

April
2015

Florence Events Center

Center Stage

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CROW'S "ONCE UPON A MATTRESS" PAGE 3



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Eclectic, dazzling Quartetto Gelato comes to FEC



CALENDAR OF EVENTS APRIL

- 10-12 CROW's "Once Upon a Mattress"
- 11 Monkey Bugs
- 11-12 Early Rhododendron Show
- 15 FACC Volunteer recognition
- 17-19 Florence Health Fair
- 17 Quartetto Gelato
- 24 PeaceHealth Benefit Concert
- 25-26 "It's About Time" Auditions

MAY

- 3 Community Chorus
- 6 Rhododendron Court Showcase
- 9 Jazz Kings
- 15 Eugene Symphony
- 16 ARS Rhody Show
- 16-17 FRAA Arts Festival
- 22-23 Read for the Need
- 29-30 FloTones

Rotary Club meets every Tuesday at noon.
Box Office Hours: 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays
and 1 hour before major events



ONGOING EVENTS:
Florence Rotary Club luncheon -
Tuesdays at noon

Quartetto Gelato.

Though it sort of sounds like a four-pack of Italian ice cream, this quartet of world-class performers may be as cool as gelato but sizzles hot on stage. Classical in training, eclectic by design, this dazzling ensemble has become an international favorite with sold-out repeat performances in New York, Washington, Chicago, Dallas, Los Angeles, Toronto, Calgary, Tokyo, Seoul, Hong Kong, and elsewhere.

They'll bring their world-class talents to the Florence Events Center Friday, April 17, at 7 p.m. For nearly two decades, Quartetto Gelato has won the hearts of audiences worldwide with their unique blend of musical finesse, pyrotechnical solos, blazing gypsy show pieces, multi-instrument mastery, and dynamic humor. Their musical repertoire spans the globe to include Russian, Irish, South American and Italian influences as well as classical masterworks, operatic arias, the sizzling energy of tangos, gypsy and folk songs.

As a bonus, the group's theatrical stage presence and relaxed humor establishes an intimate rapport with their audience.

As if that weren't enough, the group boasts a World Accordion Champion and a brilliant operatic tenor. Quartetto Gelato has been featured on PBS Television and has won the honor of Best Classical Ensemble at Canada's 2010 Indie awards. In winning National Public

Radio's "NPR Performance Debut Artist of the Year," the group was celebrated as an ensemble that achieves the nearly impossible, mixing salon music with real style, and classical music with real precision; great chops and a commitment in all that they play.

The sheer variety of musical instruments on stage will impress any concertgoer: accordion, piano, bandoneon, oboe, violin, viola, cello, clarinet, English horn, five-string banjo, acoustic/electric bass, piano, saxophone, flute, guitar, mandolin and musical saw all make appearances in the show.

The group will also give a pre-concert talk at 6:15 p.m. the evening of the show, giving the public an opportunity to meet the members.

SEACOAST's sensational season of seven high-caliber performances wraps up Friday, May 15, at 7 p.m., when the Eugene Symphony returns to present a special Florence-only "Orchestra Showcase." This

unique, one-time concert will include the music of Barber, Haydn and Strauss, and features symphony principal cellist Anne Ridlington.

The symphony will host a pre-concert talk at 6:15 p.m.

Individual tickets for concerts are \$30 for adults and \$10 for those age 18 and under.

Tickets are available online at SEACOASTEA.org, at the Florence Events Center box office at 715 Quince Street, or by phone by calling 541-997-1994.



Quartetto gelato

FRAA art exhibit featured in Gallery One through April

The Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) will be exhibiting during the month of April at the Florence Events Center in Gallery One. A large variety of media and techniques will be on display, both on the gallery walls and in the display case. Photography, paintings, mixed media, jewelry, torn paper designs, encaustic, and scratch board are just a few examples of what the public will see in this eclectic display.

FRAA members support the organization's purpose of unifying and supporting all the arts, enriching cultural life, and stimulating economic vitality in the Florence area. One member whose work will be on display is Karen Nichols, who creates art in many media.

Her favorite is a unique three-dimensional style she calls Paper Painting Collage.

She uses fibrous rice paper, watercolors it to the desired tones then tears it into interesting shapes.

An art reception will be held for the public, as well as exhibiting artists, friends and family at FEC Gallery One on Saturday, April 18, from 5 to 7 p.m. Refreshments will be served.



