

# ELKHART JAZZ FEST

2023 PERFORMANCE JUNE 22-25

STRIKE A CHORD

2023

35TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY

JUNE 22-25

# PROGRAM





## WELCOME BACK

The Community Foundation is proud to support the renowned Elkhart Jazz Festival. Join us in celebrating this world-class event in our charming Midwestern community.

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## Dear Jazz Fest,

Welcome to the 2023 Elkhart Jazz Festival! We are thrilled to welcome musicians and music fans back to downtown Elkhart for the 35th year.

Growing up in a musical city like Elkhart, my love of music took off in elementary school when I began playing the saxophone. It was a Selmer alto sax made right here in Elkhart. I have it displayed in my office and every time I look at it or a visitor asks about it, I feel a powerful connection to this city and its musical history.

The Jazz Fest is a perfect illustration of what Elkhart is all about. This city is a powerful force when everyone comes together to make an event like this possible. Coordinators, volunteers, city staff, working side-by-side to make the Jazz Fest a smooth weekend is a beautiful thing to see.

I am so impressed by the work done by Elkhart Festivals Inc., The Lerner, and all the musicians. Thank you to everyone who gives their time and their talent to make the Elkhart Jazz Festival a success.

This year is an extra special one as it will be the first Jazz Festival without one of its pioneers and champions, Paul Thomas. Paul, the honorary "Mayor of Main Street," passed away earlier this year at the age of 99. We will be honoring Paul at this year's festival and no doubt his presence will be felt in every note.



Let's "Strike a Chord" Elkhart and let the music begin!

Sincerely,

Rod Roberson  
Mayor

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# ELKHART JAZZ FEST

We have done it again! 35 years of bringing our musicians and fans together for an unforgettable experience downtown Elkhart. In 2022 you continued to show that Music Runs Deep throughout our community and it gives us the motivation to work tirelessly to keep the Elkhart Jazz Festival running strong. No matter if it is your first year or you have joined us for all of them, we appreciate (and recognize) your role as fan of the festival. Every year presents new opportunities and challenges. There is no doubt that our roster of talent will continue to be the reason for another great year. Walk the Riverwalk, shop the shops, enjoy the dining... and take in all that Downtown Elkhart has to offer. We are grateful you have decided to spend your time with us

2023 Festival Director

Ben Decker



- 1** Central Park
- 2** The Lerner & Crystal Ballroom
- 3** South Main Stage
- 4** Library Atrium
-  Information and Ticket Sales
-  Merchandise
-  First Aid/Command Center
-  Restrooms
-  Parking
-  Food Vendors



# VENUES & PARKING

## 1. Gaska Tape Stage

Central Park

- Free to the public
- Outdoor Venue
- Chairs available (limited)
- Food vendors



## 2. Welch Packaging Group Stage

Lerner Theatre | 410 S. Main St.

- Capacity: 1,711
- Air conditioned
- Bar service available



Welch Packaging

## NIBCO Stage

Crystal Ballroom | 410 S. Main St.  
(second floor)

- Capacity: 500
- Air conditioned
- Bar service available



## 3. Kem Krest Stage

South Main St & Division



## 4. JJ Babbitt Stage

Elkhart Public Library | 300 S 2nd St

- Capacity: 200
- Air conditioned



# REMEMBERING PAUL THOMAS

October 13, 1923 - April 15, 2023 (age 99)



Paul Thomas was a graduate of Elkhart High School 1941 class and attended Indiana University, where he was a yell leader and band member for both.

Paul, affectionately known as the "Mayor of Main Street" worked as the manager of Drakes Department store in Elkhart until he opened his own business, Paul Thomas Shoes, in Downtown Elkhart in 1955. The store was well known for its tiny door that welcomed thousands of children over the years.

Paul had numerous contributions to his community. He served 2 terms on council for the City of Elkhart, was a 62-year member and past president of the Elkhart Lions Club, receiving the Citizen of the Year of Elkhart. Paul also received the Sagamore of the Wabash Award from then Governor Frank O'Bannon in 1996.

He loved sharing the rich history of Elkhart with others. Following his retirement from Thomas Shoes in 1988, he founded the Time Was Museum which gave him the opportunity to share the history of Elkhart, often giving programs to student groups, service clubs, and libraries.

Paul was a passionate supporter of Downtown Elkhart and was one of the founders of the Elkhart Jazz Festival. The Jazz Festival was his favorite downtown event. The performances he looked forward to the most were those of, his favorite jazz artist, Joan Collaso.

Paul was well known for driving a golf cart around downtown, often not paying much attention because he was too busy greeting everyone he encountered. He never met a stranger, now remembering their names was a different story. Paul once picked a visitor up from The Lerner on his golf cart to take him to The Knights of Columbus. When they arrived, the visitor looked at Paul and said "this is the most unique city I have ever been to", Paul asked him why. The visitor responded that "everyone in this city is named Bud or Hun". Even after he stopped driving the cart, you could find Paul sitting near the welcome area so he could greet everyone. His uniform, a green blazer, made him easy to find and recognized by guests.

Paul, a legend in the "City with a Heart", was a true champion for the City of Elkhart and cheerleader for the festival.

This one is for you Paul!

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# THE 2023 ELKHART JAZZ FESTIVAL

