

STARRY: Events have raised over \$1 million for Sisters schools

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legend’s deep talents, but also the diversity of his influences, making him one of the most compelling and captivating musicians in popular music. Since his self-titled debut in 1986, Lyle Lovett has evolved into one of music’s most vibrant and iconic performers, with four Grammy Awards and the Americana Music Association’s Trailblazer Award to his credit.

Described by the *Los Angeles Times* as “one of rock’s most astute singer-songwriters of the last 40 years,” John Hiatt is a master lyricist and satirical storyteller whose style combines elements of rock, soul, folk, blues and country. His songs have been recorded by artists as diverse as Bob Dylan, Bonnie Raitt, Emmylou Harris, Iggy Pop, Rosanne Cash, Eric Clapton and B.B. King. Nominated for nine Grammy Awards, Hiatt is a member of the prestigious Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Lovett and Hiatt have been touring together periodically since 1989, captivating audiences with their superb songwriting, soulful delivery and inspired storytelling. The intimate, acoustic concert will feature the artists sitting side-by-side alternating songs from their extensive catalogs

while sharing the stories that inspired them. The artists are donating their time in support of the Sisters Schools Foundation as they kick off their 2019 tour with Starry Nights.

Guests are encouraged to arrive early with doors to the Sisters High School Commons opening at 6 p.m. for the pre-party. Guests will enjoy the Student Performer Stage as Sisters High School Americana, Jazz Choir and Jazz Band students shine a light on the exemplary music programs that are a focus in the Sisters School District. Complimentary culinary delights will be offered courtesy of the Sisters High School Culinary Arts Program, Sisters Meat and Smokehouse, Niblick and Greene’s, Nancy Dempsey and Sisters Coffee Company.

A silent auction supporting the Sisters Schools Foundation will feature an array of travel, sports, art and entertainment items. Guests can bid on first-class tickets anywhere Alaska Airlines flies, courtside seats for the Portland Trailblazers, Oregon Duck football tickets, a Breedlove Guitar signed by the artists, a Lake Creek Lodge getaway, Sisters Folk Festival Winter Concert Series season tickets, an Eola Hills Wine Cellars package and an heirloom hand-crafted jewelry box by renowned Sisters artist Laurence Dyer.

The concert begins at 7:30 p.m. with student Masters of Ceremonies Roy Gannon and

Bennett Lewis welcoming the audience before Lovett and Hiatt take the stage.

Since its inception in 1997, Starry Nights events have raised over \$1.3 million in net proceeds for the Sisters Schools Foundation. Starry Nights funds have supported a wide range of programs at Sisters’ elementary, middle, and high schools from art and music to science, technology, foreign language and outdoor school.

Among the past artists who have performed in the series are Vince Gill, Amy Grant, Keb’ Mo’, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Kenny Loggins, Michael McDonald, Karla Bonoff, Kim Carnes, Rodney Crowell, Lee Ann Womack and Christopher Cross. “An Acoustic Evening with Lyle Lovett and John Hiatt” marks the return to Sisters for both artists — Hiatt last appeared at Starry Nights in 2005, and Lovett performed at the event with his Acoustic Group in 2006.

Ray’s Food Place, St. Charles Health System and The Roundhouse Foundation are the Platinum Sponsors for “An Acoustic Evening with Lyle Lovett and John Hiatt.”

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John Hiatt.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Lyle Lovett.

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Commentary...

Dear Mom and Dad: Cool it

By Karissa Niehoff & Peter Weber

Executive Director of the National Federation of State High School Associations Executive Director of the Oregon School Activities Association

If you are the mother or father of a high school athlete here in Oregon, this message is primarily for you.

When you attend an athletic event that involves your son or daughter, cheer to your heart’s content, enjoy the camaraderie that high school sports offer and have fun. But when it comes to verbally criticizing game officials or coaches, cool it.

Make no mistake about it. Your passion is admired, and your support of the hometown team is needed. But so is your self-control. Yelling, screaming and berating the officials humiliates your child, annoys those sitting around you, embarrasses your child’s school and is the primary reason Oregon has an alarming shortage of high school officials.

It’s true. According to a recent survey by the National Association of Sports Officials, more than 75 percent of all high school officials say “adult behavior” is the primary reason they quit. And 80 percent of all young officials hang up their stripes after just two years of whistle-blowing. Why? They don’t

need your abuse.

Plus, there’s a ripple effect. There are more officials over 60 than under 30 in many areas. As older, experienced officials retire, there aren’t enough younger ones to replace them. If there are no officials, there are no games. The shortage of licensed high school officials is severe enough in some areas that athletic events are being postponed or cancelled — especially at the freshman and JV levels.

Research confirms that participation in high school sports and activities instills a sense of pride in school and community, teaches lifelong lessons like the value of teamwork and self-discipline and facilitates the physical and emotional development of those who participate. So, if the games go away because there aren’t enough men and women to officiate them, the loss will be infinitely greater than just an “L” on the scoreboard. It will be putting a dent in your community’s future.

If you would like to be a part of the solution to the shortage of high school officials, you can sign up to become a licensed official at HighSchoolOfficials.com. Otherwise, adult role models at high school athletic events here in Oregon are always welcome.

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