



FEBRUARY 2017

Ballet



Eugene Ballet

On Feb. 2 at 7 p.m., be whisked away from winter's cold to the warm, lush green forests of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

Shakespeare's adored comedy of love, magic, fairies, mixed up lovers and the mischievous Puck comes alive in Toni Pimble's delightful choreography set to Felix Mendelssohn's spirited score performed by Orchestra Next.

A new EBC-commissioned ballet, "Wandering On," arranged for the company by award-winning choreographer Stephanie Martinez, will open the program.

Chicago-based Martinez, winner of the Joffrey Ballet's 2014 "Winning Works: Choreographers of Color," brings her acclaimed talent to the Eugene Ballet, stretching the creative minds of its dancers and audiences.

Martinez's ballet is supported by The Hult Endowment of The Oregon Community Foundation.

The Surrounding Third, a new work choreographed by EBC Company Dancer Suzanne Haag and set to Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings*, will complete the program.

Founded in 1978 by Toni Pimble and Riley Grannan, the Eugene Ballet Company has grown from a community-based dance group to become

Ballet (Page 3)

Jazz



The Jazz Kings

Last year's Jazz Kings tribute to the Jazz Age was such a hit thanks to so much great material from that hot, sassy and fascinating period of American popular music, the Jazz Kings felt they had to do a follow-up concert to get in more of the music that had to be left out during the first show.

The Feb. 11 performance, which begins at 2 p.m., gives a special nod to the many fantastic female vocalists of the period, including Helen Kane, Annette Hanshaw, Bessie Smith and Ida Cox. The show will also include early classics by Hoagy Carmichael, Bing Crosby, the Rhythm Boys and more. Jazz Kings will include such gems as "Dangerous Nan McGrew," "That's My Weakness Now," "Body And Soul," "I Need A Little Sugar In My Bowl," "River Boat Shuffle," "Wild Women Don't Have The Blues," "Livin' in the Sunlight, Lovin' in the Moonlight," and, of course, "Avalon."

While the rise of jazz during the 1920s is most often associated with the raw, extroverted "hot jazz" style of New Orleans, there were in fact a number of markedly different and ultimately highly influential variations on the new art form as it spread and developed in other regions and music communities. Jesse Cloninger and the Jazz Kings will contemplate and interpret several of

Jazz (Page 3)

Concert



Bria Skonberg

Canadian singer, trumpeter, and songwriter Bria Skonberg has been described by *The Wall Street Journal* as one of the "most versatile and imposing musicians of her generation."

Recognized as one of "25 for the Future" by *DownBeat* magazine (summer 2016), Skonberg will be performing at the Florence Events Center as part of the SEAc coast concert series on Sunday, Feb. 26, beginning at 4 p.m.

Wielding a unique blend of modern-day pop sensibility and sizzling musicianship, Skonberg aims for a sense of allure on the new collection.

She credits producer Matt Pierson with helping her create music that is both curious and exotic, playing with tension and storytelling.

Her elite jazz chops, artfully mixed with worldly rhythms and contemporary songwriting, result in a sophisticated pop sound closely resembling that of Michael Bublé, Diana Krall and Harry Connick Jr.

Skonberg's original tunes include the tango "Curious Game," the bluesy instrumental "Down in the Deep," and the Brazilian-flavored "How Can It Be," which is a reflection of the sampling era.

Noted as a Millennial "Shaking Up the Jazz World," according to *Vanity Fair*, Skonberg is a

Concert (Page 3)

ALSO INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Gallery One (page 2)



"Going Home" watercolor by Carole Hillsbery

Wallflowers & Wine (Page 4)



SEAc coast (Page 4)