## Thursday, June 22

### Lerner Theatre | FREE

7:00 PM - Truth in Jazz Big Band

### Wellfield Botanic Gardens | TICKETED

7:00 PM - Emma Hedrick

8:30 PM - Blair Clark

## Friday, June 23

### Central Park | FREE

5:00 PM - Ben Davis Trio

7:00 PM - Lin Rountree

9:00 PM - Davina and The Vagabonds

### South Main St. | FREE

5:30 PM - Jazz Assemblage

7:30 PM - Whistle Pigs

9:30 PM - Darryl Buchanan's Soul Motown Allstars

### Crystal Ballroom Shows | DAYPASS

6:30 PM - Lao Tizer Quartet

8:30 PM - Ilya Serov

### Library Atrium Shows | DAYPASS

5:00 PM - Andy Brown Trio

7:00 PM - Julieta Eugenio

9:00 PM - Bryan Eng Trio

### Lerner Shows | SOLD SEPARATELY

6:00 PM - Grace Kelly

8:30 PM - Mindi Abair

10:15 PM - Firework Show

## Saturday, June 24

### Central Park | FREE

10:00 AM - High School Band Showcase

1:10 PM - Voices from the Heart

1:30 PM - Teen Town

3:30 PM - Isabella Isherwood

5:30 PM - New Nostalgia

7:30 PM - Couch

9:30 PM - Paul Decker & The Real Deal

### South Main St. | FREE

1:30 PM - Shelly Cowling Quintet

3:30 PM - David Hilliker Organ Trio

5:30 PM - Davina and The Vagabonds

7:30 PM - Q Sonics

9:30 PM - SWC

### Crystal Ballroom Shows | DAYPASS

1:00 PM - Lucia Sarmiento

3:00 PM - Sofia Goodman Group

5:00 PM - Kris Brownlee

7:00 PM - Emmaline

9:00 PM - Sharel Cassity

### Library Atrium Shows | DAYPASS

1:00 PM - Christopher Lucas Wilson Trio

3:00 PM - Emily Cavanagh

5:00 PM - Third Shore Collective

7:00 PM - Mike Smith Quartet

9:00 PM - Kanola Band

### Lerner Shows | SOLD SEPARATELY

3:00 PM - The Four Freshmen

8:30 PM - Joey Alexander

10:15 PM - Firework Show

*Visit our local businesses during the festival  
and after hours!*

*\*\*All times are subject to change.\*\**

## **Sunday, June 25**

### **Lerner Theatre | FREE**

1:00 PM - Dave Bennett Quartet

3:00 PM - Joan Collaso Trio

### **Central Park | FREE**

10:30 AM - River Oaks Praise Service

12:30 PM - The Dean's List

2:00 PM - Rafael Chavez Trio

3:30 PM - Vibenation

## **Pop-Up Performances**

### **Friday**

6:00 PM - Starving Artists @ Corner Bar

6:00 PM - After Ours @ 5 Star Dive Bar

7:30 PM - Dylan Tolbert @ Library Curbside

8:00 PM - The Synergy Twins

@ The Jackson Rooftop

9:30 PM - The Why Store @ 5 Star Dive Bar

10:00 PM - Bumpus @ Library Curbside

### **Saturday**

12:00 PM - Starving Artists @ Food Court

12:00 PM - Imphormal @ Relish Cafe

4:30 PM - DECK Quartet @ Relish Cafe

6:00 PM - Generations Trio @ Relish Cafe

6:00 PM - After Ours @ Corner Bar

7:30 PM - Lalo Cura @ Library Curbside

8:00 PM - Buddy Pearson

@ The Jackson Rooftop

9:30 PM - Zero @ 5 Star Dive Bar

### **Sunday**

10:00 AM - Jazz Sunday w/ Dave Bennett

@ First Presbyterian Church

11:30 AM - After Ours @ Food Court

## **Special Thanks to our Volunteer Sponsor**



**Above. Beyond. Always.**

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Produced by: **Elkhart Festivals Inc.**



# AFTER OURS

Fri. 6/23, 6 PM @ 5 Star Dive Bar  
 Sat. 6/24, 6 PM @ Corner Bar  
 Sun. 6/25, 11:30 AM @ Food Court

After Ours is a two-man wrecking crew with influences ranging from modern jazz to grunge to instrumental hip hop & experimental music. Hybrid 7-string guitarist Eli Kahn creates sonic layer cakes with loops atop drummer Arthur Schroeder's ever-expansive jazz beat backdrops to create a unique sound that is all their own. Having shared stages together for 10+ years as the rhythm section in different groups and as backing bands from folk to rock to funk to hip hop, the two musicians have developed a tight chemistry that translates to their original music & interpretations of both contemporary & classic tunes.

# ANDY BROWN TRIO

Friday June 23, 5 PM  
 @ Library Atrium

Presented  
 by



Andy Brown is a guitarist based in Chicago. Born in New York in 1975, he has played professionally for thirty years. He has had a varied performing career that has included stints in Cincinnati and New York City. He has been called a "superior mainstream guitarist" in Downbeat magazine.

Since coming to Chicago in 2003, Andy has been fortunate to work at many of the area's finest jazz venues with his own bands, as well as playing his unique brand of solo jazz guitar. He has backed visiting jazz names at places including The Jazz Showcase and Ravinia. Currently he plays solo guitar every Thursday at The Green Mill, leads his quartet weekly at Andy's Jazz Club and performs with his group regularly at Winter's Jazz Club.

As a sideman he has performed with internationally known jazz musicians including Scott Hamilton, Howard Alden, Harry Allen, Warren Vaché, Ken Peplowski, Hod O'Brien, Michael Feinstein and many others. He also had the good fortune to accompany Barbra Streisand when she appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show in 2009. Andy has made many festival appearances around the world including performances in Brazil, Europe and Canada. In 2012, his trio was invited by the Chicago Mayor's office to perform for the Nobel Peace Prize dinner in Chicago where invited guests included U.S. presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, as well as the Dalai Lama and Mikhail Gorbachev.

Since 2009, Andy has co-led a two-guitar quartet with renowned guitarist Howard Alden. Andy had the good fortune to learn directly from several guitar masters, including Cal Collins, Ted Greene, and Howard Alden. His most important mentor was the late Kenny Poole, who called Andy his protégé.

Presented  
 by

*Robert Wood*

ONE STEP AHEAD





# BEN DAVIS TRIO

Friday June 23, 5 PM  
@ Central Park

Presented  
by



Up-and-coming Indianapolis-based jazz pianist Ben Davis will be performing with bassist David Richards and drummer Charlie Edwards. An Elkhart native and recent Ball State graduate, Ben Davis has been playing at the Elkhart Jazz Festival for nearly a decade with a variety of groups, including Truth in Jazz, Generations Trio, and Yellow Creek Jazz Project. Ben has been active gigging around the Indianapolis area, recently performing at the historic Chatterbox Jazz Club in Indianapolis with trumpeter and mentor Mark Buselli. He has also had the incredible honor of performing at Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola in NYC with the Ball State Jazz Ensemble. A student of Indianapolis-based pianist Dr. Scott

Rutenberg, his creativity extends beyond just the keyboard, showing a knack for writing catchy melodies as a composer/arranger for small and large ensembles. His talents have earned him the Tom Shah Jazz Scholarship during his time at Ball State. Ben will be releasing his debut EP, "Ligaya" (pronounced Luh-Guy-Uh), in the fall/winter of 2023.



# BLAIR CLARK

Thursday June 22,  
8:30 PM  
@ Wellfield Gardens

Take a little pop, throw in some R&B, mix it with some soul and add a touch of jazz and the result is the electrifying sounds of Blair Clark. Clark has captivated audiences through Europe, Canada, and all over the United States.

