

The Renaissance

2008-09: volume 45

The Duttons at the Renaissance Theatre April 23, 2009 - 8:00 PM



The Duttons Award Winning Touring Musicians

The Duttons are international touring and recording artists that play everything from bluegrass to classical in their shows, featuring a variety of instruments: violin, guitar, bass, viola, banjo, mandolin, keyboard, harmonica and drums among others. The Duttons have not only won recognition in national fiddling contests and as studio musicians, but have also garnered praise and awards in classical violin competitions.

In addition to their instrumental virtuosity, the Duttons are accomplished singers and dancers and have been recognized as superb vocal talents. Behind the scenes, The Duttons collaborate to create unique production ideas for their shows which delight audiences. The show is self produced by the family including choreography, musical arrangement, technical support, production, and marketing, the end result of which is the audience streaming from the theater proclaiming, "This is the best show I have ever seen in my life!"

source: www.theduttons.com/meet_duttons/family_bio.cgi

Sponsored by General Motors

Musical History & Inspiration of the Duttons

Inspiration for this amazing group has come from various sources. Some performers that are favorites with the family members are The Eagles , Ricky Skaggs , Rascal Flatts , Nickel Creek , Kronos Quartet and James Taylor among many others. The true source of inspiration, however, lies with Dean and Sheila Dutton, aka Dad and Mom to The Duttons.

Dean and Sheila Dutton were not professional musicians and they certainly weren't planning on raising their children as such, but when they realized that this was going to be their lifestyle, they came on board wholeheartedly. In Sheila's case, it even came to the point that she had to go completely outside of her comfort zone and learn how to play an instrument with no musical background whatsoever. In Dean's situation, as a tenured economics professor, it meant giving up his chosen career and completely supporting his children in another.

Since that decision was made in 1991, The Duttons as a whole have not looked back and have gone on to a successful touring career and music business. Today, they own their own theater in Branson, Missouri where they perform over 300 shows a year, as well as their own hotel and restaurant.

What the future holds is anyone's guess. Projects on the table include a new album of original songs composed and arranged by the members of the family. Additionally, hundreds of people have asked Sheila to write a book of the group's adventures like how to travel with 15 people in a converted van for over a million miles and the day to day lifestyle of a family of professional musicians.

Last, and most fascinating with this family is how The Duttons' love for each other and their love for what they do is immediately obvious.

source: www.theduttons.com/meet_duttons/family_bio.cgi



Entertainment in Branson, Missouri

Anyone who has spent time in the city of Branson, Missouri after 1959 has most certainly heard of the Branson shows. The first of the Branson shows, the Baldknobbers Jamboree Show, first took the stage in 1959 and is credited with starting the Branson music shows that still happen weekly in Branson,

Missouri. Since those first Branson shows in the 1950s, the Branson show schedule has seen many different performers.

Although the Branson music shows were for many years exclusively a country and western scene, recently a number of other kinds of acts have also been added to the Branson MO shows. Andy Williams has his own concert hall for his shows in Branson, Missouri, called the Moon River Theatre. Other acts, including comedians and magicians, also grace the stages in Branson, Missouri. A number of themed shows can also be found here, such as the Lost in the '50s music show and the Stuck in the '70s music show. An acrobatics show is also found here in Branson, called the Incredible Acrobats of China.

Tourists will also be able to find a number of dinner theatre venues among the Branson, MO shows. The Dixie Stampede Dinner & Show is one of the more popular, with a smorgasbord of food meant to be eaten with your fingers, including fried chicken, corn on the cob and more. The meal is accompanied by a buffalo stampede, horse shows, singing and dancing. Though she rarely makes an appearance, the Dixie Stampede Dinner & Show is owned by Dolly Parton and is perhaps the most popular place to eat in Branson Missouri.

source: <http://www.destination360.com/north-america/us/missouri/branson-shows.php>