

LIVE MUSIC



File photo

FINGERS BLUR ACROSS KEYBOARD:

Brady Goss will give free concerts in Enterprise and La Grande, and also plans a benefit concert for his Wallowa High School senior class trip.

Saying good-bye

Local musician to give two free final performances before leaving to pursue entertainment career

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ENTERPRISE, LA GRANDE

A Wallowa High School student, graduating in May, wants to show his appreciation for local support and encouragement by providing two free final performances before leaving to pursue his entertaining and music career.

Brady Goss, 18, also plans to play a benefit concert for his senior class trip.

Goss' first free piano and vocal concert will be 7 p.m. Saturday at Lear's Main Street Pub & Grill.

Minors younger than 21 can enjoy the concert from 7 to 9 p.m. Of added interest might be the new woodwork decor of artist

Steve Arment, as the establishment's atmosphere is being converted into that of a 1900s pub, owner Steve Lear said.

Meantime, from 8 to 10 p.m. on Thursday, March 27, Goss will be performing at Ten Depot Street in La Grande. No admission will be charged.

For his senior class benefit concert there will be an admission charge of \$10 at the gate for those ages 12 and older. Advance reservation tickets can be purchased at Wallowa School for \$8.

That concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. April 27. Unlike the other two concerts, which will be solo affairs, Goss will have a band made up of friends for this concert at Cougar Field.

In case of bad weather, the concert will be moved into the

Wallowa School gym.

Goss thinks it apropos to play the first of his farewell gigs at Lear's, because that's where he got his start.

He has played there at least a half dozen times to enthusiastic crowds hearing him sing and play by ear; watching his fingers blur across the keyboard.

Brady said that it's hard to explain, but he "can picture the keyboard and know what sounds are going to come out of those keys.

"I just heard it and figured it out. I have to do what I have to do to play it by ear," he said.

One thousand copies of Goss' new compact disc, his fourth, will be out within two weeks, his father, Mike Goss, said.

Brady's new CD will be aired

on KWVR Radio's "Wallowa Valley Live" show at 9 p.m. April 10.

Brady's immediate future plans are possibly getting into the Portland music circuit, or maybe to land a cruise ship entertainment contract. He did not act on a country-western contract discussed earlier with a Boise firm.

Goss is a natural at music. Playing the piano by ear came to him at a young age.

Brady showed an interest in music at an early baby stage, Mike said.

"He sat on my lap while I played the piano," Brady's father said.

"It was more than just entertainment to him. He was mesmerized in what I was doing — intensely interested in what was going on. That was my first observation," Mike said.

"He started showing an interest before he could walk. One day he crawled over to the piano, picked himself up and stood on his toes to peek over the keys. He held himself there with one hand, and reaching as high as he could, he tinkled the keys with the other," Mike said.

Another memorable day to Mike was when his son at age 4 was watching his dad play his old rock 'n' roll songs.

"When I was done, he played the melody with one finger," Mike said.

"When I came home from work, he played the bass with his left hand. He had figured that out too. I was amazed," Mike said.

"That was another magical moment. I knew that something special was going on with him."

Brady later tried piano lessons, but was not interested in

traditional music.

"He just wanted to start rockin'," Mike said.

"He wanted to play things his way. The old '50s and '60s rock 'n' roll and boogie-woogie that came out of the Memphis blues. That really got his attention, and that's what he had started up with," Mike said.

Brady also has an innate ability to picture the sound, Mike said.

"It's like Jerry Lee Lewis when he said, 'Wouldn't it sound better this way?'" Mike said.

Brady thought that singing would enhance his piano playing, and it does show, he said.

On his new CD, "It especially shows, because the vocals were recorded separately from the piano," he said.

Brady began performing at the Wallowa County Courthouse summer concert series three years ago.

Then he began playing at

Lear's.

He played at McMenamins Pubs in Salem and Portland this summer.

His biggest venue has been at the "Bite of Oregon" last August on the Portland waterfront.

Brady attracted the biggest crowd by far. And when he was finished, and a five-piece band took the stage, people started leaving, Mike said.

In its 20 years, Brady has been the first person east of the Cascades to perform at Bite of Oregon, Mike said.

Brady says that he will never forget Wallowa County and will always return, but if his career takes off, his concerts the next few weeks might be a last chance for locals to readily see and hear him perform, Mike said.

Goss' website is bradygoss.com.

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