



Andrew Leong

Dulcimer player Rick Scott displays his famous expressive antics during Pied Pumkin's recent Bunch Theatre visit.

Pumkin a national treasure

PIED PERFECTION: Legendary B.C. folk trio should be given Order of Canada

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The Pictorial

The world needs Pied Pumkin now more than ever.

The coastal trio is the musical antidote to the only things that seem to last: war, racism, ignorance and greed.

Animated dulcimer veteran Rick Scott, fiddling mandolinist Shari Ulrich and guitar-picking pianist Joe Mock gently rocked Brentwood College's T. Gil Bunch Theatre last Friday with their soothing trademark sound.

"Just one more hour," one fan begged after the comedy-infused show ended.

That request followed two lively,

lovely sets of tunes the three solo artists — regrouped for a coastal swing — slid into like a pair of old slippers.

Each player alternated songs backed by the other two, starting with Ulrich's merry urging *C'mon People*.

Mock followed with his anti-violence song *Cap-Gun Cowboy* before Scott's *The Longest Day*.

Mock showed Nashville licks on *Pickin' Country* followed by Ulrich's simple question *Why Can't We Get Along?*

Pumkin finished set one with its upbeat anthem *Black Dog*.

The second half landed like a velvet glove of harmony and antics led by Scott's wacky expressions and rubber-legs, Ulrich's replies and Mock's

nonchalance.

Mock's pub parody *What The Dickens*, Ulrich's fine *Another Day*, and Scott's salute to challenged folks *Angels Look Just Like You* left fans wanting lots more from the legendary trio that personifies B.C.'s folk tradition.

Ironically, scheduling has kept Pumkin from playing our local Islands Folk Festival though folk guild brass says they top the list of desired guests.

The sooner the better.

Meanwhile, Pied Pumkin deserves the Order of Canada for its uplifting messages during depressing times.

Folk concert rating: 10 peace signs out of 10.