

Students Learn from Music Legends

Chinook Winds is kicking off a series of performances called "An Evening with the Legends of Music" starting in March 2008. The series will showcase some of music's legendary performers.

Sonny Turner will open the series in March and is followed in the fall by Paul Williams. In 2009, Lynn Anderson and Mel Brown will wow the audience with their unique musical knowledge.

The first public performance will be March 15 with ticket prices between \$20 and \$30. Only 1,300 seats are available for this once-in-a-lifetime event.

"An Evening with the Legends of Music – Meet Sonny Turner" on March 15, 2008, is the first in what will become a quarterly event with legendary musical artists of various talents.

Each artist listed above will spend time instructing local area students in the intricacies of performing. Each of the artists taking part in this endeavor has his or her own specialty, so students with differing interests can be scheduled for a concert that relates to the field that holds their interest.

It's the hope of Chinook Winds that the educational venue will help aspiring young artists achieve their future goals. Because the performance is limited to 200 students plus 100 chaperones/parents countywide, only those students from grades 7 through 12 who show promise and have a genuine interest in becoming a vocalist are invited to sign up.

Sonny Turner

In late 1959, Sonny Turner replaced Tony Williams as the lead singer of the original Platters. Chosen out of 100 singers who auditioned, Turner at the young age of 19 toured the world with The Platters, bringing their music to people of all nations.

Turner brought the group back to the pop charts in the 1960s with such hits as *I Love You 1000 Times*, *With This Ring* and *Washed Ashore*, as well as re-recording major Platters hits like *Only You*, *The Great Pretender* and *The Magic Touch*.

You can hear Turner's voice in various movies, such as *The Nutty Professor II* starring Eddie Murphy, *Hearts in Atlantis* starring Anthony Hopkins and *Prince of the City* starring Robert De Niro.

Turner remained with The Platters from late 1959 until 1970 when he left to pursue a solo career. In 2005, Turner received The Lifetime Excellence in Entertainment Award in Las Vegas, where he currently resides. He also was inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame for his achievements with The Platters.

Paul Williams

Paul Williams is a singer, songwriter, actor and so much more. He is an Oscar-, Grammy- and Golden Globe-winning performer who is recognized as one of America's most prolific and gifted lyricists and composers.



Sonny Turner

His music has been performed by such musical icons as Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra, Barbra Streisand, Ella Fitzgerald, Ray Charles, Garth Brooks and others. One of his favorite hit songs is *The Rainbow Connection* from the children's classic *The Muppet Movie*.

Not only is his musical work legendary, many people will remember him as a recurring favorite on Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show* or for playing Little Enos in the *Smokey and the Bandit* trilogy.

Williams not only will interact with the students during his Friday session with them, but plans to write a song with the students to be performed that same evening.

Lynn Anderson

Lynn Anderson's country music sound can best be remembered from her signature song, *I Never Promised You a Rose Garden*. That hit song topped the country and pop charts around the world in 1970, becoming one of the biggest-selling records in country music history.

In 1971, she won a Grammy Award for Best Female Country Vocal Performance. In 1974, Anderson became the first female country performer to win an American Music Award for Favorite Female Vocalist.

She also was the first female country star to do *The Tonight Show* circuit, as well as the first to headline and sell out Madison Square Garden. Other well-known hits include *Rocky Top*, *Top of the World* and *You're My Man*.

Along with Anderson, internationally acclaimed songwriter Mentor Williams will teach the students about working as a songwriter. Williams' songs have been performed by artists such as Rod Stewart, George Jones, Michael Bolton, Alabama, the Rolling Stones and more.

In this session, students will learn from both the singer's and songwriter's areas of expertise.

Mel Brown

Mel Brown's credits attest to his ability. Noted for his work with The

Supremes, The Temptations, Diana Ross, Martha and The Vandellas, and numerous jazz musicians, Brown has firmly established himself as one of America's foremost drummers.

It's almost hard to believe that someone of his stature grew up in Portland. He even played with The Beatles as the drummer on their release of *My Sweet Lord*.

Brown toured with Diana Ross from 1979 to 1990. It was with Ross that Brown gave his most memorable concert when they played at the Royal Albert Hall and the Queen of England came to hear them.

All Legend Series performers will be accompanied by the American Metropole Orchestra under the direction of Dr. Keller Coker. This orchestra is modeled after the first such orchestra formed in Amsterdam and is the only one of its kind in the United States.

It's not a symphony, not a jazz band, and not a brass band, but a combination of all three with some pop thrown in the mix. The resulting sound is amazing.

Students and the public will enjoy the experience of this one-of-a-kind series and learn a great deal in the process. To have your student included, contact Teresa Simmons, community relations manager, at 541-996-5815 or e-mail teresas@chinookwindsgaming.com for more information.

Come and enjoy the first in the series, *An Evening with Sonny Turner & Orchestra*, in concert on March 15. Ticket prices range from \$20 to \$30.

Senior Slots

Chinook Winds thanks seniors for playing with a free "Young at Heart" monthly slot tournament on the first Tuesday of every month. Winner's Circle members age 55 and up are invited to win a share of \$2,400 in cash prizes.

Sign-up begins at 9 a.m. for Session 1. The consolation finals round is at 12:30 p.m. and the winners' final round is at 12:45 p.m.

Sign-up begins at 1 p.m. for Session 2. The consolation finals round is at 4:30 p.m. and the winners' final round at 4:45 p.m. Seniors can play in only one session per month.

Rounds take place every 15 minutes beginning at 9:30. Entry is on a first-come, first-play basis. Tournament is limited to the first 144 participants.



Happy Birthday, Auntie Laura. We love ya.

Crameron and Tatoes

Happy Birthday, Laura, another year wiser let's say. Thanks for the last year of all your help with the kids when I hurt my knee (no I didn't do it playing the Wii).

Love ya, friend – Selina



Happy Birthday to my mom, Michelle Kessinger. Whoa, big 40! I love you, Mom! Let's celebrate ... How about shopping? =) Also a big Happy 13th Birthday to my brother, Troy Jr., on March 18. Uh-oh! Watch out, Mom and Dad, he's a teen-ager now. Keep up the good work, bro, in school and basketball.

Love you 2 very much, the 1 and Only Tasha

March 5, 1988, Troy and Michelle Kessinger – Happy Anniversary – 20 years. Wow! We love you and thank you for being there for us.

Love, Dad and Mom

March 11, Nicholle Kessinger – Happy Birthday, big "25" and congratulations on your engagement. You're a lucky guy, Mike.

Love ya, Grampa and Grama

March 26, Randy and Barbara Kessinger – Happy Anniversary. You're getting close to the big 30 minus 1. Have a good one.

Love, Dad and Mom

Feb. 8, 2007, Shatana Beggs – Baby girl, we want to wish you a Happy Birthday, but someone was missing. The family knew Grama Wanda was looking down from heaven and smiling and seeing you walking and saying that's my "Honey."

Love, Aunt and Uncle

March 11 – Our daughter-in-law is into the 40s now – whew! Anyway, Michelle Kessinger, we love you and keep those custard pies a-coming (Mom and Dad's favorite).

Love you, Dad and Mom

March 18, Grandson Troy Kessinger Jr. – We wish you a big Happy 13. Wow, in the teens now. We love watching you play basketball. You're the greatest. Love you, Grampa and Grama K

Happy Birthday on March 12 to Auntie Elaine. We love ya lots.

Selina and kids

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