Presented  
by



# BRYAN ENG TRIO

Friday June 23, 9 PM  
@ Library Atrium

*"Eng's star wattage is undeniable. Mercurial luxurious croon..."*

—Chicago Sun-Times

*"Cool sounds... very likable performer..."*

—Chicago Tribune

From New York City, multifaceted Broadway actor and acclaimed jazz pianist and singer, Bryan Eng is one of the most promising and accomplished entertainers of his generation. With a sound and showmanship compared to jazz masters such as Nat King Cole and Harry Connick Jr., Eng's musicality packs a punch of energy that manages to maintain an alluring level of intimacy.

At just 24 years old, Eng has already begun to make big strides across industries in the entertainment scene. His unique talents as an actor and musician have been featured in movies, TV, commercials, and at revered performance venues including Broadway, the Kennedy Center, Jazz at Lincoln Center, and Birdland. Additionally, his ability to compose and arrange music for all styles has led him to musical collaborations with stars such as Heather Headley, Stephen Colbert, The American Pops Orchestra, and regional Theatres from coast to coast.

Eng attended Northwestern University where his Chicago acclaim proved inevitable. Holding multiple performance residencies and starring at award-winning regional Theatres, Chicago Now proclaimed, "Bryan Eng is one of Chicago's bright stars." While still in the Windy City, Eng was invited to join the Broadway cast of Plaza Suite with Sarah Jessica Parker and Matthew Broderick. Now a New York star in ascension, Eng headlines regularly around the city while continuing to perform at major jazz clubs around the country. For more, please visit: [www.bryaneng.com](http://www.bryaneng.com)

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@thebryaneng

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Tiktok:  
@the.bryaneng

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by **INOVA**  
FEDERAL



# COUCH

Saturday June 24, 7:30 PM  
@ Central Park

*"Couch is kicking it old school with a delightful, modern twist... [They] are single - or seven-handedly - breathing new life into the pop scene." - Sheesh Media*

Boston-based band Couch infuses pop with funk, rock, and R&B/soul. Their vibrant sound is further defined by the members' backgrounds in jazz, a cappella, and musical theatre.

Until Spring 2021, Couch members were scattered across the country at various universities; they tackled the challenges of being a "long-distance" band, writing and even recording virtually for three years. Despite these challenges, they celebrated the release of their debut EP, "COUCH," in February 2021 as well as three new singles and a 20-city headline tour in 2022.

The band injects each track with their signature flavor: expressive horns, warm vocals, and bubbling synths—crafting an oasis of joy for musicians and non-musicians alike.

Facebook: @couchtheband

Tiktok: @couch.theband

Instagram: @couch.theband

Presented  
by  Welch Packaging





## CHRISTOPHER LUCAS WILSON TRIO

Saturday June 24, 1 PM

@ Library Atrium

Christopher Lucas Wilson is a hard swingin' pianist originally from metropolitan Detroit, later transplanted to Los Angeles, and recently relocated to Chicago. As a child, Christopher was first introduced to music on a Grinnell Brothers piano in his parents' living room by a now unknown piano teacher. Although this teacher's name remains a mystery, Christopher remains indebted for his role in instilling a lifelong passion for music. The enlightening and freeing sound of swing is what first attracted Christopher to jazz. His interest in this feeling is what led him to begin exploring Detroit's rich musical history which was and is replete with musical legends. He first studied with the late greats Bess Bonnier and Marcus Belgrave. Later, he would join the Detroit Symphony Orchestra's Civic Jazz Program where he first met esteemed bassist and educator Rodney Whitaker. By the time Christopher graduated from high school, he was entrenched in swing and bebop and would go on to further his studies within the jazz program at Michigan State University. While at Michigan State, he had the pleasure of studying and performing with Rodney Whitaker, Wess "Warmdaddy" Anderson, Derrick Gardner, Vincent Chandler, Randy Gilespeie, Diego Rivera, and Rick Roe. After graduating Christopher immediately began performing with his trio in Detroit, including a weekly jam session at the heralded Baker's

Keyboard Lounge. A short year later, Christopher relocated to sunny swingin' Los Angeles where he fell in love with Southern California and spent nearly a decade there as a result. During that time he played regularly with his trio and released two albums, "Feelin' Better" and "Leaving Los Angeles." Christopher moved to Chicago shortly after and is honored and excited to be part of another incredible city rich with musical history. Christopher's music is highly influenced by hard swing, bebop, and the rich history of jazz piano trios. His focus is the uplifting nature of swing and the beauty behind the jazz piano trio. His arrangements are thoughtful and his music contagious.

• 'There are players who skate more, players with more driving rhythms and more "original" versions. For listeners thirsty for "notes...like hoisted water/raveling off a bucket," for the generous lyricism that left the planet with Hank Jones and Tommy Flanagan, Christopher Wilson is a reminder that our musical well is deep and fresh, that a new generation of players can still lead us to it.' -Michael Lauchlan, author of Trumbull Ave"

Presented  
by

**NIBCO**  
AHEAD OF THE FLOW

# DARRYL BUCHANAN

Friday June 23, 9:30 PM

Presented

@ South Main St.

by



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Growing up in a family of talented singers and musicians, Darryl first started playing the bass and guitar at age 12. At age 17 he was discovered by the legendary Motown recording artist Jr. "Shotgun" Walker and started doing world tours in the early 1980's. Through out his musical career he toured for over 20 years with many legendary groups including, The Temptations Grammy Award winner Richard Street, former legendary James Brown band director Trombonist Fred Wesley of the JB's, and the Motown Revue. In 1993 while a member of the Jr. Walker's band, Darryl had the honor to perform at President Bill Clinton's Inaugural Ball. Darryl has also performed on numerous TV shows including NBC's Saturday Night Live and has performed at the world famous Apollo Theatre in Harlem, NY.

His smooth vocal style fits the legendary sounds of artist like Smokey Robinson and Al Green.

Darryl Buchanan is currently producing R&B, Pop and Gospel music with various artist. On August



29, 2009 Darryl was awarded the certificate of recognition by then city of South Bend, IN Mayor Stephen J Lueke for his 30 years in music and his accomplishments. Darryl Buchanan also continues to perform with his talented music group " Darryl Buchanan's Soul Motown Allstars.

