

Kruger brothers play Porter Center

By Skip Allsopp
Staff Writer

Walking yet again into the halls of the Porter Center on Thursday night, I can't say I was prepared at all for the show that awaited me. Song after song, I was blown away by the synchronization, the power, and the virtuosity of the Kruger Brothers' performance. Together, banjo player Jens Kruger, guitarist/vocalist Uwe Kruger and bassist Joel Landsberg form an unparalleled trio of sounds guaranteed to leave even just the occasional fan of acoustic music in awe.

Best of all, they do it without an ounce of pretentiousness at all. Throughout the show, the Krugers shared stories (and jokes) of their time growing up in their home country of Switzerland and explaining their humble beginnings. These were hardly the highlight,

but then next to the phenomenal music they produced how could it be?

The Krugers began the show by performing a series of choice selections from their earlier albums. One of the standout songs, and one that unsurprisingly garnered a standing ovation, was "Carolina In The Fall," a truthful tale of Uwe's experiences of coming to America and seeing all of its beauty on tour. The deep, resonating purr of Uwe's singing combined with the sweet, melodic chime of Jens' banjo made the piece one of the night's best performances.

The true highlight of the show however, came after a brief intermission. Once the audience had settled, the Krugers returned to the stage with a string quartet in tow, ready to perform Jens' original composition The Appalachian Concerto. After having heard it, I'm glad I had a chance to rest my ears first. The concerto opened with a piece

designed to exhibit different cultures' styles of music known as "Morning at Deep Gap", which featured a brilliant series of solos and melodies ranging from Celtic to Arabic styles.

The show continued on with Jens stopping between pieces periodically to explain his inspiration or process for the next piece in line. The most amazing part however, was getting to watch Jens' blisteringly fast banjo match the lines of the lead violin perfectly.

By the end of the performance not a single attendee was still in their seat. Rightfully there should not have been. In one night, a trio of musicians had exposed an audience to healthy combination of jazz, folk, blues, classical and most importantly acoustic music. That is more than most musicians will accomplish in their lifetime. The Krugers truly have a gift for what they do, and with any luck they will have many more years in their career to do it.

This week in history

By Melissa Sullebarger
Staff Writer

October 8, 1967

Ernesto "Che" Guevara and his supporters are captured in Bolivia by forces sponsored by the CIA and executed. Guevara was a major figure of the Cuban Revolution, and has since had his image used as a symbol of counter culture and rebellion. Guevara was a Marxist, so we can all be sure that he would be absolutely thrilled by the knowledge that his face is mass produced by corporations every day and worn by moody suburban kids in attempts to annoy their parents.

October 10, 1913

Construction of the Panama Canal is ended, making it the most significant waterway joining the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. It has been named one of the seven wonders of the modern world, having admitted more than 800,000 ships in the years since its completion. It is also the subject of one of the most logical palindromes ever. "A man, plan, a canal: Panama."

October 11, 1975

Saturday Night Live debuts on NBC under the original title, NBC's Saturday Night. George Carlin hosts the first episode, beginning it's long tradition of humorous

criticism of America's social structure and current events.

October 12, 1901

Teddy Roosevelt gives the White House its name, changing it from the previous title of "the Executive Mansion." It has housed every president from John Adams on, although the current building is not original. The original home of the Head of State (call it what you will) was burned by British troops during the War of 1812 and had to be entirely rebuilt.



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