bands have given themselves names that embrace the good and bad of all things maternal. There is the Oakland punk rock group Placenta, for-