

# North Coast Symphonic Band celebrates the Age of Aquarius

ASTORIA — Feeling groovy? Conductor Dave Becker and the North Coast Symphonic Band will present “Age of Aquarius,” an afternoon of peace, love, harmony and understanding. The concert will feature nostalgic tunes from the 1960s and early 1970s at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22 at the Liberty Theater.

The Basin Street NW duo — former rocker David Drury on guitar and Todd Pederson on bass — will perform a pre-show concert at 1:30 p.m., and guests Andy and Rachel Becker of Portland will provide vocals. NCSB encourages its audience to wear their favorite tie-dye and flowers in their hair, if they like.

The Age of Aquarius in popular culture refers to the heyday of the hippie movement in the late '60s and early '70s. The 1967 rock musical “Hair,” with its opening song and memorable line, “This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius,” marked a movement seen as a harbinger of a changeover of values and a time of social upheaval that was reflected in the music of the day. Many members of the band and audience alike are baby boomers for whom this music remains special. Younger audience members may also enjoy the classic repertoire of the era.

“We’ll include some great pop hits of the period but also look at how social changes and challenging or questioning the status quo brought interesting changes to all types of music,” says Becker. “We’ll have pieces reflecting peace, war, love and the infusion of rock ‘n’ roll into the mainstream pop music and musical theater.”

Pre-show performers Drury and Pederson, having backgrounds playing rock, blues, funk, and psychedelic rock, will blend these styles with their customary jazz sounds to set the mood for the concert, and plan to include music of the Beatles tunes. The NCSB will perform selections by the Mamas and the Papas, Simon and Garfunkel, and “MacArthur Park” by Jimmy Webb. Classic concert band

pieces include “Mars” from “The Planets” by Gustav Holst, “The Entertainer” by Scott Joplin, and “To Rejoice in the Beauty of Peace” by Alfred Reed.

Vocal soloists Andy and Rachel Becker met in a musical theater class at Portland State University and have performed together for 12 years. Their vocal skills will add a special flair to the afternoon of mostly instrumental music. Andy Becker will perform “Gethsemane” from the musical “Jesus Christ Superstar,” especially arranged for him by NCSB arranger David Robertson of Rockaway Beach. The Beckers will perform a tune from “Spamalot,” the musical comedy based on the 1975 film “Monty Python and the Holy Grail.” The

## Age of Aquarius

2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22

1:30 p.m. pre-show

Liberty Theater

1203 Commercial St., Astoria

503-325-2431

\$15 adults

\$7 students

couple will also lead a sing-along of “California Dreamin’” and “Monday, Monday.”

Tickets for the concert are \$15 for adults and \$7 for students and are available at the Liberty Theater box office, located at 1203 Commercial St. from 2 to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and two hours before the performance, or call 503-325-5922, ext. 55. This concert is part of the season ticket package. Online tickets are available at [www.ticketwest.com](http://www.ticketwest.com) and include a service charge.

The North Coast Symphonic Band is a community wind band based in Astoria, and it includes local amateurs, students and professionals who are passionate

about music. Community support contributes to the longevity of the group and helps keep ticket prices affordable. There are limited openings in some sections of the band. Potential musicians should own their own instruments and play at the advanced high school level. For more information on joining the band or its waiting list, contact Lee Stromquist, personnel director, at 503-861-1328, or email [encore1@charter.net](mailto:encore1@charter.net)

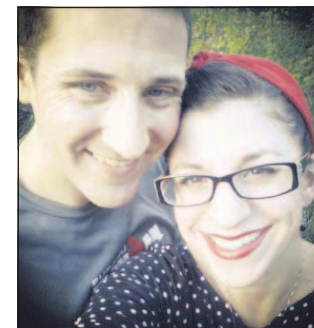
For more information about the NCSB, visit [www.northcoastsymphonicband.org](http://www.northcoastsymphonicband.org), email [ncsband@charter.net](mailto:ncsband@charter.net), or call Janet Bowler at 503-325-2431. The NCSB has a page on Facebook with additional information.



Current North Coast Symphonic Band member Bob LaTorre plays the trumpet in this 1977 photo.



Basin Street NW, a local duo featuring Dave Drury on guitar and Todd Pederson on string bass, will perform at the 1:30 p.m. pre-show.



Husband and wife Andy and Rachel Becker will perform as vocal soloists for the afternoon concert.




Shelley Loring, a NCSB flutist, plays the guitar in this 1970 photo.



NCSB clarinetist Carole Anderson is pictured in this 1973 photo. The band will perform nostalgic tunes from the '60s and early '70s at its Age of Aquarius concert Feb. 22.




North Coast Symphonic Band will perform at the Liberty Theater Feb. 22 with conductor Dave Becker.



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