

# Dutch folk duo The Lasses perform two local concerts

## Kathryn Claire to share stage April 17

LONG BEACH, Wash. and MANZANITA — Currently on a Pacific Northwest tour, Netherlands-based duo The Lasses will perform twice in the local area this weekend.

First, the folk duo will perform at 7 p.m. Saturday, April 16 at the Peninsula Arts Center, located at 504 Pacific Ave. N. in Long Beach, Washington. Admission is \$12 at the door, online through Brown Paper Tickets, or call 360-901-0962. Refreshments will be available for purchase. The concert benefits the Long Beach Peninsula Acoustic Music Association, a nonprofit charitable organization.

Then, The Lasses will team up with folk musician and fiddler Kathryn Claire for a concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, April 17 at the Hoffman Center for the Arts, located at 594 Laneda Ave. in Manzanita.

In 2011, Sophie ter Schure and Margot Limburg met in Amsterdam during an open music session at Mulligans, an Irish pub. They soon discovered their shared love of harmony singing and telling stories through music.

They started to perform the songs they loved best,

drawing from the Scottish folk tradition as well as from Irish musical heritage, which Limburg knew like the back of her hand after years of busking with her harp-playing husband.

The Lasses love to sing songs with a good story, regardless of whether the story began in the Appalachian mountains, on Scottish plains or in Irish hills. Bluegrass, song or ballad, these ladies completely immerse themselves in their music.

Each lass plays guitar as well as bodhrán, but their voices are instantly recognizable: Limburg is the husky alto and Ter Schure the emotive soprano.

Portland musician Kathryn Claire met The Lasses in Amsterdam in 2013. Claire has spent years cultivating her own style and approach to music as a violinist, guitar player, singer, and songwriter. Strong fundamentals from her classical and traditional music background combined with an innate ability to improvise has made her a favorite at venues, festivals and institutions around the world.

Together, the three wom-



Submitted photo by Kathryn Claire

Dutch folk duo The Lasses will perform April 16 at the Peninsula Arts Center in Long Beach, Washington, and perform April 17 at the Hoffman Center in Manzanita.

en soon discovered they could deliver both heartfelt ballads and foot-stomping songs with equal measures of joy and musicality.

After playing several concerts together in The Netherlands and Germany in 2014, Claire offered to help bring The Lasses to the Pacific Northwest for their first U.S. tour in the spring of 2015. It was a success, and the three realized they had begun not only a strong musical collaboration, but also a network of touring between the U.S. and Europe. They toured together extensively in Holland in the fall of 2015, presenting intimate acoustic concerts at



Submitted photo

Portland singer-songwriter Kathryn Claire will perform with The Lasses on April 17.

churches and concert halls. Their shared love of traditional and original music along with their varied backgrounds make for a thrilling live performance.



Submitted photo

Swingcats of Astoria is, from left, Ted Brainard on guitar, Richard Thomasian on guitar, Dave Ambrose on bass and Larry Aldred on percussion.

## Swingcats of Astoria bring jazz, swing to Long Beach

LONG BEACH, Wash. — The Swingcats of Astoria will perform from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday, April 16 at the Cove Restaurant and Clubhouse at the Peninsula Golf Course, located at 9604 Pacific Way. There is a \$10 cover charge.

Swingcats of Astoria plays swing from the '30s and '40s, classic and modern jazz, and a bit of blues. Audiences are invited to listen and dance to toe-tapping rhythms.

The group features Richard Thomasian, Ted Brainard, Dave Ambrose and Lawrence Aldred. Guest violinist Jeffrey Reynolds will also perform with the group on April 16.

Thomasian began playing the guitar at age 13 in Fresno, California. It was just a hobby until 1972, when, at 21, he decided to make a career out of it. Early influences were Bob Dylan, The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, The Animals, The Byrds and others of that time. Thomasian has been playing music up and down the West Coast for 42 years. He has focused on jazz of all eras but also enjoys blues, rock, funk, country, folk and reggae.

Brainard started his musical journey in Southern California in the early 1970s. He relo-

cated to Oregon in 1980 after passing through on tour. He continued his musical career as a performer and a teacher. On the North Coast, he enjoys playing and performing with many local musicians.

Ambrose started playing violin in the mid-1990s and fell in love with a blond stand-up bass in 2000. Since then he's played with a bluegrass quintet, the original Swingcats, and Astoria-based international music quartet Acustica World Music.

Aldred's playing started with Skiffle and early rhythm and blues in Manchester, England. He also grew up in a home full of big-band sounds, jazz, a mom who sang standards, and "a great tolerance of my tapping on things," he says. Coming to America in 1962, Aldred moved to Nashville and developed his drumming in rock, rhythm and blues, jazz, country and Western swing before moving to the Bay Area in '65. Aldred played around Northern California for about 30 years before retiring from his day job and moving to Astoria 10 years ago. Since arriving on the North Coast, he has enjoyed playing with several jazz groups.



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