

Music on the Deck concert series comes to Wallowa Lake Lodge

By Jeff Petersen
Go! Magazine

JOSEPH — Imagine relaxing on a blanket on the lawn, or sitting in an adirondack chair on the newly expanded 2,000-square-foot deck under a dense canopy of firs and pines as the day settles into evening.

That's what awaits at the Music on the Deck concert series at Wallowa Lake Lodge, the nearly 100-year-old lodge on 10 pristine acres at the south end of the lake.

Admission is free and the public is invited. The lodge offers beverages and food, and people can bring their own picnic if they like. No dogs or outside alcohol is allowed.

"Music on the Deck started in 2020 in the midst of the pandemic, and it was a goal to move as much of the activity outside if we could. At the time it felt safer," said Madeline Lau, the lodge's general manager.

"We started with one of our employees, Gabriel Bush, playing acoustic guitar originals and punk rock covers. Last year we formalized the program and scheduled it weekly with a variety of music throughout the summer," Lau said. "And we expanded our deck. It really took off last year."

This summer the series expanded from one evening a week to two evenings a week — Fridays and Saturdays. The coordinator of the lodge's music services and Music on the Deck is the activities director, Judy Swank.

"It's a really nice vibe up here on summer evenings," Lau said. "A family of deer live here now, and wildlife is always wandering through. You can hear the river from the back deck. It's a really peaceful scene."

Even in the heat of summer, the temperature drops quickly in the evenings when the sun sets behind Mount Joseph and it can be chilly. Visitors to the nearly 4,400-foot-elevation lodge may want to bring a jacket just in case.

Scheduled performers for late July include the folk music and R&B of singer-songwriter Meredith Brann, and the classic rock covers of the duo Calico Bones.

Ghost Wind plays country, rock and blues music four evenings in August.

Performing later in August are Country Moonshine with country and rock tunes, followed by Steve Tool's acoustic guitar and vocals, Slim Pickins with folk Americana and Burns Family & Friend with folk Americana and old-time fiddle music.

September kicks off with Slim Pickins and singer-songwriter Mark Holt with

MUSIC ON THE DECK

Friday, July 29 — Meredith Brann, 5-7 p.m.

Saturday, July 30 — Calico Bones, 5-7 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 5 — Ghost Wind, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Aug. 6 — Ghost Wind, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Americana. Following that are Mylo Bybee's trio band with alternative rock and Daniel Mark Faller with acoustic guitar and vocals.

Calico Bones ends the season with two nights of acoustic rock.

"We've been working hard to make the lodge accessible to the greater community, used by locals and visitors alike," Lau said. "All events that we host at the lodge are free and open to the public."



Calico Bones/Contributed Photo

The duo Calico Bones plays Saturday, July 30, for Music on the Deck at Wallowa Lake Lodge. The evening of free music starts at 5 p.m.

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