



Ronstadt, Summer, Lynyrd Skynyrd to highlight Season

BY CLEVE TWITCHELL

It's another strong lineup. Concerts at Britt Festivals this summer will feature quite a few big names as well as interesting jazz, blues, dance and classical artists.

Linda Ronstadt is coming to the Britt stage in Jacksonville. So are Donna Summer, Styx, Hall and Oates, Lee Ann Womack, Vicki Lawrence, Gordon Lightfoot and Hootie and the Blowfish. Another special event will feature Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame artist Elvis Costello and the Imposters.



Famed Southern rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd will perform at the Lithia Motors Amphitheater at the Jackson County Expo Park in Central Point.

Other favorites will make return visits to Britt, among them Chicago, the Temptations, Nickel Creek, Arlo Guthrie, k. d. lang and Bruce Cockburn. Also returning yet again is perennial Britt favorite Béla Fleck and the Flecktones.



The season opens Friday, June 9, with country star Deana Carter (replacing Marty Stuart, who cancelled) and opening act singer-guitarist Junior Brown. After more than 45 concerts, it will wind down on Sunday, Sept. 3, with Leahy, a Canadian group of eight siblings who play Irish and Scottish music, and opening act Jesse Cook, rumba flamenco guitarist.



Also coming are the band Cake, Blues Traveler, Shawn Colvin, Ramsey Lewis, Michael Franti and Spearhead, Jamie Cullum,

Dan Hicks, the Radiators from New Orleans and Ivan Neville of the Neville Brothers, among others.

The 44th annual Classical Festival, featuring

gifted young violinists, an opera program and panoramic photography, will run from Aug. 4-21, preceded by a string quartet concert in Ashland on July 31. The Dance Festival is a little different this year, with three performances spread out over a three-week period instead of being grouped back to back. Scheduled are Noche Flamenca on July 13, Lingo dancetheater on July 21 and Tony Waag's Tap City on July 28.



Separate stories about the Classical and Dance Festivals appear elsewhere in this issue.



The complete season schedule appears in the center of this section.

Most performances will again be at the Britt Pavilion in Jacksonville, which accommodates 2200 (662 reserved, the rest on lawn). When the 2006 season

lineup was announced in mid-March it included just one concert at the Lithia Motors Amphitheater in Central Point, Lynyrd Skynyrd on Aug. 16. Two more have since been added. Carrie Underwood, the 2005 "American Idol" winner, performs on July 31 and a Rob Thomas featuring Jason Mraz has been booked for July 9.



Tickets for Britt's 2006 season went on sale March 23 to Britt members and May 8 to the general public. For more information, check Britt on the web at www.brittfest.org or call 541-773-6077 or 1-800-882-7488. Britt's box office is now open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday at 216 W. Main St. in Medford.