

Touring the country in an Airstream, musical duo plans stop at The Granite

By Pamela Brown



Joanna Serenko and Tyler Dale

Joanna Serenko and Tyler Dale – remember those names. The up-and-coming soulful duo from St. Louis, Missouri is making a name for themselves in the industry and will be appearing at The Granite at 5 North Main Street for a special two-night gig on May 16 and 17 at 8:00 p.m.

“I’m looking forward to playing at The Granite. I’m excited and grateful to be traveling and playing music full time. We’ve been planning and working hard to make this a reality over the last couple years, and it’s awesome to finally be doing it,” said Serenko. “Since I’ve been in St. Louis for the majority of my music career, we’re playing mostly smaller venues as we build up our following.”

The Granite performances are just one stop on the duo’s year-long coastal tour of the country while traveling in an Airstream trailer.

“It’s been incredible! We love our new home on wheels,” Serenko said. “We’re doing the coast of each quarter of the country in each quar-

ter of the year. We’ve been meeting tons of people of all walks of life and learning their stories.”

Richard Wenning, The Granite’s Executive Director, was impressed when he heard Serenko perform. “After listening to Joanna’s beautiful voice, I thought she would be perfect for The Granite’s acoustics. Beautiful voices in a beautiful space go wonderfully together,” he said. “This emerging artist performance fits perfectly for The Granite as a non-profit community space that connects generations through learning and creativity. We’re restoring this cherished space as a cornerstone for cultural life in the greater Georgetown area, nurturing artistic expression and community engagement through dynamic events and performances.”

Serenko earned accolades after appearing as a contestant on Season 18 of *The Voice*, a reality television singing competition, with Dale cheering backstage. Mentored by Nick Jonas, John Legend, and James Taylor, Serenko made it to the semifinal round, finishing ninth overall. “The credibility that comes with being on that show gave me a solid foundation to continue building on for the rest of my music career. There have been times where people come out to shows because they recognize me, which has been cool,” said Serenko.

At The Granite, Serenko will be accompanied by Dale’s masterful guitar work, playing a mix of old and new original songs, along with some re-imagined covers. Each artist has a new album: *Best of Me* by Serenko and *Salutations* by Dale. “My style of music is a mix of songwriter, R&B, pop, blues, all with my own soulful twist. My mom grew me up on show tunes and country, which I have a great love for. She’s definitely a huge reason I’m so into music,” she said.

Serenko feels she and Dale mesh as musicians because of his velvety, smooth tone. “He also graduated with a jazz performance major, so I play rhythm guitar, and he adds the tastiness on top. Riffs, percolation, solos – he always knows what to add to bring a song

to life,” she said. “With him having the theory from music school, it’s awesome that I can bring him an idea that I’ve loosely worked up and he can refine all the chords into something unique. Not only is he incredibly talented, but some of my favorite things about Tyler are his warm heart, zest for life, and infectious laughter. It makes being on the road together so much fun.”

While building her music career, Serenko also attended school and recently graduated with a nursing degree from Maryville University. “My mom and grandmother are both nurses, and it was something I thought in my heart I might do. It was a struggle to know if what I was doing was the right thing. There were times that I seriously considered dropping out, as I felt extremely spread thin between feeding my passion for music and my nursing studies,” she said. “I’m glad I pushed through. I learned so much, I got to help so many people during clinicals and my OR externship, and I feel a deep sense of accomplishment. I still got to do a lot of music during those years, using that time to better establish myself as an artist.”

While she has put nursing on hold for now, she feels her music still gives her the opportunity to help others.

“What’s most important to me in my music is that it strikes a chord somewhere within the listener and makes them feel heard. That can be done through both melodies and lyrics,” she said. “Choosing a path and trusting in it can turn into something beautiful. I want my audiences to feel free, joyful, warm, and relaxed when they hear us play. I want them to feel not so alone in this human experience.” ■

For tickets to
May 16 and May 17, visit
thegranitechurch.org/events

To learn more about Serenko,
visit joanna-serenko.com