For more info visit

[www.darrylbuchanan.net](http://www.darrylbuchanan.net)

# DAVINA AND THE VAGABONDS

Friday June 23, 9 PM

@ Central Park

Presented

by

 **State Farm**  
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574-264-5755



New spin on an old sound, Davina and The Vagabonds have created a stir on the international music scene with their high-energy live shows and commanding stage presence. Davina Sowers as been compared to Etta James, Amy Winehouse, Janis Joplin, Billie Holiday and Betty Boop, but comparisons don't suffice: she is a true original. Bringing you 100 years of American music and Davina's originals, which lend themselves to the American Songbook, the band brings edgy nostalgia to older generations and fresh new music to younger ears. This rollicking quintet is held together by Sowers' keyboard playing, with acoustic bass, drums, and a spicy trumpet and trombone horn section. The group's focused, clean sound and emphasis on acoustic instruments is novel to both blues and jazz worlds, and sets the show closer to New Orleans than to Chicago.



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# DAVE BENNETT QUARTET

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by

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Saturday June 24,  
5:30 PM @ South Main St.

Sunday June 25,  
10 AM @ First Presbyterian Church

Sunday June 25,  
1 PM @ Lerner Theatre

Dave Bennett doesn't fit the mold. For starters, you don't find many jazz clarinet players who name Alice Cooper, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Chris Isaak among their influences. You won't find many musicians who are equally conversant with the music of Benny Goodman (the "King of Swing") and Roy Orbison ("The Soul of Rock and Roll"). In fact, you may not find even one other clarinet virtuoso who breaks from his Swing Era repertoire to sing rockabilly hits while accompanying himself at the piano or electric guitar. Dave Bennett fuses serious jazz improvisation with a host of modern pop influences.

Dave began his national touring career at the age of 14. He has been a featured soloist at Carnegie Hall with The New York Pops (2013) and has been featured with 35 other US and Canadian orchestras including Nashville, Detroit, Rochester, Omaha, Toronto, Calgary, Vancouver, Orlando, San Antonio, Jacksonville, Portland, OR and Portland, ME. Some of his annual appearances include The Elkhart Jazz Festival, The Suncoast Classic Jazz Festival, The Arizona Classic Jazz Festival, The Sacramento Hot Jazz Jubilee, The Clambake Music Festival, and The Redwood Coast Music Festival.

Dave has been featured on NPR Radio's "Jazz at Riverwalk." He made his European debut in 2008 at The Bern Jazz Festival (Switzerland) in a combo with jazz legends and Benny Goodman band alumni guitarist Bucky Pizzarelli and vibraphonist, the late Peter Appleyard. In March 2022, Dave and his band performed to a sold-out audience at New York City's Birdland Theatre. Dave is a Mack Avenue Records artist. His 2013 CD "Don't Be That Way" met with critical acclaim. His second release, Blood Moon, which features five originals and six pop/jazz covers, reached No 24 on the Billboard Jazz charts in 2018.

During the isolation of the pandemic, fate steered Dave's time off the road into a bold new direction. He put his guitar pedal to the metal and stepped away from his beloved clarinet. A songwriter stepped forward. Road songs, reverb-laded guitar solos that could power a surf documentary, and memories of loves and lives lost are the mile markers that makeup his latest release "Nowhere Fast". His first full-length rock album is a deep, soul-searching joyride through the back streets of his mind.

Leave it to Dave Bennett to prove that sometimes the best way to move forward is to go back to the beginnings of what drives you.





A group of young men in white shirts and dark pants are performing a dance routine on a stage. They are in various poses, with some arms raised. A crowd of people is watching from the foreground. The background shows trees and a building.

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# DAVID HILLIKER

Sat. 6/24, 3:30 PM @ South Main St.

Sun. 6/25, 10:30 AM @ Crystal Ballroom

## ORGAN TRIO

### David Hilliker | Drums

Born into a musical family in upstate New York and having two older brothers who toured and recorded with Brother Jack McDuff, drummer David Hilliker had music all around him. Early studies with David Chitambar back in New York led to studies later in life with the legendary Ed Thigpen and John Von Ohlen. Having performed all around the Midwest, he has also had opportunity to play with jazz artists such as Melvin Rhyne, Joey DeFrancesco, Bill Heid, Pat Bianchi, Dave Stryker, John Clayton, Benny Green, Joe Beck, Ali Ryerson, and legendary tenor saxophonists George Coleman and Von Freeman. His attitude toward the music and the role of the drum chair is to "lay down the groove, swing hard, stay out of the way and make the rest of the band sound better".

### Derek Duleba | Guitar

Derek Duleba is a highly acclaimed Jazz Guitarist and Educator, recognized for his exceptional talent and captivating performances. He has made a significant impact on the Chicago jazz scene and continues to inspire audiences worldwide. Derek has performed at some of the most prestigious venues in Chicago, including the Chicago Symphony Center, Jay Pritzker Pavilion, The Green Mill, and The Jazz Showcase, among others. He has shared the stage with numerous jazz luminaries, including Jeremy Kahn, Dan Trudell, Chris Foreman, Art Davis, Russ Phillips, Eric Schneider, and Andy Schumm.

Presented  
by



### Tom Vaitsas | Keys & Fender Rhodes

The Chicago Reader refers to pianist Tom Vaitsas as a "local great" who is "massively resourceful." Tom is one of the most – if not the most – in-demand pianists and keyboardists in Chicago, performing every night and most days. He is a frequent collaborator and arranger, being an essential part of many projects.

He has performed with an extensive amount of notable musicians, a small sampling including: Von Freeman, Victor Goines, Buddy Guy, Chuck Webb Band, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Hubert Sumlin, Paul Marinaro, Frank D'Rone, The New Standard Quintet, Abigail Riccards, Bobbi Wilsyn, Tammy McCann, Duke Payne, Jimmy Owens, Willie Kent, Pinetop Perkins, Red Holt, Richie Cole, Doc Severinsen and toured Europe multiple times with the great blues artists Carrie and Lurie Bell. Tom also plays extensively in Chicago's Greek music scene.

# THE DEAN'S LIST

Sunday June 25,  
12:30 PM @ Central Park

Drummer Sonny Carreño and guitarist Danny Dean met in 2013 on a recording session for an album of sacred music called Walk in Peace. They realized they shared an interest in jazz, formed a quartet right away, and began performing throughout the area. The group has since earned spots at Elkhart Jazz Festival for five straight years, performed for WNIT's Experience Michiana and the home-grown-talent series at Merriman's Playhouse in South Bend, hosted WVPE's Fernwood Friday in Niles, and played countless other public and private shows over its nine years together. Repertoire is midcentury jazz standards with an irreverent edge, along with a few modern pieces and reinterpreted hymns. The group's focused, clean sound and emphasis on acoustic instruments is novel to both blues and jazz worlds, and sets the show closer to New Orleans than to Chicago.

