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performance BY ARIA SELIGMANN



Carnaval Brasil! will benefit children in Brazil and Tanzania.

Helping Kids

Two musical events help kids from Eugene to Tanzania.

The Laura Kemp Band reunites this Saturday at Sam Bond's to kick off the Monthly Benefit for Friends of KRVM series. After the Jan. 31 performance, the Sam Bond's concerts will be held the first Sunday of each month beginning in March.

Friends of KRVM is a nonprofit support organization for KRVM 91.9 FM founded last spring after 4-J slashed funding — \$70,000 — for its student-operated public radio station. The station is much loved for its eclectic music, community news announcements and the opportunity it allows students who may not fit in anywhere else to have a voice on the air, or gain technical experience working in the station.

Faced with demise, the station sent out an SOS to its listeners, which resulted in a fund-raising drive that brought in \$75,000 last spring and \$60,000 in fall.

The station was formerly eligible to receive Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) grants, because it employed at least five people. But the 4-J cuts slashed jobs, meaning after this year, it will not be eligible for those funds. Meanwhile, however, CPB generously allowed the station \$79,000 to last through this budget year, which ends July 1.

In July, 4-J, which pays the bills throughout the year, will bill KRVM for its expenses, and KRVM hopes to meet them, with its fund-raising and CPB funds.

But if funds fall short, there's still hope. KRVM Development Director Bobbie Cirel says the Friends of KRVM funds will be used to "fill in the gaps when that bill comes in."

Friends of KRVM Board President Roka Walsh is involved with the efforts to save the station not just to support public radio, but also because the station helps so many kids. "To be at the station in fall and to see kids come out after spending their first time in the studio on air, so pumped, their confidence just skyrockets," she says.

Cirel adds, "Any time you help kids feel good about themselves in a genuine way, you're helping the future."

Other musical acts in the benefit series include John Shipe and Friends in March and Anne Weiss in April. For more information, see www.friendsofkrvm.org. Donations are also accepted at the KRVM station on an ongoing basis.

Also on Saturday night, over at the EMU, you can catch the second annual Carnaval Brasil!, featuring Samba Já, Edson Oliveira's Sun Bossa, Brazilian dancers, gigantic human puppets, a capoeira demonstration (a unique Afro-Brazilian mixture of martial arts, dance, self-defense, music and gymnastics), costumes and masks, and more.

The event is a fund-raiser for Students Helping Street Kids International (SHSKI), the Eugene-based nonprofit organization that brings global education and community service together in an academic program for street kids in Brazil and Tanzania.

SHSKI was founded in 1997 by Bob Crites, a former Peace Corps worker in Brazil. The organization matches American students in schools from the elementary through the university level, with a child in Brazil or Tanzania who is living in extreme poverty. Through student donations and fund-raising, money is sent to an adopted child and used for tuition, books and school uniforms.

'Any time you help kids feel good about themselves in a genuine way, you're helping the future.'

BOBBIE CIREL, KRVM

Andrea Callahan, deputy director of SHSKI, says, "Helping a specific child who lives in a world so different from our own fosters cross-cultural exchange, social awareness, and community service. It also fosters a sense of altruism and kindness."

The students in the other countries are chosen by local leaders, who look for children who "shine," says Callahan. "They demonstrate strong characteristics of intelligence, self-discipline, and the desire to learn and succeed. They show a drive to make something different of their lives." For more information on SHSKI, call 686-1396.

See Calendar for specific times and varying ticket prices. **ew**