

# SEAc coast bringing unique music of Joe Trio to FEC

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."



Joe Trio

Their playlist includes the 1949 hit, "Sweet Georgia Brown," Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story Suite," classi-

cal 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. 21, 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 stu-

dents, and performances at the Siuslaw Public Library's 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](http://www.eventcenter.org).

Single performance tickets are \$32.

More details on upcoming Seacoast performances are available at [www.seacoastea.org](http://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](mailto:skuhlcat@gmail.com).

## CROW plans darkest chocolatey event for Valentine's weekend

Brace Yourselves, Florence. On Saturday, Feb. 11, at 6:30 p.m. at Three Rivers Casino Resort Showroom, things are going to get sinfully sweet. They might perhaps also get a little "salty" as local bakers, restaurants, caterers and purveyors of delicious treats vie for recognition and prizes at CROW's first annual "Death by Dessert" fundraiser.

Sweethearts and singles are both encouraged to tickle their tastebuds at this Valentine's Day weekend party. Guests will be invited to try samples of a large variety of decadently wonderful sweets and treats and then vote for their favorites, maybe kick up their heels a bit to the Rat Pack stylings of "Buck and A Quarter Band," and participate

in a fantastic Silent Auction and Wine Pull. And, all of this will be happening while attendees are supporting a truly great cause — local youth in the arts.

Last year, Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) raised about \$24,000 through auctions, pledges and donations, which put the nonprofit well on the way to finalizing its new home: The CROW Center for the Performing Arts, located at 3120 Highway 101 in Florence.

"Events like this are made possible by countless volunteer hours, generous dessert donations by bakers, incredible silent auction donations from businesses and community members and lots of old-fashioned hard work. We are so incredibly grateful to everyone

who has helped us with coordination of this event, which is designed to shake up the fundraiser world," said CROW Artistic Director Melanie Heard.

In Spring 2015, 501 (c)(3) organization, CROW, secured its new home through the help of an infusion of immediate funds from an anonymous investor. Since then, the nonprofit organization has worked hard to complete a series of crucial renovations, including upgrading ADA plumbing, completely redoing the electrical, adding a new roof, installing a new floor and an enormous list of other projects too long to include.

Through a flurry of grants and fundraisers, CROW has managed to beat the odds —

staying fiscally stable — while still providing high-caliber arts education to children every spring for free. This fact alone differentiates the organization from nearly all other youth arts programs in the nation, who rely on charging fees ranging from \$250-\$400 per child for participation. CROW doesn't believe in that.

Now, partially on its way to paying back the initial \$220K investment, the organization seeks funds to complete the back third of the property, comprising a green room, dressing rooms for males and females, a small restroom and additional storage for sets, costumes and props.

As it sits, the building is about two-thirds complete, so this renovation will allow the

property to operate at peak capability. For these reasons, this fundraiser is very important, and CROW is not shy in asking members of the public to make a difference in the lives of local children, simply by attending the event and having some sweet and tasty fun for Valentine's Day weekend.

Last year's CROW fundraiser was nearly sold out, so it is best to reserve your tickets early. Pre-sale tickets are \$22 each, or \$40 for a couple. At the door tickets are \$25 each, and \$45 for a couple, upon availability.

Tickets include a large variety of dessert samples including cakes, pies, cookies, brownies and "unique" desserts, live music, the opportunity to pull a fancy bottle of

wine and to bid on the amazing baskets, prizes and desserts up for grabs.

Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.

Heard said, "From the very beginning, CROW has told the world that we are not your usual children's theater. Well, this time, we want you to know that this is not your usual fundraiser. I'm wondering how many of you can make it out — alive?"

The Death by Dessert theme goes hand-in-hand with CROW's production of "The Addams Family," a darkly comic musical.

To reserve your ticket for Death by Dessert, visit [www.crowkids.com](http://www.crowkids.com) and buy online, or contact Melanie Heard at 541-999-8641.

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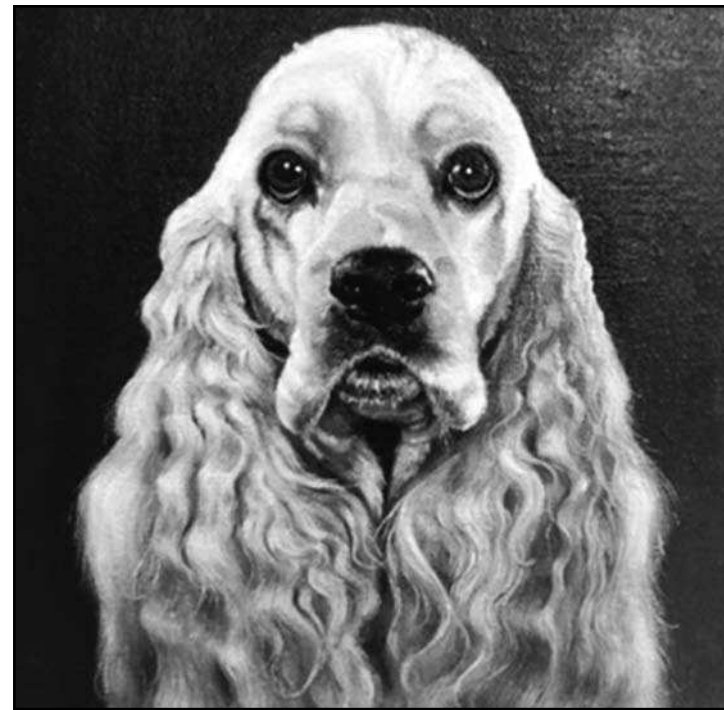
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## Call to artists for 'Love of Animals' exhibit at FEC

During the months of January and February, 2017, the Florence Events Center (FEC) is offering a "Rent-a-Rod" opportunity for local artists. The show celebrates animals and benefits the Oregon Coast Humane Society (OCHS) in Florence.

For this third annual exhibit of "For the Love of Animals," artists can purchase one or more rods for \$20 each, with each rod hold up to three pieces of art including paintings, photography, mixed media and more.

The glass case is also available for 3-D items at \$20 for up to three items.



COURTESY PHOTO

Oil painting by Ron Hildenbrand, who will paint a portrait of the January raffle winner's pet.

This is a great opportunity for artists to showcase and sell their art, as well as support the local animal shelter. Domestic

animals, wildlife, sea life, birds — all animal art is welcome.

Interspersed with the art-

work will be actual photos of animals up for adoption at the OCHS. Artwork will be viewed by many visitors to the FEC, including at a special reception Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

This special day will feature refreshments, photos taken of people's pets in a special Valentine's Day booth, and a raffle to win an original oil painting of your pet by well-known local artist Ron Hildenbrand.

A portion of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the OCHS.

Admission to the reception is free, but guests are encouraged to bring a bag of pet food for the OCHS.

To get the rent-a-rod application visit [www.eventcenter.org](http://www.eventcenter.org), or go to the office at the FEC during regular business hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 715 Quince St. to apply.

Deadline for applications is Dec. 21.



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## Artisan Fair Jan. 14-15

The 15th annual Winter Music Artisan Fair will be a two-day event, Saturday, Jan. 14, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, Jan. 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission to the fair is free.

This year, the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) is the event committee for the fair. Artisans will vary from wood craft to herbs; knit, crochet and fiber creations to ward off the winter's chill; artwork to stir the imagination and tastings to warm the heart.

For more information, call 541-902-1933.