



Contributed photo

Flutist Peter Phippen's most recent recordings include "Seven," an album he made with Tiit Raid and Ivar Lunde.

FEATURED ATTRACTION

Phippen's flute playing appears on three award nominated albums

BY WILLIAM FOY

LEADER-TELEGRAM STAFF

Peter Phippen says he's not in a hurry to put out another solo album featuring his playing of traditional flutes. But listeners can hear the Eau Claire musician's signature sound on three prominent releases.

All three of the recordings have been nominated for ZMR Annual Music Awards, bestowed by ZoneMusicReporter.com. The site, formerly known as NewAgeReporter.com, describes itself as the industry source for new age, world, ambient, electronic, solo piano, relaxation, instrumental

and others genres. The three honored projects are:

- "Inner Rhythm Meditations Vol II" (Heart Dance Records), by percussionist Byron Metcalf, Best World Album. Phippen played shakuhachi and bansuri flutes.

- "Perihelion...the Turning Point" (Laughing Cat Records), by Al Jewer and Andy Mitran, Best Contemporary Instrumental Album. Phippen played shakuhachi flute on two tracks.

- "Quiet Spaces: Flute Meditations for Mindfulness and Relaxation" (Cul de Sac Mystic Productions), by flutist Ann Licater, Best Relaxation/Meditation Album. Phippen played bass on

several tracks and co-produced the album.

"I'm a side man, and it's kind of cool," Phippen said, smiling. He described all of those artists as "really nice people. ... Kind people who are open to ideas."

He believes part of what got him those featured roles is that he has developed his own sound, he said, adding, "And if they hear it, and it seems to fit with what they're working on, then, bang, I'm on it. I'm the right man for the job. ... That's not going to be everybody."

SEE PHIPPEN PAGE 2F

Dinner theater staging of 'Murder' planned

NEILLSVILLE — Neillsville Area Players will present a dinner theater production of "The Sound of Murder" the next two weekends at the Clark Cultural Art Center, 201 E. Fourth St.

The production recalls the radio shows of the 1940s. At radio station WMDR the pressure is mounting as they prepare to go live in one hour. If their murder mystery show doesn't go well, the station will go out of business. It certainly doesn't help that the station owner's son is trying to sabotage the show.

The production was written by Tim Hass and is directed by Cheryl Anderegg. Returning cast members Maddie Betlaf and Noah Wolf, from the Players' 2018 summer production of "Mary Poppins," are joined by cast members Jason Bravener, Eric Abel, Ann Wegner, and Barb Shoemaker.

Productions will be Friday through Sunday, March 17, and March 22 through 24. Saturday seatings are at 6 p.m. with

the show at 7:30 p.m.. On Sundays, seating is at 12:30 p.m. with a 2 p.m. show.

Dinner will be provided by the CART culinary department and includes choice of beef tips with gravy, chicken marsala, or eggplant Parmesan. Chocolate lava brownie with vanilla ice cream served at intermission finishes off the meal.

Tickets must be ordered in advance. Tickets are \$29 if paid in advance or \$32 if ordered in advance and paid at the door. To order call 715-937-0771, email neillsvilleareaplayers@gmail.com or send a message on Facebook or through the website areaplayers.jimdo.com

Poet reading at Pablo Center

A reading and discussion with poet Dasha Kelly Hamilton is at 5:30 p.m. Thursday in Pablo Center at the Confluence's Clearwater Recital Hall, 128 Graham Ave.

The event is organized by the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters and the Chippewa Valley Writers Guild.

Hamilton, a writer and performer, has

\$10, go to pablocenter.org or call 715-492-0240.

Fiddle-banjo duo to perform

Fiddler Tatiana Hargreaves and banjo player Allison de Groot will present a workshop and concert Friday in Eau Claire.

The workshop will be at 5:30 p.m. at Offbeats Violin & Guitar, 307 S. Farwell St.

To attend the workshop contact the shop at offbeatsviolin.com or info@offbeatsviolin.com. Early registration for the workshop is encouraged.

The concert will be at 8 p.m. at The Lakeside.

