

IT'S HOOTENANNY TIME

ENTERPRISE — The ninth annual Hootenanny & Shoo-fly Pie Social will be virtual this year — streamed live Sunday, May 23, beginning at 4 p.m. on the Wallowa Valley Music Alliance website, www.wvmusicalliance.org. While the format has changed, the event will raise funds for the Music Alliance — and, never fear, there will be live music, and there will be pie!

MUSIC

The Wallowa Valley Music Alliance has rounded up all-star cast of Wallowa County musicians to present the virtual showcase of songs around this year's theme: Remembering John Prine.

Performers at Sunday's event include Bart Budwig and Jen Borst, Janis Carper, Margo Cilker, Alyssa Werst-Daggett and Dave Staigle, Ted Hays, Carolyn Lochert, Ghost Wind, Heidi Muller and Bob Webb, Brian Oliver, Nick Porter, John Raines, Mike Straw and June Colony, Rich and Trilby Shirley, and Laura Skovlin.

REMEMBERING JOHN PRINE 1946 - 2020

In 1970, John Prine was playing at the Chicago folk club The Fifth Peg when the young journalist Roger Ebert dropped in for a set. At the time, Prine was a 23-year-old mailman who had been singing his original songs every Thursday night for about two months. Ebert wrote a glowing review for the Chicago Sun-Times, essentially launching Prine's music career.

Kris Kristofferson became one of his earliest advocates. Their friendship lasted decades and they toured together extensively over the years. In turn, Prine invited a new generation of songwriters to open his concerts.

Prine's songs have been recorded by iconic singers, including Johnny Cash ("Sam Stone"), Bette Midler ("Hello in There") and Bonnie Raitt ("Angel from Montgomery").

Prine won his first Grammy for the 1991 album "The Missing Years," and he joined the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2003. The Grammy Hall of Fame inducted his 1971 self-titled debut album in 2014.

Two years later he accepted the PEN New England's Song Lyrics of Literary Excellence Award. At the age of 70, in 2017 he was named Artist of the Year by the Americana Music Association.

One of the most influential songwriters of his generation, Prine was known for humorous lyrics about love, life and current events, as well as serious songs with social commentary and songs that recollect melancholy tales from his life.

In 2020, he received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Prine died April 7, 2020, of complications caused by COVID-19 at the age of 73.



PIE

The sweet detail that has always made the Hootenanny extra enticing? Pie, of course. This year, since the event will not be held in person, choice homemade pies will be auctioned off online during the music. The event's announcement promises "delicious and mouth-watering pie goodness from past Shoo-fly Pie contest winners and other master bakers."



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