

Local band transcends traditional music

By Isaac Soper
Arts & Culture Editor

Orchestral: Of or relating to an orchestra.

Indie: Not belonging to or affiliated with a major record company.

Folk: Of or originating among the common people.

Rock: The solid mineral material forming part of the surface of the earth and other planets.

Formed around members Kim DeLacy (guitarist and lead singer/songwriter), part-time guitar instructor at Clackamas Community College, Allie Johnson (cello, mandolin, bass guitar, backup vocals) and Drew McKenna (drums), "The Petite Beat" is a small band that is going to be big news within this coming year.

The three members of the band sat in one of the practice rooms in Niemeyer Center. They were going to be working on their upcoming EP in one of the recording studios.

"Kim and I knew each other in Sedona, Arizona," said Johnson, who was running a coffee shop, Random Acts of Coffee, at the time. DeLacy used to come in and play music fairly often.

Both Johnson and DeLacy moved to Portland to pursue other projects, unbeknownst to one another. After the transition, the two connected once again.

"We totally met up, and we've been friends [since]. We started playing music, went through tons of band names, landed on 'The Petite Beat.' We bought the dot com, so it's going to last at least a year," said DeLacy.

DeLacy came into contact with McKenna through a short employment as a server at a now-closed, "crappy" restaurant.

"We met, I worked there for maybe a month, quit, but I found out Drew played drums, and I said, 'we should hang out.' I think that's why I was meant to work there for a month, was to meet Drew."

McKenna sits relatively still, smiling and laughing while the three members reminisce over the past year as a band.

"I've had drummers leave in the middle of tours and stuff, because they've met a girl. [McKenna] seems a little more steady," said DeLacy, to which McKenna laughs aloud.

Though DeLacy has had more experience with songwriting, releasing two full-length albums in the past, the plan is to write more songs together in the near future.

"Kim's a really good songwriter; it's nice starting a band [while] having a base to build off of, and that's what kind of happened," said Johnson.

Aside from being the guitarist and lead vocalist for the band, DeLacy has had many years of experience playing other instruments.

"I was a percussionist for 13 years," said DeLacy.

She mentioned that McKenna is good at playing the opposite of what she hears the beat being for certain songs, preferring to tweak the beat and break the norm. DeLacy joked that he will sometimes use a doo-wop beat with a salsa song.

"I don't pick on the cello, because I can't play the cello," said DeLacy. "I don't even know the terms."

DeLacy imitates her band mate's cello.

"Add a little more finger-waggle, make it a little more wwwwomm," she said jokingly.

The recording session that the band worked on after the interview was for the first CD release that the band will have done together.

"Separately we've recorded some stuff, Kim especially," said Johnson.

DeLacy mentioned that she wants to cover one of Johnson's old songs, from a band she was in years ago, called "She Did It."

"We've never done anything together, so this is the first time, and Clackamas really provided a space to do that for free, and for



Allie Johnson (cello, mandolin, bass guitar, backup vocals), Kim DeLacy (guitarist, lead singer/songwriter), and Drew McKenna (drums), members of The Petite Beat, doing the robot.

Isaac Soper The Clackamas Print

me to get credit for it. It's like a win-win-win situation," said DeLacy.

According to the band, it's been a fantastic learning experience, and many people have assisted them throughout the process. Andy Nagatori, a student who graduated CCC, has been instrumental in helping the band produce their album.

"My goal is to get it done by the summer, like June or July, so we can have a summer tour and sell a bunch of CDs," said DeLacy.

"The Petite Beat" considers themselves to be "orchestral indie folk rock." Johnson doubts that they are really orchestral, while DeLacy explains that venues will book more shows because it sounds different.

"There are strings, so technically it is orchestral," said McKenna.

Thus far, the trio has been together for a little less than a year, and they have only played a few shows under their new moniker.

"The beginning of summer is when I first really started play-

ing with ['The Petite Beat']," said McKenna.

The band has performed at the Someday Lounge and at Mississippi Pizza.

They were all particularly fond of the Someday Lounge, which they said was "super professional." The venue included miked drums and a green room for the band to relax in prior to and after playing.

"Abe the sound guy, big shout out to him," said DeLacy.

If you are interested in listening to their music, DeLacy, who works in the music office Tuesdays

through Thursdays all day, will have some free CDs to hand out. She also teaches Guitar I.

Johnson recently finished her Associate of Arts at Portland Community College, and will be heading to Portland State University in spring to study organismal biology. McKenna is going back to school this spring at PCC.

As for the future of "The Petite Beat," McKenna speaks words that ring true to many: "I can't speak the future, but I'm here to roll with it."

Catch "The Petite Beat"

When: Friday March 9 @ 9 p.m.

Who: All ages welcome

Cost: \$4

Check them out at:
thepetitebeat.com or www.facebook.com/thepetitebeat

Where: Mississippi Pizza
3552 N Mississippi Ave
Portland



Brad Heinke The Clackamas Print

Kay Simms works on the skeleton of the new sculpture being built for Clackamas Community College.

New sculpture to be displayed at Clackamas

By Chris Taylor
The Clackamas Print

Sparks fly as steel is welded, ground and turned into a new masterpiece of both ingenuity and creativity. A new steel sculpture is being built for Clackamas Community College, and though it's not completed, it shows a lot of promise.

A joint venture between the art and welding departments, the new sculpture is a big undertaking, including a good number of man hours, coordination between participants and departments and planning. The project is the brain child of Thomas Wasson, digital media arts instructor at Clackamas. He drew the blueprints, is the artistic leader of the project and coordinates with the welding department.

The structure will be located in the quad area on campus near

the Community Center. The inner "skeleton" of the sculpture itself is made up of flat bar steel beams, welded together with dual shield wire, resembling an unfinished New York skyscraper. The outside will be plated with aluminum, and eventually look like steel trees, each 10-12 feet tall.

The group developing the sculpture is a mix of CCC students and staff. Wasson, the visionary, is helped by CCC student Clark Pierce, who has 15 years of experience in the field, and is taking classes at Clackamas to improve his work. "I love welding. It's just really great. I get excited whenever I get to weld. I love my job," he said.

Pierce was initially on another project, building a new bumper for a local police car, but soon joined on for this project due to his years of experience. Pierce is one of the faces attached to

the forefront of the project, but there also some behind the scenes people working with Wasson, including Susan Caldera, welding instructor and faculty adviser at Clackamas.

Caldera was one of the first people approached by Wasson with the idea for the new sculpture. Caldera liked the idea, and she really loves getting involved with work in the local community. "The CCC AWS [American Welding Society] Student Chapter is happy to take on community projects for several reasons," said Caldera. This project was a great opportunity to bring the art and welding departments together and gives students a chance to create a project for their peers and local community to admire. Construction is behind schedule, but they're working hard to finish up and hopefully have it out before the beginning of next term.