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ALL THINGS MUSIC

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MUSIC FOR  
THE WEEK  
p.4

## Globally inspired folk-classical duo: Alasdair Fraser, Natalie Haas return to Bend

BY BEN SALMON • For The Bulletin

For more than two decades, Scottish fiddle legend Alasdair Fraser has been making music with mega-talented California cellist Natalie Haas. And for almost as long, the duo has been traveling to Bend to perform for locals who prefer their instrumental music to be elegant and danceable at the same time, hand-crafted but globally influenced and at once both deeply rooted in tradition and relentlessly progressive.

Taken off the road by the COVID-19 pandemic for the past two years, Fraser said he has missed his annual visits to Central Oregon.

“I developed my own internal hermit lifestyle, which was interesting,” he said in a phone interview. “But when it comes to doing what we do, which is an intense love affair with music and community ... well, it feels very good to be back out and coming up to Oregon.”

With a new album of globetrotting folk-meets-classical tunes called “Syzygy” out, Fraser and Haas will return to town Monday night for a show at the Tower Theatre. Before he headed this way, Fraser took some time to answer a few questions from GO! Magazine. This interview has been edited slightly for space and clarity.

**Q:** Your new album came out late last year. Was it already in progress at the start of the pandemic or did you record it entirely during the pandemic?

**A:** We went into the studio in January of 2020 and we got a bunch of stuff done. And then COVID gave us the time to just work on it and develop it and get

### If You Go

**What:** Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas

**When:** 7:30 p.m. Monday

**Where:** Tower Theatre, 835 NW Wall St., Bend

**Cost:** \$25-\$45 plus fees

**Contact:** towertheatre.org or 541-317-0700.

to know the music and decide what we were going to do with it. And they, yeah, we released it in December but it was kind of a hollow feeling because we never toured it. So now, it kind of gives us new fuel and it's a fresh look at what we do after 22 years on the road together.

**Q:** How important is new fuel and a fresh look at this point in your all's collaboration?

**A:** Well, Natalie and I kind of have an agreement to keep pushing forward. You know, we keep testing each other with new ideas, and questioning the traditional forms. It's always been a part of traditional mu-

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Submitted photo

Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas return to Bend Monday.

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