

FEC vibrates with Voetberg Family Band

Review by

BY ELLEN TEMPLAR



PHOTO BY ELLEN TEMPLAR

SEA Producer Nan Osbon, Lilja, Liddy, SEA Producer Ken Henderson, Rudy, Annie, Tucker, Elisha, Deter, mother Lisa, missing: Vance

On a rainy Sunday afternoon in March, the stage was set at the Florence Events Center (FEC) as the eight members of the Voetberg Family Band entered to play and sing their first number, "All Of Me."

The oldest member, Liddy, and the youngest member, Rudy, were on vocals as their six musician siblings backed them up with a jazzy rendition of this old standard.

This was a strong start for an enjoyable afternoon with a very talented family of musicians and singers.

Home-schooled by their mother, Lisa, these eight performers are all classically trained in violin and piano.

Additionally, Annie plays cello, Elisha plays guitar and mandolin, Tucker plays drums, Deter plays a variety of bass instruments and Vance also does vocals.

Lilja is one of the many family members to finish in the top five at the national fiddle competitions; all eight have titles in regional, state and/or national fiddle competitions.

The band's eclectic musical styling consists of Irish/Scottish fiddle, old time fiddle, Texas swing,

jazz, rock and roll and more.

In addition, Liddy co-produces with Elisha, arranging and writing music for the group.

Liddy's original music was a surprise.

Good, good and good.

Her original songs, "Kung Fu, Home School," "Caspian," and others aptly displayed Liddy's strong, sometimes breathy and Celtic-ethereal quality voice.

Liddy's "For Real For Reels" is written in Irish Fiddle style with Vance, a National Junior fiddle champion, on solo fiddle,

Elisha on guitar, Tucker on drums and Deter on bass playing back up.

The music was very good but could not fail with Vance on fiddle.

Annie displayed her unique fiddling talents on the cello during one piece with the band behind her and Lilja and Vance on fiddles.

Rudy's cuteness is outdone by his very strong, pleasant voice.

Lisa, their mother, stepped up to the microphone twice to demonstrate just where all the talent comes from.

Tucker and his backup

singers Vance and Rudy explained with musical humor how they are home-schooled during their rendition of Sam Cooke's hit song "Wonderful World."

Like the cello to a string quartet, Deter's consistent bass playing grounded much of the afternoon's music.

Lilja fiddled and played piano throughout.

After almost every tune, many of the musicians rotated from fiddle to piano demonstrating great versatility.

It's not easy to go from one

instrument to another.

As emcee, Elisha was personable, informative, very humorous and entertaining.

He excelled on guitar, mandolin and fiddle, playing all three with great expertise.

His comment, "We do this because it's fun for us," said it all. It was fun.

This multi-talented family from Centralia, Wash., is what family is about. The world is a better place because of them.

If you ever up that way, stop in at

Fiddler's Coffee, owned by dad Voetberg, for a cup and maybe some great music, too.

Presented by Seacoast Entertainment Association Producers Ken Henderson and Nan Osbon, the Voetberg Family Band was fifth in SEA's 2014-2015 concert season.

Don't miss SEA's next exciting concert, Quartetto Gelato, on Friday, April 17, at 7 p.m., with a pre-concert talk at 6:15 p.m.

For tickets call the FEC box office at 541-997-1994.

WORD ON THE STREET

HAVE A QUESTION WE SHOULD ASK?

EMAIL: EDITOR@THESIUSLAWNEWS.COM

What is your favorite Spring Break memory?



"We have family vacations on Spring Break. One that comes to mind right off the bat is a time that we spent on the Oregon coast with all three of our kids. It was an absolute blast. It was one of those perfect days. It was just this wonderful memory."

—SHERIFF TOM TURNER, 54
EUGENE



"Running around Charleston with my friends and being with my family. Back in my day, there was no big Spring Break, like there is now. Kids didn't travel and have a blowout."

—BETH SCOTT, 79
NORTH BEND



"When I was in fourth grade, our family went to Hawaii. My dad was a cattle rancher, so getting him off the continent was a big deal. We got to see a side of him we'd never seen before."

—SANDI ANDERSON, 47
FLORENCE



"Kah-Nee-Ta Resort, Warm Springs, Ore. I was a freshman in high school and a bunch of us went over and spent four days in the sun. There was no rain and we got burned to a crisp."

—JAMIE WALLACE, 39
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