De Groot has become known for her clawhammer banjo work with Molsky's Mountain Drifters, while Hargreaves has brought her fiddling to the stage with Gillian Welch and Laurie Lewis.

Tickets cost \$10 and are available at tinyurl.com/ycl8wchr.

More information about the musicians can be found at tinyurl.com/ydhveghl.

From staff reports

Contest returns for youth garage bands

Entries are being accepted for the 15th Rockonsin, a statewide youth garage-band competition.

The contest showcases state seventh- through 12th-grade bands of all musical genres and is the only program of its kind in the nation.

Rockonsin, presented by the Nicholas Family Foundation, will invite 12 statewide Wisconsin high school/middle school garage-bands to perform and compete at Summerfest, billed as the world's largest music festival. The performances and competition will be conducted from noon to 2:30 p.m.

June 27 and 28 on the Johnson Controls World Sound Stage. The winner and runner-up will each receive a second 45-minute Summerfest showcase gig and studio recording time at Madison's Blast House Studios.

The band application period closes on April 30; bands can sign up at rockonsin.org.

Key Rockonsin features include:

- There are no registration fees or any associated costs to participate.

Bands must be formed outside the school music program. All band members must be enrolled in a Wisconsin public, private, virtual, charter or home school during the 2018/2019 school year.

Musicians applying do not have to be enrolled in a traditional school music program, and the band must consist of two or more musicians; one member of the band must be a vocalist.

Each band will be asked to submit one video (bands should not incur the expense of professionally videotaping their song — using a smartphone or a hand held video camera will do the trick) of the band performing either one cover or original song and submitting a link to that video, in addition to filling out their band application at rockonsin.org. Bands should video close enough so that one can see the band members actually playing or singing; and include the songwriting credit and lyrics.

The one song video application will be reviewed by a panel of music industry professionals and bands will be notified by May 15th if they have been selected to perform at Summerfest.

SEE CONTEST PAGE 2F

MAIN EVENTS



Photo by Vana Barki
Dasha Kelly Hamilton has appeared on "HBO Presents Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam" and has been named Artist of the Year by the city of Milwaukee.

released four spoken-word recordings, written two novels, and appeared in "HBO Presents Russell Simmons' Def Poetry Jam." She has twice been a finalist for poet laureate of Wisconsin and was named Artist of the Year by the city of Milwaukee.

For tickets, which range from \$8 to

Kip Moore isn't chasing anything

But commercial success still is pretty cool

BY DAN HYMAN

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

It's been some time now since Kip Moore had a smash single on country radio. But then again, commercial success never really mattered all that much to him.

"I'm never chasing anything," said the Georgia-raised singer, whose sound was always a bit more Southern rock than traditional country and who at heart considers himself a classic singer-songwriter. "We live in a plastic generation," the 38-year old added. "Everybody is just trying to latch on: whenever something is popular everyone is just trying to do that. But I've always just trusted my gut. It's nice knowing that I've never sold out at any point in my career and I've stayed authentic in my feelings and my artistry."

Calling from his adopted hometown of Nashville, Tenn., Moore said he's never felt more fulfilled than he does at this moment in the near-decade since he broke out with his sole No.1 single, and arguably his most country-pop song to date, 2011's "Somethin' 'Bout A Truck." That's because the singer is set to kick off the second leg of his wildly successful "Room to Spare Acoustic Tour" at the Copernicus Center on Thursday behind last year's unplugged album of the same name.

"And I'll tell ya, I go out onstage every night and I'm so relaxed," Moore explained of an acoustic show that sees him playing songs across his entire discography albeit in a stripped-down fashion. "I'm playing these songs the way they originated and there's such a peace in that for me. It's the same way it felt when I was making and creating these songs. There's no lights and no bells and whistles. It's all about the music."

It helps, Moore admitted, that his fan base is along for the ride. The musicians said so dedicated are his fans that following his least successful album to date, 2015's "Wild Ones," which



Sipa USA/Tribune News Service

Kip Moore performs at Summerfest July 7 in Milwaukee.

arrived in the wake of his more pop-friendly debut, 2012's "Up All Night," rather than see his audience dwindle his listenership only became more rabid. To be a Kip Moore fan then suddenly became a marker of your having a certain refinement in your country-music taste.

