

Pentangle Welcomes Interplay Jazz

Good morning Woodstock and surrounding towns. We had our first foray into programming last Friday when Pete's Posse kicked off our *Music By the River* free concert series. The Posse did not disappoint the audience divided into 50 safely distanced pods! Ah the new COVID-19 vocabulary. Reservations for the upcoming performance by Interplay Jazz opened on Monday.

Fred Haas and Sabrina Brown, the founders of Interplay, will perform with an impressive ensemble that includes: Bill Rosen, guitar, Tim Gilmore, drums, David Westphalen, bass and trombone, and his daughter, Elizabeth Frascoia, trombone, and vocals.

While all accomplished artists, Elizabeth, a Woodstock native, has a particularly interesting bio that includes performances on national TV shows such as American Idol and The Tonight Show. She has toured with artists including Michael Bolton and St. Vincent. She is also a dedicated educator helping people of all ages gain greater confidence through music. A regular clinician with Queens College's Kupferberg Center, NYC's Musicworks, and the LA Jazz Society's Jazz in Schools program, she has traveled the United States and beyond to inspire people to reach for their goals.

On August 7th we welcome fiddle/folksinger Emerald Rae. Though she hails from Gloucester MA, she has travelled the world and now resides in Vermont.

Of her most recent album *Emerald Rae*, Duane Verh, of the Roots Music Report wrote, "Emerald Rae takes her folk roots into fresh sounding regions, maxing out her axe's potential in the service of her consistently compelling melodies. A spell-caster of no small skill, Ms. Rae matches her bowing prowess with appealing use of her fiddle for strumming and plucking vocal punctuation. Minimal production touches provide the ideal finish on one of the year's more fetching releases."

The VSO Jukebox Quartet follows on August 14th, with our very own Jay Nash, closing out the series August 21st.

A friendly, reminder to patrons to wear masks when not seated. Chairs and picnics are encouraged as are donations to Pentangle to support this free series! Restrooms will be available in the Town Hall building for the duration of the concert. The reservation link will be live at noon the Monday for the following Friday concert. As per State regulations, walk-ins are not permitted.

On July 17, my birthday celebration took a sad turn with the death of civil rights icon John Lewis. My daughter and members of her high school class had the wonderful opportunity to hear him speak in 2019 as part of Vermont Reads. Everyone should read his graphic novel trilogy March, written in collaboration with Andrew Aydin and New York Times best-selling artist Nate Powell.

Never give up. Never give in. Never become hostile... Hate is too big a burden to bear. John Lewis