



PHOTO BY JAY MATHER

Sisters Folk Festival will stage a live event September 11-13, configured like the successful August 1 Close to Home concert to conform to Phase 2 "Reopening Oregon" protocols.

MUSIC: Event will follow strict COVID guidelines

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contractors, vendors, and volunteers. There will only be 190 admissions available for each day to the public, and seating will be sold in "pods" for two- or four-person social groups.

Attendees will need to bring their own low festival chairs and/or blankets for seating. Only seating in the back row will accommodate standard height chairs.

"The SFF organization has put a lot of thought into incorporating best practices to keep this gathering as safe as possible during COVID-19," Tisdel noted.

The venue is configured with one way in and one way out. The wearing of masks or face coverings (properly, over the nose and mouth) will be required and enforced when patrons are outside of their reserved, socially distanced seating pods. Concert-goers

will be able to purchase food and beverages and then take them back to their seating area to enjoy. Organizers ask that all attendees comply voluntarily with mask wearing to help keep yourself and others safe. If for any reason that is a hardship, or you anticipate having difficulty complying for any reason, organizers ask that you please stay home and enjoy the concert via live stream.

The venue opens at 4 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, with music taking place from 5 to 10 p.m. On Sunday, check in starts at 11 a.m. with performances scheduled from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. There will be one or two food vendors, on-site beer, wine and cider sales plus bike racks available, sponsored by Blazin Saddles. Attendees are encouraged to bike or walk to the concert if possible.

Tiered pricing for all seating pods will be offered starting Friday, August 28 at 10 a.m. For tickets, artist information, and a complete listing of the lineup, visit www.sistersfolkfestival.org.

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Regional artists featured at concert

The Sisters Folk Festival's Close to Home 2 event will feature artists from the Pacific Northwest and West Coast.

Multi-instrumentalist, Grammy award winning vocalist and songwriter Judith Hill spent the summer and fall of 2019 touring Europe, Canada, and the U.S. with her latest acclaimed studio album "Golden Child," released in November 2018. Hill has already garnered praise for her live performances as opener for the likes of her former collaborator and mentor, Prince, and soul man John Legend, among many others. Hill has been praised by Rolling Stone for her "stellar powerhouse vocals." In addition to penning and performing her own material, she has backed artists such as Stevie Wonder and the late Michael Jackson.

John Craigie, a humorous storyteller and accomplished lyricist, will return to Sisters following up his acclaimed 2020 release "Asterisk the Universe." On his newest release, Craigie awkwardly encounters previous flames, mistakes a Catholic school custodian as a saint (and prays to him anyway), pays tribute to modern-day revolutionaries, and explores what it all means to live in the 21st century, where infinite possibility does not necessarily equate infinite understanding.

Thunderstorm Artis became a household name in 2020 performing on season 18 of "The Voice," earning top three honors and national recognition. Thunderstorm is a singer/songwriter born

on the North Shore of Oahu and learned at a very young age to play piano, guitar, harp and percussion from his father Ron Artis and mother Victoria. Ron was a Motown session player who played keyboards on Michael Jackson's Thriller. His mother Victoria was also a member of the Motown family, touring as a vocalist with Lena Horne, and many other Motown greats.

Thunderstorm's music crosses many genres including folk, rock, soul and country.

AJ Lee and Blue Summit, a bluegrass band led by singer, songwriter, and mandolinist, AJ Lee, has been the darling of the North Bay, California, bluegrass scene since their first appearance in Santa Cruz. Drawing from influences such as swing, folk, blues, jazz, country, soul, and rock, their undeniable talent and insatiable passion for bluegrass hearkens back to traditional classics while remaining uniquely modern.

In 2019, AJ Lee and Blue Summit came out with their debut album, "Like I Used To," which consists entirely of AJ's original songs.

Bluegrass-leaning Americana quartet Kristen Grainger & True North is a powerhouse of award-winning original songs, lush vocals, and crazy-good instrumentalists, Dan Wetzel (guitar), Josh Adkins (bass) and Martin Stevens (fiddle, mandolin, octave mandolin). On stage, the band delivers Grainger's storied songwriting with mind-blowing vocal

harmonies and mad instrument skills of a band deeply rooted in folk and bluegrass genres.

When Caleb Klauder & Reeb Willms sing, their honest incantations leave a swirling cloud of "magical sparkle smoke" around hearts. Caleb Klauder's rowdy and dynamic mandolin playing, and Reeb Willms' unwavering rhythm guitar sound weave a beautiful fabric around their songs that proves joyous, timeless, and resilient. From Waterville, Washington, and the high desert, Reeb comes from a salt-of-the-earth farming family with a rough-and-tumble appreciation of simplicity and he sings with a strong-and-quiet poise that cuts straight to the heart. Caleb comes from Orcas Island, in the Salish Sea in Northwest Washington, where the wind-blown tall trees, and salt sea have burnished Klauder's voice to a heartbreakingly patina.

The two play and tour as a duo, and can also be found performing with the Foghorn Stringband and the Caleb Klauder Country Band. They are pillars of the Portland, Oregon music scene and carry the torch of their music around the world.

The Parnells are an Americana/Country band from Bend, bringing a sexy, indie flare to the classic country sound. Powerful vocals, tight harmonies and solid guitar playing drive their rootsy sound. The Parnells will be performing as an acoustic duo, with Corey and Whitney Parnell.

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