Paper Painting Collage "Stars and Stripes Forever" by Karen Nichols.

CENTERSTAGE

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'Once Upon a Mattress' coming to a castle near you

"Once Upon A Mattress" was Carol Burnett's star vehicle in the 1960s, and there is a very good reason why. The show may re-tell the age-old fairy tale of "The Princess and the Pea," but if you think you know what to expect, you are in for quite a walloping surprise.

Carried on a wave of beguiling songs, by turns hilarious and raucous, romantic and melodic, this spin on the familiar classic of royal courtship and comeuppance provides for some side-splitting scenarios.

CROW's latest production opens April 10, with shows set for April 11 and 12 on the Florence Events Center's main stage. More than 50 children and young adults have been put through the paces by experienced CROW volunteers, like musical director Jason Wood and assistant musical director Mary Beers. At the director's helm is Melanie Heard, who has plans for the play's leading lady to make a grand and glorious entrance (backside first) through a

window in a castle turret. And that's just a tiny glimpse into the shenanigans audiences can expect in April.

"We are all so thrilled about producing this show...it's one of our favorites," says CROW producer Michael Jacobson. "Last year's production of 'The Little Mermaid Jr.' was truly wonderful, but this production is going to delight and impress audiences even more."

In addition to an outstanding young cast, which was just selected through a rigorous professional audition process, CROW has assembled the best all-volunteer production team available.

Spectacular set pieces have been created by Chris Heard, David Tidball and Crystal Shahan. Karen Mechek and Judy Murphy will once again dazzle with their artistic skill.

Margaret McDiarmid has returned to design beautiful stage lighting, and Chris Owens will provide professional soundboard



A pair of young bards prepare to entertain.



Queen Aggravain, Prince Dauntless and Sir Harry

operation. Polly Fleming and Barbie Madden have been sewing costumes like mad in order to creatively clothe the large cast of lords and ladies.

Debbie Weiss returned this year to stand guard at the castle doors as stage manager.

Other outstanding volunteers like Genevieve Meltzer (assistant director and hair and make-up designer) have devoted countless hours to make the show the absolute best it can be for local children — on stage and in the audience.

"There are many unsung heroes who work behind the scenes on our productions," says

Heard. "Parent and community volunteers have helped with T-shirt sales, safety team organization, fundraising and prop collection, to name a few. We could not do what we do without these amazing people donating their time and energy."

Performances will be held April 10 at 7 p.m.; April 11 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; and April 12 at 2 p.m. Tickets for Once Upon A Mattress can be obtained by calling the Florence Events Center at 541-997-1994, or purchasing them online at www.eventcenter.org. Adults tickets are \$16 and kids (under 12) are \$8.

More information can be found on CROW's website at www.crowkids.com.

"Tickets are already selling rapidly," Heard said, "So don't delay, and bring your knights and ladies to this royally wonderful production."



Back row from left: Ellen Jacobson, Michael Jacobson, David Lauria, Genevieve Meltzer, Chris Owens, Polly Fleming and Jason Wood. Front row from left: Margaret McDiarmid, Karen Mechek, Melanie Heard, Tamara Cole and Maree Beers.



An FEC Guide to Giving

Capital Improvement Fund

Tax-deductible donations can be made to the Florence Events Center Capital Improvement Fund. These funds are maintained for special projects & new equipment.

Endowment Fund

An endowment fund for the Florence Events Center has been established with the Western Lane Community Foundation. Tax-deductible donations can be made to: Western Lane Community Foundation, P.O. Box 1589, Florence, OR 97439.

Named Theater Seat

You can have your name(s) placed on the back of a theater seat for a \$1,500 tax-deductible donation.

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Monkey Bugs discount children's apparel to 'pop up' at FEC

Monkey Bugs is a family owned children's resale "pop up" with the goal of helping families in communities across Oregon by providing quality children's clothing (newborn-18) at affordable prices. In addition to its store locations, Monkey Bugs also travels to locations around Oregon, bringing with it a wide selection of quality used clothing. At Monkey Bugs, you don't have to search for sizes or have to worry about checking for stains or holes. Monkey Bugs selects only the best items and always offers a wide variety of items to choose from. In addition, its inventory is always changing, so those who attend a Monkey Bugs pop up event one time will find different items the next time. Monkey Bugs pop up shops are clean and organized, with spacious aisles for strollers, along with activities for kids.

