

The News-Review

UMPQUA, Oregon November 2016— Like wine that gets better with age, so do the musicians in local band Hat Trick. All seasoned musicians, the band members found their niche with each other and are known by some as the Douglas County Party Band. See Hat Trick play from 7 to 10 p.m. Saturday at Henry Estate Winery in a Dance the Night Away event that starts with a social hour from 6 to 7 p.m. Roseburg event coordinator Shasta Ray organized this event.

“They developed the nickname the Douglas County Party Band because where ever they go, the party is going to happen,” Ray said. “They love music, they love our community and they’re a giving band who has played for local fundraisers, and they do it with the greatest of attitude,” Ray said. He also likes that the band has staying power with its audiences.

The band began two years ago when keyboard player Skip Golden asked two musicians to back him up in a solo gig. Percussionist Garry Kendrick dubbed the band Hat Trick then based on a hockey term where three goals are scored by one player in one game. Since then, the band has grown to four members. The other band members include Dirk Snyder on bass, who’s a retired music teacher and lead guitarist Bruce Gordon.

“Hat Trick is an extremely talented group of guys who rehearse to make sure they have a professional and sharp edge on their craft,” Ray said. “They love music, they have God-given talent, but they don’t rest on it, they work hard.”

The musicians live locally and practice up to twice a week. They have all played music throughout their lives and have played with many local bands. They maintain a harmonious rapport with each other and strive to diversify their repertoire. They work at playing light rock at a comfortable volume. “They also have cutting power, so they can go from a rock tune to a blues tune and their talent lets them show the distinction between the two genres,” Ray said, with the band sounding different on every song.

Besides playing electric drums, Kendrick predominantly sings lead vocals, with the rest of the band members taking turns singing lead and harmonizing. “Having a percussionist who is a lead singer is an interesting combination, with Garry having the ultimate light rock voice,” Ray said. “When people come into a concert, they think the actual group is playing the song.”

Golden, the keyboardist, plays a honky-tonk piano style similar to Jerry Lee Lewis with a dual keyboard that can play sounds from acoustic piano to a Hammond organ. His voice is a pleasant contrast to Kendrick’s voice.

The band’s play list spans multiple genres including light classic rock with songs from

the 1950s to modern-day tunes by Bruno Mars. The band also plays songs by artists like Joe Cocker, Steely Dan, Creedence Clearwater, Jackson Brown, Styx, Steve Winwood and Emerson, Lake and Palmer.

Expecting a good turn out, Ray started decorating the barrel room at Henry's Winery earlier this week to ensure that the Dance The Night Away event is a success. He chose Hat Trick because people enjoy dancing to the band.

"They're a band that engages the audience, with people snapping their fingers, bobbing their heads and having to get up to dance," Ray said. "Just when you think you have them pegged, the next song will take you to another dimension of music. Their set list is phenomenal."

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