

Two concerts, two (very different) styles

Week brings an orchestra and a Van Halen tribute band

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

BAKER CITY — This week begins and ends with live music.

The Inland Northwest Musicians will perform in Geiser-Pollman Park on Sunday, Aug. 8.

On Saturday, Aug. 14, the Van Halen tribute band Unchained will play as part of the summer concert series at The Ison House.

INLAND NORTHWEST MUSICIANS

The Inland Northwest Musicians, based in Hermiston, will gather in Geiser-Pollman Park Sunday, Aug. 8, to perform as part of the Powder River Music Review.



Courtesy of the Inland Northwest Musicians
The Inland Northwest Musicians orchestra performs Sunday, Aug. 8, in Baker City.

"We're delighted to be coming back to Baker," said R. Lee Friese, director of the orchestra, which includes 45 musicians.

The music begins at 4 p.m. Admission is free, although donations are welcome to support the music series, which relies on grants, sponsorships and community donations.

Raffle tickets are sold at each

concert — \$5 each or 15 for \$20 — for a chance to win the week's gift basket.

The Inland Northwest Musicians generally perform 13 to 15 concerts each season.

That number was nearly zero in 2020.

"We're trying to make it up," said RaNiel Dunn, program manager.

They've added more summer concerts this year — three in August alone.

For the Aug. 8 concert, Friese describes the program as a "patriotic pops concert, with an emphasis on pops."

The patriotic tunes are "America the Beautiful" and "Lest We Forget," which Friese said is a nod to the upcoming 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Other pieces include two movements of "Symphony Miniature" by Northwest composer George Frederick McKay and "Trumpeter's Lullaby" featuring a solo by Donald Dugan.

"That's a very popular piece," Friese said.

A medley of Hollywood blockbusters contains music from five different movies.

"They'll be, for many people, pretty familiar," he said.

The musicians, Friese said, are eager to be performing again.

"For most of these people, it is central to their existence to make music," he said.

VAN HALEN TRIBUTE

"Unchained," a Van Halen tribute band, performs Saturday, Aug. 14, at The Ison House Bed and Brew, 1790 Washington Ave.

Gates open at 5 p.m. Trailer Hitch takes the stage at 6 p.m., followed by Unchained at 8 p.m.

This is for ages 21 and older. Low-back chairs are allowed; dogs are not. Food and beverages will be available to purchase onsite. Concert tickets are \$20 and available at www.theisonhouse.com/upcoming-events.



www.facebook.com/UnchainedVH-Tribute

Van Halen tribute band Unchained plays Aug. 14 at The Ison House in Baker City.

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