

GO! talent

Pete Kartsounes makes music despite setbacks

BY BRIAN MCELHINEY

The Bulletin

When the going gets tough, the artists get going, and Pete Kartsounes may be Bend's best example of that statement.

Mangled clichés aside, Kartsounes — this week's featured artist in The Bulletin's Central Oregon Creative Artists Relief Effort — has been one of Central Oregon's most visible musicians during the pandemic (not that he was any slouch before). He was one of the first to jump on live streaming, maintaining an impressive weekly (or more) schedule for 10 months with his Coffee and Tunes sets.

When not navigating virtual shows or Zoom music lessons and workshops, including two recent ones with Sisters Folk Festival, he found plenty of time to create. Last year he released two albums, the stripped-down "Out Here on My Own Vol. 1" in August and the meditative, instrumental "Mindful Muse" in October.

"There's obvious setbacks, but as we look back at a year — I mean, even looking back six months — right away I accepted the challenge and went forward," Kartsounes said. "And I haven't really slowed down; I've actually sped up. When it comes to creativity and what I've produced over the last year, it's definitely by far more than anything I've produced in many years put together."

"There's the obvious setback of just the



The Bulletin and Scalehouse, a collaborative for the arts, have joined together to raise donations to help Central Oregon's creative artists — musicians, visual artists, performers and creative workers — by offering grants and a platform to bring attention to local amazing talent. This is a crowdfunding effort with a first-round fundraising goal of \$40,000. To make a tax-deductible donation or apply for a grant, go to bendbulletin.com/talent.

reality itself, with the fear and the worry of moms, dads, family members getting sick, or losing friends," he continued. "I've lost a handful of ... friends that were from COVID, and losing musical heroes to COVID. So there's those obvious setbacks, but personally in my creative life I've been thriving more than ever."

Kartsounes stepped away from live streaming recently to focus on a new project, DJPK. Using a looping device he received from his girlfriend for Christmas, Kartsounes has been creating lush, improvised compositions with layered electric bass, elec-



Pete Kartsounes
www.petekmusic.com

Bulletin file photo

Pete Kartsounes performs for The House Concert for the Central Oregon Creative Artists Relief Effort.

tric guitar, keyboard plug-ins and more.

"It's fun. I do it about three to five hours every day, trying to get my artistic approach with it quick," he said. "So when I am performing live, no one's standing around waiting for me to do something. I'm making music out of thin air, all improv, and it's pretty thick with sounds."

Like most musicians, Kartsounes took a financial hit during the pandemic. He received some help from the Worthy Roots Relief Fund last summer, and has managed

to stay afloat with music lessons and help from his fans. He said he is honored to be a part of CO CARES.

"All I do is create, whether it be videography — I've been making a lot of videos lately — or music, or even a whole new persona and reinventing my musical self," Kartsounes said. "As long as I stay productive, I feel like whatever gives, whether it be God or the universe, I feel like I can make my way with my art if I just keep giving it"

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GO! listen live

MUSIC & MORE AT LOCAL NIGHTSPOTS THIS WEEK

WEDNESDAY 3/24

Spring Sessions — Real Time with Benji Nagel & Jenner Fox: The duo will perform live on the outdoor stage or watch the stream on the Worthy Facebook page; 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Worthy Brewing Company, 495 NE Bellevue Drive, Bend; go.evnt.com/742723-0

An Evening with Mike Waylock: The multi-genre artist will perform; 6-8 p.m.; The Brown Owl, 550 SW Industrial Way, Bend; go.evnt.com/752271-0 or 541-797-6581.

THURSDAY 3/25

AJ Croce Livestream Series: The musician

will perform a retrospective of his 30-year career with his touring band; 5:30-8 p.m.; \$15; online; go.evnt.com/756048-1 or 541-317-0700.

Victory Swig: The rock-pop-folk band will perform; 6-8 p.m.; River's Place, 787 NE Purcell Blvd., Bend; go.evnt.com/755454-0

FRIDAY 3/26

High Desert Nights feat. Mark Quon and Special Guest: The local musician will perform on the outdoor stage; 6-8 p.m.; Bunk+Brew Historic Lucas House, 42 NW Hawthorne Ave., Bend; go.evnt.com/756160-0 or 458-202-1090.

An Evening with the Silvertone Devils:

The rockabilly-Americana band will perform; 6-9 p.m.; Silver Moon Brewing, 24 NW Greenwood Ave., Bend; go.evnt.com/755447-0 or 541-388-8331.

Sleepless Truckers: The outlaw country band will perform; 7-10 p.m.; The Horseshoe Tavern, 410 N. Main St., Prineville; go.evnt.com/755511-0 or 541-447-9932.

DJ Chris: The DJ will play a variety of music from the '80s to today; 8-10:30 p.m.; Double J Saloon, 528 SW Sixth St., Redmond; go.evnt.com/756144-0 or 541-923-1868.

SATURDAY 3/27

Superball: The classic rock band will perform; 1-3 p.m.; The Horseshoe Tavern,

410 N. Main St., Prineville; go.evnt.com/755509-0 or 541-447-9932.

Larry Carlton Master Class: The blues, jazz and fusion artist will host a live, interactive master class via Zoom with 20% of the ticket purchase going to support the Tower Theatre's education fund; 3-4:30 p.m.; \$89; online; go.evnt.com/756055-1 or 541-317-0700.

Joel Chadd Trio: The folk trio performs; 5-7 p.m.; On Tap, 1424 NE Cushing Drive, Bend; go.evnt.com/755470-0

The HWY 97 Band: The classic rock band performs; 5-8 p.m.; General Duffy's Waterhole, 404 SW Forest Ave., Redmond; go.evnt.com/755273-0

Spring Sessions — Shane Brown: The folk artist will perform live on the outdoor stage or watch the stream on the Worthy Facebook page; 5:30-7:30 p.m.; Worthy Brewing Company, 495 NE Bellevue Drive, Bend; go.evnt.com/742725-0

Saturdays in the Yard with Loose Platoon: The Delta blues band will perform on the outdoor stage; 6-8 p.m.; Bunk+Brew Historic Lucas House, 42 NW Hawthorne Ave., Bend; go.evnt.com/756141-0 or 458-202-1090.

Sleepless Truckers: The outlaw country band performs; 7-10 p.m.; Pump House Bar & Grill, 8320 U.S. 97, Terrebonne; go.evnt.com/755512-0 or 541-548-4990.