

Haley Johnsen to play for Sisters at folk event

By Ceili Cornelius
Correspondent

Haley Johnsen, a singer-songwriter from Portland, is one of the featured artists in the Sisters Folk Festival's Close to Home concert event at the Sisters Art Works Building on August 1. The event is sold out, but there is a waitlist available.

Johnsen has performed once before in Sisters at The Open Door and is excited to return.

"Any excuse to go to that area, I am excited for," she said.

Johnsen first heard about the Sisters Folk Festival from Weather Machine founder and Sisters Americana Project standout Slater Smith. Johnsen occasionally lets The Weather Machine band practice and record in her basement in Portland.

"I had been hearing about the Festival for years and would have loved to play it someday, as it is a big thing in our state and I am excited to be a part of this part of it," she said.

Johnsen has been passionate about singing for most of her life. As a shy kid, she never really put herself out there until she got to college. She attended Oregon State University and was a part of the choir and honed in on her ability to sing and perform. At 20, she picked up a guitar and dabbled in songwriting and performed at open mics. Shortly after that, she auditioned for American Idol in 2011 and made it to the top 24.

"After I got kicked off, I returned home to Beaverton and lived at home. I was beat down a bit after that time, but I realized that music is what I needed to do," said Johnsen. "I really tried to make up the lost time of not making music."

She performed locally and wrote over 100 songs. In 2015, she recorded her first EP, and in 2019, released her critically acclaimed full-length album, "Golden Days."

Johnsen's music fits within the roots, folk-pop genre, rooted in the Americana sound.

"I've struggled over the years to fit the music into one genre. They aren't straight up folk songs, more folk-pop," she said.

Growing up, she listened to powerhouse Americana female singer-songwriters including Bonnie Raitt, Grace Potter, Brandi Carlisle, and Eva Cassidy.

"As I've gotten older I can [see] a lot of my vocal style comes from these female musicians, especially

with the rootsy sound," she said.

One of the things music has brought Johnsen is the adventures it's taken her on.

"I've met amazing people through music and have gotten to tour around the world. It doesn't feel like work and I have the ability to create something amazing," she said.

Johnsen has been touring and doing music full time for the past three years. Last year, the craziest year of her career so far, included touring with EDM/Indie pop group Big Wild, playing bass and doing backup vocals. Together, they played a number of festivals, including a sold-out show at Red Rocks in Colorado last year. She was also touring her own work and writing new music at the time.

"My career has not been super linear and I have really tried to embrace every opportunity that comes my way," she said.

During quarantine times, Johnsen has been spending most of her time editing and writing songs and honing in on what her next project is going to be.

"I have been really patient with myself during this time and not putting too much pressure on myself. I am still figuring out the future as an artist," she said.

She has been doing some collaborations with other artists doing vocal tracks and some production work.

"I see myself first and foremost as a singer and I can now use my voice for other artists in other genres," she said.

Johnsen is also a voice teacher and guitar teacher and has been able to continue doing that via Zoom. She started teaching as something to live on her own after

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Sisters will turn into 'Erotic City'

Hardtails Bar & Grill will turn Sisters into "Erotic City" — for an evening — on Saturday, August 1.

The Prince tribute band Erotic City will play on the outdoor courtyard stage starting at 7:30 p.m. in order to allow the bar to comply with new restrictions that require closing at 10 p.m. Advance tickets are available at BendTicket.com and sales are limited to stay within gathering size and physical distancing requirements.

For the last 20 years, Julian Stefoni has been paying tribute to "His Purple Majesty." Being multi-talented, playing guitar, keyboards, singing and dancing/performing, backed by some really funky musicians, Stefoni and Erotic City deliver a high-energy show that features classic Prince songs.

When its time to party like its 1999, Erotic City doesn't hold back — serving up the high heels, the lace pants, the infamous purple coat, and all of the sexiness expected in a Prince show.

Hardtails owner Steve Macey explained how the venue operates to maintain safety and comply



PHOTO PROVIDED

Erotic City pays tribute to the late artist Prince.

with restrictions in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19:

"We have a grid laid out on the grass that allows folks to be six apart from others. And we ask them to wear masks if they want to.

We do require them (masks) inside the bar — yes, even to walk through to the outdoor venue. And if they choose to hit the dance floor, everyone must wear their mask. Our security has been enforcing this, also. They cannot make you wear your mask, but they can remove you from the dance floor without them."

Macey has advocated for compliance with restrictions and protocols to allow Sisters restaurants and bars to stay open.

"We just all need to be smart and wear the masks," he said.

Hardtails Bar & Grill is located at 175 N. Larch St.

SISTERS-AREA Entertainment & Events

- JUL 29 WED** **Black Butte Ranch Live Music with Julie Southwell and Friends** 6 to 8 p.m. Socially distant on the lawn near The Lakeside Bistro. For information call 541-595-1282 or go online to www.blackbutteranch.com.
- JUL 30 THUR** **Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Trivia Night** 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Family-friendly trivia. Socially-distant. Free. For additional information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471.
- JUL 30 THUR** **The Suttle Lodge Thursday on the Deck Summer Wine Series** Seatings every 30 minutes from 1 to 4 p.m. Wine paired with small-plates from the chef. Reservations required at www.thesuttlelodge.com/happenings.
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- JUL 31 FRI** **Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Friday Car Show** 5-6:30 p.m. Bring your cool or vintage car for the free Friday car show. For more information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471.
- AUG 1 SAT** **Hardtails Bar & Grill Live Music with Erotic City** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets online at www.bendticket.com. For more information call 541-549-6114 or go to hardtailsoregon.com.
- AUG 6 THUR** **Paulina Springs Books Virtual Event Books In Common Regional Literary Event Series with Larry Watson** 6:30 p.m. The author will share from his new book "The Lives of Edie Pritchard." For more info call 541-549-0866 or go to BooksInCommonNW.com.
- AUG 6 THUR** **The Suttle Lodge Thursday on the Deck Summer Wine Series** Seatings every 30 minutes from 1 to 4 p.m. Wine paired with small-plates from the chef. Reservations required at www.thesuttlelodge.com/happenings.
- AUG 6 THUR** **Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Trivia Night** 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. Family-friendly trivia. Socially-distant. Free. For additional information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471.
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- AUG 7 FRI** **Food Cart Garden at Eurosports Friday Car Show** 5-6:30 p.m. Bring your cool or vintage car for the free Friday car show. For more information call Eurosports at 541-549-2471.

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