

Bringing the music to you

Churchill concert streams live Jan. 29

By Lisa Britton

BAKER CITY — Lauren Napier's life changed last March when suddenly she had no venues to play.

"Pre-pandemic, I'm a touring musician," she said. "I've gotten very familiar with my four walls in Tacoma."

But this week she will again hit the road, along with Vic Ruggiero, to livestream a concert from Churchill School on Friday, Nov. 29.

The music starts at 7 p.m. Here is the live link: https://youtu.be/L_7D2k5uGMY

This is the school's second live-streamed music event this month. Churchill owners Brian and Corrine Vegter hail it as the "In Your House Parties" series with the motto of "bringing the party to your house until it's safe to party at our house again."

Donations are appreciated to make the concert happen: <https://venmo.com/punkrockdoll13>

Napier and Ruggiero met in Berlin, Germany, about three years ago.

Never having roots in one place, Napier has tailored her interests to suit her ever-changing address including writer, singer, cellist, model and publicist.

Ruggiero grew up in New York. He's been a touring musician since the 1990s.

Their backgrounds differ — his of blues and Americana, hers of classical music and cello. He likes "bar gigs" and she prefers small,

quieter venues.

When they first toured together, each would play solo as part of their larger show. But audience requests finally brought them on stage together.

"People kept asking 'where's the duet?'" Ruggiero said.

They first joined to sing songs by Dean Martin, then and Patsy Cline.

"It's worked better than I expected," he said, a smile evident through his Bronx accent. "We harmonize pretty good, I gotta say."

Then they started writing songs together.

Their musical life is a bit of a balancing act — she introduced him to camping between gigs ("I was scared of the dark," Ruggiero said), and he can play whether the audience is listening close or visiting with each other instead (she prefers a more attentive audience).

"That's the beauty of it — balance is important," she said.

As for the music, she's missed the connection of a live audience. Livestreaming is just not the same (whereas Ruggiero likes livestream, especially reading comments from the listeners as he plays).

But it does still help her connect.

"The only reason I continue to do them is people writing to tell me 'thank you,'" Napier said.

She's always, she said, sought to bring a softer side of the world with her music.

"My mother's constantly reminding me that I can't fight the ugly. But I can do my part," she said.



Contributed photo

Vic Ruggiero and Lauren Napier will live stream a concert from Churchill School on Jan. 29.

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