

Tickets now on sale for annual Winter Music Festival



Formerly known as the Winter Folk Festival, this year's popular two-day music fest will see the return of festival favorites as well as introduce what are certain to be some new favorites under its new moniker, The Winter Music Festival.

"It's always been Winter Folk Fest," said Rachel Pearson, chairwoman of the Friends of the FEC committee that is organizing the new Winter Music Festival, which Pearson explained will keep an emphasis on folk while expanding the genre and diversity with new headliners like The Shook Twins and Jonathan Edwards.

Ten musicians, singers and ensembles will fill the FEC with music on Saturday,

Jan. 16, and Sunday, Jan. 17. The folk-focused festival began in the early 2000s, when a Mapleton-based band called The Singing Loggers put on a concert and showcased some of the area's homegrown talent. Since then, the festival has mainly featured headliners popular in the folk music scene. The Winter Music Festival is focusing on the "ABCs" of the folk genre: Americana, Blues and Contemporary music.

Among those performing at this year's festival will be Crow and the Canyon, Cabin Fever NW, John Craige, Ian McFeron, True North, Bob Haworth and the popular contemporary folk music of Pretty Gritty, who returns for the second



year to the festival.

In addition, the stage will welcome local performers, such as up-and-coming singer and Siuslaw High School graduate Billy Jones, who will open the music festival Jan. 16. Also, local singer/songwriter Molly Hardin, who recently sang at Backstreet Gallery during September's Rods 'n' Rhodies in Old Town, will help open the festival.

The sale of Winter Music Festival tickets has begun and continues through Jan. 15. A full weekend pass includes admission to the Jonathan Edwards and Shook Twins concerts, along with a Saturday and Sunday pass for \$45. Individual Saturday passes (10 a.m.

to 5:30 p.m.) are \$12.50; Sunday passes (10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) are also \$12.50; and reserve tickets for the Jonathan Edwards and Shook Twins concert (7 p.m.) are \$28.

While some things have changed, others — like the opportunity to introduce students to live music — will remain.

"In 2000, I heard The Trail Band in a concert put on by Florence Performing Arts, which is now SEACoast. I thought, 'We've got to get the school kids in to hear this,'" Pearson said. "It seemed like a simple thing, but now this is my part-time job. It is my passion, the music and the kids."

The Trail Band, an Oregon-based eight-piece ensemble that features songs from the Oregon Trail era, will be returning to give the traditional kids concert this year on Jan. 14. The kids' concert will also feature Lynn Anderson's students in traditional Native American regalia and dances.

The artisan fair will continue in the lobby with more than 30 booths of handcrafted art and crafts for purchase.