

Jazz septet concert benefits Habitat Sunday

In a musical event sponsored and directed by Robin DeVour, connect with and enjoy the wonderful sounds of the Pacific Jazz Septet benefit concert Sunday, Aug. 16, at the Florence Events Center.

In addition to the septet, the concert will feature vocalist Denise Dee.

This benefit concert is sponsored and directed by DeVour, and originals and arrangements are also by DeVour.

All proceeds from the concert go to Florence Habitat for Humanity to build houses.

Habitat for Humanity was founded in 1976 to eliminate poverty housing in the world.

Heading up the rhythm section will be DeVour on keyboard. DeVour was interested in music early, playing accordion and being paid for it, before he was 10.

Educated at Occidental College where he majored in music composition, DeVour performed USO Christmas shows in Alaska and Korea. After graduation, he served in the U.S. Navy from 1953 to 1957. He spent a year at the Navy School of Music near Washington D.C. and was sent to Naples, where he played with the NATO band.

Subsequently, he was transferred for 18 months to Guantanamo Bay, where he learned Spanish and played with Cuban musicians learning Latin rhythms.

As he earned his master's degree, his thesis was about the psychology of music.

Afterward completing his degree, DeVour taught music classes at the college level.

He then received his doctorate in clinical psychology.

Although he worked in a state mental hospital for several years, his increasing diffi-



COURTESY PHOTO

Chris Rowbotham, Mike Swain, BSRK, Ed Petry, Robin DeVour, Lou Invernon and Virgil Walkley will perform Sunday at the FEC as part of a benefit concert.

culty with blindness led him to private practice. He retired from his clinical work at age 70. Currently, he is involved with the Pacific Jazz Septet.

Mike Swain began playing drums in elementary school and continued his drum studies through junior college. Among his teachers was the renowned jazz drummer Philly Joe Jones, with whom he studied in Los Angeles, Calif.

After moving to Florence some years ago, Swain played with the Oregon Coast Chamber Orchestra and currently plays with the Pacific Jazz Septet.

The bass will be played by BRSK — and yes, that is the name he uses. BRSK is a composer and multi-instrumentalist hailing from the Pacific Northwest. BRSK began his professional career as a studio and touring musi-

cian. Guitarist Ed Petry has contributed arrangements to the Pacific Jazz Septet book and will round out the rhythm section.

A gifted musician on all saxophones, Lou Invernon presently plays alto with Pacific Jazz Ensemble and is a conductor of the Pacific Coast Wind Ensemble. He also plays clarinet in the Oregon Coast Chamber Orchestra.

Invernon has backed renowned talents Johnny Mathis, Ray Charles, Wayne Newton, Nancy Wilson, Gladys Knight and the Pips and a host of others well-known performers.

Virgil Walkley taught school and retired to Florence,

where he contributes as trombonist and vocalist.

Chris Rowbotham was educated in the music department of the University of Oregon. He was active on the Eugene music scene, and at present teaches instrumental music in the Siuslaw School District.

He is an accomplished soloist and improviser.

The concert will be held at the Florence Events Center, at 715 Quince, starting at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the Florence Events Center ticket office, or online at www.eventscenter.org.

For more information call the Habitat for Humanity office at 541-902-9227.

Museum hosts VJ Day program Saturday

On Saturday, Aug. 15, at 1 p.m., a special presentation will take place at the Oregon Coast Military Museum titled: "Remembering Pearl Harbor."

The presenter will be retired Navy CDR James Perry, who lived in Hawaii and witnessed the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Perry will speak about what living in Hawaii was like before the war; what happened on Dec. 7, 1941; life in Hawaii during the war; VJ day and after World War II.

He will conclude with lessons learned and a poem by Cornelius Douglas.

Perry and his wife, Audrey, have been residents of

Florence since 1998.

He served on active duty from 1955 to 1958 and was a commanding officer of Navy Reserve Surface units in California and Washington before retiring in 1973.

His civilian career involved nuclear power plants, both Navy and civilian. He retired as a vice president of a large electric utility in upper New York State.



Jim Perry

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FRAA center to open Sept. 4 in Old Town

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) will soon have a new home in Old Town, at 120 Maple St.

Responding to a members survey, the FRAA board voted to make the move in order to be more accessible to the general public, as well as more responsive to the needs of its membership and artistic community.

The new location will include a large classroom area offering a wide variety of classes, along with space for special events. Three distinct gallery areas will be available for members to exhibit and sell their artwork. One area will exhibit art on a commission-only basis.

Though the number of art pieces may be limited, this area will include wall space, cases, racks and pedestals for 3-D art, prints, cards and more.

Another area will offer artists individual marketing spaces for a monthly rental fee. These spaces are six feet wide, floor to ceiling, and three feet deep. A limited number of half space rentals will also be available in this area for 2-D and 3-D art.

Lastly, there will be a designated area for FRAA members to exhibit one piece of their artwork, with works changing monthly.

The exhibit areas are conducive for all types of artwork, from paintings,

photography, pottery and jewelry, to fused glass, wood carving, fabric arts, multi-media art and more.

To display artwork, samples must be submitted to the gallery committee in advance, either by sending digital photos to fraaoregon@gmail.com, or by bringing artwork in to 120 Maple St. tomorrow, Aug. 13, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The committee is looking for original artwork executed by the artist, representing their creativity and skills.

For more information about securing exhibit space, or about the grand opening membership offer for current and new members, email fraaoregon@gmail.com.

Membership is required to exhibit at the Art Center, and members receive discounts on many classes and special events.

The FRAA Art Center will open at its new location on Wednesday, Sept. 2.

Hours will be Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m., and Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Art classes, workshops and special events will take place on Mondays, Tuesdays or in the morning or evenings on the other days.

To learn more about present and future events scheduled at FRAA, visit www.fraaoregon.org.

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