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THE TALKING DOOR

In the fullness of time all roads will lead to THE TALKING DOOR.

Cornerstone welcomes sounds of a simpler time

By Hamish MacLean
Canmore Leader

"Reminiscing, that's what we do," front man for the Canadian Ink Spots said from his Ontario home last week.

And though there are no surviving founding members, the legendary group's music lives on in performances through his efforts.

Ray Richardson said: "There's no such animal" as an original member of the Ink Spots, but he is as close as they get.

He worked with the Ink Spots original guitar player, Jerry Daniels, who died in 1995, when Richardson took over the group.

The Canadian Ink Spots have now been together for years.

And performs all the songs made famous by the Ink Spots those many years ago.

"Anybody from the mid-30s and on up know who the Ink Spots are," he said. "It's nostalgia, that's what it is."

The Ink Spots started in the 1930s and are couched between swing and rhythm and blues of the day.

"We've got a different style," Richardson said. "With the talking, actually, you could say that we were the world's first rappers."

The Ink Spots talk through moments in their ballads.

"We don't rap, we don't grab our crotches, it's nothing like that," he laughed.

"We're the only game in town," he said. There

really are very few performers who sound like the Ink Spots.

"Your grandmother, your grandfather, they fell in love to this music," he said. "It's music you can listen to and dance to and it's not just the beat."

"It's the music itself and it tells a story and the story is love basically."

The Ink Spots are remarkably simple musically. So simple in fact that some of the jazz musicians that they've enlisted to play, can't play it, Richardson said.

All of their ballads, he noted, have the same signature at the beginning.

"It was a much different time," he said. "It wasn't as complex as it is today."

And while he listens to the music of Luther Vandross and the like

to keep it contemporary, the group plays big band music between sets because that genre relates to what the group brings.

The Canadian Ink Spots will be sharing the night with the Legendary Platters.

Their music starts at the beginning of the rock 'n' roll era. Making them just a little late to be true contemporaries in sound, performing classics of the The Platters, such as When Smoke Gets in Your Eyes and The Great Pretender.

Tickets for the show are \$35, and for dinner and the show it's \$55. Go to atthecorner.ca for more or call Cornerstone Theatre at (403) 609-0004.

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Blake Richards, M.P.



COMMUNITY OFFICE HOURS

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Canmore: 9 AM-11 AM
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