

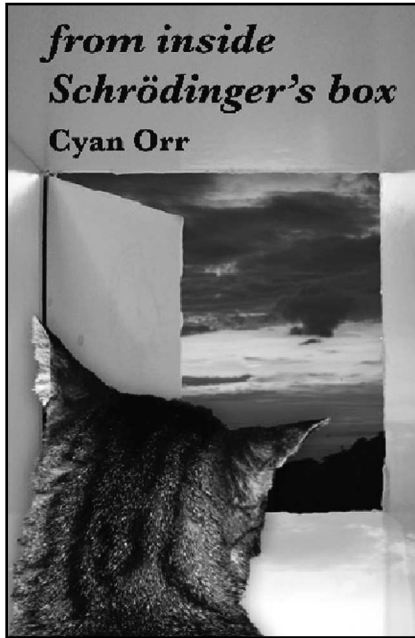
## Florence author publishes new book

Cyan Orr's new chapbook, "from inside Schrödinger's box," is a collection of vibrant lyrical poems that explore the longing, curiosity and wonder in which readers, as subjects of a thought experiment, attempt to understand the box that contains them and the unknown beyond.

Orr holds an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Ashland University, as well as an M.A. in counseling, and a B.A. in psychology and math.

She is the recipient of the Mason's Road Literary Prize for her poem "The Scarecrow's Response."

Cyan enjoyed 39 years teaching mathematics and psychology to high school and college students at schools in



The cover of Florence author Cyan Orr's new book.

California, Idaho and New Jersey.

She now resides on the Oregon coast with her husband, Bob.

## Jessie Leigh to perform at Blue Bills this weekend

This weekend's entertainment at Blue Bills Sports Bar & Tap Room, located inside Three Rivers Casino Resort at 5647 Highway 126, will be Jessie Leigh.

Leigh infuses her rock and roll attitude into her country style, creating a fresh and unique sound. She takes "old school" music and makes it relevant.

Although the main genre is country, the songs on Leigh's debut album are influenced by a variety of music styles and appeal to a wide range music lovers.

Leigh will perform Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4, from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.



JON CURRIER PHOTOGRAPHY  
Jessie Leigh

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## FAT TUESDAY CAME ON SUNDAY

**Bria Skonberg**  
Review

BY BURNEY  
GARELICK

"Laissez les bon temps rouler" — let the good times roll. Fat Tuesday in French is Mardi Gras, the annual celebration including parades, costumes, music, food and revelry that occurs in New Orleans, where jazz was born.

This year Mardi Gras was Feb. 28, but in Florence the celebration began on Feb. 26 at the Florence Events Center with the earth-shaking jazz performance of Bria Skonberg and her tornadic trio. The event was part of the 2016-17 Seacoast Entertainment concert series.

Attractive, young and blonde, Bria Skonberg can blow a horn to knock Gabriel for a loop.

She excels on trumpet and, almost simultaneously, she sings like the Skylark Hoagy

Carmichael and Johnny Mercer wrote about, and she emcees the show with natural wit, warmth and charm.

Skonberg translates the intricacy of jazz into a vernacular accessible to every ear.

Currently living in New York City, Skonberg is the daughter of public school teachers, who attended the Florence concert. She was raised on a farm in Chilliwack, British Columbia.

Talking about her roots among the chickens and critters must have brought to mind "The Barnyard Shuffle," the original version of a dark, creamy chocolate ballad we know as Hoagy Carmichael's iconic "Stardust," to which Skonberg dusted off new stars in the cosmos.

The last tune of the concert paid homage to the first jazz recording one hundred years ago — "Livery Stable Blues" — by the Original Dixieland Jazz Band. Skonberg celebrated with a Dixieland perennial, "Tiger Rag," on which her mild-mannered drummer, Darrian Douglas, who'd waded the brushes with the finesse of an Impressionist

painter, got the chance to rock out and roar with a big cat's meow.

Skonberg's program was jazzy and eclectic — "From This Moment On," Cole Porter's song which opened the show, to Sidney Bechet's exotic "Egyptian Fantasy" to Louis Armstrong's "Swing That Music" to Anita O'Day's "Don't Be That Way."

Skonberg's breathy, companionable vocals evoked the style of jazz diva Diana Krall, especially on "Getting to be a Habit with You," and Skonberg's scatting on "St. Louis Blues" channeled the legendary Ella Fitzgerald.

