

Concert to make up for lost time

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After months of Covid-imposed restrictions on live performances in music venues, the Kelowna Community Concert Association is roaring back with a double-barrelled schedule, with 10 concerts in eight months.

Whether you are partial to The Beatles, Beethoven, ballet, bassoons, brass or the 5 Browns you will find much to love in the packed schedule of performances.

Beethoven's lesser-known early works – light-hearted and cheerful – will be featured in the first concert of the delayed '20-'21 series. Kelowna is one of 14 BC cities to host this celebration marking the 250th anniversary of Beethoven's birth.

BeatleManiacs – reportedly the best Beatles tribute band out there – will lead a nostalgia-filled trip through Sgt. Pepper's and later albums with choreography, many wardrobe changes, visual effects and multimedia. Their performances have induced laughing, crying and even screaming for more.

The 5 Browns and their 5 grand pianos make a return visit to Kelowna for a Christmas concert. These awesomely talented siblings (all attended the Julliard School simultaneously) will rock the theatre with their complex arrangements of classical, jazz and holiday music.

Familiar favourites and innovative dance works will be featured when the Goh Ballet comes to town. These young dancers from Vancouver will perform large and small group pieces and solos as they showcase their command of classical and contemporary ballet, character dance and Chinese dance.

Rounding out the delayed season is the award-winning Ulysses String Quartet, with musicians from Canada, the USA and Taiwan. With several major prizes at international string competitions, they are now Fellows at the Julliard School. Critics rave about their textural versatility, enthusiasm and chemistry.

The Moanin' Frog Sax Sextet kicks off the '21-'22 series in January, signalling yet another few months of wonderfully diverse musical talent. Featuring all six saxophones from soprano to bass, the group admits to a "contagious passion for all things saxophone." They will romp through classical, ragtime, jazz, and pop favourites.

True North Brass, made up of five of Canada's premier brass musicians, will be appear in February, with a new sound and new repertoire of brass chamber music.

Take3 will take to the stage in March with their genre-defying performance of top pop hits, Americana and classical favourites. The combination of classical music training and rock-star charisma promises a spell-binding evening.

The Breaking Winds Bassoon Quartet uses choreography, unexpected instruments, props and skits to season their performances. NPR observed their performance "wasn't just funny, it was inspired."

The Fitzgeralds from Bancroft, Ontario, close off this double season with high-energy fiddling and mind-blowing step dancing. These winners of multiple Canadian Fiddle and Step Dance Championships give a performance that Natalie McMaster says is "absolutely exhilarating."

The Kelowna Community Concert Association is a volunteer group dedicated to bringing high quality and varied entertainment to the region. Admission to the concerts is by membership only, with the series membership at \$90 for 5 concerts. Depending on capacity restrictions due to Covid, there may be some series tickets available for the '21-'22 concert season. For more information: www.kelownacommunityconcerts.org or community_concerts@shaw.ca