

# A HARMONIOUS FLAVOR

Trio launches first CD, reflects on joy of making music

BY PATRICK WEBB

The three musicians have sung for as long as they can remember, in church choirs and elsewhere.

## Where to purchase the album

'Home Grown Pearls' by the Oyster Crackers  
Available for \$15 at Bold Gallery, 711 Pacific Ave. N., Long Beach, Washington; Adelaide's Coffee House, 1401 Bay Ave., Ocean Park, Washington; and online at columbiariverarts.com  
View an online performance of the band at bit.ly/3o7XV5E

One hiked around Germany singing with her parents.  
Another began her fourth graders' classes with daily song.



John Kovach

From left, Rita Smith, Bette Lu Krause and Christl Mack are the Oyster Crackers, pictured at the Port of Nahcotta.

Mental health  
is a puzzle that's  
done best together

A third led ocean expeditions with campfire singalongs in exotic locales.

Those varied backgrounds blend into the Oyster Crackers. The group consists of Bette Lu Krause, Christl Mack and Rita Smith. For the past four years, they have been entertaining audiences on the Long Beach Peninsula with songs of hope and inspiration which they promote as "an eclectic mix of Americana, Celtic and original music." They draw on guitars and a number of other instruments, including violin, mandolin and percussion. About one in four songs are performed a cappella.

Last week, the group celebrated the launch of their first album.

## 'Pleasure'

Creating the album was done all on their own, in part to avoid copyright hassles. The album has been supported financially by

the Peninsula Arts Center. "Home Grown Pearls" features 11 songs penned by Krause and three by Smith, including instrumentals. Song subjects range from celebrating Wil-lapa Bay to marking Krause's father's World War II service in France and Italy.

Mack embraces all of them.

"I'm not a songwriter — my pleasure is in finding and singing harmony," she said. "I love that my friends Bette Lu and Rita create songs that are deep and meaningful, or funny, or have lovely melodies. Sharing those with our friends and audience is pretty cool."

In part, the recording project grew out of the pandemic and the trio's disappointment that they could not share their music with audiences. In November, they broadcast an online concert for the Artists in our Midst

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