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Encore! Georgia Sea Singers bring songs, traditions to EMU shows

By Sing Chan
Emerald Contributor

An evening of African American songs, dances, games and stories performed by the Georgia Sea Island Singers, Frankie and Doug Quimby, will be presented at Erb Memorial Union Feb. 17 at 8 p.m.

The concert will help celebrate Black History Month by showing the ethnic diversity of Black American culture, said Pearl Wolfe, co-coordinator of the Cultural Forum's Heritage Music Program.

"Part of fighting racism is learning about others. It's important that people experience other cultures," Wolfe said.

The Georgia Sea Island Singers not only entertain but also educate people about the heritage and the traditions of the Georgia Sea Islands. An integral part of their performance is audience participation, which makes for an exciting show Wolfe said.

Frankie Quimby was raised on the Georgia Sea Islands, located off of the coast of Georgia, where African slaves retained much of their culture because they were separated from mainland influences. The slaves on the Georgia Sea Islands also received better treatment than slaves elsewhere because whipping was banned and because slave owners left the rice plantations during the summer for fear of malaria.

Frankie Quimby traces her ancestry to the town of Kianah in the Kingdom of Massina, which is in present day Nigeria. Her ancestors, members of the Foulah tribe, were shipped to the Hopeton and Atlanta plantations of Georgia.

Doug Quimby, Frankie's husband, is the son of Georgia sharecroppers who sometimes earned less than \$10 a year during the 1950s. His family moved to the Georgia coast to avoid the sharecropping system.

Together Frankie and Doug Quimby celebrate the

courage and tenacity of their ancestors through music, games and folklore. Because direct protest was prohibited, slaves originated many of the games and songs to indirectly protest their treatment by the white slave owners.

In the slave dance Jump For Joy, dancers slide their hands across their knees to give the impression of crossing their legs, something slaves were not allowed to do. By performing the dance, slaves outwitted their owners and vented some of their anger. The Charleston, a dance popular during the 1920s, is a modified version of Jump For Joy.

The chant "Hambone" tells how slaves were given the bones of slaughtered hogs to be shared throughout the slave quarters while white families ate the choice parts. Doug Quimby personalizes the performance by beating out "Hambone" with his hands, creating a wide variety of sounds and rhythms by slapping his hands against his chest, thighs and mouth. Being able to use one's own body as a musical instrument was an important skill because slaves did not have access to real instruments.

"Pay Me My Money Down" was a song first sung by emancipated black dockworkers who were often cheated out of their wages by whites. Its lyrics show how blacks were forced to submit to unfair treatment even after emancipation. The song is sung in Gullah, a mixture of English and African dialects.

Many of the songs contained hidden messages from slaves to their masters. Lyrics such as "I'm gonna build a stone fence," showed desire to keep out slave owners. Using slang terms, such as "alleycat" for slave owners, was also popular. Such songs show how humor was important in dealing with the oppression of slavery.

Although slavery is a part of history many whites and Blacks would rather forget. Frankie Quimby maintains that knowing one's past is essential. She emphasizes she is not advocating slavery but feels



Frankie and Doug Quimby are the Georgia Sea Island Singers who will perform in the EMU Fir Room Feb. 17.

that it is important, especially for young people, to be familiar with this part of black history.

Frankie and Doug Quimby have been performing together since 1969 and have traveled throughout the United States, Mexico and Canada. Renowned for their ability to relate a painful part of American history in an informative and entertaining manner, the Georgia Sea Island Singers have been invited to Car-

negie Hall, the White House and the Smithsonian.

Tickets are available at the Erb Memorial Union Main Desk and Balladeer Music at \$4.50 for University students and \$7 for the general public. A children's concert is also scheduled at 2 p.m. on Feb. 17 in the EMU Fir Room. Tickets for the children's concert are \$2 for University students and \$4 for the general public.

Hult Center revue of female impersonators to benefit Shanti project



Uncle Chester will perform at the WOW Hall tonight at 9. Admission is \$5.

SONG & DANCE

Friday, Feb. 9
A Toast To Eugene, a revue of female impersonators from across Oregon, will perform a benefit for Shanti in Oregon, Inc., at the Hult Center Sorensen Theater tonight at 8. Tickets are \$8.50 at Hult Center ticket outlets.
Grand Piano Series recital by Barry Hannigan will be at Beall Concert Hall tonight at 8. Tickets are available at the door and are priced at \$6.50 for the general public and \$3.50 for students and seniors.
Uncle Chester will be at the WOW Hall.

Calendar

291 W. Eighth Ave., at 9 p.m. Admission is \$5.

Saturday, Feb. 10
Transister will play at the WOW Hall at 9:30 p.m. Admission is \$5.

Sunday, Feb. 11
Oregon Baroque Ensemble will be at the Central Lutheran Church on the corner of 18th Avenue and Potter Street at 4 p.m. Tickets, available at Eugene Hilton, EMU Main Desk, Record Garden, Balladeer, Cat's Meow and House of Records, are \$7 in advance and \$8 on the day of the show.

Monday, Feb. 12
Faculty Artist Series recital by Robert Hladky on the cello and Barbara Palmer on the piano will begin at 8 tonight in Beall Concert Hall. Tickets, available at the door, are \$4 for general admission and \$2 for students and seniors.

