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# Royals were classy with a capital 'K'

## "Emerald City Jazz Kings" Review

By Burney Garelick

The 2017 Rhododendron Festival was the first time that professional live entertainment was performed on Saturday afternoon in the theater at the Florence Events Center. This entertainment proved to be a delightful option to the car show, carnival, flower show and others, all of which could still be enjoyed that day or the next.

The FEC entertainment on May 20 was a concert by The Emerald City Jazz Kings, and it was classy with a capital "K," — with the "K" standing for Kings, of course.

There were a great many roy-

als at this year's festival.

What could be more fun than lively, up-tempo tunes by 10 instrumentalists and melodic and comic songs by four outstanding vocalists!

The show was titled "My Lucky Star" and featured songs by lyricist Arthur Freed and composer Nacio Herb Brown, who both worked for MGM Studios in Hollywood.

The program featured many songs from "Singin' In The Rain," everyone's favorite musical (even in a rainy town on the Oregon coast). The weird thing was that most of the songs from that 1952 show were recycled from shows in previous decades. For example, the song "Singin' In The Rain" was written by Freed and Brown for The Hollywood Music Box Revue in 1927. Recycling was common in those days, when the studios owned the songs and the

songwriters, and the songs could be used again and again wherever they fit — no strings attached.

Recycling is always a good thing.

"Classy with a capital K" is a lyric recycled from "Eadie Was A Lady," a humorous song from the 1932 show "Take A Chance," and was sung, nay, belted by the redoubtable Ethel Merman and interpreted by the Jazz Kings.

One of Eugene's finest ensembles, the Jazz Kings has performed at the FEC about three times each year since the millennium. However, each show is different, always well-constructed and aiming to please.

The band plays the swinging music of the American songbook. Personnel have come and gone, particularly since 2012, when reedman Jesse Cloninger

took the baton from original director Steve Stone. All the current Jazz Kings are young, extraordinary musicians — perfect fare for a festival weekend.

Unfortunately, probably because festivalgoers were unaware of the concert, only about a quarter of the theater seats were filled. However, so enchanting was the show, the sparse crowd applauded with the volume of a full house, giving the Jazz Kings a standing ovation.

Perhaps next year the festival powers-that-be could select professional live entertainment for a Saturday afternoon concert in the theater at the FEC and include that concert in its bountiful festival promotion. Such a concert could only enhance a blooming event that continues to grow and spread the good word about the City of Rhododendrons.



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# June 'Beauty and the Beast' exhibit at FEC

The tongue-in-cheek title of the upcoming exhibit at the Florence Events Center represents three local artists exhibiting oil paintings celebrating Oregon's "beauty," and the amazing "beasts" that inhabit the state.

Featured artists for the exhibit will be Ron Hildenbrand, John Leasure, and Claudia Ignatieff, and their artwork can be viewed at the FEC in Gallery One during the month of June.

A graduate in art and graphic design, Hildenbrand worked in the field for many years, including having his own studio in Fairfield, Calif. He was also featured in a "California Backroads" TV episode.

Upon retiring to Florence 12 years ago, he became an active volunteer in the art community, and he currently serves on the Florence Public Arts



COURTESY PHOTO

Featured artists (from left): John Leasure, Claudia Ignatieff and Ron Hildenbrand.

retired to Florence with her husband Jim 12 years ago, and began taking art classes. She has been a featured artist at the Newport Visual Arts Center.

Hildenbrand, Leasure and Ignatieff are active in Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA), serving on the Board of Directors, and on the Display Committee.

Additionally, Ignatieff and Leasure serve on the FEC Gallery Committee, and are member artists of Backstreet Gallery. The artists have exhibited at many local venues, including the Siuslaw Library, Peace Health Medical Center, and Oregon Pacific Bank.

The public is invited to come to an "Appetizers and Wine Reception" on Sunday, June 4, from 3 to 5 p.m., to meet the artists and view their individual perceptions of "Beauty and the Beasts."

Committee.

Leasure has lived in Florence for the past 36 years, owning West Coast Cabinets. He has taught oil painting classes in Florence and Eugene

for the past 25 years, and is the teacher for the popular "Wallflowers and Wine" painting classes at the FEC.

Ignatieff, after a career in Early Childhood Education,

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## Summer Day Camp 2017

Dates: June 19<sup>th</sup> – August 18<sup>th</sup>  
Location: Siuslaw Elementary School  
Time: 7:45am – 5:30pm  
Ages: 2016-17 Kindergarten – 12 years of age

Breakfast and Lunch will be provided each day. Any additional snacks and drinks will need to be provided by the Parent or Guardian.

Please encourage your children to wear clothing they can run around and play in. **No Flip Flops** unless it is a planned water day.

Please feel free to contact **Sam Gauderman** (541-999-8079) if you have any questions about the Elementary Summer Program. Applications available at Elementary Site or Administrative Office. Please turn in applications by **June 1<sup>st</sup>** to a staff member at the **Elementary Site**.

If you have any questions regarding payment arrangements/scholarships please contact our Executive Director **Chuck Trent** at the Administrative Office at (541-902-0304)

Thank you in advance for your Cooperation.