

WATER MUSIC FESTIVAL



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Hot club jazz group Pearl Django started in Tacoma, Washington, in 1994 and has released 12 albums since. The group will perform Friday with vocalist Gail Pettis.

THE 32ND ANNUAL FESTIVAL OFFERS SWINGING JAZZ, CAPTIVATING FLUTE AND GUITAR, AND CLASSICAL PIANO OCT. 14 AND 15 ON THE LONG BEACH PENINSULA

By MARILYN GILBAUGH

In 1717, reigning English monarch King George I requested from Georg Friedrich Handel a composition that could be performed on a barge on the Thames River, a high-end boat party done

right. Handel, doing his best to stay in the king's good graces — or what we might today call “on the payroll” — got busy. He created a collection of orchestral movements he divided into three suites. He fittingly called his work “Water Music.”

In our own area, the Water Music Festival's 32nd season

is going strong, culminating in performances Oct. 14 and 15 on the Long Beach Peninsula. And like Handel's three-part suite, the Water Music Festival now divides itself into three distinct musical offerings, which it presents in three distinct settings. But it didn't always.

The Water Music Festival first

began in 1984. Minus royal requests and fanfare, a small group of classical music lovers gathered in Oysterville, Washington, located at the northern tip of Washington's Long Beach Peninsula. The area is bordered by Willapa Bay and the Pacific Ocean, so, as

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