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WEEKEND BREAK

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Life on the road

Folk artist shares stories from 50-year career in new book

WHERE TO FIND IT

'I Wouldn't Count On It: Confessions Of An Unlikely Folksinger' can be purchased at tommayfolk.com.

Tom May performs at the 32nd annual Winterfolk concert in February.

By BRIANA ALZOLA

Tom May didn't have what he calls a "natural path" to his career as a musician. The La Center, Washington, based folk artist, who has recorded 14 albums of original music and toured the world, recently released his book "I Wouldn't Count On It: Confessions of an Unlikely Folksinger."

May has lived in the area for 26 years, and was brought to it the way he was brought to most things, through his music.

"I am totally enamored of the Pacific Northwest, of the landscape, of the people, of the history," May said.

In 1987, he founded the Portland-based event Winterfolk. He hosted the 32nd annual Winterfolk benefit concert earlier this year.

The event, which serves as a fundraiser to

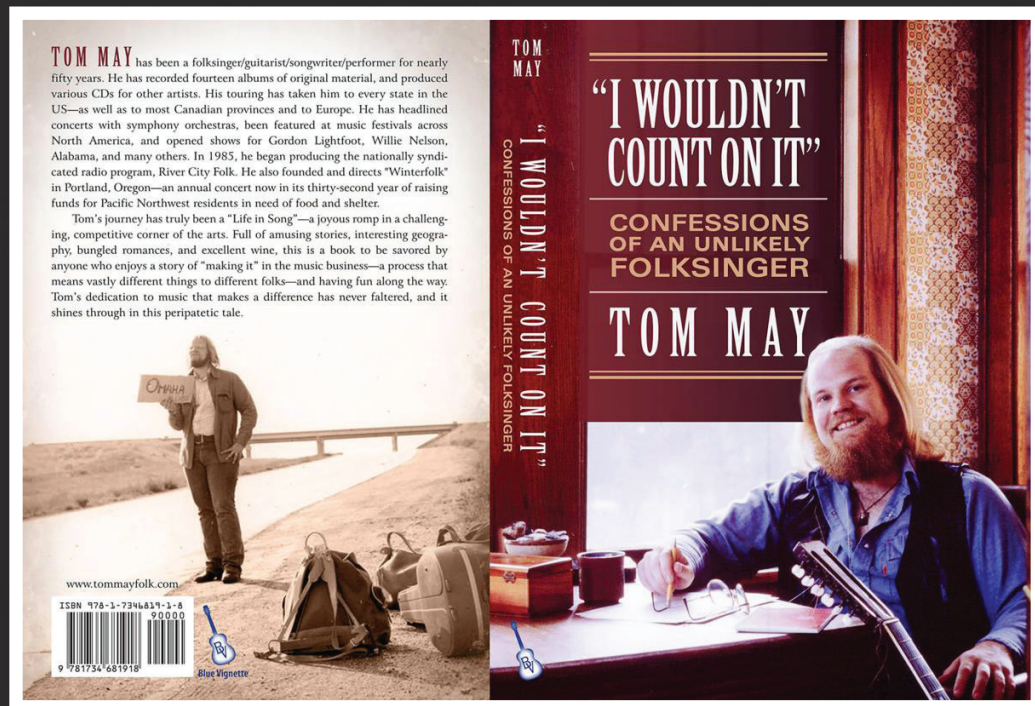
help battle homelessness, started as a birthday party. A woman who had heard May perform flew him in to play her 40th birthday party at the Horse Brass Pub in Portland. At the concert, the performers raised money for those facing housing insecurity.

May decided to host another fundraiser with the same goal the next year. And then the next.

Not only has it raised thousands of dollars to help those in need in Portland, it has inspired other area festivals, like the annual Riverfolk concert in Astoria.

May was scheduled to return to the coast on April 11 for a concert and book reading at the Peninsula Senior Activity Center. The event is postponed until the fall, as the center was forced to close under Washington state's stay-at-home order.

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The cover of May's book.