Alba opens new entertainment menu

Prince George's house band is back in the house

Out of Alba, PG's perennial favourite celtic combination, will be back on stage this Sunday after a six month hiatus from live performance. And the stage they'll be on is the newest one in town.

Foodteller, after experiencing a few mixups, mixed messages, and miscommunication that forced it to shut down for a few weeks, is back up and running with more energy than ever before.

The downtown restaurant recently incorporated the Yuk Yuk's comedy club into its menu. Now Foodteller is experimenting with a new flavour - live music. Out of Alba will be just the first of what is hoped to be a regular, possibly once-amonth, rotation of musical acts

The return to the stage will also be a welcome return to a style of venue that the gang from Out of Alba particularly likes, says the band's singer Margaret

"What we used to really enjoy was the concert venue, but in a cozy atmosphere, she says. That atmosphere used to be found at the old Galitas, and before that in the same space in the Other Art Café. Both venues have been closed for a while now. So Margaret and her bandmates Tom Young on fiddle, Alan O'Reilly on bodhran, Jim Coyle on guitar and Carolyn Kelly on whistle - are happy to have the chance to play an intimate setting that doesn't also happen to be a kitchen.

The only difference now will be the fact that Foodteller, unfortunately, doesn't have a license for dancing yet (something about B.C.'s antiquated and prohibitionist attitudes toward food, drink and fun happening all at the same time).

Not to worry, says Margaret. She and the music her band plays come from parts of Britain that are used to subverting British stodginess. The Irish, she says, were dancing behind the British aristocracy's backs for centuries without them even knowing it. So people may be prevented from dancing on the tables (or even the floor) by the liquor police. But that doesn't mean they can't dance in their chairs.

That's what they used to do in Ireland," laughs Margaret. "That's where Irish step dancing came from. They used to have to keep their backs and arms straight so the English couldn't see their feet moving.

Since it's Out of Alba's first concert in a half a year, and the band is currently in the process of preparing to record its sec ond CD (their first, Stepping Out, is still the highest selling local CD), there's going to be a whole lot of new material that loyal fans haven't heard before.

Foodteller will be putting on a special dinner menu, but will also offer appetizers for those who don't want their tapping toes to get too sluggish.

The concert starts at 8 p.m. Sunday, November 11. Tickets can be had by phoning Foodteller at 562-0450.

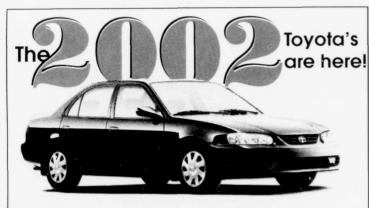


Carolyn Kelly, left, and Margaret Coyle will be joined this weekend by the rest of the gang from Out of Alba for their first concert since the spring.

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