

LEISURE

FUN IN BORDERLAND

The Journal welcomes ideas for stories about people in our community who have interesting pastimes or hobbies.  
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BCA season kicks off Oct. 22

Single-show tickets will be available at the door

BY EMILY GEDDE  
Staff Writer

With the goal of delivering the finest performances and enrich the culture of the Borderland area, board members of the Border Concert Association are gearing up to launch the 69th concert season Oct. 22.

“The founders who built the BCA began delivering great performances in 1945,” said board member Faye Whitbeck. “Since then, more than 300 concerts have been enjoyed.”

Each show in the five-concert series will take the stage of the Backus Community Center Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. on the respective performance nights.

Brought in by Minneapolis-based Allied Concert Services, board member Mary Bartlett said the performers enlisted by the Border Concert Association are world-class entertainers.

“These are not performers waiting for the phone to ring,” she said. “They are off performing all over the world, perhaps living in Europe and have signed with Allied for a roster of performances which suits their demands and schedules.”

Tapping into her medical background,

board member Kimberly Perkins said there are many reasons why people should consider attending one, if not all five, BCA performances.

“Aside from having a wonderful evening at the theater, there are numerous reasons why people should attend these shows,” she said. “Extensive research in the neurochemistry of music shows that there are physical and mental benefits of enjoying a lovely tune. Music can improve the function of the body’s immune system and reduce levels of stress. Likewise, music has been acclaimed as the source of maintaining a healthy brain and is argued to be responsible for alleviating dementia-like symptoms in older adults.”

This year’s all-male cast of performers includes fourth generation musicians in their 20s and are already established in bluegrass, country and folk music; lifelong musicians with roots in the Boys Choir of Hannover, now doing a cappella; a Harvard pre-med student piano virtuoso that is a graduate of Juilliard; and a troop of trumpet performers from Lyon, France, who promise to be enormously entertaining.

“We always consider of variety of performances in different genres,” Whitbeck said.

Bartlett added, “If you love music, we want you at our concerts – no matter what age. If you are a college or high school

student and want to hear live music, you can see all five of our performances for a total of \$10. Making world-class music affordable to our community is imperative, and we have succeeded at that.”

Perkins said she is hopeful more high school and college-aged students attend.

“I don’t think they realize the fun that’s to be had,” she said.

Season tickets for all five shows cost \$45 for adults; \$10 for students; and \$95 for families. Single-show tickets will also be available at the door the night of each performance.

Tickets are available at City Drug, County Market and the Backus office in the Falls; Betty’s, Fort Frances Museum and Northwoods Gallery and Gift in Fort Frances; Cloverleaf Store, Greensides and Emo Drug Store in Emo; and from Rose Kregar in Rainy River.

2013-2014 BCA LINEUP:

■ The Abrams Brothers — Oct. 22

Ontario-based brothers and cousin mix bluegrass with country and rock.

■ Charlie Albright — March 14

Young pianist with virtuosic chops and a bit of improv.

■ Mack Bailey — April 1

Warm-voiced folk singer from the Limelighters.

■ Les Trompettes de Lyon — May 1

Debut American tour for this French trumpet quintet.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Rose Ensemble will perform 7 p.m. Monday at the Backus Community Center.

Rose Ensemble to perform Monday

Show is the second in the Backus Community Center concert series

JOURNAL STAFF REPORT

The Rose Ensemble will take audiences back to America’s folk roots at 7 p.m. Monday at the Backus Community Center as the second show in Backus’ concert series.

The Rose Ensemble’s stop at Backus is part of its eighth annual Greater Minnesota Tour, states a news release. This year’s tour has grown to include 10 communities beyond the Twin Cities metro, and involves a concert performance and free educational outreach in each community, all accomplished in the span of two weeks.

The Rose Ensemble will meet with students at Falls High School Monday after-

noon to teach them about a variety of vocal styles from the American musical landscape. The musicians will also demonstrate a variety of instruments including wooden flute, early African-American banjo, jaw harp, guitar, fiddle, mandolin and bass, with percussion provided by stomping feet.

The release states that The Rose Ensemble will bring audiences at Monday’s concert back to America’s folk roots through rousing hymns, Appalachian foot-stomping songs, southern harmony shape-note singing, and Shaker spirituals: the music that gave birth to bluegrass. The roots of bluegrass explores the country’s musical heritage with close vocal harmonies, banjo, guitar, and fiddle.

The group was founded in 1996 by artistic director Jordan Sramek and “reawakens the ancient with vocal music that stirs the emotions, challenges the

mind, and lifts the spirit,” according to the group’s website. Based out of St. Paul, the group tours internationally with repertoire spanning 1,000 years and 25 languages, including new research in Middle Eastern, European and American vocal traditions.

The Rose Ensemble was a recipient of the Chorus America Margaret Hillis Award for choral excellence in 2005 and first place winner in sacred and secular music categories at the 2012 Tolosa Choral Contest in Spain.

Admission for Monday’s event costs \$12 for adults, \$6 for students and \$25 for a family. Advance tickets are available at Backus Community Center and City Drug in International Falls, or Betty’s in Fort Frances.

Prior to the concert, Backus will host a Top the Tater dinner from 5-6:30 p.m. in the Backus Dining Room. Cost is \$ 6 per person.

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Thank You

Thank you to everyone who attended the cupcake social and contributed to the gift of money for my retirement. It was overwhelming to see so many current and past faculty and staff members who I worked with over the past 33 years.

I'll always remember ISD 361 with pride and fondness. You're a dedicated and hard working group of people!

Many thanks to our FHS students – I'll miss you!  
Mrs. Fairchild's FACS students: Thanks for singing to me and for making posters and the banner – you're awesome!

With gratitude,  
Peggy Johnson, FHS Secretary



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