



LYON COUNTY FAIR CARNIVAL RETURNS

By JAN BUCKMAN
The Emporia Gazette

The Lyon County Fair is officially underway with the opening of the carnival Thursday night.

Crowds of folks turned out to play games and enjoy the rides.

The first grandstand event of the fair is the Ranch Rodeo, set for 7 p.m. Saturday.

Tickets for grandstand events can be purchased in advance from any Lyon County 4-Her until July 26. Adult tickets will be \$10 and children 12 and under get in for two dollars. You can also purchase your tickets online at lyoncountyfairks.org. Tickets purchased at the fairgrounds will be \$15 each. Carnival wristbands are \$25 each night.

Exhibits are displayed for public viewing at the Anderson Building from 10 a.m. - 9 p.m. Aug. 5 - 8. Commercial exhibits are viewable at the Bowyer Building from 5:30 - 9 p.m. Aug. 5 - 8.



PHOTOS BY JAN BUCKMAN/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE



FIFTH ANNUAL CHAMBER MUSIC SOIREE RAISES FUNDS FOR ESU PROGRAMS

By MARCIA LAWRENCE
Special to The Gazette

Wednesday night, Aug. 3, marked the fifth annual Chamber Music Soiree, a musical fundraiser performed by Emporia State University music faculty and invited guests to benefit the ESU String Camp. It was standing room only at the Emporia Arts Center Davis Theatre, with all ticket proceeds helping cover camp costs.

The 2022 theme was Bach to Bluegrass, leading off with the first three movements of the Brandenburg Concerto No. 5 from — of course! — J.S. Bach. Featured performers were Ramiro Miranda, violin; Kate Bergman, flute; and guest musician Stacy Regehr, harpsichord; along with the Soiree Chamber Orchestra.

The Chamber Music Soiree concert tradition began in Emporia in 2017 with Walter Mays and his wife Mary Mays as guest artists. Mays was professor of musicology and composition at Wichita State University as well as an accomplished clarinet player, who performed many times with ESU music faculty and students. The 2022 concert was dedicated to the memory of Mays (1941-2022).

The concert was an intimate, quietly exuberant experience. Resplendent in a glittering gold gown, soprano Abigail Worley thrilled the audience with polished renditions of two Handel arias, with Kendra Briggs on violin, Irene Diaz Gill on cello, and Tara Laudie on harpsichord.

After intermission, guest cellist Daniel Yung offered a riveting solo performance of Mark Summers' "Julie — O". The composer, born in 1958, grew up in California playing piano, guitar, and — from the age of nine — cello. Always interested in alternative genres, as a teenager Summers played in a rock band known as The Plague. He is a founding member of Turtle Island Quartet, which has released 15 albums.

Mr. Yung gave an especially physical performance, highlight-



MARCIA LAWRENCE/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Soiree Chamber Orchestra at the conclusion of Wednesday's exuberant yet intimate fundraiser for ESU String Camp.

ing the percussion and pizzicato techniques that are hallmarks of the composer's works, and delighting the audience that included a number of students attending String Camp and under the tutelage of Mr. Yung.

"Strings and Threads Suite" by Mark O'Connor, the king of new American classical music, offered 13 movements that progressed from Irish melodies to pure Americana bluegrass tunes, tracing the composer's family immigrant experiences. Ramiro Miranda dominated, with his powerful, evocative, and sparkling fiddle performance.

The final Soiree Chamber Orchestra piece premiered composer and musician Riley Day's "Chompy and Squig." Mr. Day explained to the audience that his composition takes its inspiration from Ottorino Respighi's tone poem "Pines of Rome," specifically from the first movement, which portrays children playing in the gardens in Rome.



MARCIA LAWRENCE/SPECIAL TO THE GAZETTE

Left to right: Riley Day, whose original composition "Chompy and Squig" was performed for the first time at Wednesday night's Chamber Music Soiree; Irene Diaz, cellist, ESU instructor, and leader at ESU String Camp; and Daniel Yung of Kansas City, guest performer and guest instructor for ESU String Camp.

gardens in Rome. "My piece," Mr. Day confided,

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MAIN STREET SETS OUT TO SUPPORT TEACHERS, LOCAL BUSINESSES WITH NEW INITIATIVE



By SHAYLA GAULDING
shayla@emporia.com

Emporia Main Street has launched a new initiative to encourage students and their families to shop locally.

From Aug. 3 until Aug. 22, every school purchase made at a Main Street Member Business not only benefits a local business, it can also help out a Lyon County teacher.

"There are a few things that we're trying to accomplish," Main Street Executive Director Casey Woods said. "One, we know that people are getting ready to go back to school and families are shopping for that back-to-school activity. We want to encourage people to shop local and utilize locally-owned businesses whenever possible."

The second, Woods said, is to help out local teachers as they prepare for the new school year. To do both, Main Street will be giving away five \$100 gift certificates to local educators who are entered to win — by you, the shopper.

To participate, all you need to do is snap a picture of your receipt after you complete your back-to-school shopping at a Main Street Member Business. According to Main Street's website, eligible items and services can include "clothes, shoes, school supplies, haircuts, eye exams, trips to the dentist and more."

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