

Puzey a new breed of homegrown musician

With the advent of home recording in the late 1970s through the Tascam Portastudio four-track tape recorder, the bedroom producer was born; a solitary and self-reliant figure that could manifest their artistic vision within the humble confines of their home. Now, with the proliferation of affordable recording software, anybody with a halfway decent microphone and a computer with enough RAM can be churning out their homegrown masterpieces.

That’s not to say that home recording is necessarily easy. Although recording is more accessible than ever, like any art form it requires a copious amount dedication in order to master the craft.

One of the most dedicated bedroom producers in Umatilla County is Dallin Puzey from Hermiston. Through his YouTube channel, Dallin has released a series of music videos for his renditions of classic country songs by the likes of Johnny Cash and Hank Williams, as well as an original tune, “U-Co. Blues.” More recently his videos have become documents of his bedroom recordings, live performances of Puzey sitting at the work station in his bedroom singing directly into a microphone while strumming out the song.

“I can’t remember a time in my life that I didn’t love to sing,” recalls Puzey. “We had a Buddy Holly cassette and the soundtrack from ‘Les Miserables’ 1985 London cast on cassette that I enjoyed listening to. My dad had a record of ‘Big Rock Candy Mountain’ and that was a very early memory.”

Puzey’s first CDs were greatest hits compilations by the Beatles and Beach Boys, and Marty Robbins’ “Gunslinger Ballads,”



Photo contriuted by Jeff Ware

Dallin Puzey is a homegrown Hermiston musician who records his songs at home and distributes them online.

and he memorized all the songs.

“We had a piano and I would always sound song melodies out but never took the piano seriously at a young age. In 7th grade I joined band and learned to read music. I played the clarinet and tried to switch to saxophone. In high school I learned how to play guitar with the help of my brother and soon learned to play harmonica simultaneously.”

Distributing one’s music via the Internet makes for interesting collaborations as well.

Puzey recently contributed vocals to a release by Free J, a hip-hop MC from Virginia. Meeting over the Internet through a mutual friend, the two worked together solely via email on the “Chocolate Milk EP,” released this past January.

“He had a lot of songs ready to go but needed somebody to sing the hooks or choruses and I was down to branch out and try new genres,” Puzey said of the collaboration. “I am actually a big hip-hop and rap fan as well. ... It is crazy to me that you can work with people via email in that way so easily. I’ve never even met him in person.”

Lately, Puzey’s studio work has evolved into live performances, largely in the Hermiston area but occasionally getting out to Boardman or Echo. Puzey has also appeared as a street musician in a promotional video produced by the Hermiston Chamber of Commerce. Although the live performances are a welcome development, Dallin maintains a focus on recording with an almost monastic fervor.

“I have been doing a lot of writing and studying. I’ve been gathering the necessary equipment and am getting closer to where I want to be. I am trying to learn all I can about sound, sound engineering, music theory and how to connect what I can do naturally. I am self-taught on most instruments so I’m sure a lot of technical things were skipped in my learning process.”

“My plan is to continue to write as much as I can,” says Puzey. “I am hoping to have a full-length album by June of 2017. I will continue to release live videos and I’m sure I will have a demo to put out this summer. I’ve been trying to learn too many things at the same time, but oh well, it’s all kind of starting to come together. I just wish I had six arms.”

J.D. Kindle is a Pendleton musician and executive director of the Oregon East Symphony. Contact him at jamesdeankindle@gmail.com

BRIEFLY

Symphony ‘Czecks’ in

PENDLETON — A pair of works with ties to Czechoslovakia will be performed during an upcoming concert by the Oregon East Symphony.

“Czeching In/Czeching Out” is Saturday, March 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for students or seniors and \$45 for a family. They are available at the symphony office, Armchair Books or at the door.

Presented in memory of former board president Dick Jones, the symphony, under the direction of conductor Beau Benson, will perform pieces by Beethoven and Mozart. Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 7” was written in 1811 while the composer was recovering from a bout of ill health in the town of Teplice. Mozart’s “Symphony No. 38” was composed in 1786 and received its premier in Prague, where Mozart was extremely popular throughout his lifetime.

The concert also will feature an intermission performance by the cello students of Loree McKenna.

For more information, call 541-276-0320 or visit www.oregoneastsymphony.org.

Prep orchestra in Heppner

HEPPNER — The preparatory orchestra of the Inland Northwest Musicians will perform a concert in Heppner.

The Willow Creek Symphony will present “Sentimental Journey” by Bud Green, Les Brown and Ben Homer, arranged by Frederick Muller. Also featured on the program is “Larghetto from Symphony No. 2, Op 36” by Ludwig Van Beethoven and “In the Hall of The Mountain King,” from Peer Gynt Suite No. 1 by E. Grieg.

