

Elixir Press Release 2007

The _____, will be presenting an up-coming performance of Elixir, _____ (date and time) _____ (event). Elixir has been reinventing Americana music for years! They will be performing popular American Music of the 1800's, with new and interesting arrangements, and some of their originals too.

So how do you describe Elixir? Imagine "Peter, Paul and Mary" playing songs of the 1800's. Imagine a Beach Boy's version of "Skip To My Lou". What would a reggae version of "Down In The Valley" sound like? Think about the Andrew Sisters performing "Mary Had A Little Lamb" or the Doors singing "Old MacDonald" . How about Chuck Berry doing "Red River Valley" or a delta blues version of "Camptown Races"? Take that, and add , a cappella songs, audience participation, some traditional arrangements (yes they do that as well), mix in humor, fun props, history of songs, Smothers Brothers style comedy and you get an idea what you are going to experience. Elixir has taken well-known songs of the 1800's and jazzed them up and slowed them down with all types of musical styles. Elixir's audiences are given the opportunity to hear bluegrass, jazz, rock, reggae, country, spiritual and of course folk arrangements to songs that they have been familiar with all their lives. Some of the well known songs Elixir performs are "Follow the Drinking Gourd", "Goober Peas", "Crawdad Song", "Old Joe Clark", "Dixie", "Battle Hymn of the Republic", "When Johnny Comes Marching Home", "Down In the Valley" and "She'll Be Coming Around the Mountain", are just a sampling Elixir's audiences have enjoyed. In Elixir's quest to renew interest in our country's musical heritage, by giving these songs re-birth, they have gained audiences, of all ages, throughout the state of Ohio and beyond.

Elixir is a trio comprised of Mike and Chris Petee and Gerry Rensel. They perform their music with guitars, mandolin, banjo, electric bass, fiddle and an assortment of interesting

percussion instruments, such as a duck call, kazoos, guero and drum sticks. Audiences have been impressed with their tight vocal harmonies and the fun and enthusiasm that they display in concert. Dressed in period clothing, the trio members also share history of the times and how some of these popular songs came into being.

Elixir has been recognized for their music by being voted “Most Promising Musical Group of 1998” by the Entertainers Indi-Association of Nashville, Tennessee. They are fee-supported artists through the Ohio Arts Council, which makes grant monies available to qualified organizations and events promoting the arts, when they hire Elixir to perform at their events. They have received airplay in various markets including a radio station in Portugal.

Elixir currently has five albums and two teaching guides available: “Bridging the Gap”, “Kindred Spirits”, “Common Ground”, "Bottled Live" and a children’s album titled “A Small Dose”. Elixir's founding member Mike Petee has compiled two books with CDs titled “Songs and Stories, Volume I” and “Songs and Stories, Volume II” which give the histories of the songs on the CDs.

Elixir, with their interests in American music of the 1800’s are firmly grounded in the twenty-first century and can be found on the web at, www.elixirsings.com. The site includes a biography, upcoming dates, and pictures of the group and even samples of some of their songs.

Come and welcome Elixir and see if you don’t agree with what folks all around are saying, “They’re an Elixir for the ears!”. For great family entertainment join Elixir, (date)
_____, at (place)_____, (event)_____. Come watch and listen as Elixir showcases their talents and love for our ancestor’s music, while bringing a little history and a lot of toe tapping music to (City)_____.