"There's a big difference between a smoke-and-mirrors fanbase that's predicated solely on how well you're doing commercially at that moment and a fanbase like mine that's truly there for the music," Moore offered by way of explanation. "Nothing else." To that end, for the three years leading up to "Room To Spare," Moore had been inviting 150 fans every night to attend a VIP acoustic gig before each of his gigs if only to present some of his more lyrically heavy songs in their original form.

"And in these pre-show acoustic sets, first of all, it's always sold out, and I could tell the fans were really craving that kind of thing. I'd been seeing that for so many years. And every time I'd do it one of the questions I'd always get from the crowd was, 'When are you going to make an acoustic record?'"

Last year, following the release of "Slowheart," his third LP and most critically acclaimed album yet, Moore decided it was time to persuade his record label to green light an acoustic LP. They did, and the singer now said he couldn't be more thrilled he did. "Because it gives me a whole different feel when I play acoustic," he said. "As an

artist you have to know whether your music is going to translate acoustically. Is there going to be a maturity to the melodies and the lyrics? I've always felt like my records lent themselves to acoustic versions of the songs. A lot of these songs have a lot of meat on the bone. I'd just been itching to play them this way.

"The thing about an acoustic show is you have nothing to hide behind," he added before noting how several "Slowheart" songs including "Sunburn" and "Bittersweet Company" carry more emotional weight when played acoustic. "Your song is completely exposed," Moore continued. "And if your song is a turd everybody is gonna know it. Your songs have to stand up. I love that."

And as he prepares to kick off his next round of acoustic shows, Moore admitted he feels nothing if not supremely pleased for where he sits in life. Having a tried-and-true fanbase like his, he noted, is reason alone to be feeling proud.

"Through all the ebbs and flows of commercial success the question you ask is are [the fans] showing up? Have you created something real and something tangible? Can you touch it? Can you feel it? I have that kind of fanbase. They're going to be with me for 20-30 years from now. It's not a fleeting thing. There's something to hang your hat on with that. And I've been able to rest my head on my pillow at night knowing I've built something that's true and lasting. That's what feels so special."

Metcalf's long, varied career, according to his website, includes playing drums on Kenny Rogers' "The Gambler" album and other gold- and platinum-selling recordings.

After that success, he began using his talents on the healing arts.

The website says he "produces music for deep inner exploration, breathwork, shamanic journeywork, body-oriented therapies, various meditation practices and the healing arts."

Interviewed by phone, Metcalf said he had asked Phippen to contribute after coming across his playing. Following a few social media exchanges, Metcalf invited Phippen to his studio in Arizona.

"It couldn't have been better," Metcalf said of Phippen's contributions. "He's a fabulous player. He really is studio savvy. Intonation, pitch is just dead-on. He's really picky about that, which I really appreciate."

As a result, Metcalf said, it made sense to bring back Phippen and Wollo for the follow-up album.

Phippen has done more extensive work with Licater. Responding by email to inquiries, Licater said she has had Phippen co-produce her last four albums.

"(H)e understands the nuances of recording native American and world flutes," she wrote. "Peter

is a fine player, has superb musical taste, and can help implement my vision."

She also noted that both of them take on producer and artist roles.

"We respect each others' artistic instincts and have a short-hand that happens when you work together over time," she wrote.

"It's impossible to dissect art, but I would say his deep knowledge about the flutes, recording them and serving the song as a bassist/percussionist sets him apart."

With "Perihelion...the Turning Point," Phippen said, Jewer and Mitran recruited a number of guest artists. Another guest on the disc is bassist Erik Scott, whose credits include working with Alice Cooper and Flo & Eddie.

Besides those three albums, Phippen recorded shakuhachi and bansuri flute playing for Richard Ross' album titled "Seventh Chakra," scheduled for release this month.

In addition, Phippen was part of a local trio that released an album last year.

The other two players on "Seven" are percussionist Titi Raid and keyboardist Ivar Lunde. The project was recorded at Lunde's Skyline Studios.