Monkey Bugs will pop up at the FEC on Saturday, April 11, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



FACC to honor Florence area volunteers

The Florence Area Community Coalition (FACC) will host its annual celebration of volunteers in Florence April 15. This event gives organizations and individuals a chance to publicly thank and honor those people in their groups and lives who unselfishly volunteer their services in various capacities around the community. The cost is \$100 to reserve a table of eight, or \$7 for an individual. All proceeds will go towards funding scholarships for Youth Volunteers of the Year. Awards will be presented during the volunteer celebration.

Program highlights of the afternoon will include

recognition of all local volunteers, audience participation, door prizes and refreshments. Sponsors for this year's event are Three Rivers Foundation and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) of Lane County.

The event will be held Wednesday, April 15, from 2 to 4 p.m., at the Florence Events Center.

Groups are invited to bring their program materials to share.

For more information, call the FACC at 541-902-8308.

Rhodys to bloom early at flower show April 11-12

The Early Rhododendron Flower Show will take place April 11 and 12. The flower show, held each year by the Siuslaw Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society (ARS), takes place one month before the annual Rhododendron Festival Rhody Show, which takes place this year May 22-24.

Both flower shows are held at the Florence Events Center and are judged. The aim is to educate and introduce the public to as many varieties of rhododendrons as possible. The show is open to the public – without charge – as soon as judging is completed.

Either of the rhododendron flower shows is a great place to find what flowers would look great in your garden and view varieties of both rhododendrons and azaleas from around the world. The Siuslaw Chapter also has an outdoor plant sale during both shows. Many selections of rhododendrons and azaleas are available for a reasonable price.

Doors open at 1 p.m. to the public on Saturday and remain open until 5 p.m. On Sunday, viewing will be available from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Variety of experts to be on hand at Health Fair

Whether looking for motivation or education to help live a healthy lifestyle, visitors to this year's annual Florence Community Health Fair will find it. To kick off the health fair weekend, on Friday, April 17, the Bridgewater Restaurant will provide a free heart-healthy lunch for the first 100 attendees beginning at noon. Also on Friday only, visit dozens of fun exhibits with valuable information, products, samples, services, games, health assessments and a chance to win one of the many door prizes throughout the afternoon.

Personal trainers Tracy Markley and John Herbst from Coastal Fitness will be demonstrating exercise techniques. Pre-register early for the free Adult CPR/First Aid/AED class to be held on Friday as well.

Health fair attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to benefit Food Share.

Donations will be accepted from noon on Friday, April 17, until Sunday morning, April 19, at 10:45 a.m.

On Saturday, April 17, activities begin at 1 p.m. with a free lunch provided by the Florence Seventh-day Adventist Church for the first 100 attendees. Choose from a full line-up of half-hour seminars with relevant and helpful tips for living a healthy and more vibrant life.

Seminars begin at 2 p.m. and will include:

- DeleteBloodCancer "What is the plan and

how can I help?"

- 90 x 30: "To reduce child abuse and neglect by 90 percent by 2030 in Lane County"
- CERT: "Emergency food secrets for your survival"
- Us TOO: "Prostrate Cancer diagnosis and care"
- Joan Taber, PeaceHealth: "Gluten sensitivity and Celiac Disease"
- Jim Archer, marathon enthusiast: "Running, a lifetime practice"

There will also be doctors, testimonials and subjects such as: how to obtain a healthy diet; exercises for all situations; small changes with big results; hearing loss; dental care; and more.

For a full list of speakers, seminars and times, pick up a schedule Friday at the greeting table at the FEC.

Weekend activities conclude Sunday, April 19, with a 5K Fun Run/Walk. Proceeds from the 5K run will benefit Friends of Florence.

