

'Appalachian Winter' Christmas concert at FEC

FLORENCE — On Dec. 13, the Community Chorus of Florence Oregon will present Appalachian Winter, a cantata that celebrates the legacy of early American carols.

This concert will take place at 2 p.m. at the Florence Event Center

Composed by Joseph Martin in the spirit of folk music, the cantata combines traditional sounds with more rustic elements. Popular American carols like "Away in a Manger" and "O' Little Town of Bethlehem" blend with traditional spirituals such as "Children, Go Where I Send Thee" and "Go, Tell It on the Mountain." Sacred Harp tunes are retooled and stand

alongside new versions of Shaker hymns and Appalachian melodies.

Thoughtful narration weaves the movements together in a meaningful tapestry of song and Scripture.

Between sections of the Appalachian Winter cantata, the choir and special guests will entertain the audience with familiar Christmas songs.

Coming from Westminster Presbyterian Church in Eugene, the Intrada Bell Choir directed by Donna Snyder will present two selections.

This six-person choir will play "Angels We Have Heard on High" and "I Saw Three Ships."

Florence's own jazz combo, the Flotones, will perform several tunes including crowd favorite, "Snowfall."

Elise Arnold will direct the Siuslaw Children's Choir composed of 26 local third- to sixth-grade children.

They will perform several folk and Christmas songs.

There will also be a group of six instrumentalists providing accompaniment for the Appalachian Winter concert. The band will include Nancy Ash (violin), Chris Campbell (cello), Linda Yoder (mandolin), Greg Wood (guitar), Barbara Bublari (flute) and Johanna Bonisteel (piano).

The Community Chorus will also include several well-known carols and folk selections, including "The Holly and the Ivy," "I Wonder As I Wander," "Sweet Little Jesus Boy" and others.

Co-directors for the concert will be Dr. Paul Guthmuller and Elise Arnold.

Crystal Farnsworth will be narrator and Johanna Bonisteel will provide piano accompaniment.

Tickets are \$10 for adults; children can attend for free.

Call 541-997-1994 for tickets and more information, or visit the Community of Chorus of Florence website at www.communitychorusflorenceor.org.

FRAA HOSTING HOLIDAY ARTS FESTIVAL DEC. 4 AND 5

FLORENCE — Holiday Arts Festival 2015 is the perfect place to shop for unique gifts for the coming holiday season. The event is presented by Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA).

This year there are two days to shop, beginning Friday, Dec. 4, from 1 to 7 p.m., then again Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Florence Events Center.

Come meet the craftsmen and artisans showing their latest creative designs and unique works of art in many genres.

For those seeking work from their favorite artists or looking for something new from artisans visiting from up and down the coast, the list of vendors in this year's festival includes:

Karen Skulley, knitted scarfs and shawls, purses and quilts; Ralph and Vicki Martin, scrollsaw wood art; Cindi Covert, all things crocheted; Debbie Brown, hand-woven bags and pillows; Carol Strenkoski, dog sweaters and women's beaded hats; Peggy Goodrow, stained glass; Patti Land, fabric baskets and pottery; Debbie Kiturkes, painted pottery dishes and jewelry; Karen Souza, up-cycled jewelry and yard art; Tina Shoys, mosaic art; Lori Muir, local photography; Claudia Ignatieff and Ron Hildenbrand, prints, cards, oil paintings and lighted cubes; Sun Levine, fine pottery; Claudia Brown, sea glass, bead and wirework;

Annette Bignami, woodworking; Sharon Pryor, tole painted item, Christmas crafts and glass art; Maggie Bagon, hand spun and dyed and felted items; Ken McDougal, fine art scenic photos; Janet and Kevin Square, intarsia woodworking and fractal art; Diane Osborne, Santas (large and small); Norma Burkett, fibre arts; and Peggy Murray, original art and illustrated printed cards.

Holiday Arts Festival kicks off this special holiday event, starting Friday at the Florence Events Center with Empty Bowls.

So come join the fun and enjoy a unique shopping experience.

Admission is free.

Artisans exhibiting in the Holiday Arts Festival will be donating 10 percent of their sales to the FRAA Art Center at our new location, 120 Maple St., just off Bay Street in Old Town Florence.


For more information, contact Claudia Brown at 541-902-1933 or Peggy

Bandon Showcase

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Community Chorus seeks music director

FLORENCE — The Community Chorus of Florence is seeking a permanent chorus director. Position applications will be accepted through Dec. 31.

Interviews and directing auditions will be held in early January with the position officially beginning Jan. 18, 2016. The contracted position includes a stipend per rehearsal and performance. CCFO performs two concerts each year: the first

Sunday in May and second Sunday of December.

For more information about CCFO, visit the website www.communitychorusflorenceoregon.org. Applicants must send a resume, two letters of reference and proof of a degree in music to CCFO, P.O. Box 824, Florence, OR 97439, email to merzmusic@hotmail.com, or call 541-902-8567 for details.