

New brand of classic musicians to play

The Joe Trio will kick off the new year for Seacoast Entertainment Association on Saturday, Jan. 21, at the Florence Events Center.

The Joe Trio is almost impossible to categorize, as the cello, violin and piano threesome are classically trained and imbued with humor, unpredictability, intense musicality and a fierce determination to ensure that their audiences share the fun and energy emanating from the stage.

The trio's repertoire consists of classics, new works by contemporary composers and original arrangements of popular, jazz and rock tunes.

"These fantastic performers engage the audience in a way few classical musicians do," said Karen Smales, vice president of Seacoast. "We heard them perform and were taken by their ability to successfully meld so many musical styles, as well as their personable and engaging stage presence."

Their playlist includes the 1949 hit, "Sweet Georgia Brown," Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story Suite," classical pieces from Haydn and Mendelssohn and the Beach Boys and Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody."

"The Seacoast Board members are excited to bring such a versatile program to Florence,"

said Smales. "It's fun to hear their arrangements of contemporary pieces performed with wit and charm. 'Joe,' as they are known familiarly, provides a new perspective on how traditional, classical instruments and musicians can interpret music."

On Jan. 21st, in addition to its 6:15 p.m. pre-concert talk and 7 p.m. performance at the FEC, Joe Trio will be performing for residents at Spruce Point on Saturday afternoon.

"Providing music to community members who cannot travel to the FEC is a big part of our mission," said Rachel Pearson, community enrichment coordinator for Seacoast. "Earlier this season, we had Cantus perform for military veterans in partnership with the Elks Lodge, and Pink Martini invited Siuslaw High School Band students to audition and perform on stage in November."

"In the 2015-16 season, our outreach included Siuslaw Middle and High School students and performances at the Siuslaw Public Library's



COURTESY PHOTO

Joe Trio

Bromley Room."

Tickets for Joe Trio and other upcoming Seacoast season are available at the FEC box office during regular business hours, or online at www.eventcenter.org.

Single performance tickets are \$32.

More details on upcoming Seacoast performances are available at www.seacoastea.org.

Seacoast Entertainment Association is a nonprofit, all-volunteer organization now in its 36th year of bringing top quality professional performances to the greater Florence area through the generosity of sponsors, donors, grants and ticket sales.

For additional information on SEA, contact Sandy Kuhlman, Seacoast board member, at skuhlcat@gmail.com.

Tree farm from 1A

at that time had no value. It doesn't really have much value now."

The Rankins took a four-year hiatus in 1993 when they circumnavigated the world in their 38-foot ketch-rigged sailboat Ingrid Princess.

After returning home, Dave took an Oregon State Extension Service course called Master Woodlands Manager in 1999.

Diane said, "You've heard of Master Gardeners and Master Recyclers, well the extension also has the Master Woodlands Manager course. He took that class on weekends for almost a year.

"At the end of the course, you have a plan for your property and you are committed to giving back to the community."

In 2014, the Rankins harvested the first 20 acres of trees.

According to Diane, ring counting placed some of the trees at 150 years old.

"But," said Dave, "When we harvested, we found that many of the big hemlock and spruce had root rot and rotten hearts. You couldn't tell until you cut them down.

"Finding a market for those kinds of trees was difficult. Domestically it's difficult. They are too big for most of the mills now. So we sold what we

could, called 'white woods,' Sitka spruce and hemlock to a company that exports these logs to China. We were able to sell a majority of our logs to the export trade."

Anyone traveling down to North Bend has seen the stacks of logs waiting to be loaded onto ships for transport to China. The majority of those logs are either hemlock, Sitka spruce or low grade Douglas fir.

Dave said those logs are not acceptable to local sawmills.

The large mills, like Georgia Pacific can't get enough local logs right now.

"Georgia Pacific in Coos Bay just brought a barge load of logs in from British Columbia because they can't get enough logs locally," Dave said.

He added, "I think the lumber industry in Oregon is doing very good right now. New home construction is ratcheting up around the country. We see the railroad that goes right by here usually has 40 to 60 cars of lumber on it going back to Eugene. It's basically two-by-fours and two-by-sixes. They are building houses somewhere."

In addition to the 20 acres logged off in 2014, the Rankins have another 25 to 28 acres they plan on logging in the near future.

"At the time we logged in 2014, we thought we would be logging the rest in 2016. But we weren't ready and the market fell. The market is coming back now, so maybe in 2018 we might be able to," Diane said.

At 79 and 77, Dave and Diane do not seem like your average retirees.

"I'm pushing 80," Dave said. "I don't know how I am supposed to feel at 80, but I feel pretty good. I tell people that 80 is the new 40."

Diane added, "We love doing this. This is our retirement."

Having circumnavigated the globe, the Rankins have seen more of this world than most people and they have some advice for others.

"You can live anywhere in the world, but I sincerely believe that the U.S. is the best place in the world to live and that Oregon is the best state to live in. But don't tell anybody, because they will all want to come here," Dave said with a grin.

Incidents from 1A

Police arrested Florence resident Drew William Smith, 31, and charged him with 12 counts of unlawful use of a firearm, menacing, disorderly conduct and 12 counts of reckless endangering.

"He was upset with someone and possibly impaired," Pitcher said.

Smith was first transported

to the Florence Municipal Jail and then transferred to Lane County Jail.

More cold weather is forecast for the next few days and drivers are urged to be cautious.

House said, "Over the weekend, we had lots of minor accidents due to ice. When we have these freezing weather incidents people need to drive slower and be more cautious and patient."

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