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Sultans of String join the POPS

By Dee Menear Irregular Staff Writer



The award-winning Sultans of String are performing with the Bangor Symphony Orchestra at the Kingfield POPS June 29. (Media/Press Release Photo)

KINGFIELD — The Sultans of String are no strangers to the area and this year the group will be playing with the Bangor Symphony Orchestra at the Kingfield POPS. They have already performed at schools in MSAD #9 and #58, the Herbert Hotel and at Skye Theatre.

They are also no strangers performing with symphony orchestras either. Although this will be their first United States orchestra performance and their largest U.S. performance; it is a launching point for many others in the U.S, according to Chris MCKhool, six string violinist for the band.

“We have a dozen or so orchestra performances this next season,” stated McKhool, “I just returned from a conference of the League of American Orchestras and we have some bookings penciled in from that. There are over 800 orchestras in the U.S. alone.”

The band consists of McKhool, guitarists Kevin Lalibertié and Eddie Paton, bass masters Drew Birston and David Woodhead. They play as either a duo with McKhool and Lalibertié or as a full quintet and combine the sounds and rhythms of Spanish flamenco, Arabic folk, Cuban Rhythm and French Manouche gypsy jazz. According to their website, the “acoustic strings meet with electronic wizardry to create layers and depth of sound, while world rhythms excite audiences to

their feet with the irresistible need to dance.”

The quintet produced three albums, “Move,” “Yalla Yalla!” and “Lima.” They are in the process of putting their fourth album, “Symphony,” together for a September release date.

In 2013 McKhool was honored as a recipient of the Queens Diamond Jubilee medal awarded to those who make a significant contribution to a particular community within Canada, or an achievement abroad that brings credit to Canada. The Sultans of String were nominated as World Group of the Year at the SiriusXM Canadian Indie Awards.

Besides his work with the Strings of Sultan, McKhool also works with children and schools. His album Fiddlefire, won the 2009 Canadian Folk Music Award for Children’s Album of the Year.

“There are some people who are really incredibly supportive of the arts in the area and the BSO is a fantastic world class orchestra. We are all looking forward to performing Saturday evening,” stated McKhool.

Also appearing are Anni Clark, Flight 317, The Smith Brothers and the Western Mountains Trash Can Band, and of course, the fireworks finale.

Tickets for the June 29 POPS are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door, 17 and under receive free admission. Music starts as the gates open at 4:30 p.m.

Check out our photo album on our Facebook page of The Sultans of String when they played at Skye Theatre in November 2011. <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10150354384446269.341729.89823561268&type=3>

See more about this weekend’s Kingfield POPS event in the center of this edition.

<http://www.theirregular.com/documents/KingfieldPops>

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