

Coastal Cohorts Announce 25th Anniversary Statewide Tour

THE COASTAL COHORTS
DON DIXON, BLAND SIMPSON & JIM WANN
PERFORMING SONGS AND STORIES FROM
KING MACKEREL & THE BLUES
ARE RUNNING and WILD PONIES

Celebrating **25**
YEARS

THE COASTAL COHORTS
KING MACKEREL & WILD PONIES

North Carolina Coastal Federation
CONCERT SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2010
Sunset Theatre, Asheboro

SATURDAY, MARCH 6, 2010
Lincoln Theatre, Raleigh

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2010
Arts of The Albemarle Maguire Theatre
Elizabeth City

SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 2010
Roanoke Island Festival Park, Manteo

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 2010
Thalian Hall, Wilmington

FOR TICKETS AND TICKET SALE LOCATIONS
visit www.nccoast.org
Proceeds to Benefit the
North Carolina Coastal Federation

Dust off those shagging shoes – the Coastal Cohorts are celebrating the group’s 25th anniversary with a statewide concert tour. The Cohorts will be performing songs and stories from their popular musical “King Mackerel & The Blues Are Running” and sequel CD “Wild Ponies” at concerts scheduled for Asheboro, Raleigh, Elizabeth City, Manteo and Wilmington.

Concert proceeds will benefit the North Carolina Coastal Federation, a nonprofit environmental organization, headquartered in Ocean, NC.

The Cohorts’ original music celebrates life on the Carolina Coast with a combination of ballads and upbeat tunes, flavored by humor and the poetry of the natural world. The talented musicians include Jim Wann on guitar, Bland Simpson on piano and Don Dixon on bass and other instruments.

Bland Simpson, who also serves on the Coastal Federation board, said, “The Cohorts are thrilled to bring our music to coast lovers across North Carolina. While we’re all having a good time, we’ll be helping out the Coastal Federation by raising funds and awareness about the need to conserve our beautiful rivers, sounds and seashore.”

Clive Barnes of *The New York Post* calls the Cohorts “a pure, salt-watered delight,” while Mary Cornatzer of *The News & Observer* describes “King Mackerel” as “a musical Valentine to coastal life.” Cornatzer said that the songs “deal with things anybody who’s ever been to the coast can identify with — pier fishing, joy riding on the strand, hurricanes, and living on the sound side.”

While “Wild Ponies” celebrates the freedom of “ponies on the run” on protected islands in North Carolina, there are odes to Low-country cooking, boat-building by hand “without any plans,” “a Southern Belle in a coastal town,” and many more. The CD also includes new versions of “Catfish” and “Farmer Tan” from the Broadway hit “Pump Boys and Dinettes,” which was written and composed by Jim Wann.

The members of the Coastal Cohorts have each been critically acclaimed, over the years, for their solo work.

Wann's Broadway hit *Pump Boys & Dinettes* was a Tony and Drama Desk Nominee for Best Musical and Best Music on Broadway, an Olivier Nominee for Best Musical in London, and the longest running musical in Chicago theatre history. Wann's new musical, *The People Vs. Mona* (co-authored by Patricia Miller), has just been published by Samuel French Inc., and a cast recording released on JAY Records.

Don Dixon, of the renowned rock band Arrogance, produced both *King Mackerel* and *Wild Ponies*. The celebrated singer-songwriter and record producer's other credits include working with REM, Hootie and the Blowfish, Marti Jones, James McMurtry, The Smithereens, and many more. His ninth and latest solo CD is *The Entire Combustible World in One Small Room*.

Bland Simpson, of the Tony Award-winning Red Clay Ramblers, is Bowman & Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Professor in UNC Chapel Hill's Creative Writing Program; author of the books *Into the Sound Country* and *The Inner Islands* (both with photography by Ann Cary Simpson), and collaborator on the musicals *Diamond Studs* (with Jim Wann) and *Kudzu* (with Jack Herrick and the late Doug Marlette).

Concert proceeds will be used for restoration projects conducted by the North Carolina Coastal Federation. The federation is the state's only non-profit organization focused exclusively on protecting and restoring the coast of North Carolina through education, advocacy, and habitat preservation and restoration. Since its founding in 1982, the Federation has worked with citizens to safeguard the coastal rivers, creeks, sounds and beaches of North Carolina and has protected or restored more than 50,000 acres along the state's coast. Its headquarters is located in Ocean, NC (between Morehead City and Swansboro) and it has regional offices in Wilmington and Manteo.

For concert details visit the North Carolina Coastal Federation at www.nccoast.org or call 252-393-8185.

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