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Enjoying Latin-infused jazz with 'Whipped Cream'

REVIEW
By Vickie Kennedy

Even though it rained throughout the day last Wednesday (Oct. 16), it didn't keep the audience away. The Florence Events Center (FEC) was nearly full to welcome Whipped Cream, a tribute band to Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass.

Bobby Medina, trumpet player, musical director and show producer, was joined by very talented musicians. There was Chad Quist on the guitar, Ben Verdier on bass, Xavier Lecouturier on drums, Bruce Leven playing the piano, marimba and providing vocals, Greg Lyons on trumpet and Stuart Hambley on trombone.

Also at the mic was Darelle Holden, who was the featured vocalist for several songs.

Medina stated that music brings back the most memories of all art forms. Several members of the audience agreed that this group sounded so much like Alpert's band — and that it was like growing up all over again.

"I may not remember the titles, but the tunes will never be forgotten," said one woman in the audience.

The opening number was a song from 1962, "The Lonely Bull," composed by Sol Lake. The working title of the song was "Twinkle Star," which Alpert convinced Lake to change after attending a bullfight in Mexico.

The band also performed "Spanish Flea," a popular song written by Julius Wechter in the 1960s with lyrics by Cissy Wechter. The song is closely associated with the long-running game show, "The Dating Game."

Whipped Cream performed songs from other groups as well, such as The Beatles, Burt Bacharach and The Carpenters, with the same tone and feeling as Herb Alpert and the Tijuana Brass. Everyone has heard The Beatles sing "All My Loving" by John Lennon and Paul McCartney. However, Whipped Cream's rendition had the audience moving in its seats.

Bacharach, a prolific song writer, also wrote the Casino Royale theme song in 1967. The band was able to get all the trumpet trills of the original rendition; the musicians are masterful.

After singing "The Look of Love" composed by Bacharach and Hal David, Holden asked Medina what instrument he had accompanied her with.

The mellow instrument with a deep, rich tone was a flugelhorn. He shared the story of how he got his first flugelhorn from his grandfather, who was on his death bed. He called his grandson to his side and "sold" the horn to him. Medina retorted that he paid for the horn with a check that was post-dated.

"This Guy's in Love with You," another Bacharach and David tune, featured Leven both playing the piano and performing the vocals. Although his singing was not outstanding, it was very heartfelt.

When you take a song like "Lollipops and Roses," composed by Tony Velona and sung by Tom Jones, it is hard to imagine it performed Tijuana Brass style. Whipped Cream made that happen, sounding so much like Alpert and his band.

There was an international touch with "Mas que nada," written by Jorge Ben. Holden mastered the Portuguese language in this tune. The audience was touched by Holden's rendition of The Carpenters' "Close to You" written by Bacharach and David. She made everyone feel she was close to them.

The band's finale was "Rise," composed by Andy Armer and Randy Badazz Alpert in the late 70s. Although still the same flavor as other Alpert tunes, this song was more mellow and mature. The band fulfilled its goal to be a tribute band.

Of course, there had to be an encore — and Whipped Cream did not disappoint. The band returned to the stage with a heartfelt rendition of "The Work Song," written by Nat Adderley and Oscar Brown, Jr.

In addition to legendary music and entertaining jokes, there was a visual display of record covers and music videos from the 60s. So many people in the audience commented that they owned the records or remember the covers from that era.

Attend Seacoast Entertainment Association's next concert, featuring the Texas Gypsies, on Nov. 13, beginning at 7 p.m.

Call the FEC office at 541-997-1994 for ticket information.

Deadline for Press Releases Is Every Monday and Thursday by Noon. Email PressReleases@TheSiuslawNews.com.

The staff at the Siuslaw News is preparing to publish the annual Veterans Day publication, which is a special supplement that is devoted to all military veterans who currently are Florence-area residents or have a connection to this area. It will be printed in the Saturday, Nov. 9, 2019 edition, before Veterans Day, annually held each Nov. 11. If you are interested in sharing your military background information in the annual tribute publication, or in updating information that we have published previously, please complete this form and submit it to the Siuslaw News. Service photographs are also welcome. Submit forms and photos by email to mberg@thesiuslawnews.com, by regular mail to Siuslaw News, Attn: Misty Berg, P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439; or drop off materials at the Siuslaw News office in Historic Old Town Florence, 148 Maple St. If your profile was published previously in the Veterans tribute and you do not wish to make any changes to the profile, there is no need to resubmit this form or your military information. Please be sure that all materials are carefully labeled with your name and phone number and are submitted by **Monday, Oct. 28, 2019.**

Thank you for participating in this project to remember and honor our veterans.

Name: _____

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Rank Achieved (optional): _____

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Where did you serve? _____

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Has your veteran information been published previously in the Siuslaw News Veterans Publication?
YES NO
Do we have your military photo on file? YES NO
(Note: If you have submitted photos in the past, we will still have them on file.)

