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Wednesday, October 23, 2013

SEQUIM GAZETTE

www.sequimgazette.com

Sequim's Hometown Newspaper

75 CENTS
Vol. 40, Number 43

SOUND PUBLISHING INC

FarmStrong goes 'Live in Dungeness'

New CD features full repertoire of musicians

by MATTHEW NASH
Sequim Gazette

FarmStrong plays a song for a live recording in June inside Dungeness Community Studios. The recording now makes up "Live in Dungeness – the Summer Sessions," which is on sale at a CD release show Oct. 26. Submitted photos

Cort Armstrong said his new band FarmStrong saw too much improvement for its busy members to let go, so the band releases its first album "Live in Dungeness – the Summer Sessions."

FarmStrong
"Live in Dungeness – The Summer Sessions"
CD release show
Featuring: Cort Armstrong, Jim Faddis, Rick Meade and John Pyles
Old Sidekicks open the show
Saturday, Oct. 26, show at 7 p.m.
At the Dungeness Schoolhouse, 2781 Towne Road, Sequim
$10 tickets, 12 and under free. CD discounted for show.
Available at BrownPaperTickets.com or the door
For more information, call 681-8553 or visit cortarmstrongmusic.com or farmstrongmusic.com.

Going live worked once for musician Cort Armstrong and his wife Kia on a CD. So Armstrong returns for another spin with his new band FarmStrong.

They'll release their first CD, "Live in Dungeness – The Summer Sessions," at an album release show on Oct. 26 with The Old Sidekicks opening at the Dungeness Schoolhouse.

FarmStrong recorded the album of genre-bending tunes from bluegrass to country to blues in June at Dungeness Community Studios.

Bringing together more than 150 years of bluegrass playing experience, Armstrong said the busy band is a project he didn't want to see go away.

"All of the guys in this band have a really long-standing history with other bands and for me I've been dabbling in different projects since living in the area," Armstrong said. "We were all local and all into the music we're playing and it was constantly improving."

Armstrong has played with bandmate Jim Faddis for a number of years focusing on soul-stirring vocal harmonies and guitar playing. Faddis is a member of the bluegrass band Prairie Flyer and his new project "One More Ride."

Rick Meade joins them on vocals and dobro and John Pyles on upright bass. Meade is in three other bluegrass bands — Rural Delivery, Brother's Keeper and Me & The Boys.

> *"Being out here, an event like this pulls so much of the community together. People know each other at these shows. It feels right."*
>
> Cort Armstrong

Pyles brings 50 years of bluegrass performing with several ensembles.

"Live in Dungeness" is a sampling of the band's repertoire, Armstrong said. Its purpose is to start small, sell it only at shows and promote it on the radio and among the bluegrass/country circuit so they can tour with it.

Going with this promotion model worked before, Armstrong said with his and Kia's live CD and album release at the schoolhouse. It was so popular, they had to turn people away at the door due to capacity crowds.

For FarmStrong's album recording, they recorded two shows for about 30 people each time in an intimate venue.

Armstrong said the schoolhouse is a great venue for the band's style of music.

"Jim and I love playing in old buildings," he said.

"Being out here, an event like this pulls so much of the community together. People know each other at these shows. It feels right."

Copies of "Live in Dungeness – The Summer Sessions" will be available for a discount at the show.

The band's CD release tickets are for sale at the door or at brownPaperTickets.com.