

June 2026 • vol 27 • issue 308

HIPFISH MONTHLY

alternative press serving the lower columbia pacific region

The PRIDE is High . . . on The Coast



Event Listings + more p9-11

LCQC Pride: 10 Years Fierce

Peace First Lutheran honors diversity

UNDERDOGS

Understanding the Shelter Crisis for Pit Bulls

MAKE MUSIC

on the longest day of the year

*There's gonna be
some jammin' at*

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BLUEGRASS
PRIDE



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MAKE MUSIC DAY

making music on the longest day of the year

THE ARTS COUNCIL of Clatsop County joins the Make Music Day celebration for the fifth year on **Sunday, June 21, 2026**. Make Music Day is a one-day event where free, live musical performances and opportunities to make music take place around the world on the longest day of the year. Musical festivities in Clatsop County are part of a global celebration of music making in over 2,000 cities inspired by France's Fête de la Musique. This year, over 150 U.S. cities are organizing Make Music.

The Arts Council of Clatsop County invites everyone from professional musicians to

people who have never picked up an instrument to join in the global music celebration by attending events in Astoria and Seaside from 12 noon to 8 p.m. Relax to the sounds of local musicians; join a bucket-drumming session; learn to play the harmonica; or test your voice at karaoke. All Make Music Day events are free and open to the public.

An up-to-date list of event locations and times can be found at makemusicday.org/



clatsopcounty, where registration is still open for musicians and venues.

Music has been shown to strengthen social connectivity, reduce stress, lower blood pressure, and stimulate memory. It is integral to a well-rounded, enjoyable life. By participating in Make Music Day, the Arts Council of Clatsop County encourages every form of music making.

From The Beatles to Disco!! North Coast Chorale

"Just for the Fun of It – Again!" That's the title of North Coast Chorale's Larsen Center Benefit Concert to be held on SUNDAY, JUNE 28TH AT 4:00 PM.

8 years ago, the Chorale decided to put on a concert "just for the fun of it". And that's exactly what it was; singers in Tie-dyed shirts and

historical building is home for a diverse assortment of performing arts organizations. Certainly, maintaining and upgrading a historic building requires a lot of work and a never ending supply of money. Those who regularly attend events at the Larsen Center are aware of the enhancements completed over



The first NCC "Just for the fun of it!"

blue jeans sang selections from the Beatles, Mamas and Papas, Chicago, Beach Boys and even a Disco medley! All the music that made an audience want to dance and sing along. Seems like eons ago when NCC let their hair down and ditched the "long-hair music".

Fun music is a fitting genre for a benefit concert for the Charlene Larsen Center. This

the past few years and are looking forward to the upcoming improvements to basic needs and décor. Hence, the NCC Larsen Center Benefit Concert.

Get ready

for a fun afternoon of listening to great "oldies", and support the Charlene Larsen Center, which has become a beacon for the performing arts in our community. Admission is "Pay What You Want" with a suggested Donation of \$10 and tickets are available now from the Larsen Center website, www.charlenelarsencenter.org or call 503-338-9132.

Eepi Ursin Returns! Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival June 19 – 21

For over 50 years, the third weekend in June, Astoria Scandinavian Midsummer Festival comes to life bursting with culture through dance, music, theater, customs, handicrafts, and traditional Nordic foods.

Barnfest offers traditional yard games, the Beer Garden hosted by Astoria St. Opry Co. provides live music, the Viking Encampment demonstrates crafts from the middle ages, Icelandic Horses perform their tölt gait, you can partake in a meatball eating contest, a Tug of War, Midsummer Pole Raising, and enjoy a polka at the Nordic Family Ball. Twelve dance and musical groups perform throughout the festival on two stages—just a short list of a packed weekend of activities.

A full preview of events is available on astoriascanfest.com

Beloved Finnish-American vocalist and pianist Eepi Ursin returns as festival headliner. The New York City-based musician celebrates her Nordic roots with a highly anticipated second volume of Finnish classics, presented as intimate, stripped-down vocal and piano arrangements. Responding to requests from her audience, Ursin includes interpretations of timeless favorites such as levan polkka, Sininen ja valkoinen, and Juokse sinä humma.



Ursin moved to New York in 2020, just before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, following in the footsteps of her ancestors who immigrated to the United States in the early 1900s. Since then, she has toured extensively throughout North America, performing for Finnish communities and audiences interested in Nordic music and heritage.

"During my years as an expat Finn, I've met many people with Finnish roots who are incredibly proud of their origins," Ursin says. "I feel both honored and responsible for bringing Finnish nostalgia—with a modern twist—to Finnish communities in the United States and around the world."

Performances: Friday, June 19, 5:30pm – 6:30pm Arena Stage. Saturday, June 20, 1:15-2pm and 5:30-6:30pm Arena Stage, Sunday June 21 11am-12pm during the non-denominational church service.