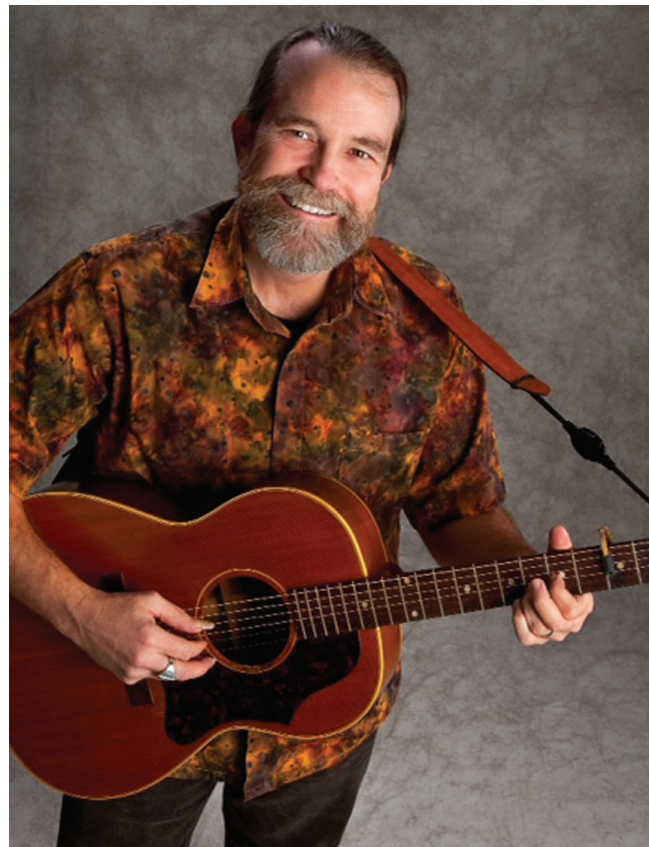
Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. at the FEC. The 5K begins at 9 a.m.

To pre-register for the free Adult CPR/First Aid/AED class, or the 5K and guarantee a T-shirt, email florenceorhealthfair@gmail.com, or call 541.999.2052.

This event is presented by Florence Seventh-day Adventist Church and underwritten by Korando Dental Group.



PeaceHarbor to host benefit concert April 24



A free benefit concert to raise funds for the PeaceHarbor Medical Center Emergency Department, "Leave A Legacy: Save a Life" campaign, will be held at the Florence Events Center on April 24, at 7 p.m.

Suggested tax-deductible donation is \$25. Tickets will be available at the door and performers will include:

- Larry Pattis, an accomplished guitarist named one of the "Top 10 Best Acoustic Music Artists of the Decade" by the International Acoustic Music Awards. He has been a featured headline performer at such illustrious venues as the Montreal International Jazz Festival and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts Millennium Stage in Washington DC. He also tours as part of the American Guitar Masters Concert Series.

- C. Daniel Boling is a Kerrville New Folk and Woody Guthrie Folk Festival Award-winning singer-songwriter. From Albuquerque, N.M., Boling has performed at the Florence Winter Folk Festival in previous years. Boling will perform original songs and guitar playing.

- Mike and Carleen McCornack have been wowing audiences for more than 40 years with an engaging musical style that blends clear, expressive, harmonious vocals with sparkling acoustic instrumental accompaniments.

They have been winners of the Winter Folk Festival People's Choice award, Parent's Choice Gold Award winners and Parent's Guide Honors.

- The New Folksters are a group of folk singers from Eugene, who combine strong harmony with instrumentals. Their performances are fun and include '60s folk songs, contemporary tunes and rollicking ragtime ditties. Some members have been part of the folk singing community since the '60s.

Band members include Hal Weiner (guitar, banjo, uke, vocals), Beverly Schriver (vocals, kazoo), Keith Barr (6- and 12-string

guitar, vocals) and Ken Luse (bass).

Cutline info: C. Daniel Boling (above left) and Larry Pattis will be among the musicians performing at the April 24 benefit concert.

Learn how to leave a smaller carbon footprint at Florence Green Fair

“Living green” is not just a catch phrase anymore. It’s the direction more and more people are taking as the importance of protecting the environment stays in the forefront. Now “living green” means making changes to lifestyles — changes that are environmentally friendly and sustainable.

To further these efforts, The Siuslaw News, KCST Radio and the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce are hosting Florence’s 6th annual Green Fair. On Saturday, May 2, more than 40 companies will assemble at the Florence Events Center with information and displays that demonstrate how consumers and businesses can choose products and take simple steps that will create less waste, save money, be healthful and leave less of a mark on the environment. Whether it is about recycling, using less energy, or protecting the soil and air and the food we eat, the Green Fair will offer ideas and solutions for adopting a greener lifestyle.

Exhibits, seminars and interactive activities are scheduled through the day, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The first 500 people to attend the fair will receive a complimentary package of energy-efficient light bulbs, courtesy of show sponsor Central Lincoln Public Utility District. Admission to the Florence Green Fair is \$3.

Visitors to this year’s Green Fair will have access to more ‘living green’ vendors than ever before.



