

NEWS



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LAURIE LEWIS & TOM ROZUM IN SUNNYVALE DECEMBER 10

Bluegrass legend will perform folksy holiday music

SUNNYVALE, Calif. – Sunnyvale Theatre warms up the holidays with Grammy winner and two-time International Bluegrass Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year Laurie Lewis on Saturday, December 10, at 8 p.m.

The fiddler-singer-songwriter and her performing partner of 25 years, ace mandolinist Tom Rozum, will perform a holiday show featuring selections from her *Winter's Grace* album. The Berkeley-based duo's yuletide show features songs that are both seasonal and subtle, including Tex Logan's "Christmas Time's A-Coming," "Hot Buttered Rum," and the traditional "Cold Frosty Morning." Critics and fans alike have praised the album, which eschews the over-played commercial Christmas tunes in favor of pieces like Lewis' lovely and haunting version of singer-songwriter Mark Simos' wintertime tale, *The Messenger*."

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Lewis, who won a Grammy for her 1997 album *True Life Blues: The Songs of Bill Monroe*, is considered one of bluegrass music's revolutionaries for opening what was

once a male-dominated genre from the South to women, West Coast artists and a whole host of new, non-traditional artists adding their own interpretations to a very traditional style of music to form what has been called newgrass music. Lewis has 21 recordings, including her latest, *Skippin' and Flying'*, just released this month. Lewis fell in love with bluegrass music as a teenager during the 1960s folk music revival and by the 1970s had established herself as a pioneer, co-founding the all-female band Good Ol' Persons with Kathy Kallick, and later fronting the band Grant Street, which included Rozum.

Though best known for his mandolin playing, Rozum is also an accomplished fiddler, mandola and guitar player and singer; truly a top-notch side musician. Before joining Lewis, Rozum played with the Rhythm Rascals, a San Diego-based swing band; Summerdog Bluegrass Experience; Mariachi Swing Band; Flying South bluegrass band in Arizona; and Berkeley acoustic jazz band Back Up and Push. Lewis and Rozum released their first duet album, the Grammy-nominated *The Oak and The Laurel* in 1996, after recovering from serious injuries sustained in a roll-over car crash returning from a gig in Arizona. Rozum's version of Merle Haggard's "If We Make It Through December ..." is another high point in the pair's Winter's Grace show.

The intimate Sunnyvale Theatre is located at the Community Center, 550 E. Remington Drive, between El Camino Real and Sunnyvale-Saratoga Road. General admission tickets are \$28. Discount tickets for students and seniors are \$22. Single Subscriptions start at \$80. All Evenings of Cultural Arts programs are Saturdays at 8 p.m. Group discounts are available. For tickets, please phone the Sunnyvale Theatre Box Office at (408) 733-6611. The Box Office is open Monday – Friday, 4:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., and two hours prior to shows. For additional information, call the Sunnyvale Theatre Administrative Office at (408) 730-7725, TDD (408) 730-7501, or visit Arts.inSunnyvale.com on the Web.

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