

## Arts Center welcomes bluesman and balladist

LONG BEACH, WASH. — Acclaimed blues guitarist and songwriter David Jacobs-Strain will perform at the Peninsula Arts Center 7 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16.

Jacobs-Strain is a fierce slide guitar player and a song poet from Oregon. He's known for both his virtuosity and spirit of emotional abandon. His live show moves from humorous, subversive blues to delicate balladry, then swings back to swampy rock and roll. It's a range that ties Jacobs-Strain to his own generation and to guitar-slinger troubadours like Robert Johnson and Jackson Browne.

Jacobs-Strain began playing on street corners and at farmers markets as a teenager and bought his first steel guitar with the quarters he saved up. Before dropping out of Stanford to play full-time, he had already appeared at festivals across the country, often billed as a blues prodigy, but he had to fight to avoid being a novelty act: "I wanted to tell new stories; it just wasn't enough to relive the feelings in other people's music."

The virtuoso has appeared at festivals from British Columbia to Australia. On the road, he's shared the stage with Lucinda



COURTESY PENINSULA ARTS CENTER  
David Jacobs-Strain

Williams, Boz Scaggs, Etta James, The Doobie Brothers, George Thorogood, Robert Earle Keen, Todd Snider, Taj Mahal, Janis Ian, Tommy Emmanuel, Bob Weir, T-Bone Burnett and Del McCoury.

The Peninsula Arts Center is located at 504 Pacific Ave. N., Long Beach, Washington. Admission is \$15 at the door or online through Brown Paper Tickets, or call Bill Svendsen at 360-901-0962.

Wine, beer and other refreshments are available for purchase.

Concerts benefit the Long Beach Peninsula Acoustic Music Association, a nonprofit charitable organization.



The North Coast Symphonic Band and North Coast Chorale at the Liberty Theatre



The Astoria Tuba Quartet



PHOTOS COURTESY JANET BOWLER  
Andy and Rachel Becker, vocal solists

## Symphonic Band, musical guests bring 'Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All'

ASTORIA — The North Coast Symphonic Band and Liberty Theater Presents will offer a joint celebration of the holiday season 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at Astoria's Liberty Theatre.

Dave Becker, former director of bands at Lewis and Clark College, is conductor and musical director. Guest vocalists Andy and Rachel Becker of Portland will entertain the audience with good cheer, and the North Coast Chorale, directed by Denise Reed, will perform as well.

Doors open at 1:15 p.m. The Astoria Tuba Quartet will offer a concert prelude of holiday tunes at 1:30 p.m.

The afternoon's musical program is themed "Peace on Earth, Goodwill to All" and features wind band and vocal selections to inspire and offer optimistic messages of hope for the holiday season and beyond.

Selections include "And the Mountains Echoed: Gloria!" by Robert Longfield, "Chanukah Celebration" by Bobrowitz, and "Noël from 'Symphonic Sketches'" by Chadwick.

The Beckers are making their third appearance with the Symphonic Band. The couple appeared in the Age of Aquarius concert in 2015 and in the July 2016 performance of American Heroes and was invited back by popular demand. They will sing "Blue Christmas" made popular by Elvis Presley and Céline Dion, "Pa Pa Pa Pa" from the opera *The Magic Flute* by Mozart, and the classic holiday tune "The Night Before Christmas."

The North Coast Chorale will sing fresh arrangements of classic carols by Maurice Lauridsen and John Rutter. The Symphonic Band, Chorale and the Beckers will join forces for the grand finale sing-a-long, "Merry Christmas, Everyone."

The Astoria Tuba Quartet consists of four fun guys: Dennis Hale, Lee Stromquist, Bob Joiner and Brian Bergman. The quartet's lush warm sounds, blended from tubas and tenor tubas will surprise most audiences expecting brash, brassy, bombastic sounds. The quartet is known local-

ly for its holiday program, "A Tuba Christmas," presented annually at the Columbia Pacific Heritage Museum in Ilwaco, Washington.

Tickets are available at the Liberty Theatre Box Office (1203 Commercial St.) 2 to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and two hours before the performance. Regular admission is \$20. Student tickets for those 18 and under are \$5.

For more information on tickets, visit [libertyastoria.org](http://libertyastoria.org). For more information on the North Coast Symphonic Band, visit [northcoastsymphonicband.org](http://northcoastsymphonicband.org), find the Symphonic Band on Facebook or call 503-325-2431.

Symphonic Band musicians are community volunteers who rehearse weekly. There are limited openings for new musicians who own their own instruments and perform at the high school level or beyond. Interested musicians should contact Personnel Director Lee Stromquist at [encore1@charter.net](mailto:encore1@charter.net) or 503-861-1328.

## Hounds bay at Fort George Dec. 17

ASTORIA — Seattle band Hounds of the Wild Hunt will perform at Fort George Brewery 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17. There is no cover for this all-ages show.

The band has been throwing around their sweaty brand of garage rock in one iteration or another for quite a while now. Starting off as The Whore Moans in the mid 2000s, they released two full-length records and toured the country multiple times, earning rave reviews from coast to coast for their

high-energy shows and earnest rock 'n' roll anthems, including a write-up in *Rolling Stone* and an appearance at CMJ in New York and SXSW in Austin.

Then, after hundreds of shows and countless miles on the road, the boys decided to tear everything down and start from scratch. And so Hounds of the Wild Hunt was born.

Pumping out an EP and full-length in rapid succession, the band proved

that their music wasn't just confined to the dingy bars and clubs where they cut their teeth, opening for such acts as Biffy Clyro, The Detroit Cobras and Titus Andronicus, along with a host of others.

Line-up changes have quieted the group down for a short interval, but they're on track for a busy 2018, with a new record ready to be recorded and a handful of Seattle dates in the works.



Hounds of the Wild Hunt

COURTESY BRIAN BOVENIZER