



Jackie Davidson and Gary Brandt headline the June 17 “Gem of a Season” performance at Crystal Theatre. (Crystal Theatre photo)

CRYSTAL FALLS –The second event of Crystal Theatre’s 2012 “Gem of a Season” features folk singers Jackie Davidson and Gary Brandt.

The program, “Singing the Good Old Songs Again,” is slated for Sunday, June 17, at 2 p.m.

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Combining classic and original folk songs into an energetic, fun show, the duo promises a memorable musical experience.

Davidson began her music career at age 15 as a church organist. A few years later, she moved to southern California and joined the Randy Sparks 3, which eventually became the New Christy Minstrels.

This Grammy Award winning group soon became regulars on the Andy Williams Show, singing with many celebrity entertainers including Sammy Davis Jr., Tennessee Ernie Ford, Kate Smith and Carol Channing.

The Minstrels performed at the White House for President Lyndon Johnson and at Carnegie Hall with Alan Sherman.

Davidson later joined Gayle Caldwell to form the well-known duo Jackie and Gayle.

In their two-year career together, they made over 170 television appearances including the Red Skelton Show and the Tonight Show.

When The New Christy Minstrels re-united in 2005, Davidson joined the group again, as did five other original members.

She performed with them until 2010, when she left to join Gary Brandt and created their show, “Singing The Good Old Songs Again.”

Brandt, a Michigan native, carries on the tradition of folk music with a 12- string guitar, a good song, and a voice that reflects the tradition of American folk music.

A retired educator and coach, Brandt has shifted to full time performing. His new songs for 2012 include “Singing the Good Old Songs Again,” the theme song for the show.

Brandt says, “It would be great to have the chance to sing the songs, tell the stories, share the humor, meet the people and have a show at every small town in Michigan...and all across the country.”

Brandt and Davidson have been doing just that, performing across Michigan since early May.

The concert at Crystal Theatre will be their only show in the U.P.

Folk singers to perform at Crystal Theatre June 17

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Advanced tickets may be purchased for \$12 at Ben Franklin's in Crystal Falls, Central Arts and Gifts and the Iron County Chamber Office in Iron River, Steamin' Joe Coffeehouse in Florence and the Music Tree in Iron Mountain.

Tickets may also be purchased online at thecrystaltheatre.org or by phoning 875-6867.

Admission at the door is \$15 for adults and \$5 for youths under 18.

Season ticket packages for the remaining seven events will also be available in Stage Left before the performance.