



Lawless to headline Orcutt arts fundraiser

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Terry Lawless, who has performed with U2, Bruce Springsteen and David Bowie, will be the guest of honor Friday night at the Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation Winter Gala.

Lawless, whose business — Lawless Vintage Keyboard and Overdub Studio — is located in Santa Maria, will be honored by the foundation, and will also perform at the event with his local band, Unfinished Business.

The gala begins at 5:30 p.m. at the Santa Maria Radisson and features a reception, dinner, silent and live auctions, and the performance.

Proceeds go directly to fund visual and performing arts in the Orcutt Union School District, and to the development of a performing-arts center in Orcutt.

Lawless isn't just a highly sought-after saxophonist and keyboardist; he's a product of Iowa's public schools. So he would never turn a deaf ear to a request for help, said OCAF Executive Director Hannah Rubalcava.

"Anytime you mention kids and the arts, I always look for a way to help," Lawless said. "I would be absolutely nothing if it weren't for the public schools I attended and the arts education they gave me. I want to do everything I can to preserve the arts as a choice for young people."

Lawless's musical roots grew from the rich, black soil of the Midwest. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

In high school, he was a member of the Iowa All-State Band and Orchestra for three years (1970-1972), made the McDonald's All American High School Band twice (1971-1972) and was named to the U.S. Ambassador's Band in 1972.

Lawless wasn't just a band geek, either. He was a National Merit Scholar in 1972, with a 4.3 grade point average.

He earned his bachelor's degree in music from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, and was named to the Iowa Rock and Roll Music Association Hall of Fame in 2004.

Lawless recently completed U2's 2009 multi-continent "360-degree Tour." The tour resumes June 3 in Salt Lake City.

In addition to the last three U2 tours, Lawless has toured with Springsteen, Bowie, Cher, the Backstreet Boys, Michael Jackson, Janet Jackson, Phil Collins, Chicago, the Doobie Brothers, Bonnie Raitt and David Sanborn.

In 1983, Lawless brought his considerable talent west and settled in the Santa Maria Valley, where he opened his studio. He specializes in the electronic side of music, digital editing and programming.

He also teams with David Rackley on original scores for film, television and commercial use.

Lawless is the latest in a long line of stellar OCAF honorees, which include Jackson Brown, CafeFX, Nat Fast, Jim Messina, the Pacific Conservatory of Performing Arts and Jane Russell.

The Orcutt Children's Arts foundation has raised nearly \$300,000 over the years, with 75 percent of the funds benefiting the nearly 5,000 students in the Orcutt district. The remaining 25 percent is going toward the foundation's effort to build a performing arts

center.

“Across the board, the economy is not doing real well right now. Without the Orcutt Children’s Arts Foundation and the people who started it, there would be almost no arts in the schools here,” Rubalcava said. “Annually, we put at least \$30,000 to \$40,000 toward the schools.”

The Winter Gala is the organization’s biggest fundraising event of the year.

Tickets for the event are \$100 each, \$150 for preferred seating.

For more information about the event, or to purchase tickets, e-mail gala@ocafonline.com, visit www.ocafonline.com/gala or call 938-8966.