

A Tribute to Sisters Folk Festival

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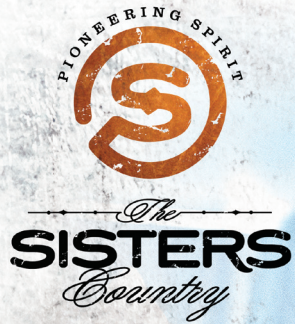


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A word from Sisters Folk Festival Executive Director Crista Munro...

“Resilience”

It's only September, but if I had to choose a Word of the Year for 2020, it would be “Resilience.” How could it be anything else? *Webster's Dictionary* defines resilience as “an ability to recover from or adjust easily to misfortune or change,” and change we've had in spades this year.

It would be all too easy to completely write off 2020 and the upheaval it has brought into our lives. But life is full of contradictions, and our current tribulations — while tragic — have also served a positive purpose by bringing the things that are the most important to us into wicked-sharp focus.

Before March of 2020, could any of us have imagined a spring without concerts or a summer without festivals? I know I couldn't. But as the world learned more about COVID-19, including how it spreads and the havoc it can wreak on the human body, we sat and watched in utter shock as the plug was pulled one by one on so many of the things that bring us together in celebration of our shared humanity: sporting events; graduation and wedding ceremonies; live theater; and concerts of all sizes. These things we once took for granted became distant, fond memories seemingly overnight, even as we found ourselves needing them more than ever before to help ease our feelings of isolation.

It's been six months since the effects of COVID-19 began to be felt on our collective psyche, and, as humans will, we find ourselves venturing out of our shelters a little more in search of safe and innovative ways to experience these events that are so important, once again. We are looking for ways to feel connected to one another in real life and real time, and not just through the miracles of modern technology.

With that in mind, the Sisters Folk

Festival staff and board are thrilled to present Close To Home 2, with four daily sets of live music from eight performers and groups from around our state and region at the Sisters Art Works outdoor venue Friday-Sunday, September 11-13.

Sisters Folk Festival has been building a strong community through powerful shared experiences since 1995. This weekend would have been our 24th annual folk festival, but — like every other large gathering in Oregon — the event was postponed to 2021. Instead, this weekend we are bringing fewer artists and audience members together in our own backyard for a physically-distanced “mini-festival” that follows all of the protocols recommended by the Oregon Health Authority and Center for Disease Control. Each day's attendance will be strictly capped at 250 people, including all event personnel and audience members. You won't see people greeting their festival family with big bear hugs like they do in “normal” years. But inside the seating pods, there will be lots of toe-tapping and plenty of ear-to-ear grins in response to the sheer joy of being in the presence of live music after such an unimaginably long hiatus.

We thank you for your continued support as the Sisters Folk Festival organization learns how to navigate as safely as possible in this new COVID reality, bringing audiences together to see, hear and *feel* the power of live music. We are reimagining what a live concert can be during this time, and finding ways to capture the energy of a live audience while broadcasting these performances to the world via the power of the Internet.

We are evolving.
We are surviving.
We are resilient.