

ROCKING out as PROMISED



Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real. Photo special to SneakPEAK.

Road warriors Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real stop in Beaver Creek. By Laura Lieff.

Since teaching himself how to play the guitar at age 11, Lukas Nelson has taken a cue from guitar legends such as Stevie Ray Vaughan and Jimi Hendrix by honing his craft and taking his musical talents out on the road.

In 2008 he formed his band, Promise of the Real, and they have performed more than 400 shows in the past three years.

"I always wanted to be a part of a band, and I love the freedom of the road," Nelson says. "I love the feeling of playing with a group of musicians and letting the crowd in on it."

While on the road, Lukas and P.O.T.R. have performed with rock 'n' roll royalty such as Neil Young, B.B. King and Bob Dylan. Lukas has also played several shows with his father, country legend Willie Nelson.

"It's always an honor to play with your heroes," the younger Nelson says. "I try and soak in as much of that as I can."

Although Lukas doesn't necessarily look like his father, he certainly has Willie's twang, an element that fuses nicely with the second generation's rock-and-country sound. Known to play guitar behind his head and with his teeth, Nelson promises to deliver an electrifying show to remember.

Promise of the Real has released two full-length albums, an EP and a live album with the most recent being 2012's "Wasted." The album led to performances on shows like The Late Show with David Letterman, Jimmy Kimmel Live! and The Tonight Show With Jay Leno, putting the group in the national spotlight. The Nelson father-and-son duo also performed the Stevie Ray Vaughan classic cut "Texas Flood" on Late Night with Jimmy Fallon.

If you go...

Who: Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real

Where: Vilar Performing Arts Center, Beaver Creek

When: Tuesday, July 9 at 8 p.m.

Cost: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door.

Get tickets at www.vilarpac.org, by calling 888-920-2787 or in person at the Beaver Creek Vilar Center box office.

"Performing for that many viewers is actually kind of scary," Lukas Nelson says. "It's like charging a huge wave, and most of the time it's live, so you can't mess up!"

In addition to P.O.T.R. albums, Lukas played guitar and sang on his father's 2012 release "Heroes," and throughout 2012 the entire band frequently opened shows for Willie. They have also made appearances at major festivals, including Sturgis, Stagecoach and Farm Aid.

"Dad taught me so many things – mostly how to be kind to people," Nelson says. "It's inspiring to grow up with someone so wise. I learned many things from watching him."

In the meantime, Nelson affirms that the audience at the Vilar Center "should expect a whole lot of fun."

For those who want to see a double bill of music on July 9, the Vilar Performing Arts Center is inviting guests to start the night at the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater in Vail to see The Revivalists as part of the Bud Light Hot Summer Nights concert series. Following the show in Vail, guests can catch a free ride on the Turtle Bus to Beaver Creek to see Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real at the Vilar Center.

Tickets are available online at www.vilarpac.org, by phone at 970-845-TIXS or in person at the VPAC Box Office in Beaver Creek. **A**

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