

FloTones to host show highlighting how 'Music Matters'

The arts really do matter. The Children's Repertory of Oregon Workshops (CROW) has been very successful in conveying this message to the Florence community. FloTones producer Lori Janowski takes the spirit of CROW and concentrates on one of the arts for "Music Matters," which will be presented at the Florence Events Center (FEC) on Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27.

Lori and Ken Janowski are both long-time members of the FloTones. As the parents of five former "band kids," they have seen firsthand how school music involvement has affected their family.

One son, an industrial designer, was president and COO of RKS Guitars in California and is currently Director of Operations for a San Francisco guitar company.

Another son, an information technologist by day spends his evenings and weekends performing with a rockabilly band throughout Southern California, with recent side gigs in Arizona and Las Vegas.

A daughter sings with the professional group Bergerette, a women's trio specializing in Renaissance French vocal music and she has directed the Portland-based Flash Choir who have appeared with Pink Martini and The Portland Cello Project among others.

Even the son who is a manager with a medical technology com-



The FloTones get ready for "Music Matters". Members are (front, from left): Lori Janowski, David Mills, Elizabeth Kennedy and Jeanni Sanders; Middle, Ken Janowski, Carol Foster, John Culp, Jan Kinslow; (back, from left): Rhianna Haines (pianist) and Kate McBroom-Redwine

pany is still benefiting from the long-term effect of how music matters since he met his then future wife in the trombone section of his high school band. He later toured with the Sacramento Freelancers drum and bugle corps, performing in such places as the Montreal Olympic Stadium and the Orange Bowl, memories that last a lifetime.

And it goes on to the next generation as a granddaughter recently performed with Bergerette and a grandson, a music education major, taught band for a couple of years before concluding teaching music in schools was a

"losing battle" and joining a travel company that arranges group

travel for bands. Back when the Janowski kids

were in school, parents volunteered, and most band activities didn't cost much, if anything. The music programs were well funded, and the students graduated with rewarding musical experiences.

But now, as Cole Porter explained in one of his classic songs, times have changed. Shoestring budgets are the norm. Teachers struggle to make ends meet. Those musical days of yesteryear are gone, galloping off into the sunset.

For this reason, the FloTones have put together "Music Matters" to bring musical entertainment to our community and to raise funds to be donated to the Siuslaw Schools music programs.

The first part of the program will include Florence's popular jazz vocal ensemble singing such favorites as "Begin the Beguine,"

"Without a Song" and "Misty." The FloTones will be followed by the CROW Kids and then the Miles to Go Quintet.

The Saturday performance will be at 7 p.m. followed by the Sunday matinee at 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 for the general public and \$10 for students and are available now at the FEC box office at 715 Quince St., or by calling 541-997-1994.

You know that music matters to all the performers and we hope both the music and the kids matter to you.

Photo caption: The FloTones get ready for "Music Matters". Front, from left to right, Lori Janowski, David Mills, Elizabeth Kennedy and Jeanni Sanders; Middle, Ken Janowski, Carol Foster, John Culp, Jan Kinslow; Back, Rhianna Haines (pianist), Kate McBroom-Redwine

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