

Astoria schools hold music education benefit concert

Luke & Katie of Blind Pilot to make guest appearance

ASTORIA — The month of March has been officially designated by the National Association for Music Education for the observance of Music In Our Schools Month, the time of year when music education becomes the focus of schools across the nation.

To bring awareness to Music In Our Schools Month, the Astoria High School band, choir and orchestra are hosting a special benefit concert, which will feature special guest appearances by Luke & Katie of the popular indie rock band Blind Pilot. Luke Ydstie and Kati Claborn will join the AHS students and a handful of Astoria's notable musicians March 17 at the Liberty Theatre for the first-ever Beyond the Sound, Astoria Schools Music Education Benefit Concert.

The concert, Beyond the Sound, will feature all genres of music from classical to folk to jazz to contemporary



PHOTO BY JOSHUA BESSEX

Kati Claborn and Luke Ydstie of Blind Pilot will perform at the March 17 Beyond the Sound concert, a benefit for music education in the Astoria School District.

choral selections.

The purpose of Music In Our Schools Month is to raise awareness of the importance of music education for all children and to remind citizens that school is where all children should have access to music. The month is an opportunity for music teachers to bring their music programs to the attention of the school and the community and to display the benefits that music brings to students of all ages.

The concert begins at 7

p.m. Friday, March 17 at the Liberty Theatre, located at 1203 Commercial St. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6 to 17, and free for ages under 6.

All proceeds from the event will support music education in the Astoria School District, helping local students develop skills for college, career and life success.

For more information on Beyond the Sound, go to www.astoriabands.org, or call 503-791-8134.

Liberty presents reader's theater production of 'Doubt'

ASTORIA — What is doubt? Is doubt a sign of weakness, or does it require more courage than conviction does?

These questions and more are raised in the play "Doubt: A Parable" by John Patrick Shanley. The play will be performed in a reader's theater format at the Liberty Theatre's McTavish Room at 7 p.m. March 22, 23, 29 and 30.

In the play, set in 1964, Sister Aloysius, a Bronx

school principal, takes matters into her own hands when she suspects the young, beloved and progressive parish priest Father Flynn of improper relations with one of the school's male students.

Shanley's play won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize for Drama and the 2005 Tony Award for Best Play. It was also turned into an Academy Award-nominated film starring Philip Seymour

Hoffman and Meryl Streep.

The Astoria reader's theater production stars Susi Brown as Sister Aloysius, Lori Wilson Honl as Sister James, Bereniece Jones as Mrs. Mueller and Daric Moore as Father Flynn. The play is directed by Sen Incavo.

Tickets are \$15 and available on TicketsWest.com or at the Liberty Theatre box office, open 2:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday to Saturday.

It's already beach season for the Haystack Rock Awareness Program

CANNON BEACH — Join the Haystack Rock Awareness Program on the beach, daily, during low tide, now through the end of October. The complete beach schedule can be found on the city of Cannon Beach website, under the Haystack Rock Awareness Program.

The Haystack Rock Awareness Program is entering its 32nd season on the beach. Having educated over one million visitors and thousands of students over those years, the program's mission is to protect, through education, the intertidal and bird ecology of the Marine Garden and National Wildlife Refuge at Haystack Rock.

HRAP Rocky Shore Environmental Interpreters will be on the beach, weather permitting, during daily low tides to educate visitors at Haystack Rock about biodiversity found both on and around the rock.

The completely free, public education program will change as the seasons change — with the arrival and departure of various animals to the area. Interpreters will offer bird scopes, aquaria stations, an interactive visitor table with a microscope, and many other fun educational opportunities.

HRAP offers both volunteer opportunities as well



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The Haystack Rock Awareness Program will have volunteers on the beach to teach visitors about Haystack Rock, tide pools and more now through the end of October.

as field trip opportunities. Volunteers can register to volunteer online, through the city of Cannon Beach website, with HRAP's education and volunteer coordinator, and with 15-year veteran Lisa Habecker.

Teachers, instructors or groups interested in a field trip and/or tour of the rock can register online, through the city of Cannon Beach website, as well.

This season HRAP will additionally be offering many special events and educational classes for kids and adults. The Discover Haystack Rock events run May through September. These events take place on the beach, are activity based,

and are free and open to the public. HRAP's week-long Kids Camps and Day Camps for kids and adults will run during the summer months.

Ecotours will soon become part of the program, with guided tour opportunities available for small groups with author, filmmaker and HRAP nature enthusiast Stephen Grace.

Furthermore, HRAP now offers, as an extension of current services, free guided beach walks, with an interpreter, every Saturday.

If you have questions or comments, contact Haystack Rock Awareness Program Coordinator Melissa Keyser at 503-436-8060, or email hrap@ci.cannon-beach.or.us

Join old-fashioned dance at Suomi Hall

ASTORIA — Suomi Hall has been a hub of Finnish culture for over 100 years in the Uniontown area of Astoria. Finns have gathered there for coffee and discussions, dinners, plays, athletic practice, music and dancing.

The United Finnish Kaleva Brotherhood and Sisterhood invite everyone to an old-fashioned family dance from 1 to 4 p.m. Sun-

day, March 19 at the historic Suomi Hall, located at 244 W. Marine Drive.

DJ Bo, from the Longview, Washington, area, will keep things moving. Bo originally hails from Anchorage, Alaska and also spent time fishing commercially. He will take requests.

Admission is \$5 per person and \$15 per family, so bring the kids.

Katherine Hendrickson facilitated the event, and she dances at least twice per week. Her friends from the senior center in Longview plan to bring a carful of dancers. They might even show locals a few steps.

At intermission, a half sandwich, salad, a homemade cookie, and a beverage will be available for purchase for \$5.