Presented  
by 



## EMILY CAVANAGH

Emily Cavanagh is a Singer/Songwriter in NYC originally from Chicago. A working musician & published songwriter, Emily has made a career at the intersection of music & service--gigging, touring, writing, & bringing music to marginalized

Saturday June 24, 3 PM  
@ Library Atrium

communities in the states & abroad—including homeless New Yorkers, refugee communities, & seniors with memory loss. In response to the Covid 19 pandemic, Emily launched a music initiative called "A Song for You" writing & sending original recorded songs to patients and families hit hardest by the pandemic. This project is now launched in hospitals & hospices across the country, has been seen on NBC, ABC, & Medium & features songs of local, touring, & grammy award winning songwriters. Emily's music reflects a throwback sound of the 30's, 40's, & 50's while maintaining a great folk & pop sensibility. Her work can be found in various commercial placements & on Irish radio. The instrumental of her song "Treehouse" was featured in the 2017 trailer for Woody Harrelson's film "Wilson."

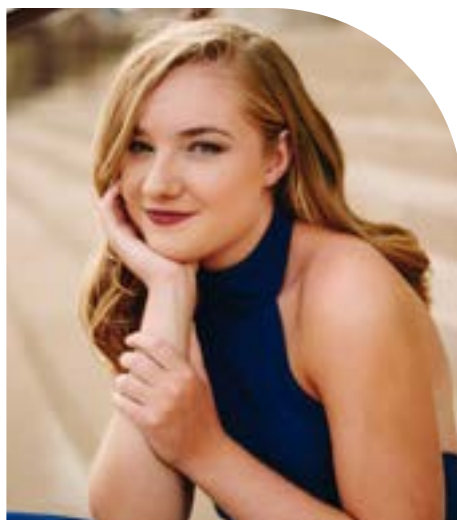
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by   
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# EMMA HEDRICK

Thursday June 22, 7 PM  
@ Wellfield Gardens

Emma Hedrick is a 6-time DownBeat award-winning, vocalist, composer, and arranger. She currently lives in The Hague, Netherlands while performing and pursuing her Master's degree at the Royal Conservatoire on a Holland Scholarship. The Indianapolis native received her Bachelor of Music in Vocal Jazz Performance, as the Presser Scholar, from the Frost School of Music, University of Miami. In 2019, Emma was a finalist in the International Ella Fitzgerald Vocal Competition where she placed 3rd. Emma has headlined at various venues including the St. Petersburg Jazz Festival (FL), Next Con at Indy Jazzfest, and The Jazz Kitchen. She has also had the honor of performing in the Telluride Jazz Festival and as a part of the Aspen JAS Academy directed by Christian McBride. Emma aspires to take her audiences through the story of each song she sings and strives to use the voice in traditional and nontraditional ways.



Emma's band is created from the brightest up-and-coming talent in the United States with members from across the country. She is honored to share the stage with creative musicians who respect the art form and who all have distinctive perspectives adding to the music. Their set is a fresh take on favorite standards full of rearrangements and new interpretations.

Presented by   
Kahn Rutherford & Associates



# EMMALINE

Saturday June 24, 7 PM  
@ Crystal Ballroom

Though still in the early stages of her blossoming career, 24-year-old vocalist, violinist and songwriter, Emmaline, has accomplished an impressive laundry list of achievements so far. From being featured in top music publications such as Rolling Stone and American Songwriter to performing as the opening act for 10-time GRAMMY winner Chaka Khan on her first ever U.S. tour, this Nashville-based, independent artist captivates the hearts of all who hear her smoky, jazz-infused, genre-fluid voice.

Using the power of social media, Emmaline kick-started her career in 2018 by sharing acoustic covers of popular songs and original material to her social media platforms (@emmalineofficial) where she now boasts a passionately loyal fan base of nearly 500k followers. Emmaline shines on stage whether online or in person, and has performed countless sold-out shows at some of the country's most notable jazz clubs, music venues and festivals.

As one of the generation's leading independent female songwriters and arrangers, Emmaline's independently released EPs, "All My Sweetest Dreams" and "Necessity" have organically generated millions of streams on Spotify alone. March 2023 will see the release of Emmaline's long awaited, third EP, "Retro Kind of Love," which features a collection of intimate, jazz-pop songs written, produced and performed by Emmaline herself. With her effortlessly sultry vocals and heartfelt lyrics interspersed with virtuosic, jaw-dropping jazz violin solos, this enticing collection of songs creates a soundscape that is both nostalgic and timeless.

Presented by  **CONNORS & SELMER**  
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# GENERATIONS TRIO

Saturday June 24, 5 PM  
@ Relish Cafe

Ben Davis is currently attending Ball State University in pursuit of a Music Education degree. He studies jazz piano under celebrated performer Scott Routenberg, and is very active in the jazz department, performing with the top band under the direction of trumpeter Mark Buselli. Ben also plays viola and hopes to teach string orchestra as well as jazz band after graduating.

Scott Kitzmiller holds a BME from West Virginia Wesleyan College, has been a chorus director, vocal coach, arranger, contest judge, and quartet champion (all within the barbershop world), and makes his living as a piano technician. Scott has been performing since the age of seven, and plays alto saxophone (and occasionally sings) with the trio.

Sean Patrick did his undergraduate work in Music Education at Ball State University, and graduate work at Indiana Wesleyan University. Though his primary responsibility is teaching orchestra in the Goshen Community Schools, Sean also serves as an adjudicator of music competitions, and as a freelance musician on piano, cello, and bass.



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## GRACE KELLY

Friday June 23, 6 PM  
@ Lerner Theatre

*"...broad tone and tenacious flow on the alto saxophone, clearly in possession of virtuoso talents... impressive singing voice, flitting among a range of styles." – NY Times*

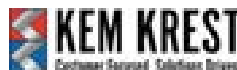
An unequivocal musical prodigy, singer-saxophonist-songwriter-composer and band leader Grace Kelly has rocked the jazz world with sold-out concerts, 14 acclaimed albums and a resume that includes performing at the Hollywood Bowl and as part of the house band for "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" – all before reaching her mid-twenties.

