



About Jim and Kathy Ocean

As Producers . . .



Thirty years ago, a young and talented singer-songwriter named Jim Ocean discovered that there were very few places in the Bay Area suburb where he lived that musicians like him could perform. So he began the “Musician’s Coffeehouse” as an open mike venue, and though he did not know it at the time, what was to become OceanWorks Productions was born.

As the Musician’s Coffeehouse matured, Jim began bringing an eclectic mix of regional and national headliners to the region. (Ninety percent of the performers presented would not have otherwise appeared in Contra Costa County.) The Musician’s Coffeehouse garnered a large following of enthusiastic patrons who relished the community spirit created by quality, live music in their own backyards. Jim continued to write and perform his own original music, and toured nationally with his satirical band, “Celtic Elvis”.

As Jim’s reputation grew, the City of Concord tapped him on the shoulder to produce a free-to-the-public summer concert series, which is now in its 23rd year, attracting an average of 175,000 patrons per year. The concert series is credited with significantly helping to revitalize Concord’s downtown and creating a down-home sense of community where residents of all ages look forward to participating year after year.

Meanwhile, the Musician’s Coffeehouse morphed into the Community Concert Series—an indoor ticketed winter series that traveled to several different venues throughout the county building a vibrant community of volunteers, musicians and concert patrons in the process. The Community Concerts Series ended in 2009 following a 30 year run.

In 2000, Jim was joined in business by his future wife, Kathy. They eventually coined their joint operation, OceanWorks Productions. Together, they help cities, colleges and non-profits create exceptional live music events that both inspire audiences and further the hiring organization’s goals.

As seasoned musicians and concert presenters who know live music production from the inside out, Jim and Kathy specialize in using live music events to build partnerships and community spirit. As business-savvy cultural activists, they are uniquely positioned to save their clients time and money, to reduce client’s anxiety and risk, and to help clients reach their organizational goals with heart, soul and enthusiasm.



As Musicians . . .

Jim remains a prolific songwriter with four albums under his belt and more on the way. Jim writes and performs in many styles with content ranging from the humorous to the humanistic to the spiritual—sometimes weaving all three seamlessly within one song. His latest CD, "Pop Tunes for Mystics", which was released in January 2010, has been described as a "secular ride through spiritual terrain". He is currently working on a project called "Math2Metaphor" which blends the scientific with the philosophical. A 2-CD set of satire called "Sarcology 101 and 102" is also in the works. And Kathy is encouraging him to record an assortment of songs written over the years—a project that she has affectionately and impatiently named the "Hopeful Orphans".

Returning full circle to the impetus that begat OceanWorks Productions, Jim has recently returned to performing. Although primarily a soloist, Jim will also perform as an occasional duo with Kathy (under the working title of "Two Old Rockers" referring to the heirloom antique rocking chairs they sit in while practicing in the living room) and as Jim Ocean and Friends, which incorporates guest appearances by Jim and Kathy's many overly-talented musician-friends. These concerts—sustenance for the ears, heart and mind—highlight Jim's songs of science, satire and spirit. Go to www.jimocceanmusic.com for a current performance calendar.

Additionally, Jim and Kathy are putting together a program they plan to tour around to the schools that revolves around Jim's scientific and philosophical songs. The intent is to use the songs as a way to introduce scientific concepts and to help awaken in the student a spirit of wonder, curiosity, imagination and possibility around scientific discovery. A further intent is to encourage discussion among students regarding the challenges and opportunities involved in being alive at this point in human history. If you would like more information about this project (or how to bring it to your child's school), call Jim or Kathy at 707-869-9403 or email info@communityconcerts.com.



As Innkeepers . . .

Jim and Kathy live in the Russian River area of Western Sonoma County with their two cats and little dog, YodaBella, where they operate a small vacation rental business from their beautiful property in the redwoods. (Check out www.riverseagetaways.com for information and rates.)



Testimonials

We have enjoyed the concerts in the park in downtown Concord for the past ten years, both at noon and in the evenings. It's a joy to see our tax money going to positive events such as this. The community comes together joyfully and everyone is accepted as they are. What a delight to see elderly, parents with small children and handicapped people (all who may not otherwise get out much) come together often and enjoy the festivities.

JM

I treasure the memories of your shows. For more than three decades your shows have brought together generations of people to hear and be moved by live music, played in safe and comfortable venues by musicians you could look in the eye while they were playing. No explosions, costumed dancers to distract from crappy singers, no hype - just the real deal, produced by people in it for the joy, music and community building. So, that's a long way of saying "Thanks a million from our family - all three generations of us."

RB

I just wanted you to know how much I have enjoyed these concerts over the years. All the venues allow an intimacy with the performers that greatly adds to the experience. And, perhaps because of your style, and the volunteers, the way these things are run, the quality of the performances, and most especially the feeling of really being part of some sort of community, your concerts have never had a commercial feel, but instead, always felt as though the experience of the audience and the performers was foremost. The whole experience feels really good....

MN

We wanted to express our appreciation for the exceptional concert series you put together this year as well as for the many, many past events. No concert organizer does a better job of bringing an array of exceptional musical talent to the public. We look forward to every event and can't thank both of you enough for the musical enrichment you have brought to our lives.

CL & JK