



November 3, 2009

Concert to feature alumni performers

Submitted story

FREMONT-- DaVinci's Coffee House & Gallery and The Fremont Ross Music Alumni Foundation are organizing the concert "Night of Stars" at 7 p.m. Nov. 14 at Fremont Middle School auditorium.

The concert will feature the first-time performance in this area of Metropolitan Opera tenor Richard Brunner, who will be performing operatic and Broadway selections in German, Italian and English.

Also on the program will be the reunion of the boy band, The Rhythm Rockers, formed nearly 60 years ago. All members of the group went on to very successful musical careers. Included is Jack Reidling, jazz and classical pianist, who has performed with many of the well-known big bands as well as major symphony orchestras including the Los Angeles Symphony, playing the original score of George Gershwin's Rhapsody In Blue at the Hollywood Bowl and being the resident pianist at Disneyland for nearly 30 years.

Others in the band are Donald Weng, clarinetist, now retired after approximately 30 years with the Toledo Symphony Orchestra; Steven Tittle, trumpeter, retired Professor of Music and composer/arranger for the Canadian Broadcasting Company; J. Harris Strohl, trombonist, retired Professor of Music/Director of Men's Glee Club at Michigan State University; and Richard Sorg, drummer, retired school administrator, who performed with numerous musicians in the Northwest Ohio area, as well as touring with the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra.

Additional performers scheduled to appear are Dr. Kirsten Kunkle, soprano, now teaching at Shorter College in Rome, Ga., and Karen Svanoe-Westgate, harpist, who has performed in many varied venues throughout the country, is the musical director/pianist for Christ Lutheran Church in Sandusky and is a free lance harpist.

Master of ceremonies for the concert will be Larry Whatley, TV news personality, currently with Fox Toledo TV news.

All of the performers are graduates of Fremont Ross High School.

Tickets are \$15 each for reserved seats. The front half of the auditorium will be reserved, about 450 seats. General admission seats are \$10 each. The rear portion of the auditorium and the balcony, about 900 seats, will all be general admission. General admission for seniors 60 and older will be \$9 each. Student general admission 21 and younger will be \$6 each.

For tickets or information, call Don Harlan, president of the Fremont Ross Music Alumni Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation, at 419-332-2132. Reserved seats must be purchased on or before Nov. 9.

It also is suggested that general admission tickets be purchased in advance, if possible. Personal check and Visa/MasterCard will be accepted for advance payment. Checks should be made to Night of Stars and mailed to Don Harlan Sr., 630 Sixth St., Fremont, OH 43420. Cash only will be accepted on the concert date.



Richard Brunner



Dr. Kirsten Kunkle



Jack Reidling



Karen Svanoe-Westgate



Larry Whatley