

RON ARTIS II: guitarist-songwriter has relocated to Portland

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“I really want to emphasize the importance of learning and listening to those around you as other artists and musicians,” he said.

Artis did not teach himself these skills and ways to the craft. His father, Ron Artis I, was his teacher and mentor as a musician himself. Artis and his family played in a family band with their father for many years before Artis went out solo. As far as finding his own groove goes, he said it took him a long time.

“I wasn’t a very outgoing kid and it was hard for me to find out who I was musically because I wasn’t super outgoing and it was sort of terrifying to bare myself to the world,” he said.

He expressed the importance of knowing who you are first, and accepting that; otherwise it is just dishonest,

and that will come across in performance.

“It is important as a musician to freely express yourself and not think about the performance, and learning that was an intense journey for me,” said Artis.

Artis always had a strong liking for melodies and the inner workings of music and learning about finding what moves you.

“If a song comes on and I am talking to someone, I get completely lost in the craft of the song, listening to every part and figuring out how they may be doing something with it,” he said.

Artis has always had the dream of working with musicians who perform with instruments in their rawest forms, a string band.

“I am a huge fan of classical instruments in their rawest, most pure form,” he said.

Artis will be bringing a string band to his Sunday performances at the Sisters Folk Festival. The band, Strings of Life, will be adding a classic bass, cello, viola, and two

violins to a set of his songs. Not only will he be bringing two bands with him, his brother Thunderstorm Artis is slotted to perform his own music as well as a few songs with Ron and the Truth.

“Thunderstorm is really gifted, I am super stoked to have him there with us,” said Ron.

Not only will he have this special appearance of the string band — the Sunday of the festival, September 8 is also the release date of his newest album “Love is Love.”

“Those at the festival will be the first ones to get their hands on it,” he said.

The album features songs with the Strings of Life band and all new songs written and performed by Artis. He will be featuring some of these new songs and sounds to his sets at Sisters Folk Festival.

All of the songs off the new record reflect various emotions through the use of various instruments alongside Artis’ soulful dynamic voice. The title track off the

record opens with a sweet interaction with his daughter Ida singing alongside him, with a slow, sweet ukulele tune behind their voices. The album contains a collection of tracks that are personal and real and tell the story of a musician exploring his life. “Love is Love” uses a number of various instrumental patterns and unique combinations of vocals, guitar, strings and horns to create a wholesome album about life, love and loss.

There are also a few songs written for his wife, Julia.

“My goal with those songs is to remind her how special she is and make her blush,” he said.

He famously left the folk festival crowd with a tear in their eye after performing his soulful ballad entitled after her name, “Julia,” and sang it to her while she was standing sidestage. His wife and three daughters, recently having the third, Adria, will be travelling with him to Sisters from Portland.

Ron Artis and the Truth will be performing at the SFF Friday, Saturday and Sunday, September 6-8. For tickets and information visit www.sistersfolkfestival.org. There are a few spots for the song academy; more information can be found at: www.sistersfolkfestival.org/americana-song-academy/.

FURRY FRIENDS: Nonprofit helps Sisters families in need

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“We are in desperate need of a facility for sorting bottles and cans,” Dolson said. “And volunteers to help.”

Dolson said the organization is seeking “Any kind of outbuilding, barn, shop. We would use it 12 months out of the year... It would be nice to be able to sort inside because it’s cold in the winter. It doesn’t have to be a heated space.”

Furry Friends is also in need of ongoing donations in order to maintain services year-round. Demand for services continues to grow, and is particularly valuable to seniors on fixed incomes. Furry Friends was recently able to help a local resident save her beloved dog through crowdfunding for major emergency surgery.



PHOTO PROVIDED

Bottle and can donations are Furry Friends Foundation’s biggest funding source. The nonprofit needs a new place to sort and store materials.

Dolson said the organization is currently tapped-out when it comes to funds for such assistance.

“I would say right now our ability to aid people with emergency veterinary financial care — we’re just about out of money for that for the rest of the year,” she said.

People donate generously during the Furry Friends holiday food drive, but donations tend to fall off over the course of the year, while the need remains acute.

For more information on supporting Furry Friends, visit www.furryfriendsfoundation.org or call 541-797-4023.

“ We are in desperate need of a facility for sorting bottles and cans; and volunteers to help. — Kiki Dolson

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