Aside from thrilling audiences in concert, Kelly's stardom reaches the acclaim of her audiences online. The millennial artist has developed a new paradigm to exhibit her remarkable talent and unparalleled showmanship

with the masses, curating an immersive user experience for her fans across multiple social media platforms. Kelly's dedication to posting engaging content and offering insight into her daily life has deepened her brand, bringing thousands upon thousands of eager fans into her world and gaining millions of views online, allowing the artist to bridge the gap between virtuosic musician and cultural phenomenon.

Grace is a masterful clinician specializing in jazz improvisation and stage performance. She has taught thousands of students to become more confident performers and players both online and in-person. She is the co-founder of Saxxy School, an innovative online saxophone school. Grace is the youngest member of the Board of Trustees of Berklee College of Music and has held a guest teaching residency at the college.

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# ILYA SEROV

Friday June 23, 8:30 PM  
@ Crystal Ballroom

Presented by **ObeCo**

*"Ilya really is a talented trumpeter and a great singer. This guy has got the goods. Ilya Serov - remember that name."* — Dave Koz

Award-winning trumpeter /singer /guitarist / band leader Ilya Serov has a passion for jazz that knows no bounds. A talented young musician with an old soul, Ilya brings an infusion of imagination, vision and energy to the many shades of America's original musical art form. Possessing both chops and charisma, his live performances and recordings have attracted a solid following among jazz fans and seasoned musicians alike.

Ilya's experiences on the jazz scene have recently led him to expand his creative interests in a significant new direction that blends smooth jazz with elements of soul and R&B. In November 2021 he released his third studio album, *Just Friends*, which features platinum-selling saxophonist Dave Koz and other award-winning artists: keyboardist Greg Manning, saxophonist Alex Hahn, vocalist Matt Cusson and guitarist Kay-Ta Matsuno. The album is dedicated to one of America's most iconic jazz trumpet players

and singers, Chet Baker, and is titled after Baker's classic jazz standard of the same name. Baker was the inspiration that pushed Ilya to begin finding his own voice in the jazz world. As his own style matured, Ilya wondered what Baker, with his musical genius, would sound like as a contemporary jazz artist today. With *Just Friends*, Ilya strives to show the connection between several generations of jazz.

Serov's original music has been featured on radio stations across the globe, including on SiriusXM Radio, expanding his fan base to include smooth jazz aficionados worldwide.

Ilya Serov is driven today not only by his desire to preserve jazz as an American treasure, but by his mission to engage and educate new generations of listeners. He continues to focus exclusively on contributing his time and talent to the world of jazz - its past, present and future.

For the latest information on upcoming recordings and performances, visit [www.ilyaserov.com](http://www.ilyaserov.com)

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# ISABELLA ISHERWOOD

Saturday June 24, 3:30 PM  
@ Central Park

Presented by **jj Battitt**

A Chicago native, Isabella has been performing in clubs and venues across the city since she was 14. As a pianist, vocalist, and bandleader, she has had the pleasure of sharing her music in many venues throughout Chicago, including The Jazz Showcase, Andy's Jazz Club, The Epiphany Center for the Arts, and Winter's Jazz Club. At the age of 16, Isabella was a featured performer at the 40th Annual Chicago Jazz Festival with her quartet and was featured again two years later with the Isabella Isherwood Trio. In addition to her music, Isabella is also an actor on stage and screen. Aside from her active performing career, she has served as vocal coach, keyboardist, and music director on award-winning shows across Chicago's vibrant Theatre community. In addition to several film credits, three international performance tours, and two concert series with the CSO, she has played for artists such as Cyrille Aimee, Emmet Cohen, Ulysses



Owens Jr., Dave Stryker, and Rufus Reid. She is a proud alum of the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra's Jazz Orchestra and is an active member of the Jazz Institute of Chicago's Women's Jazz Leadership Initiative.

# JAZZ ASSEMBLAGE

Friday June 23, 5:30 PM  
@ South Main St.

Presented by

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# JOAN COLLASO TRIO

Sunday June 25, 3 PM  
@ Lerner Theatre

Presented by *Robert Wood* | ONE STEP AHEAD

Joan Collaso is a native of Chicago. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Music from Chicago State University. Her artistry is celebrated throughout Chicago, the Midwest and internationally. Her credits and contributions to the performing arts community are numerous, including productions and performances, live and recorded background vocalist for top artists, and performances for film and television. Among many awards, Joan received a coveted Emmy for her performance in the PBS Special Precious Memories, Strolling 47th Street. Her film and television credits span from Oprah Winfrey to the hit TV show Empire. Her voice has been heard on numerous radio and TV commercials, and recordings. She's performed supporting vocals in concert for musical giants like Stevie Wonder, George Duke, Al Jarreau and for the late "Queen of Soul" Ms. Aretha Franklin. She's opened for Jeffrey Osbourne and India Irie, and performed her one-woman show, A Tribute to Nancy Wilson and Shirley Horn in Las Vegas.

# JOEY ALEXANDER

Saturday June 24, 8:30 PM  
@ Lerner Theatre

Presented by



Born in Bali, Indonesia, Joey Alexander has been performing professionally since 2013 when he was invited by Wynton Marsalis to perform at the Jazz at Lincoln Center Gala. Alexander subsequently moved to New York City and released his debut album, My Favorite Things, in 2015 on Motéma Music, followed by three more on the label and a fifth on Verve. Alexander's albums have netted three GRAMMY® Award nominations – one for Best Jazz Instrumental Album (My Favorite Things), and two for Best Improvised Jazz Solo ("Giant Steps," from My Favorite Things, and "Countdown" from the album of the same name) – with My Favorite Things and Countdown securing the No. 1 spot on the Billboard jazz charts and Eclipse coming at No. 3.

Over the course of his astonishing career, Alexander has performed with Wayne Shorter and Esperanza Spalding at the Obama White House, for President Bill Clinton at the Arthur Ashe Learning Center Gala, at the Grand Ole Opry, the Apollo Theatre, Carnegie Hall and at major jazz festivals and night clubs around the world. He has also been the subject of profiles on 60 Minutes and The New York Times. Origin is Alexander's first album for Mack Avenue Records and was released May 20, 2022.