Tuesday, Feb. 13
China Steam Song will be performed by the Phi Beta Fraternity for the Creative and Performing Arts in Beall Concert Hall tonight at 8. Tickets are \$4 for general admission and \$2 for students and seniors.

Salvatore Martirano will give a performance lecture in Room 186 of the music school. Tickets, available at the door, are \$4 for general admission and \$2 for students.

Wednesday, Feb. 14
Romance and Jazz Valentine's Day Celebration with Coco Van and Affinity will be at the WOW Hall tonight from 8. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 on day of the show.

All-day Horn Workshop will be at the Alumni Lounge of Gerlinger Hall, 1468 University St., from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. today. Featured artists will be Philip Farkas and David Wakefield, with University professor Edward Kammerer organizing. Admission is \$3. For more information, call Kammerer at 346-3776.

Thursday, Feb. 15
Zero will perform at the Eugene Hilton Hotel's Playwrights Hall at 9 p.m. tonight. Tickets, available at Eugene Hilton, EMU Main Desk, Record Garden, Balladeer, Cat's Meow and House of Records, are \$7 in advance and \$8 on the day of the show.

Jamie Anderson will perform at the EMU Ben Linder Room tonight at 8. Tickets for the ASUO Women's Task Force and Kallio Productions show are available at the EMU Main Desk. Mother Kali's and Hungry Head Books.

Eugene Symphony Orchestra will perform Mozart's Horn Concerto No. Four in the Hult Center Silva Concert Hall tonight at 8. Tickets for the show are \$8 to \$20, with discounts available for students and seniors.

VISUAL ARTS

Art Exhibit in Gallery 141 will feature the works of Andrew Cook, Doug Comstock, Mara Thygeson and Debbie Gillian, four University fine arts students. The exhibit will run from Feb. 12 to Feb. 16, a public reception will be held on the opening day from 7 to 9 p.m. for the artists in the gallery, located in Lawrence Hall.

Paul and Kay Buckner will display their sculptures and drawings at the University's EMU Gallery from Feb. 5 to 23. A reception will be held for the two local artists from 7 to 9 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 5. The event is free and open to the public.

Charter of Power Granted by Liberty: The Framing of the United States Constitution is the title of an exhibit of 13 panels of text and illustrations at the Lane County Historical Museum, 740 W. 13th Ave. The exhibit will last through Feb. 25. Admission to the museum is \$1 for adults, 75 cents for seniors and 50 cents for those under 18.

The Golf Course as Landscape Art is the title of a landscape photography exhibit by New York artist John Yang at the University Museum of Art. The exhibit will

run through March 11. It will be on display in Gallery 1A of the Museum.

Jack Wilkinson: Artist, Philosopher, 1913-1974 is the title of an exhibit of paintings by the artist in the University Museum of Art's Galleries 1C and 1D. The work will be on display through March 4.

MISCELLANEOUS

Second Annual Eugene Record Show will be at the Eugene Hilton Hotel, 66 E. Sixth Ave., from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 11. Admission is \$1.

Jane Lidz, a San Francisco based architectural photographer, will present a slide illustrated lecture at Room 177, Lawrence Hall, at 8 p.m. on Feb. 15. Admission is free.

David LaPlantz, jeweler and metalsmith, will present a slide lecture and workshop at the University Jewelry Studio on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 9 and 10. Small material fees will be charged.

Drawn From The Fire is a public speaking tour and exhibition of drawings by Canadian artist and poet Heather Spears. Spears recently returned from a visit to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and will discuss her experiences there. The event will be held in the EMU Fir Room at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11.

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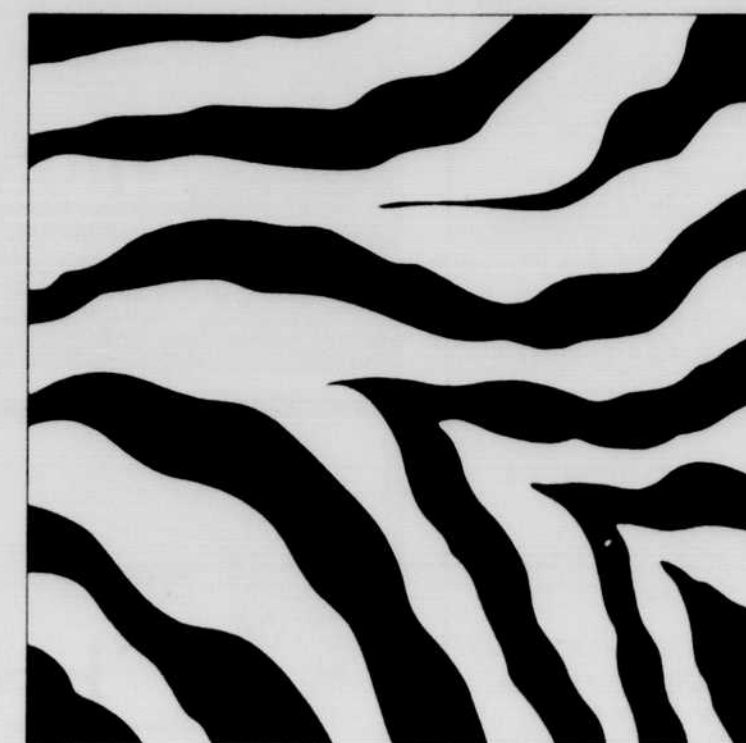
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