

Mark Holt plays Wallowa Lake Lodge

By Lisa Britton

Go! Magazine

WALLOWA LAKE — Mark Holt has toured his music ever since 1975, when he played at fairs as a 12-year-old.

"That's how I started performing on stage," he said.

Holt grew up in the lower Yakima Valley in Washington. He took music lessons from JuDale music store, which set up a stage at the state fair for a staff band to play.

Then the store started a junior staff band.

"They recruited me for that," Holt said.

He got the chance to play four sets each day on the best equipment.

"We got to play through brand-new amps and whatever guitar we wanted to grab," he said.

And that set him on a career path of playing music.

"I've gone all over the world playing music," he said. "I've taken some crazy gigs."

But this weekend he won't travel quite as far from his home in Lewiston, Idaho — Holt will play live Saturday, Sept. 3, at Wallowa Lake Lodge. The music starts at 5 p.m.



Sara Gettys/Contributed Photo

Mark Holt will perform Saturday, Sept. 3, at Wallowa Lake Lodge.

Holt grew up listening to classic country, as well as Frank Sinatra, Sammy Davis Jr. and Engelbert Humperdinck.

"We had a lot of music in the house," he said.

He started playing guitar at age 10.

Over the years, he's played with a five-piece bluegrass band, as a duo with

his sister, and now mostly travels as a solo act.

He said the loss of shows in 2020 and 2021 was "hard, mentally hard."

"I didn't realize how much it was part of what I do — going out and playing live music," he said.

He kept picking up the guitar, but

missed a live audience.

"Playing in your living room for yourself just isn't the same," he said.

Now his schedule is filling up again. For his Sept. 3 show, the audience can expect to hear "bluesy Americana country." He plays originals, as well as covering songs by John Denver, Merle Haggard, Frank Sinatra and Tony Bennett.

"But I put my own spin on everything," he said.

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