The concert is Sunday, March 13 at 4 p.m. at Heppner Elementary School, 235 E. Stansbury. Donations will be accepted. The music director/conductor is R. Lee Friese and the associate conductor is Ralph Werner.

The Inland Northwest Musicians is a nonprofit organization that takes live orchestral and choral music to communities in northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. For more information, contact 541-289-4696, inwm@machmedia.net or visit www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com.

WHAT TO DO

Festivals

Red 2 Red XC

•Saturday, March 5; 11 a.m.

•Echo

www.echored2red.com

Free for spectators. Awards for mountain bike race and a raffle at approximately 3:30 p.m. On Sunday, a 7.5 kilometer poker run starts at 8 a.m. for runners and 10:30 a.m. for riders at the Echo West Vineyard trailhead. Registration is \$20, with prizes for the top five poker hands dealt at checkpoints along the trail.

A Wee Bit O'Ireland

•March 17-20

•Heppner

www.heppnerchamber.com

Free. The festival celebrates the Irish heritage in the area with everything from delicious food and fun events to great entertainment. And, if the luck of the Irish is with you, you might win one of two \$100 Pot O'Gold drawings held during the celebration.

Distillery University

•March 21-25

•Davenport Grand Hotel , Spokane

www.distilleryuniversity.com

\$2,000. Each workshop attendee has the opportunity to operate a small pot still and take home some of the craft spirits they distill. Includes two days of actual hands-on distilling experience and lifetime membership to Distillery University online courses.

Art & Museums

First Saturday Spin-In

•Saturday, March 5, 1-4 p.m.

•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.

Fiber-obsessed folks can drop in and bring a project to work on. Coffee, tea and work space provided.

Nan Little

•Monday, March 7; 6 p.m.

•Good Shepherd Medical Center, 610 N.W. 11th St., Hermiston

Free. Author of “If I Can Climb Mt. Kilimanjaro, Why Can’t I Brush My Teeth? Courage, Tenacity and Love Meet Parkinson’s Disease” will speak about living with the disease. Book available for purchase.

Arts Center Happy Hour

•Wednesday, March 9; 6-7 p.m.

•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.

www.pendletonarts.org

Free. Hang out with friends, have a drink and make art. Wine and beer available by donation.

Debbie McIntosh

•Monday-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

•Saturdays; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

•Pendleton Art + Frame, 36 S.W. Court Ave.

Free. The photography of the local photographer will be on display and for sale through the month of April. An opening reception is Thursday, March 10 from 5-7 p.m.

“Oregon’s Botanical Landscape: An Opportunity to Imagine Oregon Before 1800

•Tuesday-Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.,

•Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.

www.pendletonarts.org

Free. Frances Stilwell, a retired biophysicist and ethologist, shares her passion of native plants with pen and pastel artwork. Runs through March 26.

SAGE Saturday

•Saturday, March 12; 10 a.m.- 1 p.m.

•SAGE Center, 101 Olson Road, Boardman

www.visitsage.com

Free. Features activities for kids and their parents. Regular hours Monday-Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Heritage Station Museum

•Tuesday-Saturdays

•10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

•108 S.W. Frazer Ave., Pendleton

www.heritagestationmuseum.org

\$5/adults, \$2/student, \$4/seniors, \$10/family.

SAGE Center

•Monday-Saturdays

•10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

•101 Olson Road, Boardman

www.visitsage.com

\$5/adults, \$3/students, seniors, free/under 5. An interactive visitor center highlighting sustainable agriculture and energy. On-site store features local art, jewelry, food, wine and gifts.

Round-Up Happy Canyon Hall of Fame

•Monday-Saturdays

•10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

•1114 S.W. Court Ave., Pendleton

www.pendletonhalloffame.com

\$5/adults, \$4/seniors, \$2/ages 10 and under. Museum preserves history of the Pendleton Round-Up and Happy Canyon.

Music

Oldies Night in Milton-Freewater

•Saturday, March 5; 7 p.m.

•Wesley Methodist Church, 816 S. Main St., Milton-Freewater.

Free. BJ the DJ spins tunes from 1961.

Herrick

•Saturday, March 5, 9 p.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Thrillride

•March 10-12, 9 p.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Country Hoedown

•Saturday, March 12; 1-4 p.m.

•Milton-Freewater Neighborhood Senior Center, 311 N. Main St.

\$2/admission. Live music, dancing and singing. Refreshments available for purchase.

Shaniko

•Saturday, March 12; 7 p.m.

•Pendleton Eagles Lodge, 428 S. Main St.

Dinner from 6-8 p.m. includes pork loin and sides for \$8. Event includes raffles and a 50/50 pot, benefiting Make a Wish Foundation.

“Czeching In / Czeching Out”

•Saturday, March 12; 7:30 p.m.