In addition to being an excellent performer, Skonberg is a terrific songwriter, whose work may well join the jazz repertoire. "How Can This Be" is a bright and bodacious introduction to a fortuitous stranger; "Down in the Deep" wallows in the blues with low-down wah-wahs from her alter ego, a small blue mute; and "Wear and Tear" spins like a Speed Queen on a tremulous cycle.

"Wear and Tear" was co-authored with bass player Sean

Cronin, who drives the acoustic bass with dazzling plucking and majestic bowing. He also sings a swinging song and was featured on "Old Fashioned Love" by early jazz pianist James P. Johnson and "Honeysuckle Rose" by another noted ivory-tickler, Fats Waller.

Speaking of ivory-ticklers, Skonberg's pianist, Mathis Picard, was phenomenal. His accompaniment, his breaks, his riffs and runs and rolls complemented and highlighted every song. His fingers put the FEC grand through a triathlon of jazz, twisting the keys like licorice, stretching the black and white harlequin ribbons to wrap packages of harmony and rhythm topped with festive bows, and returning them to their upright positions, still rippling with good vibrations to enhance future performances for years to come.

No ebb tide for Seacoast Entertainment. The waves hit the shore in a horn of plenty with Bria Skonberg's extraordinary performance. As they used to say in New Orleans, "Now you has jazz."

## Class Act Theater announces 2017 season shows

Class Act Theatre (CAT) has officially announced its lineup of plays for the 2017 season. According to David Lauria, Artistic Director of CAT, "It has been a wonderful challenge to come up with a lineup of productions that will continue the success of our first season. We wanted a good mix of music, drama and comedy and we feel sure that these four plays fulfill that goal."

This year's lineup will include:

• "I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change"

Book and lyrics by Joe DiPietro with music by Jimmy Roberts, this musical celebration of the mating game takes on the truths and myths of that contemporary conundrum known as "the relationship."

This hilarious revue pays tribute to those who have loved and lost; to those who have fallen on their face at the portal of romance; to those who have dared to ask, "Say, what are you doing Saturday night?"

Show dates will be June 16,

17, 23 and 24 at 7 p.m., and June 18 and 25 at 2 p.m.

• "Proof"

A drama by David Auburn and winner of the 2001 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for Best Play.

On the eve of her birthday, Catherine, a troubled young woman, has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. Over the long weekend that follows, a burgeoning romance and the discovery of a mysterious notebook draw Catherine into the most difficult problem of all: How much of her father's madness — or genius — will she inherit?

Show dates are July 21, 22, 28 and 29 at 7 p.m., and July 23 and 30 at 2 p.m.

• "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike"

Written by Christopher Durang and winner of the 2013 Tony Award for "Best Play."

In this riotous comedy, middle-aged siblings Vanya and Sonia share a home in Bucks County, Pa., where they bicker

and complain about the circumstances of their lives.

Suddenly, their movie-star sister, Masha, swoops in with her new boy toy, Spike. Old resentments flare up, eventually leading to threats to sell the house. Also on the scene are sassy maid Cassandra, who can predict the future, and a lovely young aspiring actress named Nina, whose prettiness somewhat worries the imperious Masha.

Show dates are Sept. 8, 9, 15 and 16 at 7 p.m., and Sept. 10 and 17 at 2 p.m.

• "Greater Tuna"

Written by Jaston Williams, Joe Sears and Ed Howard.

What do Arles Struvie, Thurston Wheelis, Aunt Pearl, Petey Fisk, Phineas Blye and Rev. Spikes have in common?

In this hilarious send-up of small town morals and mores, they are all among the upstanding citizens of Tuna, Texas' third-smallest town.

"The audience all but exploded the theatre with laughter."

— The New York Post  
Show dates are Oct. 20, 21, 27 and 28 at 7 p.m., and Oct. 22 and 29 at 2 p.m.

Season tickets are \$60 and are now available to current season-ticket holders. Season tickets will be available to the general public beginning April 1.

Season ticket order forms are available on request via email at fatcatflorence@gmail.com; on the CAT website at catproductions.org; by phone at 541-991-3773; or at Class Act Theatre, 590 Kingwood St. (corner of Kingwood St. and Rhododendron Dr.) Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 5:30 p.m.

Tickets for individual shows are \$18 for regular admission, \$16 for seniors age 60 and older or active military.

Individual tickets go on sale beginning May 1 on the CAT website, at ShowTix4U.com or at the box office.

## PTA hosts annual 'Superstars Talent Show' next week

Florence Community PTA will host their annual Talent Show, "Siuslaw Superstars" on Wednesday, March 8, and

Thursday, March 9, at the Florence Events Center.

