

PoetryMusic Duo to perform at the library April 4

The Siuslaw Public Library is pleased to host a unique performance of poetry and music by the world class chamber jazz duo, PoetryMusic. The performance will begin at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 4, in the Bromley Room at the Florence branch, 1460 Ninth St.

The couple, Chris Lee and Colleen O'Brien, will share their pleasing blend of poetry and music while a slide show of images and words to featured poems plays in the background.

Lee and O'Brien met in 1980 and have been creating a unique sound together ever since. They have performed as the jazz duo (and at times a trio) Primal Mates, as The Chris Lee/Colleen O'Brien Group and now as the duo PoetryMusic.

This current focus combines



COURTESY PHOTO

Chris Lee and Colleen O'Brien perform as PoetryMusic.

poetry set to beautifully arranged music. Lee is the vibraphonist. O'Brien plays the cello and sings the

poems in her rich jazz-style voice.

Poems the two have featured in past performances include Japanese and Chinese poems by Li Po and Toshiyuki; works of Emily Dickinson; a few of Shakespeare's sonnets; two of American poet Robert Creeley's works set to music by jazz bassist Steve Swallow; Robert Frost; and a composition based on Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass."

PoetryMusic's performances at many West Coast libraries have received rave reviews.

A Washington State librarian praised the program: "The lyrics are poems, everything from Maya Angelou to Robert Frost to Kerouac to Shakespeare. Beautifully rendered into song and music, and supported by words and photography cast on a screen behind the performers. My

audience was transfixed."

Another librarian from Northern California praised the performance as the "perfect blend of library and the arts. Great literature set to the jazz-like melodies."

This April 4 musical/literary event will surely appeal to a wide audience including poets, fans of poetry, and music lovers.

This event is free and open to the public.

For more information about this performance, please visit the Siuslaw Public Library in person, call 541-997-3132, or visit the Library's website at www.siuslawlibrary.info.

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Time to submit scholarship applications for Soroptimists

Students, don't miss your chance to apply for the Soroptimist International Club of Florence (SIF) Annual High School Scholarships to be awarded in May. Last year, the Soroptimist organization awarded more than \$30,000 to local graduates.

The following Soroptimist Scholarships are available:

- Eugene and Thora Chin Scholarship

Award — available to Western Lane or Douglas County residents (male or female) planning to attend a college or university.

- Chigasaki Scholarship Award — available to women who plan to attend a college or university with the goal of obtaining a degree or certificate in a medically related field.

- Professional Technical Award — available to anyone enrolled in a professional or

technical certificate program.

Applications are available from the Mapleton or Siuslaw high school guidance office or directly from the Soroptimists at siflorence@soroptimist.net.

Completed applications should be submitted to: Soroptimist International of Florence, P.O. Box 1209, Florence, OR 97439.

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