

Wayne Worthen plays Side A-lley concert Aug. 19

By John Vollinger

Go! Magazine

LA GRANDE — With a slight change to Side A-lley's concert series, this week brings Idaho-based singer/songwriter Wayne Worthen.

The music starts at 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 19.

Worthen is bringing his varied and eclectic style to the stage and says he enjoys "playing/singing folk, folk rock, Celtic, blues, ragtime, classical, soft jazz and country."

Though this is quite a broad range of styles and influences, Worthen's sound is one that is immediately enjoyable and interesting.

One can expect to hear original compositions, with or without lyrics, with his acoustic guitar playing being the one constant.



Side A/Contributed Photo

Wayne Worthen plays Friday, Aug. 19, at Side A Brewing in La Grande.

much in his music, even with songs that solely rely on instrumentation.

For example, his song "Little One" feels as if it could be an ode to a child in his life, if not some kind words or advice to share with them, though that is just one interpretation one can get from the song.

Similarly, the instrumental song "Dead Man Hole" seems as if it tells an entire story in itself, perhaps taking place in the harsh American frontier, despite its pleasing melody.

This mastery at songwriting is, then, only enhanced by the addition of lyrics.

Worthen says that his mother reports he was "singing before [he] could talk."

This aligns well with his mention of intentionally hoping to bring joy with his music — you can tell, through this phrasing, that he is not bringing ego to the stage, but just trying to share some spots of time, through some enjoyable music.

Though there is not an abundance of singing in his songs, one can get an example of it by searching for "He Don't Love You Like I Do" which is a song sung warmly and telling a timeless story.

For more information, or to purchase some of Wayne's music, head to wayne-worthen.com.

He says that he tries "hard to write music that has feeling and passion" and that it is his "sincerest hope that you will find that listening to [his] music helps to enhance your life, that in some small way it brings joy and warmth to you."

This intentionality to his music is plain to any who see him play and listen to his compositions; Worthen seems to say so

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