VOICE YOUR OPINION! — Write a Letter to the Editor today: *Editor@TheSiuslawNews.com*

LIBRARY *from page 1A*

The first LFL was built as a tribute from a son to a mother and a teacher who loved books and shared them with her friends and neighbors.

Todd Bol built the first LFL in Hudson, Wisc., in 2009, in memory of his mom. His original goal was to encourage the creation of 2,510 LFL's, which would match the total of full-size libraries constructed by philanthropist Andrew Carnegie.

That goal was reached and greatly surpassed with more than 90,000 LFL's currently in operation around the world. The organization became a nonprofit in 2012 and interest in the program has grown exponentially since then.

The LFL Nonprofit has also been recognized by The Library of Congress, The National Book Foundation and the Library Journal for their world promoting literacy and learning.

Another fun aspect of the LFLs are the many different forms the "library" itself can take.

LFL stewards are encouraged to create a small structure that incorporates any aspect of interest that those involved in the project feel would be appropriate.

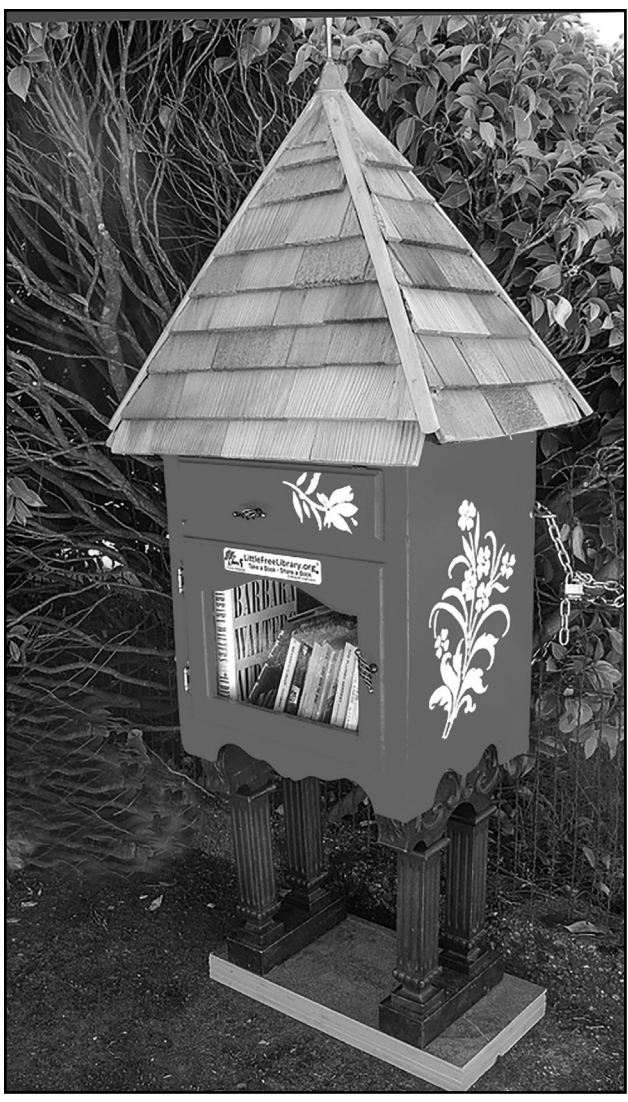
"The Little Free Library (LFL) organization has library kits you can buy, but they also encourage you to build them out of recycled materials," Bacon said. "I built ours out of an unfinished wooden nightstand from Habitat for Humanity Restore, which I painted bright red and stenciled a white floral design on the sides."

To use the Little Free Library brand name, a steward must purchase a finished book exchange, a kit to build one or, for a do-it-yourself LFL, a charter sign containing the LFL text and charter number.

Bacon liked the idea of making a unique structure from reused materials and was able to enlist the help of a friend in creating what turned out to be very inviting locally themed library.

"I enlisted the help of a friend, Aaron Lamadue, of Aaron's Landscaping. Aaron designed and built the shingled roof and found the spire and legs at Habitat Restore. He also waterproofed the seams and put plexiglass in the window of the door. We named our LFL The Prose Nest," Bacon said. "We have books for adults as well as for children and encourage people to come by and look through the books we have — and leave a book for someone else to share."

Florence's Little Free Library is located at 485 Juniper Street at Kingwood street.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Little Free Library, located at Juniper and Kingwood streets, was started by longtime Florence resident Kay Bacon and made from a recycled nightstand.

In 2019 we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of our business in Florence. It is time to express the appreciation and gratitude we feel, and have always felt, for the friendship, trust and loyalty of those who live in this community. It is your confidence in us and your continued patronage that has made these 80 years such a pleasurable experience. Thank you.
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