

Powder River Music Review presents two concerts

Barefoot & Bonafide plays Saturday; D'Club L'Évêque performs Sunday

By Lisa Britton
Go! Magazine

BAKER CITY — Two evenings of live music are coming to Geiser-Pollman Park this weekend as part of the Powder River Music Review concert series.

The first features Barefoot & Bonafide, which is the duo of Lonnie Shurtleff and Marilyn Shollenberger. The music starts at 4 p.m. Saturday, June 26. The second concert, at 4 p.m. Sunday, is solo artist John Woodard playing as D'Club L'Évêque.

The concerts are free. Raffle tickets (\$5 each or 15 for \$20) are sold at each event to help support the concert series.

Barefoot & Bonafide

Shurtleff and Shollenberger have played as a duo for about two years.

But each has quite the history of music.

Shurtleff started more than 60 years ago, when he played in a band as a high schooler in Baker City.

Known as The Eclectic Cowboy, Shurtleff has played around the region.

Shollenberger vividly remembers when she was 8 and friends gave her family a piano.

"I was just infatuated with the piano," she said.

She learned to play by ear with the help of her dad, who taught her notes by playing his fiddle.

"Everyone has a passion. Mine is music," she said.

She owned Marilyn's Music Plus in Baker City from 1997 to 2013, and said many local bands grew out of the store's informal jam sessions that welcomed a variety of musicians.

But her story of music wouldn't be complete without a reference to her dad — her first music teacher.



Lonnie Shurtleff and Marilyn Shollenberger are 'Barefoot & Bonafide'

"I played for 56 years with my dad," she said.

She holds one of his final requests close to her heart.

"He said 'whatever you do, don't let the music die.' Lonnie and I took that as our motto," she said.

When the coronavirus pandemic shut down music venues, the duo took to Facebook to play live every Monday at 5 p.m.

But they look forward to playing for a live audience.

"There's something about playing to a live audience. It feeds you," she said. "It's so exciting to have a group of people who like what you're doing. It's a joyful experience."

D'Club L'Évêque

Woodard's musical background dates to his childhood.

"At 10 I played the violin. I played for years. I was no good, but I did get music training," he said with a smile.

He grew up in Billings, Montana. As a teenager he was a member of several bands, starting with The Rocky Mountain Frog Stompers.

"That morphed into a real band — The Henchmen," he said.

But it was his senior year, in Missoula, Montana, when he considered himself part of a *real* band.

They called themselves The Canterbury Tales and inspired by the unique



John Woodard plays as D'Club L'Évêque

spelling of The Beatles).

"We were playing a lot of English rock 'n' roll," he said. "We'd wear suits and ties like The Beatles."

His performing days took to the backburner when he moved to Juneau, Alaska, and started a 20-year career as a sailor on the Alaska Marine Highway.

"I didn't have time to be in a band, but I'd still play at home," he said.

After retiring, he moved to Baker City.

"I knew I wanted to be in a band, so I went into Marilyn's Music," he said.

He made musical connections during the jam sessions, and over the years he's been a member of several bands.

First was The Black Lightning Riders, then The Flying Saucers.

He played as a trio with Debbie Friedman and Gene Nelson for several years, and then was asked to join a Beatles tribute band called The Fab Faux.

"Then The Fab Faux broke up," he said.

He and Friedman played as a duet, then Chris Johnson joined and the trio became Bruno Dunes.

They played together for more than 11 years, performing around Eastern Oregon.

After that trio dissolved, Woodard formed Valley Stream for a few years, and now he's back to a solo act.

As for his stage name, that dates to his college days.

"I had some friends in a band, and they'd ask me to sit in," he said.

The band's name was D'Club L'Peach.

"That name stuck with me for years," he said.

As a solo artist, he considered a version of that band name — and was inspired by a cheese from France he found at The Cheese Fairy in Baker City. It was called Pont L'Évêque.

He combined the band name with the cheese and came up with D'Club L'Évêque.

He's looking forward to Sunday's concert.

"I'm just happy to play again, and play for live crowds," he said.

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