

Doc Severinsen Performs at Cascade Music Festival's 25th Anniversary Celebration

by K_Guice

Music washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life, Berthold Auerbach once said. Music lovers are invited to do just that at the 25th Annual Cascade Festival of Music that runs August 26 -- September 2 in Drake Park.

"I think it is one of the cultural corner stones of our community," said Sally Russenberger, the executive director of the Cascade Festival of Music.

August 26 -- September 2 "We are very proud of the music we bring to Central Oregon and to Bend," she added. "It has a little bit of something for everyone and we have an amazing orchestra that is made up of people who come from all of the United States to play," she added.

The festival has brought in a myriad of guest artist as well. "Lynn Harrell is performing on opening night

-- he is playing the Dvorák Cello Concerto," Russenberger said. "He is one of the most respected cellists in the world next to Yo-Yo Ma."

The event also touts musicians like violinist Elmar Oliveira and pianists Jeffrey Seigel and Horacio Gutierrez. "We brought Horacio back," she said. "He is so wonderful, a talented performer, wonderful to work with and it's his birthday on Monday."

At the helm of all of this talent, is with the conductor, Murry Sidlin. "He's brilliant," Russenberger said.

"He is an incredible musician and he always performs from the heart," she added. "He inspires people and he loves to teach, so I always walk away from a performance feeling I understand that music a little bit better."

The world music concert is another highlight that includes the renowned Irish family, Leahy. They will sing, dance and fiddle their way into Labor Day weekend.

Other performers include Pepe and the Bottle Blondes and the Who's Who of Oregon Blues and Jazz Musicians will present a "Tribute to Ray Charles."

The pinnacle of the celebration will feature the world-famous Doc Severinsen. He will lead the 25th Anniversary Birthday Celebration of the Cascade Festival of Music on Thursday, August 31.

“We are so excited,” Russenberger said. “He was born in Oregon, performed on Johnny Carson for 30 years and he is going to be performing right here in Bend.”

While tickets for the evening concert are sold out, she said some are still available for the 10 a.m. rehearsal on Thursday morning. “People are invited to come down and sit outside of the venue even if an event is sold out and enjoy the music,” Russenberger offered.

Kids are also invited. “We have a children’s event on Tuesday,” she said. “We have an instrument petting zoo with a huge range of musical instruments.” Children will get to see and feel a real violin, horns, drums and much more.

The event starts at Kenwood School located at Harmon and Newport at 12:45 p.m. Then, at 1:20 p.m., all of the kids will be given a kazoo and make their way across the footbridge to the venue, performing along the way. “That’s all free,” Russenberger said.

What would a festival be without food? “We have a beautiful courtyard where people can go down and pick up a meal, a glass of wine or Pepsi and wander into their concert around 7:30 p.m.” she said. The food is being catered by Miranda’s.

The event, that expects between 7,000 to 8,000 people during the eight day festival, costs between \$15 to \$48 for admission.

Tickets are available for purchase online and through the festival box office. To purchase tickets call 383-2202 or go online to: www.ticketturtle.com.

Russenberger says it is an ideal way to celebrate the season. "It's summer! plan to come relax a little bit and enjoy."

Bend Weekly Newslink: www.CascadeMusic.org

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