One of the reasons Phip-

pen enjoys making albums is so he can watch the production process and possibly learn lessons he can apply later. That practice began in the 1980s, when he was playing bass in the rock band Airkraft.

"We'd have these producers come in, and I'd get my parts done and then I'd sit there and say, 'Can I stay?'" he recalled.

The answer he often got: "If you shut up and sit in the corner, you can stay."

Told it must feel good to be sought after, Phippen politely disagreed.

"I don't know if I'm sought after," he said. "I like calling it dumb luck."

But one thing he has no hesitation about is his enjoyment of playing the flute.

"I do love playing my flutes; it's my favorite thing to do," he said. "Thirty-two years now. Where does the time go?"

Maybe the reason he asks that question is that he's just not keeping track of time these days.

"I'm not rushing anything anymore," he said. "Maybe it's age. I'm in no hurry."

Contact: 715-833-9214, william.foy@ecpc.com, @BillFoy on Twitter

Recording sessions offer learning opportunity

» PHIPPEN

FROM PAGE 1F

Phippen had known all three of the honored musicians before these recent sessions.

In the case of Metcalf, as the album title suggests, the new album follows "Inner Rhythm Meditations," released in 2016, which Phippen also played on along with guitarist Eric Wollo.

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Virginia Steel shows varied skills

While Peter Phippen continues his fascination with traditional flutes, that's not his only musical outlet. Phippen also can be heard in Virginia Steel, a group he formed with singer-instrumentalist Victoria Shoemaker.

According to the Virginia Steel Facebook page, they bill the band's performances as a "high energy variety show."

To play the diverse music, Phippen and Shoemaker perform on guitars, bass, saxophone, flutes, percussion, kazoo, washboard and others as they sing classic hit songs.

Here are some of the dates the Virginia Steel have scheduled:

- March 24, 3:30 p.m., Hot Shots, Bruce.
- March 30, 8 p.m., Snout Saloon, Chippewa Falls.
- April 12, 8 p.m., Cindy's, Thorp.

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Eau Claire Children's Theatre Presents:

Friday, March 15
7:30 pm

Saturday, Mar. 16
1:30 pm

Just Added
March 16
7:30pm show

Sunday, Mar. 17
1:30 pm

Pablo Center at the Confluence - RCU Theatre

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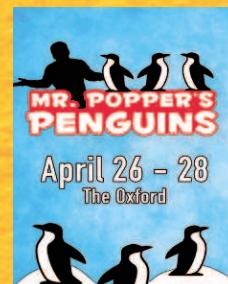


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12 bands selected to perform at Summerfest

» CONTEST

FROM PAGE 1F

The winning band and the runner-up will each receive a second 45 minute showcase gig at Summerfest on the Briggs and Stratton Big Backyard Stage (date and times to be announced) and the professional recording session time will be 12 hours for the winner and eight hours for the runner-up).

Each of the 12 bands selected to perform at Summerfest will receive two Shure microphones (one vocal and one instrument mic each with cords) per band.

The winning band will also receive from Shure the prize of a wireless vocal microphone.

Rockonsin is made possible with the support of sponsor partners that have a passion for providing opportunities to recognize the talents of these young bands.

Supporting partners include Madison Area Music Association, Nicholas Family Foundation, Xcel Energy, Knapp, Watson &

Upcoming EVENTS

THE SPIRIT OF UNITY - CHIPPEWA VALLEY COMMUNITY CHORUS

Today, March 10th at 2:00 p.m.



Music includes favorites like: Love Makes the World Go Round, Shall We Gather at the River?, and We Shall Overcome.

Tickets:
adults \$10, seniors \$9, and youth \$4

CHIPPEWA FALLS SESQUICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION KICKOFF

Monday, March 25 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.



Celebrate 150 years of Chippewa Falls with music, complimentary snacks, historical re-enactors, and learn about the past, present and future of Chippewa Falls. No cost for admission.

Heyde Center For The Arts

3 S. High St., Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin 54729

For tickets or information visit www.cvca.net or call 715-726-9000