

Quartetto Gelato brings eclectic sounds

Oregon Dunes DAR celebrates seven years

Review

By ELLEN TEMPLAR



SEacoast board members Mike and Nancy Pearson with Peter DeSotto, Colin Maier, Liza McLellan with her daughter and Alexander Sevastian of Quartetto Gelato

COURTESY PHOTO

With the curtain open, platform, microphone and bright stage lights all in place, there is anticipation of what is to come. Enter Seacoast Entertainment Association Board Members Nancy and Mike Pearson with a very enthusiastic introduction for Quartetto Gelato.

From the opening, rousing Romanian folk tune "Romamolda Hora" to the really lovely encore ending, this unique collection of quartet musicians provided a colorful rainbow of music, entertainment and humor.

Hora is the word for "dance" in many countries and this group of talented and skillful musicians seemed to do just that often during the evening.

Tapping his toe to the Hora, Peter DeSotto displayed his many abilities on the violin from gypsy slide techniques to classical harmonics.

DeSotto has been the leader of this group that has been traveling the world with its music for 23 years. His expertise on the violin is solid, though some of his technique is interesting.

DeSotto provided a new experience as a violinist successfully utilizing cello arm vibrato and fiddler's finger vibrato along with classical wrist vibrato.

His tone and intonation were perfect. Harmonics are not easy to play and can be quite awful on the ear if not played perfectly. DeSotto's harmonics can only be described as heavenly.

DeSotto sang several selec-

tions during the evening.

His singing was charming, especially the traditional "Londonderry Air" encore. However, it was difficult to hear at times and to understand the words in the many languages in which he sang.

Now picture a café in Paris for the quartet's rendition of Edith Piaf's famous "La Vie En Rose." DeSotto's exquisite violin solos were beautifully harmonized by Colin Maier's oboe.

Maier also displayed his perfectly-pitched playing in the Latin piece "Cigano" composed by Fafa Lemos. The multi-talented Maier also entertained with his gymnastic talents late in the program and his great sense of humor.

In addition Maier demonstrated the difficult technique of circular breathing during the traditional Scot tune "The Pipes," sounding exactly like

the bagpipes he was imitating.

Humor peppered the evening as DeSotto and others introduced music selections and each other.

Admitting she did not know who Dean Martin was, Elizabeth, "Liza," McLellan gave over introduction of Domenico Modugno's "Volare," a song Martin made famous, to others.

On tour with her adorable four-month-old daughter, McLellan accompanied, fiddled, soloed and did very unusual things on her cello with such expertise that she made it look easy.

It is not.

Musicians not only need skill but also the ability to follow each other, listen and play together cohesively. McLellan accomplished this with obvious joy as she often rocked to the music and retained a most beautiful smile.

Hailing from the Republic of Belarus and Russia, Alexander Sevastian plays the Russian "bayan," which we know as a "button" accordion.

Contemplating the 227 buttons on this instrument is a bit mind-boggling, but during both Jossy Abramovich's "Gypsy Fantasia" and Charles Cozens' "Celtic Dances," Sevastian perfectly demonstrated why he has been the world champion accordionist four times. His fingers fly and the music flows strongly and sweetly.

Quartetto Gelato's non-stop energetic concert was sixth in SEA's 2014-2015 concert season.

Don't miss SEA's next exciting concert, the ever popular Eugene Symphony, on Friday, May 15, 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.

Oregon Dunes Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution will celebrate its seventh birthday with a luncheon at Spice Restaurant on April 24.

Chartered in 2008 with 12 organizing members, the chapter now has 30 members who proved their lineal descent from a patriot of the American Revolution.

Oregon Dunes Chapter represents just a fraction of the 177,000 member organization that is celebrating 125 years since it was founded in 1890. Next month the chapter will award a third \$500 scholarship to a member of the graduating class of Siuslaw High School who has turned their educational life around or overcome an obstacle to succeed.

The chapter will soon publish a cookbook titled, DAR, Delicious Ancestral Recipes. The book includes recipes from member's families as well as historical information from Revolutionary times.

To pre-order the \$15 cookbook, call Mary Gill at 541-902-8488. Proceeds help the chapter with local endeavors and award their scholarship.

In Florence, the Oregon Dunes chapter creates an annual display for Constitution Week in

September, participates in the Memorial Day Wreath Ceremony, Flag Retirement Ceremony and Veteran's Day Parade.

Members distribute Christmas cards to residents at assisted living facilities and nursing homes in Florence and collect "Labels for Education" for DAR supported schools including Chemawa Indian School in Salem.

They have also sent "Love Boxes" to deployed military troops, collected and donated items to Roseburg Veterans hospital and presented several Community Service Awards.

Chapter meetings are held September through May, where members enjoy social time with each other and hear interesting speakers.

DAR is a non-profit, non-political volunteer women's service organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, preserving American history and securing America's future through better education for children.

Women interested in the DAR can contact Ellie Duree at 541-997-6613 to attend a meeting as a guest.

To learn even more about the Daughters of the American Revolution, visit www.dar.org.

Volunteer drivers needed

Help support local veterans in need of transportation to medical appointments at the Portland VA Medical Center.

A few points about volunteering as a driver: free breakfast and lunch the day you volunteer, 12 passenger van, easy to drive and no CDL required.

There is a physical and background check required, provided at no cost by the VA.

There are a few steps to complete to become a VA volunteer driver.

For more information, contact voluntary services at 503-273-5042 or call Bob Richardson in Florence at 541-902-3122.

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Getting started or downsizing? Don't miss this cute in-town home
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South of town, 1.21 acre, Lovely home, vinyl windows, well maintained. Garage/Shop/Outbuilding and Room for RV
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FEATURED LISTING
Siltcoos Lakefront home, lake level, fireplace, granite counters, bonus room, full deck area, private dock!
3 Bdrm, 2 1/2 Ba 2703 sq ft
\$449,500 BH6932 ML#15569750



FEATURED LISTING
What A Home! What A View! Views of Siltcoos Lake, master on main level, fireplace, covered patio, lake & dock access
3 Bdrm, 2 1/2 Ba 1751 sq ft
\$365,000 BH6758 ML#14075289



FEATURED LISTING
Level corner lot, water & electric available, includes 17.5' x 25' deep RV cover
.23 acre
\$42,900 BH6831 ML#14240488



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Great week-end get away or full time living. Clean single wide, tranquil country setting
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Hear the call of home ownership? Look at me-move in ready
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