For more information, please visit:  
[www.joeyalexandermusic.net](http://www.joeyalexandermusic.net)



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# JULIETA EUGENIO

Friday June 23, 7 PM  
@ Library Atrium

Presented  
by **INOVA**  
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Julieta Eugenio, Argentinian Saxophonist based in New York City. Before moving to the United States, Julieta embedded herself into the Argentinian jazz scene and performed in renowned jazz venues in Buenos Aires. Julieta received her master's degree from Queens College in New York City where she continues to reside and perform with talented musicians in the area. She recently had the opportunity to perform on one of the most prestigious jazz broadcasts in the United States, WBGO, and was featured on a piece on ABC7 News alongside trumpeter Philip Harper. Julieta has won numerous awards including the 2017 International Women in Jazz Competition as a member of the SIJ Trio and the 2022 DCJazzPrix for her own trio.



In March 2021 Julieta recorded her debut album, "JUMP" on Greenleaf Music. The album featured original compositions with special guests Jonathan Barber and Matt Dwonszyk. Later that year, Julieta joined the SW!NG OUT stage production and performed at the Joyce Theatre in NYC for a two-week residency with the Eyal Vilner Big Band and at the Guggenheim Museum for the Rotunda Solstice Concert. She has also shared the stage with Jazz Legend Johnny O'Neal and has recorded with David Kikoski and Leon Parker. Julieta Eugenio Trio has performed at Dizzy's Jazz Club, Jazz at Lincoln Center Summer Stage, Smalls Jazz Club, Bushnell Park Jazz Festival, Sam First, Just Jazz Series, and ETA Highland Park. In October 2022, Julieta was nominated by the Jazz Music Awards for Best New Artist.



Kanola Band brings together some of the most experienced and diverse musicians in the midwest US jazz scene to pay tribute to the great music and heritage of New Orleans. Dipping into the city's diverse musical history including swinging dixieland, groovin' zydeco, soulful funk to blasting brass band second lines, audiences of all ages will leave feeling just a bit happier than when they came. Bring your dancing shoes, leave your worries behind and be ready for some fun, because Kanola Band is always a good time!

Kanola members have performed at some of

## KANOLA BAND

Saturday June 24,  
9 PM @ Library Atrium

the most prestigious international music venues including Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola, Baryshnikov Arts Center, Ronnie Scotts, Kennedy Center for the Arts and have recorded and toured with some of the top jazz musicians/bands on the scene including the Doc Severinsen Big Band, Etienne Charles Big Band, Curtis Stigers, Henry Mancini Institute Jazz Orchestra, Tri-Fi, Knee Deep Shag, Malaysia Philharmonic Orchestra and more. In addition to being veteran musicians, they are also passionate music educators who have held teaching positions at Western Michigan University, Purdue University (Ft. Wayne), Kalamazoo College, Albion College, and Jazz & Creative Institute. Their unique and engaging approach to performing will leave all ages of audiences having fun while learning about New Orleans all while grooving in their seat or dancing in the aisle.

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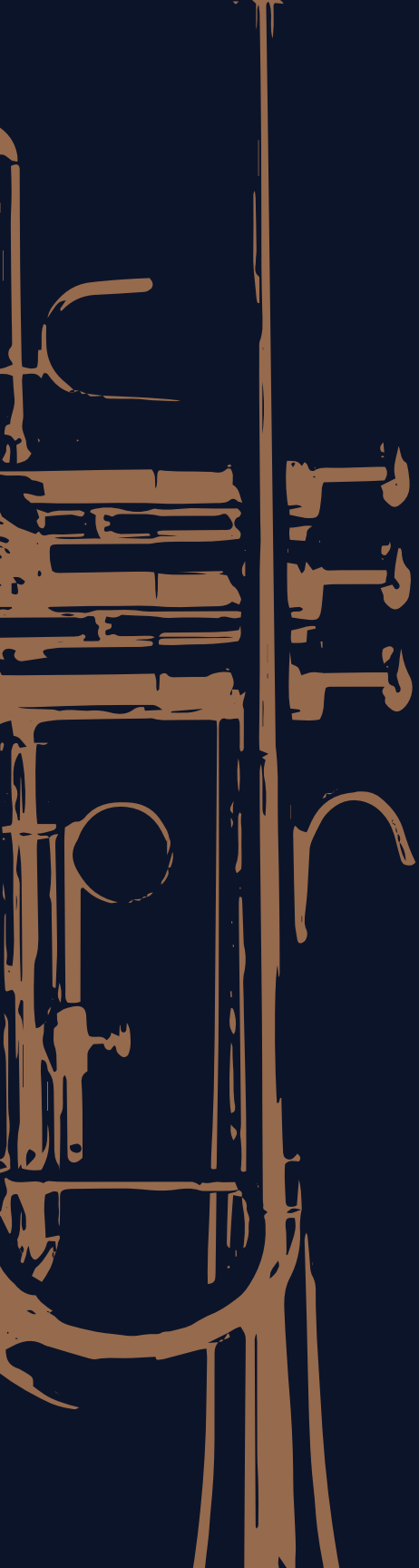
**Sonya Weiss**

**Patty & Todd Sullivan**

**David & Marth Lung**

**Carl M Wheeler**

*\*This listing was complete at the time of printing - June 5, 2023*



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# ELKHART JAZZ FESTIVAL

## AWARDS HONOR ROLL

Howard Alden ('17 musician award)  
Bill Allred ('06 festival honors)  
Joe Artley ('89 festival honors)  
Tom & Fawne Atkinson  
( '15 lifetime achievement/volunteer)  
John Bany ('09 lifetime achievement)  
Dave Bennett ('14 lifetime achievement/musician)  
Shelly Berg ('02 festival honors)  
John Bunch ('96 festival honors)  
Carl Burket ('89 festival honors)



Jane Burns ('15 lifetime achievement/supporter)  
Brian Byrn ('15 lifetime achievement/supporter)  
Conte Candoli ('94 festival honors)  
Jim Catalano ('14 lifetime achievement/industry)  
Doc Cheatham ('95 festival honors)  
Joan Collaso ('15 lifetime achievement/musician)  
Ben Decker ('17 volunteer award)  
J. Richard Dunscomb ('00 festival honors)  
Leonard W. "Bill" Echols ('89 festival honors)  
Johnny Frigo ('04 festival honors)  
Rocky Giglio ('13 lifetime achievement/industry)  
Marty Grosz ('08 lifetime achievement)  
Eddie Higgins ('99 festival honors)  
"The Judge" Hinton ('94 festival honors)  
Red Holloway ('95 festival honors)  
Glenn Holtz ('07 lifetime achievement)  
Nilo Hovey ('89 festival honors)