•Vert Auditorium, 480 S.W. Dorion Ave., Pendleton

www.oregoneastsymphony.org

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\$20/adults, \$15/students, seniors, \$45/family. Presented by the Oregon East Symphony, features two works by Beethoven and Mozart, whose compositions are tied to Czechoslovakia.

Sentimental Journey

•Sunday, March 13, 9 p.m.

•Heppner Elementary School, 235 Stansbury St.

www.inlandnorthwestmusicians.com

Free. donations accepted. The Willow Creek Symphony, an ensemble of the Inland Northwest Musicians, will perform. The program includes “In the Hall of the Mountain King” and “Shumannesque Concert Mini-Suite.”

Portland Cello Project

•Wednesday, March 16; 7 p.m.

•Pendleton Center for the Arts, 214 N. Main St.

www.pendletonarts.org

\$15. All-ages show features Portland-based cello group.

Jones and Fischer

•Friday, March 18; Saturday, March 19, 9 p.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Small Souls

•Monday, March 21; 7 p.m. All ages. No cover.

•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton

There is No Mountain

•Thursday, March 24; 7 p.m. All ages. No cover.

•Great Pacific Wine & Coffee Co., 403 S. Main St., Pendleton.

Design

•Friday, March 25; Saturday, March 26, 9 p.m. No cover

•Wildhorse Sports Bar at Wildhorse Resort & Casino, off Highway 331, Mission.

Night life

Dave Coulier

•Thursday, March 10; 7 p.m.

•Wildhorse Rivers Event Center, off Highway 331, Mission.

www.wildhorse.com

\$19/general seating, \$29/premium seats. 21-and-over show features Joey from the hit ABC series, “Full House.” Dave Coulier also is known for his voice-over talent, including many Saturday morning cartoon favorites. No-host bar available.

St. Patrick’s Party

•Saturday, March 19; 9 p.m.

•Sub Zero Restaurant & Lounge, 100 W. Highway 730, Irrigon

No cover. Karaoke contest features cash prizes. Afterwards join in a scavenger hunt, games, prizes, raffles, singing and dancing.

DJ music

•Saturdays, 8 p.m.

•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

Sunday Fundays

•Sundays; 4 p.m.

•Riverside Sports Bar, 1501 Sixth St., Umatilla

No cover. Food/drink specials available.

Whiskey Wednesday Game Night

•Wednesdays; 3-7 p.m.

•The Pheasant, 149 E. Main St., Hermiston

No cover. Drink specials and games, including Xbox 360, Nintendo Wii, PlayStation 3 and Nintendo 64.

PENDLETON

Unique cello ensemble to perform at arts center

East Oregonian



Photo contributed by Tarina Westlund

The Portland Cello Project will perform Wednesday, March 16 at Pendleton Center for the Arts.

A group that’s been described as the most ambitious and unpredictable cello collective of its time will perform at Pendleton Center for the Arts.

The Portland Cello Project will take the stage Wednesday, March 16 at 7 p.m. in the Pearson Auditorium at 214 N. Main St., Pendleton. The doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Since the group’s inception in late 2007, the Portland Cello Project has wowed audiences all across the country with extravagant performances. They’ve played everywhere from Prairie Home Companion to parties on loading docks in New York City to punk rock clubs and symphony halls from coast to coast.

The group has attracted a massive fan base and praise from Rolling Stone, MTV and Spin. The ensemble has built its reputation by blurring musical lines and perceptions wherever they go. Priding themselves on a huge repertoire of genre-bending and unexpected songs, Portland Cello Project plays everything from pop and hip hop to classical

tunes with their arrangement of several cellos, percussionists, horns and more.

Entertainment Weekly described them as “an ace group of rotating cellists who take on everything from Britney’s “Toxic” to the Dandy Warhols and postmodern Estonian composer Arvo Part in their one-off performances.”

The philosophy of the group is to remain nimble and be open to anything. Each performance is unique, as their repertoire contains more than 900 songs that they’ve arranged for cello.

Tickets are \$15 and limited to 100 seats. To reserve a ticket, call 541-278-9201. For more information, visit www.portlandcelloproject.com.

Weekend Retreat
Healing & Rejuvenation
Friendships, Self-Discovery,
Yoga, Dance, Walking, PIYO,
Meditation, Life Intentions.
Time to Relax !

YOGA

ROUND-UP

July 14-17, 2016

Pendleton Yoga & Dance Studio
33 SE Court, Pendleton Oregon

Register at: **www.yogaroundup.com**

Let'er Breathe

Early Bird Registration
\$200 by May 31st
Limited to first 50 registrants
\$250 after June 1st
Must be 16 years old

JAISHRI & JAYESH BEAR
Brotherbear & Family
Musicians/Band/Yoga Instructors

Tania Wildbill
Life Coach, Yoga Nidra,
Yoga Instructor

Leah Carey Peterson
Meditation &
Yoga Instructor

Amie DiGennaro
Float on SUP Yoga
Yoga Instructor