Blumenthal Performing Arts, MaxxMusic and The Visulite Theatre present

Ivan & Alyosha
and special guest Caleb

June 9, 2013
Stage Door Theater
at Blumenthal Performing Arts Center
"All the Times We Had," Ivan & Alyosha’s first full-length album, encapsulates the blend of rousing songcraft, infectious melodic hooks and lyrical introspection that’s already endeared the band to just about anyone who has witnessed one of their uplifting live shows or heard either of their two prior indie EP releases.

The Seattle combo – which borrows its name from a pair of characters from Dostoyevsky’s "The Brothers Karamazov" – delivers its songs of struggle, perseverance and spirituality with a resilient, upbeat attitude. This comes through in their stirringly strummed folk-rock guitars, surging instrumental interaction and buoyant blend of voices. The band members’ family-style camaraderie evokes a timeless pop ideal that’s as affecting emotionally as it is pleasing to the ear.

The band consists of core members Tim Wilson (lead vocals and acoustic guitar), Ryan Carbary (guitars, piano and vocals), Tim Kim (electric guitar and vocals) and Tim’s brother Pete Wilson (bass and vocals), plus a revolving assortment of friends and collaborators on keyboards, drums and other instruments. This intrepid ensemble has spent much of the past two years on the road, traveling the highways and back roads of America, often with wives and children in tow, building a loyal fan base with their joyous, high-energy live performances.

Ivan & Alyosha’s prior releases and live shows have won the band copious critical acclaim. They’ve also done successful stints opening for the likes of Aimee Mann, Brandi Carlile, the Low Anthem, Rosie Thomas and John Vanderslice. Since early in its existence, the group has been embraced enthusiastically by alternative radio, performing multiple on-air sessions for NPR as well as receiving notable support from such key stations as KCRW, KEXP, WFUV and WNYC.

The same qualities that originally won Ivan & Alyosha media attention
and a devoted grass-roots audience are apparent on "All the Times We Had," which the band co-produced in collaboration with keyboardist/engineer Chad Copelin. Jesse Lauter (The Low Anthem) mixed the album. The 11-song album effortlessly captures the warmth and immediacy of Ivan & Alyosha’s live performances, lending added resonance to such lyrically compelling, melodically arresting tunes as “Be Your Man,” “Running for Cover,” “Don’t Wanna Die Anymore,” “The Fold” and the album’s bittersweetly reflective title track, which features guest vocals by the band’s frequent touring partner and longstanding admirer Aimee Mann.

“We didn’t get it perfect, but I definitely think we got it right,” Tim Wilson says of the new album. “We really worked hard to get a live vibe and to capture that inspiration that we get when we’re on the road, when everybody’s together and feeding off of each other. You can nit-pick and edit everything until it sounds perfect, but we were more concerned with just getting the best performances we could. I think that it’s more mature and more focused, and closer to what we do live, than the records that we’d done before. We definitely had moments in the studio where it was like, ‘Oh, wow, this is special.’”

Ivan & Alyosha formed in 2007, when Tim Wilson met Carbary. Both had been in various Seattle-area combos, but the songs that Wilson was writing at the time seemed to call out for a new musical approach. The pair spent nearly a year writing material for their debut EP, “The Verse, The Chorus.” Released in March 2009, the EP generated an unexpected level of national exposure, with the charming tune “Easy to Love” (reprised on "All the Times We Had") receiving considerable airplay. The debut EP won the band an interview on NPR’s "All Things Considered" and coverage in NPR’s "All Songs Considered" SXSW 2010 preview. A subsequent appearance at the SXSW festival generated considerable music-industry word-of-mouth.

By the time Ivan & Alyosha recorded its second EP, "Fathers Be Kind," in February 2011, the group had expanded to include Tim Wilson’s bass-playing brother Pete, whose songwriting abilities contributed considerably to the band’s creative arsenal. Also joining the band was Tim Wilson’s high school friend Tim Kim, whose distinctive guitar work added a new dimension to their sound. The majestically jangly title track of "Fathers Be Kind" became a favorite of fans, critics and disc jockeys, and reappears in a newly recorded version on "All the Times We Had."

“When we recorded 'The Verse, the Chorus,' we’d never really played live as a band,” Tim Wilson notes. “By the time we did the 'Fathers Be Kind' EP, my brother Pete and Tim Kim had come on board, and we had done a West Coast tour or two, and some dates on the East Coast, but we were still figuring out how to play together. After 'Fathers Be Kind' came out, we went out and spent a year and a half touring and became a real band. I think that’s reflected on the new album.”
Indeed, "All the Times We Had" demonstrates the positive effects of the band’s extensive roadwork, underlining just how far Ivan & Alyosha has progressed since its humble origins.

“I think that we all feel pretty strongly that this is what we’re supposed to be doing – playing music, trying to write good, timeless songs, and trying to connect with people,” Tim Wilson says. “I think that we have a pretty deep sense of purpose, that this is not just some accident. I guess that the essence of faith is having felt or experienced something that maybe you can’t hold in your hand, and I think that’s how I’d describe my attitude toward music. And it’s OK if it’s hard, because anything in life that’s worth doing is hard.

“I’m guilty as guilty as anyone, of wanting certain things or wanting to be in a certain place right now,” Wilson says. “But we’re building something, and building something takes time. I’m learning to enjoy the journey, and I think we all are.”

Caleb

Caleb is a three-piece rock band from Franklin, Tenn., founded by brothers Caleb and Will Chapman, and shortly thereafter joined by friend/guitarist Scott Mills. From the beginning, the chemistry between the three young men has defined their approach to music and the road.

The members of Caleb are joined together by many things, and it has developed into a unique brotherhood where three stories have melded into one.

“We believe we have a story to tell – a story of hope and perseverance. That’s what we want to leave people with.”

With three EPs setting the framework of this story – "Caleb EP" (2010), "Trouble" (2010), and "To The Ends of the World" (2011) – Caleb is currently writing the next chapter in the form of their debut full-length record, "When I was Younger," scheduled to release later this year.

For information, visit IvanandAlyosha.com

For more information, visit Calebmusic.com.

Caleb performs in an Acoustic Alley session in Macon, Ga., on the Folk and Roll Tour.
JUNE CONCERT CALENDAR

BLUMENTHAL PERFORMING ARTS, MAXXMUSIC & THE VISULITE THEATRE PRESENT

Lucius
June 17 • Stage Door Theater
At Blumenthal Performing Arts Center

David Byrne & St. Vincent
June 18 • Belk Theater
At Blumenthal Performing Arts Center

Josh Ritter & The Royal City Band
and special guests The Milk Carton Kids
June 26 • Knight Theater
At Levine Center for the Arts

BLUMENTHAL PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS

The Broadway Dolls
June 22 • McGlohon Theater
At Spirit Square

PNC Celebrity Series
Gladys Knight and The O'Jays
Family Reunion 2013
June 27 • Belk Theater
At Blumenthal Performing Arts Center

For a complete list of our upcoming concerts, visit BlumenthalArts.org and click on Category under the Search box. Then, in the Search box, select Music to see all the great concerts coming to our theaters. Or call 704-372-1000.