This year, thanks to increased student interest, each

night will feature different student performers in Kindergarten through Fifth Grade with special middle

school appearances.

The community is invited to join Siuslaw students and parents for this display of Siuslaw's superstars performing vocal and piano solos, gymnastics, dance, poetry and more with the event emceed by Siuslaw Elementary Principal, Michael Harklerode.

"Students have been preparing their acts since early February and we hope the community takes advantage of this annual opportunity to see our brave and talented students up on stage at the FEC," said Natalie Lyda, of the Florence Community PTA.

Tickets are available for just \$2 for PTA members and \$3 for non-members in the Siuslaw Elementary office or by emailing natalielyda1@gmail.com.

## Van Fans meeting today

The monthly meeting and luncheon for the Van Fans will be held at The Shorewood on Spruce Street, March 1, beginning at 11:45 a.m. Everyone is invited to join our group of volunteers.

There is no charge to join, so come on down and have lunch and become part of our mission to keep the cancer van in operation for our coastal friends and family.

The luncheon is \$8.50. For additional information call Lea Rudd at 541-999-0779.



**FRAA ART CENTER**

120 Maple Street  
Phone: 541-997-4435

Hours Open: Wed-Fri noon-5pm,  
Sat 10am-5pm, Sun. noon-5pm

### Classes and Workshops

**NEW! Open Studio at FRAA**  
No registration required. Drop-in, bring your materials, and create. All artistic mediums welcome. Every Friday, 1-4 pm

**Mono-Print Flowers/Birds of Florence with Kat Cunningham**  
Tuesdays, Feb 28 and March 7, 6-8 pm.  
Contact 541-999-1782 or 541-997-4435 for fees and to register.

**Palette Knife Painting with Patricia Williams**  
Mondays, 11 am - 2 pm  
Contact Patti at 916-296-0485 or [artjewelrybypatti@gmail.com](mailto:artjewelrybypatti@gmail.com) for details, fees and to register.

**Watercolor Painting with Mary Bennett** Intermediate Level class.  
Thursdays, 12 - 3 pm  
Contact 209-986-0366 or 541-997-4435 for details, fees and to register.

**Ceramics for Kids w/ Ben Cahoon/Alissa Clark**  
Thursdays, 4-5 pm

**Hand Building Ceramics w/ Alissa**  
Wed, 3-5 pm and Thurs, 6-8 pm  
**Open Lab on Saturdays**  
Drop in, work at own pace. Sat 12-5 pm  
Ceramics classes held at Alissa's Studio, 180 Laurel Street.

**NEW! Bead Embroidery with Pat Tellez**, Learn to bead around a shell, cabochon or other object.  
Friday, March 24th, 12-4 pm  
Contact 360-718-1963 or 541-997-4435 for fees & to register. Registration req'd.

**NEW! Porcelain Painting w/ Pat Tellez** Paint a beautiful kingfisher.  
3 sessions, Fridays, March 31, April 7 & 14  
12-4 pm. Pre-registration required at FRAA and stop-in to view the finished project.

**Creative Writing Workshops - Writers on the River w/ Catherine Rourke**  
"Memoir Writing: From Real Life to Real Story"  
All writing levels  
Sat March 18th, 10 am to noon  
Next workshop, April 22nd, 10 am - noon  
To register, call 541-708-2120 or email [CJReditor@gmail.com](mailto:CJReditor@gmail.com)

**Painting with John Leasure**  
Saturdays 9 am - 12 pm  
March 4, 11, 25 and April  
Contact: [jleasure@hotmail.com](mailto:jleasure@hotmail.com) or 541-991-2754 for details and fees.

**Oil Painting with Michael Wood**  
Wednesdays 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm  
Contact: [fmwood@msn.com](mailto:fmwood@msn.com) for fees and more information.

For more information about classes, visit [fraaoregon.org](http://fraaoregon.org). To register for these classes, please call or visit FRAA at our art center on Maple Street.

THE 2017 ROTARY AUCTION



Saturday, March 11, 5 p.m.

Florence Events Center

<http://theflorence Rotary.org/>

TICKETS  
\$65

Contact Craig Sanders for tickets.

Call 541.999.1713  
email: [craig@hoaglandporcelains.com](mailto:craig@hoaglandporcelains.com)

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Dr. Brian Holmes & Dr. Justin Linton  
The River House Inn • Laurel Bay Gardens

Begins 5:00pm • Dinner 6:30 pm  
Live Auction 7:30 pm

We'll have a ball!

Rotary celebrates a world filled with possibility, raising funds for scholarships for Florence area youth and other community projects.