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**TALLMAN HOTEL ANNOUNCES ITS 2012
CONCERTS WITH CONVERSATION SERIES**

Five Monthly Events to Benefit Soper-Reese Community Theatre Fund

UPPER LAKE, CA Jan. 5, 2012 – The Tallman Hotel in Upper Lake will present its sixth season of monthly Saturday evening “Concerts with Conversation” beginning January 21 and extending through May 12.



The Tallman series brings some of Northern California’s finest musical talent to this delightful Lake County venue. Beginning at 7:30 each evening, the concerts are held in the intimate Meeting House next to the Hotel, which has superb acoustics and comfortable seating for up to 45 people.

Ten percent of all proceeds from the Tallman concerts will be donated to the Soper-Reese Community Theatre Fund, which has converted the old single-screen movie theater in Lakeport into a state-of-the-art performing arts center.

“These informal musical events are always a lot of fun,” commented Tallman owner Bernie Butcher, “but I think our program this year will be something special. The artists are not only world class musicians, but also great entertainers and personalities. I think our guests will be treated to a truly unique musical experience.”



The 2012 season kicks off on **Saturday, January 29** with the lyrical and original country singer/songwriter **Rita Hosking** backed by **Sean Feder** on banjo and dobro guitar.

Now based in Davis, CA, Rita has appeared at the Bluegrass Festival in Lower Lake and put on a wonderful show as part of the Tallman’s 2011 concert series. “We couldn’t be happier that Rita was willing to come back to Lake County to kick off our series this year,” commented Butcher. (see www.RitaHosking.com)

The remainder of the 2012 season features the following eclectic group of accomplished musicians:

Saturday, February 25 – Peruvian **Javier Salmon** brings his engaging personality and music group *Cuyuy* to the Tallman for a wonderful evening of stories from South America and the music of the Andes. Javier is the popular owner of the Yerba Santa Goat Dairy in Scotts Valley and is well known at farmers’ markets and musical events throughout the Bay Area. He returns to Peru each year to re-connect with his musical roots.



Saturday, March 17 – Bass soloist **Michael Manring** (far left) and guitarist **Alex deGrassi** will join forces for a wonderful evening of creative strings.

With his custom-designed “hypobass,” Manring has been pushing back the boundaries of what is possible on the bass guitar for over two decades.

Based in Redwood Valley but travelling the world, Alex de Grassi has helped define the contemporary fingerstyle guitar movement. His evocative compositions mixing jazz, folk, and classical influences highlight his mastery of the instrument. (see www.ManThing.com and www.degrassi.com)

Saturday, April 14 – Banjo master **Gordy Ohliger** takes his audiences on a musical and story-telling journey back in history. He will bring a variety of banjos and antique stringed instruments to play the favorite hill country songs the way they were meant to be played. The country’s musical heritage comes alive through Gordy’s commentary and joyful music. (see www.banjoman.info)



Saturday, May 12 – Two pianos will be set up in the Meeting House for two of Northern California’s favorite keyboard artists, **Elena Casanova** (far left) and **Elizabeth MacDougall**.

A native of Cuba now resident in Ukiah, Elena has fascinated audiences at the Tallman and throughout the region with her passionate style of play. Her good friend Elizabeth MacDougall is a classically trained pianist who recently released her first CD, “New Perspective,” which features the exquisitely performed works of Chopin, Beethoven, Debussy, Mozart and Bach. (see www.ElenaCasanova.com and <http://atlantis.mendocino.edu/emacdougall/>)

Tickets are \$25 plus tax and include coffee and cookies served at the concert venue. The Hotel offers an attractive package for guests looking to make this the center piece of a weekend visit to Lake County. Tickets and information on the series can be obtained from the Hotel reception desk at (707)275-2244 ext. 0 or by checking the web site at <http://www.tallmanhotel.com/concerts>.

Photos Above (all taken from public web sites or taken by Bernie Butcher):

1. Tallman Hotel with Meeting House (green building at left)
2. Elena Casanova and Joel Cohen performing at the 2009 Concert Series
3. Sean Feder (left) and Rita Hosking
4. Javier Salmon.
5. Michael Manring (left)
6. Alex DeGrassi (right)
7. Gordy Ohliger
8. Elena Casanova
9. Elizabeth MacDougall

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