

The Elders are a toe tapping, foot stomping good time

Celtic music is in my blood, literally. My Scottish and Irish genes co-mingled to make me an undeniable descendant of the Celts, complete with red hair and freckles and a propensity to sunburn. From childhood the tunes of the fiddle, drum and bagpipe have inspired me to move.

Surveyor Columnist



Heidi Kerr-Schlaefer

Throughout my life I have loaded up on Celtic music CDs from Celtic Women to the Proclaimers. If the music was related in some way to Ireland or Scotland, I had to have it.

Several years ago at Loveland's Foote Lagoon I was introduced to a band called The Elders and I am now a disciple. Since that fateful summer evening, my husband and I have seen The Elders perform over a half dozen times. We have bought all their CDs and regularly give their CDs as gifts (we are working to convert others to The Elders discipleship).

Hailing from Kansas City, Missouri, The Elders formed in 1998 and have gone on to become a successful and well-loved band. Every summer they pull in over 3,000 people to Loveland's Foote Lagoon, making them the most popular group by far to ever play the venue.

The Elders live show is a must-have life experience. Their on-stage energy is truly infectious. Though the group calls their style "Arse-kielkin" music from the heartland, front man Ian Byrne, from County Wicklow, Ireland gives the band an

authentic Irish flare. The talent of the band members is mind blowing. Guitarist Steve Phillips, violinist Brent Hoad, bassists Norm Dahlro, drummer Tommy Sutherland, and keyboardist Joe Miquelon, always appear to be having as much fun as the audience. I especially love watching Brent Hoad; he flies through the notes on his fiddle at such a furious pace I expect to see smoke rising from the strings.

The audience at an Elders show is diverse and, depending on the venue, there are often entire families in attendance. When the band visits Loveland, a number of pint-size dancers collect at the edge of the lagoon and sometimes in the murky waters. Usually several talented women put on a sideshow of Irish dancing.

The Elders are also gifted songwriters. From fish tales and pub tales to more somber themes such as the historical struggles of the Irish, each song tells a story and paints a picture. I particularly enjoy the fact that the words of each song are intelligible, and singing along becomes inevitable.

This summer there are multiple opportunities for Coloradans to see The Elders live. They will play at Loveland's Foote Lagoon on Thursday, July 10 at 7 p.m. The following evening, July 11, starting at 5:30 p.m. they will be playing at The Depot Plaza in Cheyenne, Wyo. Both shows are free. The weekend of July 12-13, they will be a featured band at the Colorado Irish Festival in Littleton (for a schedule go to www.coloradoirishfestival.org). On August 2-3 The Elders return to Colorado to headline the first annual Fort Collins Irish Festival (www.fortcollinsirishfestival.com). To see The Elders entire schedule, go to www.eldersmusic.com.



The Elders seem to enjoy themselves whether for a photo shoot or performing live in the northern Colorado area. Photo courtesy of The Elders

Showing at the Rialto

Saturday, June 28	3 & 7 pm	Friday, July 25	7:30 pm
Missoula Children's Theatre		Saturday, July 26	7:30 pm
Rumpelstiltskin		Sunday, July 27	2 pm
A strange little gnome appears from here, there and everywhere. He will spin your straw into gold... for a price. Join in the fun of Festival Time and help Clara guess the mischievous little gnome's name as local students perform in this fanciful production. Tickets: \$5			
Tuesday, July 8	10 am & 2 pm	Tuesday, July 22	10 am & 2 pm
The Rialto Theater presents		The Rialto Theater presents	
Tuesday Theater for Kids		Tuesday Theater for Kids	
Johnny Johnston		Mary Sue & Cari — Music with Kids	
Train Songs, Stories and Folk Tales		Join Boulder singer/songwriters Mary Sue Rogers and Cari Minor for a special musical celebration! They have been performing children's music together for over 10 years. They captivate audiences with their original, kid-centered, rhythmic music that is relevant to kids and parents alike. Lauded as "The Best Kid's Music on the Front Range", this is a concert you won't want to miss. Tickets: \$5 adult, \$3 children	
The train is a common theme in American folklore and folk songs. Johnston applies his hot fingerpickin' slide guitar and down home vocals to a delightful program of train songs. Each song is introduced with a story about the colorful characters that wrote or inspired songs like The Ballad of Casey Jones, Sweet Home Chicago and Freight Train. Tickets: \$5 adult, \$3 children			
Friday, July 11	7 pm	Tuesday, July 29	7:30 pm
Saturday, July 12	2 pm & 7 pm	Wednesday, July 30	7:30 pm
Masters of Magic		Loveland Music Guild presents	
Do you believe in magic? Featuring a cast of magicians from around the country, this high-energy production will astound audiences of all ages! Rexa presents his modern, cutting-edge style of grand illusion. Dan Sperry brings exotic birds and bizarre illusions from his shows in Las Vegas. Krystyn Lambert appeared on TV's America's Most Talented Kids and she recently won the 2007 World Magic Award for Best Teen Magician. Loveland Faulkner and Jack Stephens will also perform. More information at www.mastersofmagictimeshow.com . Tickets: \$25 adult, \$18 senior/student		The Andrews Brothers	
		Mistaken identities and madcap adventures, along with the music of an entire generation, highlight this wonderful salute to the heroes of World War II. The Andrews Brothers is like having Bob Hope & Bing Crosby in a road movie of Some Like It Hot. With classics like Slow Boat to China, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy and Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive, all accompanied by a live 9-piece swing band, this show is an absolute delight for audiences of any age. Tickets: \$15	
Friday, July 18	7:30 pm		
Saturday, July 19	7:30 pm		
Sunday, July 20	2 pm		

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Berthoud musicians celebration CD releases

By Susan Richards
The Surveyor

Kiva Records has released two new albums and they are music to my ears. The Berthoud based record company has announced efforts by both Russ Hopkins and Jerry Palmer and they will celebrate with a release party this Friday, June 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Avogadro's Number in Fort Collins.

Russ Hopkins, multi-talented photographer, filmmaker and musician introduces "Sweet Mystery," a terrific collection of music and lyrics combining blues and soul. The title song is sweet and melodic and it reminded me a little of classic Peter, Paul and Mary. "Shattered" is laced with a bluesy harmonica and "Falling" is so good you'll, well, fall for it. As it is with much of Hopkins' music, "White Road" carried a social commentary. Overall, his lyrics are reflective and smart, never to be overwhelmed by his accompaniment, be it steel guitar, drums or French horn.

All of the songs are original from Hopkins and co-produced with

Palmer. Other performances on the CD include Joe Kissell, Steve Eulberg, Beth Mosko, Pamela Robinson, Andrea French, Dave Zekman, Michelle Hopkins and Chuck Bidlecom.

His partner in crime, Jerry Palmer, has also released a new CD called "Deep Blue Sky." Mainly instrumental with some vocals scattered throughout, this disk offers such a soul-soothing alternative to background music. Palmer's ease on the classical and steel string guitars carries one song effortlessly into the next. "Rockabilly Wannabe" and "Poor Boy" move with a bluegrass beat but don't overload the senses. "Screaming Nebraska" resonates with distant, haunting vocals. All songs are also produced by Palmer and Hopkins with contributions from Peter Knudson, Lloyd Drust, Andrea French, Andy Blanton, Kay Williams and Hal Asbury.

Be sure to join the guys and their friends at Avo's this Friday, or get your CDs today at kivarecords.com, I-Tunes, Amazon.com or cdbaby.com.



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Berthoud beat

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