

Rob Webb, Halyna Smolarczuk entertain at Miyazaki House

An African drum, Polish lyrics, an Italian melody

KATE MAXON,
for the Miyazaki House Society

Aug. 1 saw not only locals enjoying the second Miyazaki House Fundraising Concert of the summer, but music lovers from Ontario, Alberta, and Kamloops as well. These farther-away folk were pleasantly surprised with the songs our local talent had to offer.

The lovely evening started out with Rod Webb playing five of the many songs he has written during his years near and in Lillooet. "Down by the River" and "The Garden Song" were inspired by the beauty of our surroundings and connection between people and this small and fragile planet we call home.

Rod's songs all have timeless messages - "Sons and Daughters" imparts the urgency of keeping what we

have left intact for the generations to come; "Understand" pertains to understanding each other and our relationship to Mother Earth. Rod believes that if world peace were a reality, it would be the most beautiful song, hence he wrote "Song for Peace."

Halyna Smolarczuk has been gracing the stages of Lillooet for the past few years. Many of her songs during this time have been in collaboration with another Lillooet talent, Erdmann Tuemp.

Halyna's guitar and voice were complemented very nicely by Rod and his West African Djembe drum. Halyna began with the rollicking "Going Down to Lillooet," which was inspired by her children and their first long trip - over the Duffey Lake Road - to Lillooet.

"I like My Bike" and "Let's Go Visit Grandpa" are fun and favoured songs. "This Mighty Fraser River" has a haunting melody which is never tiring to hear. Along with English language renditions, Halyna sings in Polish, "Somebody Loves Me," and "Thank You My Dear" in Russian. These are her own compositions.

Halyna sang "Volare" in

Italian and asked the audience for "help" while passing around printed copies. "Volare" was written and released in 1958 by Domenico Modugno, becoming an all-time Eurovision hit selling 22 million copies. Easy to how it became so popular, with its bright and lifting melody! And no wonder Dean Martin made it a hit in North America, too!

The Miyazaki House Society thanks our local musicians for their generosity of spirit and time, and our music lovers for their very much appreciated support.

The next Friday night concert will be Aug. 15 with Josh Greenberg and Ghengis Ghandis. Aug. 22 will see Greg Mahaits and his dynamite banjo; Allison Buffalo doing a new rendition of her intriguing Hoop Dance, and Kate Maxon and Blue Jay Han once again, with new songs added to their repertoire. On Aug. 29, Len Fardella will entertain our ears with traditional folk on his National steel guitar and harmonica.

If you're thirsty, or craving a sweet, our canteen is always open during the concerts. Come on and enjoy!



Halyna Smolarczuk and Rob Webb in concert at the Miyazaki House.
Photo Credit: Jonah Greenman

