

Chamber Orchestra concert season wraps up Sunday

The Oregon Coast Chamber Orchestra (OCCO) will open the 2018-19 concert season with a fall program featuring works by immigrants to America and children of those immigrants.

The new citizen artists took full advantage of the opportunities presented by an accepting America to celebrate the human spirit through music and song.

Simultaneously, America's growing global cultural presence enabled them to reach a world population eager to embrace their talents and devotion. Selections from orchestral composers Sergei Rachmaninoff, Eric Korngold, Victor

Herbert, Persy Grainger and Igor Stravinsky make up the first half of the program, while popular favorites from Leroy Anderson, Pete Rugolo, Henry Mancini and brothers George and Ira Gershwin complete the second half.

The audience will be invited to sing along with Irving Berlin's "God Bless America" to bring the concert to an end.

The final performance is Sunday, Nov. 18, at 2 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of the Siu-slaw in Florence.

Tickets are \$10 for adults, students and children under 10 are free.

Visit OCCOrchestra.org for more details.

Festival of Trees offers 'family fun' on Nov. 24

A "Family Fun Event" will be offered to the community on Saturday, Nov. 24, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the sixth annual Festival of Trees, sponsored by the Oregon Coast Military Museum at the Florence Events Center (FEC), located at 715 Quince St.

In addition to offering over 80 holiday themed wreaths and festively decorated table-top trees for immediate purchase, the young and young at heart are invited to participate in the following family friendly activities throughout the day at the Florence Festival of Trees.

All day long, there will be rock painting, open to the public. A special treat, face painting will be available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

A true holiday highlight will be the chance to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus throughout the day.

Dasher and Dancer, the "reindeer" basset hounds

from Houndful Hearts, a local rescue for American Basset Hounds, will be making a special appearance for photo opportunities from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., so all are invited to bring their own cameras to take memorable holiday photos with Mr. and Mrs. Claus and their tail-wagging entourage.

Admission is free all-day Saturday, with plenty of parking available at the FEC.

The Florence Festival of Trees will also be displaying a collection of larger, exquisitely designed trees sponsored by local businesses that will be sold at Sunday evening's "Gala of Giving," a catered dinner and oral auction for ticket-holders and invited guests.

The keynote speaker will be Mike Ehredt, a retired postal worker and Army veteran who formed "Project America Run — One Life One Flag" in 2010. Ehredt ran 4,424 miles across



SIUSLAW NEWS FILE PHOTO
The Florence Festival of Trees offers both free and paid events next weekend, Nov. 24 and 25, at the Florence Events Center.

the United States, stopping every mile to plant an American flag with the name, rank, age and hometown of fallen soldiers from the war in Iraq.

Today, thanks to his ongoing efforts, there is now an invisible wall of honor, a memorial highway, that stretches across our country 6,570 miles from

north to south and east to west paying tribute to those fallen soldiers' valor.

All of the proceeds from the Festival of Trees will go to support the Oregon Coast Military Museum.

Tickets for the Gala of Giving may be purchased by calling 541-999-1523.

Speak your peace. Write to the Editor:
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Desserts

- Pumpkin Pie
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\$23 • Children 10 & under \$15

85625 Highway 101, Florence • 541-997-7191
Reservations Recommended • No specific seating requests please

CROW to hold open auditions for 'The Wiz'

Join Dorothy and her friends as they travel to meet the mysterious and terrifying Wiz in this unique blend of urban celebration, pure fantasy and familiar loveable characters.

"The Wiz" opened the door for a brand-new sound on Broadway, combining R&B, soul, gospel and pop, inspiring many of today's favorite Broadway shows. "The Wiz" broke social barriers when it first opened, and the energetic story full of singing, dancing and a true celebration of friendship continues to amaze audiences.

CROW invites the community to "Ease on Down the Road," find out why "You Can't Win," "Slide Some Oil" to the Tinman, "Believe in Yourself" — and ultimately discover the importance of "Home."

All ethnicities are encouraged to audition for all roles which fit their age and skillset. A full character breakdown can be found at www.crowkids.com.

"The Wiz" marks CROW's eighth spring production and will be performed April 5 to 14 at the Florence Events Center, and for invited school audiences on April 4.

CROW is excited to expand its spring musical performances

to two weekends in 2019.

Local audiences may recall that last Spring, CROW produced a main stage production of Disney's Tarzan which packed the events center and delighted local audiences.

CROW is a Florence-based 501(c)(3) organization that is dedicated to giving back to the community by providing quality performing arts experiences to local youth. In addition to providing a very professional work environment for the cast members, CROW utilizes the highest caliber costumes, sets, lighting design, choreography, music, sound, stage makeup and much more.

There are great roles for ages 6 to 22+, and all youth are encouraged to try out regardless of previous stage experience. In addition, mature 3.5 to 7-year-olds will be considered for "tele-rehearsals," which is a reduced rehearsal commitment.

There are approximately 40 onstage roles.

Auditions will be held at CROW Center for the Performing Arts, 3120 Highway 101 in Florence, on Jan. 7 and 8 at 6:30 p.m. Invited Callbacks will be held on Jan. 9 at 6:30 p.m.

Parents should also attend the audition to help fill out forms. Hopefuls will need to bring 16 to 32 bars, or about one minute, from a song that they would like to sing. Sheet music or a CD or MP3 track with no background voices are acceptable. Those auditioning should also submit

a headshot and resume if they have one.

If youth don't know a song, "Happy Birthday" or "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star" are acceptable.

Prospective cast members will also be taught a short dance combination, and those asked to come to callbacks will read lines from the script.

No previous experience is required, so CROW Director, Melanie Heard, says, "Don't be afraid to come and give it a try!"

Interested families are strongly encouraged to check out the CROW website for all of the information needed to prepare for the audition.

Rehearsals for "The Wiz" will begin mid-January and are generally held weeknights from 6:30 to 8:45 p.m. A schedule will be available for perusal at the audition. Not all cast members are called every night.

Nevertheless, Heard stresses that performing in these productions is a big commitment.

"Performing in one of our shows is very hard work and requires dedication, but when the curtain opens in April, we know you will agree that it was worth it," she said.

For a casting breakdown, FAQ's and detailed audition information, visit www.crowkids.com.

Show sponsorship opportunities are available at various levels, and there are several perks, so local businesses or individuals should contact Heard at 541-999-8641 or crowtheatrekids@yahoo.com for more information.

"See you on the yellow brick road!" Heard said.



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