

local news

Villagers Pursue Lifelong Love of Music By Forming a Band

Mike Fitzgerald, Jill Rogers and Mark Goldberg perform as Hollywood and the Tropix in The Villages.

By LURVIN FERNANDEZ
Daily Sun Staff Writer

Hollywood and the Tropix wanted to be more than a garage band.

When the band's members first met a year ago, they knew they wanted to put their best foot forward and join the ranks of well-liked performers in The Villages.

Today, the group regularly performs at Cody's Original Roadhouse restaurants, social gatherings, recreation centers and private parties throughout The Villages.

The band's next performance is at 5 p.m. Saturday at Cody's in Lake Sumter Landing, 1041 Lake Shore Drive.

They said the thrill of performing comes from seeing their audience enjoy their music, but mostly, from pursuing their passion for music at this stage of their lives.

"We play a little of this and a little of that, but at the end we play something that we like," said Mark Goldberg, of the Village of Pine Hills.

Mike "Hollywood" Fitzgerald and Jill Rogers moved to The Villages more than two years ago knowing they wanted to focus on music.

Fitzgerald performed for about 45 years, mostly playing classic rock and oldies, as he also worked as the chief executive officer for a tea and herb exporter in Colorado.

He was given the name "Hollywood" by a band mate decades ago, and it stuck to this day.

The Villages made it easy for them to pursue their musical passion because of the abundant opportunities to perform

and the fact that other local performers were quick to embrace them, said Fitzgerald, of the Village of Sunset Pointe.

After moving here, Fitzgerald began performing at assisted living and memory care communities while searching for other musicians that could form a band with him and Rogers.

Around the same time, Goldberg advertised his musical abilities on Craigslist Ocala before moving to The Villages, and that's how he connected with Fitzgerald and Rogers.

Goldberg's skill with a bass guitar and three-part harmonies was a big draw, but so was his personality, which meshed well in the trio.

"It's as much about personality and working together than musical ability," Goldberg said. "You have to get along."

Fitzgerald and Rogers, die-hard Parrotheads, intended to play "Trop Rock" similar to Jimmy Buffett.

But after including Goldberg, they added classic rock, doo-wop, light country and '50s classics to their repertoire of songs.

"People have told us they like the varied music," Rogers said. "We play so many different genres that it's unique."

Performing is its own reward for the three Villagers.

Fitzgerald sings lead and plays the rhythm and acoustic guitars, Goldberg also sings and plays the bass guitar, and Rogers sings and plays percussion instruments, such as the tambourine.

Rogers, who continues to work full-time remotely as a project director for a pharmaceutical company, enjoys the stress relief.

After work, she gets up and walks over to the group's rehearsal room in her home.

Though they dedicate a lot of time to performing, it's still fun, especially when they connect with their audience.

The Studio Theatre Announces Show in Summer Song Cycle Series

"Tell Me on a Sunday" will run from April 30 to May 17 at the Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol.

By KRISTEN FIORE
Daily Sun Staff Writer

The music never stops at the Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol.

The Studio recently announced its next show, "Tell Me on a Sunday" by Andrew Lloyd Webber, which is a continuation of the theatre's annual Summer Song Cycle Series.

The one-woman, one-act song cycle tells the story of a young English woman who moves to New York City.

The audience will get to follow this character, known only as "Girl," on a journey that includes love, ambition, comedy and romance.

"Webber was first drawn to writing this intimate story while his musical 'Evita' was preparing for its New York debut," said Trevin Cooper, director of the show. "In some ways, he was looking to create a figure that was the antithesis to what he had developed with Eva Perón."

"Tell Me on a Sunday's" only on-stage character will be played by The Studio's artistic director, Whitney Morse.

"It is thrilling and terrifying to be the only person in the show," Morse said. "I have never done it before, so that is exciting."

Morse said the acting process is different in that there are no other actors with whom she can interact. Any other characters in the story exist only in her imagination.

Cooper said that the show, told only through song, musically bridges the gap between the familiar and the unfamiliar.

Webber's composition, "Tell Me on a Sunday" has won



Submitted photo

The Studio Theatre Tierra del Sol recently announced the next show in its annual Summer Song Cycle Series, "Tell Me on a Sunday." Tickets are available online at thesharonstudio.com.

seven Tony Awards and has been presented in several incarnations in both New York and London since the late 1970s, according to Cooper.

"So often people associate Andrew Lloyd Webber with large, lavish musicals," Cooper said. "However, along with his 'dazzle,' his musicals are also quite human. It's the humanity in his characters and songs that continually draws audiences to his scores."

"Tell Me on a Sunday" will run from April 30 to May 17 at The Studio.

Tickets went on sale Tuesday and are \$20 for preview performances and \$25 for general admission.

They can be purchased online at thesharonstudio.com or by calling 352-751-7799.

"I hope the audience gets to experience 'Girl's' emotional journey," Morse said. "The music is beautiful so I know they will like that, but I hope they will enjoy the story the music tells, as well."

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Led by Myles Savage, Star Lead singer with "The Last Original Stars", perform Wednesday March 28th, 3:00 PM matinee at the Mount Dora Community Building Auditorium. He's known all over the world as the Ambassador of Romance. Myles Savage, Star Lead Singer brings his star-studded show straight from the Four Queens Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas.

After half a century of performing, they are on their "Farewell Tour". Fans will say they are seemingly ageless and unable to rest on their considerable laurels, but due to some members passing away, Mr. Savage will make this his last tour.

This show gets two thumbs following their fifth sellout year. It is a must see! "Under the Boardwalk", "Up On the Roof", "Charlie Brown", "Poison Ivy", "Yakety-Yak", "My Girl", "Get Ready", "Stand By Me" and many many more hits from the 50's and 60's will be performed with the original choreography. They put on a real party performance from the moment they enter the stage of the auditorium, the energy in the room is elevated to a fever pitch.

Legendary New York City host Joe Franklin of WOR Radio says "Myles Savage is the real deal!". Most people have never seen anything like this in concert.

Fans are dancing in the aisles, screaming and shouting, singing along with them as these stars sing their fans' most favorite songs. At one point in their performance, they sing the song "Love Train". The audience is transformed into a train of people, holding on to each others waists "choo chooing" all around the auditorium, singing and dancing.

Savage says that, while the shows tend to draw primarily a "baby boomer" crowd, the younger people will also find "The Motown Party" exceptionally entertaining. "Young people love the music too", he said. "We have the old style Las Vegas flair. Younger people call it "old school", but they can see that their parents and grandparents are hip and cool people.". This is the last great concert of the snowbird season!



When: 3:00pm Wed. March 28th, 2018
Where: Mount Dora Community Building
520 North Baker St. Mount Dora, FL 32751
www.mountdoraevents.com
904-826-5020

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