

## **Music By the River Returns**

Good morning Woodstock and surrounding towns. Here we are almost three months and two weeks since we suspended programming! Ironically, our last movie screening was Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>!

I, for one had no clue we would still be in the thick of this pandemic in July when the President told us it would be over! Not that I really pay much attention to his guidance and leadership when it comes to the pandemic. It's just that summer seemed so far away back in the grey days of March.

Since Vermont and Vermonters have done a great job adhering to safety measures, permissible numbers for outdoor gatherings continue to go up. With that in mind, we have decided to present a slimmed down version of our free *Music by The River Series* in collaboration with the North Chapel. All safety precautions will be in place with patrons required to wear masks when entering and exiting, and while not eating or drinking. We will know audience capacity once we measure out the back lawn.

Here is the lineup:

### **Pete's Posse – July 24, 2020**

Vermont's own trad-roots power trio! Composed of acclaimed musician Pete Sutherland, his talented protégé Oliver Scanlon and the uber-dynamic Tristan Henderson, Pete's Posse never fails to surprise and excite! Twin fiddles in tight, wild harmony over high-powered guitar and pounding foot percussion with mandolin, clawhammer banjo, jaw harp, rocking keyboards, and soaring vocal harmonies adding color to the Posse's sonic landscape. (Adapted from the Posse's web site)

### **Interplay Jazz – July 31, 2020**

Founded in 1996 by Fred Haas and Sabrina Brown, Interplay has been inspiring musicians of all ages from around the world. Their experienced music faculty focuses on key aspects of the improvisational art of jazz and other creative art forms, integrated with daily yoga and meditation.

This performance will feature an array of local professional talent known to audiences all over the Upper Valley.

### **Emerald Rae – August 7, 2020**

Fiddler & Folksinger Emerald Rae brings the duo of strings and song to a new plateau with mesmerizing dexterity. Hailing from Gloucester, Massachusetts, Emerald Rae is both a small-town girl steeped in cherished folk traditions and a world-class artist breaking new ground with inventive fiddle effects. A degree in Film Scoring from Berklee College of Music in Boston gave her the freedom to cast a wide creative net, while her grit and intensity was earned during her twenty-year career as a powerhouse fiddler and dancer. (Adapted from Emerald Rae's Web site)

### **Vermont Symphony Orchestra's Jukebox Quartet- August 14, 2020**

The Vermont Symphony Orchestra's "Jukebox" Quartet consists of violinists Letitia Quante of Hinesburg, Brooke Quiggins of Bristol, violist Stefanie Taylor of Clarendon, and cellist John Dunlop of Jericho. The group was founded in 2017 when the VSO debuted its innovative Jukebox series. The ensemble was featured in recital at Dartmouth in 2019, and as the Arka Quartet performs private recitals and house concerts around the state. The drive to become a string quartet is rooted in these musicians' deep love of sharing chamber music together. Their programs include the classics as well as genre-bending works and new compositions. The quartet brings their audiences on a journey of exciting discovery as they share their four voices in the ageless spirit of musical community.

The quartet's performance is part of the Vermont Symphony Orchestras "Close to Home and Far Afield" series of live, outdoor community concerts around the state this summer.

### **The Contenders - August 21, 2020**

\*In the next week or so we will confirm whether this will be a due or solo performance.

The Contenders are an Americana Folk Roots duo of Jay Nash (9 albums, 10 EPs, 900 shows, 400,000 miles) and Josh Day (Sara Bareilles, John Oates, Brandi Clark, and Jennifer Nettles drummer). At the time

They have toured the US, opened for The Milk Carton Kids half a dozen times, played Americana Fest with Patti Griffin and Merle Fest where Jens Kruger of the Kruger Brothers joined them onstage. They also toured Europe (Holland, Germany, and France), and released the EP 'Meet The Contenders.' The Contenders released their debut Album 'Laughing with the Reckless' last year to critical acclaim.

Since we have lost nearly \$40,000 in program income since March, we need sponsors to help underwrite the series! Anyone interested in underwriting can contact me at [director@pentanglearts.org](mailto:director@pentanglearts.org). All concerts begin at 5:30 and are free and open to the public. Audience size will be limited, and is first come first serve. Donations are gratefully accepted.

### **On the Big Screen**

I have been following reporting on the movie industry and the re-openings of theatres across the country. Many of the big chains are starting to open with all the necessary safety precautions in place. There a few small houses opening in Vermont screening mostly older films starting in July.

For now, we've chosen to remain dark to preserve our limited resources so that we will have the funds and the staff available to open the doors in the months ahead when new films are released.

Here's some hopeful reporting by Quartz Entertainment Reporter, Adam Epstein on movie theatres and COVID-19.

"In a setting where we're not talking, we're just passively breathing and wearing masks, it might be a safer bet than a noisy, crowded bar," Jade Flinn, a faculty member at Johns Hopkins Medicine who trains nurses at its biocontainment unit told Quartz. "At movie theaters, if you're not eating popcorn, you're just sitting there with your mask on."

Flinn added that because theatergoers all face the same direction, that, too, reduces the chances of person-to-person transmission, as long as they're still social distancing."

When we do open the theatre will resemble a checkerboard with seating scattered in appropriate distances. Tickets will be purchased in advance.

The theatre is now open for private rentals for movie screenings with all safety precautions in place. Patrons would always need to maintain social distancing with masks required.

Lastly, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for the work of two departing Board members, Susan Boston, and Miranda Holson.

Susan Boston joined the Board in 2017, and most recently was our Treasurer. Susan provided excellent support, guidance and review of our annual budget and monthly financial reports.

Miranda Holson joined the Board in June 2019 and was an excellent volunteer coordinator staffing our programs and live events. Miranda provided indispensable assistance at fundraising events including Wassail Weekend where she worked every event helping to ensure a smooth and seamless weekend.