

FKCC Chorale to perform spring concert

Florida Keys Community College's Keys Chorale spring concert is scheduled for Friday at 8 p.m. in the Tennessee Williams Theatre.

The concert, "Chorale Blockbusters," will showcase the talented voices and performances by the students in the college's "Mixed Community Chorus" class.

Under the direction of Professor James Cutty, the Chorale will perform choral classics as well as contemporary selections from the musicals "Hairspray," "Easter Parade," and "Fiddler on the Roof." The concert will also feature a performance by the male acapella group, The Southernmost Five.

Those interested in joining the chorale can register for the "Mixed Community Chorus" course in the fall semester. The class, which can be taken as a college credit or non-credit course, brings students together as a community of singers to practice a selection of works from the historical repertory of choral literature from all periods.

For information about registering for the credit or non-credit course, call 305-296-9081 or visit www.fkcc.edu.

General admission is \$20, FKCC students are free, and admission for all other students is \$5. Tickets can be purchased at www.keystix.com or at the door. The theatre is located at 5901 College Road.



Contributed photo

Singer and musician Amy Helm and her band The Handsome Strangers will perform an outdoor evening concert on Saturday at historic Fort East Martello.

Helm, band ramble to Key West

Singer and musician Amy Helm and her band The Handsome Strangers will perform an outdoor evening concert on Saturday at historic Fort East Martello.

They will perform music from Helm's debut "Didn't It Rain," an album saturated with a roots-rock vibe and recorded in her father's barn in Woodstock, New York, home of the Midnight Ramble.

Helm hails from a lineage of musical icons: She is the daughter of drummer and vocalist Levon Helm of The Band (who contributed to her new release) and acclaimed singer-songwriter Libby Titus (who has penned compositions for Linda Ronstadt, Carly Simon and Bonnie Raitt), and the stepdaughter of Steely Dan's Donald Fagen,

musicians who were pivotal to her artistic development.

Helm and her band The Handsome Strangers — bassist Jacob Silver, guitarist Adam Minkoff and drummer David Berger — will take the stage as part of Key West Art & Historical Society's "Music at Martello Series," a program established to promote the arts and bring live music to the Keys and foster the Fort as a community venue. Helm's new release has been noted for its "rewarding listening experience," and her "agile voice moving between gospel, country, folk, and blues capably." Together with The Handsome Strangers, they will bring to life the recordings she and her band have recently released.

"I think that the job of

a musician is to try and shake people out of their own heads for an hour or two, and bring some joy into the world," said Helm. "So I want to get out there and do the job the best I can."

Doors open at 4:45 p.m., and Helm takes the stage at 7 p.m. Concertgoers may bring low-profile chairs or blankets. Discounted tickets can be purchased in advance for only \$20 at www.keywestconcerts.com or at the door for \$25, children younger than 12 are admitted free. Parking will be available for \$5, bike parking is free.

Portions of the evening's proceeds benefit KWAHS's educational programs.

For information, call 305-295-6616, Ext. 106.

The fort is located at 3501 S. Roosevelt Blvd., Key West.

Key West Water Dance hits White Street Pier

A Key West sunrise is a spectacular thing to behold, but it never gets the same attention and fanfare as its world-famous westerly cousin, the Key West sunset.

At 6:58 a.m. Saturday, Key West Water Dance hits White Street Pier as the sun rises over the Florida Straits. A free public event, this 15-minute performance is part of a massive happening across the U.S. called National Water Dance, which creates an opportunity for dancers of all ages and movers of all kinds to experience the power of art and performance as a vehicle for social change. The Southernmost island's contribution features movement by local community dancers and newly commissioned music by the Haitian super-group Orchestre Christophiles.

National Water Dance will be performed at nearly 100 locations across the U.S. and live streamed on YouTube at 4 p.m. later that day. But

because Key West does things a little differently than the rest of the world, we'll be kicking off our performance at sunrise instead.

Key West Water Dance is choreographed by Eryn Rosenthal, an artist who has developed site-specific dance performances around the world, from Madrid to Michigan.

Rosenthal's Water Dance takes its inspiration from the poem Notebook of a Return to My Native Land by Caribbean poet Aimé Césaire and considers the ocean in all its glorious complexity: from the threat of sea rise to the antics of dolphins, from the coral formation of Key West to water-borne migration.

Key West Water Dance is produced by The Studios of Key West and is free and open to the public. Complimentary coffee and doughnuts will be served. Dance, water and sunrise lovers should plan to arrive at White Street Pier at 6:45 a.m.

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