

Wyoming Tribune Eagle of September 1, 2016: "A music festival for everyone"

Ever since it metamorphosed into an innovative three-story building at 2200 Pioneer Avenue, Laramie County Library of Cheyenne has been a tourist attraction as well as a gathering place for locals. On September 9 and 10, something special is in store for visitors and residents alike: That weekend, the Library presents Wyoming's first-ever ONE WORLD PRAIRIE MUSIC FEST.

First, some highlights and history on this, the oldest continually-operating county library system in the United States. In 2007, when the new 100,000+ square-foot edifice opened, its became the first public building in Wyoming to earn gold certification for leadership in energy and environment design. A few months later the Library Journal named it Library of the Year; simultaneously, USA Today listed it as a Top Ten Destination Library.

Guests and patrons alike have enjoyed its educational, social, and cultural offerings, from the brown-bag talks of Maestro Intriligator about Cheyenne Symphony events to workshops in computer literacy to gatherings of chess clubs, family-history research aficionados, and various community groups. A Bookmobile and Homebound Services address the needs of people with limited mobility.

The building houses a spectacular interactive literacy center for children, a 50-station computer center and training classroom (plus 23 more stations for kids and teens) and "The Loft," an area created for teens with input from the award-winning Youth Advisory Board. These are just some of its attractions; you'll also find displays on Wyoming history, a weather station, and periodically, galleries of paintings and sculptures by local award-winners.

The One World Prairie Music Fest offers a variety of musical fare, some indoors, some on the library lawn. Created by world-class musicians—some arriving from abroad, some residing in Wyoming or Colorado—tunes from around the world will go from mandolin and fiddle to jazz to classical guitar. Mariachi music, classical Irish fare, and Jewish klezmer music ensure there's something for everyone. For eager-to-learn musicians, several free-of-charge workshops are offered by the various performers.

If you like to surprise yourself, arrive (with lawn chair) on Friday at 6 PM for several hours of musical enjoyment. Or be on hand Saturday morning at 10:15 for the workshops, to be followed by performances beginning at 11:40 AM. If you peruse the schedule on <http://lclsonline.org/>, you will come across the websites of individual artists and groups that impart information about their varied talents.

Here are some highlights:

SONIC ESCAPE consists of a pair of Juilliard graduates who offer classical Irish Music. HIGH PLAINS TRADITION is a well-known bluegrass band with vocals in three-part harmony complemented by instrumental finesse.

STAFF & CLEF performs inside the library on Saturday at 11:40 a.m. Comprised of flute, oboe, bassoon, French horn and clarinet, this troupe of dedicated musicians has been performing classical music for almost 40 years. They are followed by MARIACHI REAL DEL ORO, a six-member group performing in native costume.

Afternoon fare consists of JON CHANDLER's Country Western, TODD DEREEMER's Acoustic Folk, and the MATT FLINNER TRIO's performances by mandolinist Matt Flinger, guitarist Ross Martin and bassist Eric Thorin.

For classical-guitar enthusiasts, the appearance of SOLO DUO surely comprises the highlight of the Music Fest. Recognized as one of the best guitar ensembles in the instrument's history, Lorenzo Micheli and Matteo Mela plan to present Saturday at 6 PM. The Washington Post has called their performances "nothing less than rapturous—profound and unforgettable musicianship of the highest order."

Mr. Micheli and Mr. Mela were established musicians in their native Italy when they met in a San Antonio, TX, guitar competition in the year 2000. They formed their duo shortly thereafter. These days they tour the US four to five times per year. On June 4, 2016, they performed at the Cleveland International Classical Guitar Festival. A review on ClevelandClassical.com tells of "virtuosic flights of fancy" that earned them volleys of enthusiastic applause.

Later that evening another group of talented musicians, which named itself THE GYPSY JAZZ QUARTET, presents American Jazz. Virtuoso John Jorgenson has collaborated with the likes of Elton John and Bob Dylan; here, he is aided by Dutch bassist Simon Planting and pianist/songwriter John Jarvis. Filling out the quintet are jazz violinist Jason Anick and veteran percussionist Rick Reed. These five musicians create a sound that's dynamic yet melodious.

On the library's website <http://lclsonline.org/> you will find details on the performances and the artists, as well as the times of their Saturday morning workshops. The website also gives details on the library's history and its various learning activities. Check them out, then come and enjoy! While there, take time to acquaint yourself with the interesting displays the library has to offer.