FRAA artists to exhibit during Rhododendron Festival

The FRAA will present its Rhododendron Days Arts Festival May 16 and 17. The exhibit will showcase an eclectic display of unique works of art and fine craftsmanship — many of which will be available for purchase. For more than five years, the FRAA Art Festival has attracted local artists as well as artisans from all over Oregon to participate and display their works. This special event at the Florence Events Center runs from Saturday, May 16, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and again on Sunday, May 17, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Admission is free, with 10 percent of the sales benefiting the Florence Regional Arts Alliance (FRAA) Art Center.

The exhibit will feature woodworking, as well as many different art mediums from artisans around the state

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Community Chorus to present 'Hooray for Hollywood'

At 2 p.m. on May 3, a musical performance called "Hooray for Hollywood" will be presented by the Community Chorus of Florence Oregon (CCFO) at the Florence Events Center. The program, under the baton of interim director Paul Guthmuller, will include many songs from popular motion pictures of the past. In addition to a medley of favorite tunes, the chorus will sing several other unusual favorites, including the theme from the James Bond series of movies.

Special guests performing at the concert include Florence favorite the FloTones. In addition, The Siuslaw Children's Choir,

consisting of students in grades three to six, will also perform. Elise Arnold will direct both the children's choir and the Chorus' James Bond theme. The May concert will highlight the Chorus' scholarship program and recipients will be announced.

Tickets for the concert are available at the Florence Events Center and are \$15 for adults, with children under 18 years of age admitted free.

For more information or tickets, call the FEC at 541-997-1994 or visit www.eventcenter.org, or the Community Chorus at www.communitychorusflorenceor.org.

Rhododendron Court to perform crowning 'Showcase'

The Rhododendron Court Scholarship Showcase will spotlight 14 young men and women from the Florence and Mapleton area representing both the senior and junior courts.

The event has evolved over the years but continues a tradition that began more than 100 years ago in 1908. This year, five Siuslaw High School senior girls, four Siuslaw High School senior boys, one Mapleton Elementary girl and four Siuslaw Elementary girls joined the Rhododendron Festival's 2015 "Rock 'n' Rhody"-themed royal court.

The Rhododendron Festival High School Court includes five young women: Trista Lane, Courtney King, Natalie Madden, Kennedy Roylance and Bailey Wells, along with with four young men: Keoni Castro, Trey Cornish, Joseph Dotson and Jonathan Griffes.

This is the Rhody Festival's second year with boys included in the scholarship competition.

To qualify for the court, applicants needed to provide references, fill out an application and describe their personal achievements and goals, as well as which college they would prefer to attend.

Choice in colleges varied from relatively close to home, such as Central Oregon Community College, Corban University, George Fox University, Lane Community College and Oregon State University, to those

well beyond Lane County, like Brigham Young University Idaho.

The objective of the Rhododendron Court Scholarship program is to provide scholarships for higher education, to promote community outreach and volunteerism and to offer networking and mentoring opportunities to outstanding young women and young men in a program that perpetuates an appreciation for Rhododendron Festival history and tradition.

Junior Court members include five young ladies: Alize Giselle Castellanos, Adelaide Ficcadenti, Ariana Galvan Mendez, Olivia Moore, all of the Siuslaw School District, and Elizabeth Perez of the Mapleton School District. Since March, court members have been visiting community events, business leaders, senior living centers, youth organizations and civic groups as part of their community outreach activities. Court members also receive one-on-one mentorship.

The Rhododendron Court Scholarship Showcase will be held at the Florence Events Center on May 6, beginning at 6 p.m., when members of the senior court will showcase their talents while competing for the title of Queen Rhododendron and King of the Coast.



'Why Don't You Do Right?' Celebrates classic female vocalists with Jazz Kings

The Jazz Kings close their 19th season with a focus on those great female vocalists who shared the stage with jazz ensembles but never made it to the stardom or mega-stardom enjoyed by Peggy Lee, Ella Fitzgerald or Billie Holiday. But in fact, these phenomenal vocalists were stars in their own wonderful ways, as this sparkling evening will evidence!

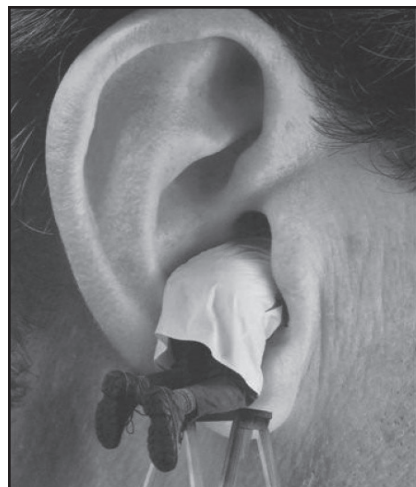
The show, set for May 9 beginning at 1:30 p.m., will include a few nods to Ella, Billie, and Peggy, of course, before turning to exquisite sides by Anita O'Day, Julie London, Helen Ward, Marion Hutton, and Helen Forrest. Look for beauts as "Cry Me A River," "Hold Tight," "The Peanut Vendor," "Goody, Goody," "Is That All There

Is," "I Only Have Eyes For You," and "Why Don't You Do Right?"

Jazz Kings crooner Shirley Andress will lead this vocal trip to the past.



Peggy Lee



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Eugene Symphony offers special 'Florence-Only' performance



SEAcost Entertainment Association's sensational season of seven high-caliber performances wraps up on Friday, May 15, at 7 p.m., when the Eugene Symphony returns to present a special Florence-only "Orchestra Showcase."

This unique, one-time concert will include the music of Barber, Haydn, and Strauss; and feature the Symphony's principal cellist Anne Ridlington. The Symphony will host a free pre-concert talk at 6:15 p.m. to meet the audience and give insights on the evening's music.

Individual tickets are \$30 per adult and \$10 for those under 18. Tickets are available online at SEAcostEA.org or at the

Florence Events Center box office, 715 Quince Street; or by phone at 541-997-1994. Artist profiles, video clips, and more information are available at SeacoastEA.org.

SEAcost is planning another outstanding season beginning in October with Latin/pop/jazz/classical artists, Quatro. Also included in the 2015-2016 line-up are singer Ken Lavigne, guitarist Jesse Cook, Ballet Fantastique, the Glenn Miller Orchestra, SHUFFLE (a group so multitalented they let the audience pick the playlist), and gypsy-jazz artists The New Hot Club of America. Season tickets, which offer a value of seven concerts for the price of five, go on sale later this spring.

IT'S ABOUT TIME PRODUCTIONS WILL BE HOLDING AUDITIONS

for another hilarious farce, "*Whose Wives Are They Anyway?*" written by Michael Parker and will be directed by Judy Adams. Auditions will be held at the Florence Events Center from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26, from 2 to 4 p.m. Performance dates will be August 21, 22, 23 and 28, 29, 30 on the main stage of the Florence Events Center.

Roles are available for three males and five females. Everyone is encouraged to audition regardless of experience. If you have a desire to be onstage or to work behind the scenes, please come to auditions.

FloTones to sing 'For the Glory of Love'



"Glory of Love" musicians Lou Invernon, Marty Adams and Lynette Kristine. (Not shown: Ron Green and Randy Curtola)

The Benny Goodman 1936 hit tune recording "The Glory of Love" spawned many covers, including the 1969 Jimmy Durante version and Bette Midler's 1988 appearance in the movie "Beaches." Florence's jazz ensemble singing group, the FloTones, will use the song's lyrics as a framework for its May 29 and 30 appearance at the Florence Events Center for its "The Glory of Love" concert.

The lyrics cover the gamut from disappointment to euphoria that lovers experience. Songs will include such favorites as "That Old Black Magic" and "As Time Goes By," mixed in with Bobby Troup's "The Meaning of the Blues" and Dave Brubeck's tricky "Take Five" (with lyrics by Brubeck and his wife, Lola).

The performance, which will be accompanied by a group led by Marty Adams, will feature more than 20 classic tunes.

Adams, a favorite Florence musician, will be backed by three veterans of previous FloTone performances along with one relative newcomer. Trumpeter Ron Green, bassist Lynette Kristine and drummer Randy Curtola all appeared with the FloTones in its 2013 production, "Down Memory Lane." For "The Glory of Love," they will be joined by woodwind player Lou Invernon, who brings outstanding music experience, having taught band music in Sacramento for 22 years. His professional career includes stints with the Barnum and Bailey circus band, the Ice Follies, the Dorsey Brothers, Artie Shaw and Nelson Riddle road bands, and as back up for such artists as Johnny Mathis and Ray Charles.

Seating for the two performances is limited. Tickets are available now for \$15 at the FEC Box Office.

For more information, call 541-997-1994.