Franz Jackson ('93 festival honors)  
Kurt Janowsky ('17 volunteer award)  
Dr. Earle Kent ('90 festival honors)  
Rebecca Kilgore ('12 lifetime achievement)  
Jim Klapp ('92 festival honors)  
Diana Lawson ('14 lifetime achievement/supporter)  
John Lehr ('92 festival honors)  
Ramsey Lewis ('00 festival honors)  
Jay McShann ('92 festival honors)  
David and William Menges ('18 Volunteer Award)  
Eddie Metz ('11 lifetime achievement)  
Butch Miles ('97 festival honors)  
Terry Myers ('13 lifetime achievement/talent)  
Ken Peplowski ('07 lifetime achievement)  
Bucky Pizzarelli ('05 festival honors)  
Eugene "Bud" Reglein ('89 festival honors)  
William "Bill" Reglein ('01 festival honors)  
Red Rodney ('91 special recognition)  
Howard "Sandy" Sandberg  
( '92 festival honors)  
Ed Shaughnessy ('03 festival honors)  
Karen Shaw ('18 Support Award)  
David Smith ('17 volunteer award)  
Mike Smith ('18 Musician Award)  
Paul Thomas ('13 lifetime achievement/volunteer)  
Carl "Doc" Wagner ('90 festival honors)  
Claude Wampler ('92 festival honors)  
Joe Williams ('98 festival honors)  
Dave and Sandra Willis  
( '14 lifetime achievement/volunteer)  
Larry Wiseman ('89 festival honors)  
Father George Wiskirchen ('93 festival honors)  
Van Young ('96 festival honors)  
Jack & Margery Paulen ('16 lifetime achievement)  
Frank Tate ('16 lifetime achievement)  
Mike Kamphuis ('16 lifetime achievement)  
Alfonso Ponticelli ('19 lifetime achievement)  
The Linley Family ('19 lifetime achievement/volunteer)





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Rania El Kareh - Vocals  
Sean Patrick - String Bass  
Jim Bollero - Percussion  
Matt Kennedy - Guitar  
Celia Weiss - Piano



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# KRIS BROWNLEE

Saturday June 24,  
5 PM @ Crystal Ballroom

Presented  
by

ObeCo

Kris Brownlee is no stranger to contemporary jazz. He first emerged on the scene in 2001 as the front-man for his then group, The Grooveside and quickly setup a weekly jazz residency in Chicago. In 2013, Kris decided to permanently change the band from The Grooveside to Kris Brownlee.

Although best known for his versatile skills on saxophone, he often refers to himself as a multi-instrumentalist, composer, and producer. His third album, "Sincerely Yours" allowed Kris to wear all three hats at the same time. Although a huge task, it landed Kris a recording contract with Megawave Records, radio airplay, a single, "Solstice", which landed at #3 on U.K. Smooth Jazz Charts, and a album that climbed it's way to #9 on Amazon's Smooth Jazz Charts.

Kris just doesn't play music; he entertains, entertains, entertains and has been captivating audiences as a regular on popular club and festival circuits for years. Audiences love to hear



how Kris infuses his legit/bebop jazz chops in with modern grooves. In 2013, Kris also signed with Aizen Mouthpieces of Japan to become one of the very few American endorsed artists with Aizen.

Kris has performed/collaborated with many top jazz artists including The Rippingtons, Jonathan Fritzen, Jiggs Whigham, Elizabeth Mis, Harry Watters, Victor Haskins, Gabriel and Eddie Severn and many more.

# LIN ROUNTREE

Friday June 23, 7 PM  
@ Central Park

Presented  
by

alphagraphics



Lin Rountree aka The Soul-Trumpeter, is an accomplished recording artist, producer and live performer. With Eight Solo projects, 19 Chart Topping Billboard singles (Including THREE Billboard #1 Hits) and numerous collaborations with some of the industry's top R&B/ Contemporary Jazz artists to his credit he is a leading innovator in the newly recognized Instrumental Soul/R&B genre.

After receiving his degree from FAMU he found his home in Detroit, Michigan where he formed a band and performed extensively throughout the region. 2004 saw the release of Lin's debut CD, GROOVETREE on independent label BDK Records, which was met with international acclaim. After releasing one more CD under

BDK: SUMTHIN' GOOD and another SOUL-TREE, The Soul-Jazz Experience (self-released) also to rave reviews, he was sought after and signed to major label, Trippin' N Rhythm Records, where he subsequently wrote and co-produced four more projects: SERENDIPITOUS, SOULFUNKY, STRONGER STILL and his current CD, FLUID featuring two #1 Billboard Hit Singles "Fluid" and "Release." Lin has been sought after to both perform and record with top Artists in various genres including: KEM, Dwele, Conya Doss, Tony Terry, Amp Fiddler, Deitrick Haddon, George Duke, Julian Vaughn, Mike Phillips, and Tim Bowman to name a few.

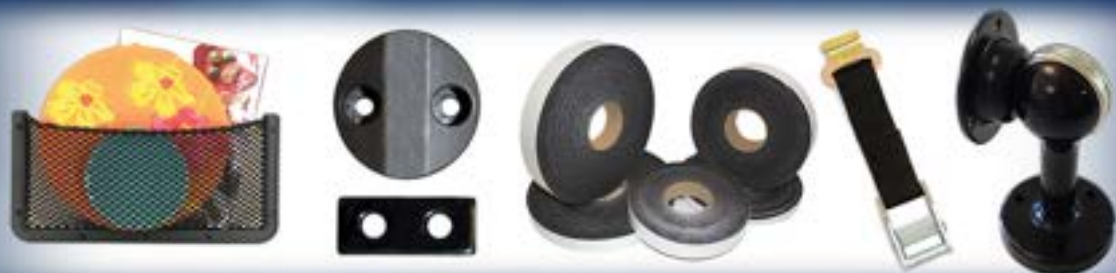
Soul-Jazz Trumpeter Lin Rountree and his music represent a new direction in instrumental Soul and R&B. A polished songwriter, producer and recording artist, an outstanding live performer, a consummate professional, and a thankful musician, Rountree is a leader amongst a new generation of Soul- Jazz artists. For more information visit [www.linrouttreemusic.com](http://www.linrouttreemusic.com).

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# LAO TIZER QUARTET

Friday June 23, 6:30 PM  
@ Crystal Ballroom

Presented by  **KEM KREST**  
Contemporary Jazz Artist, Multi-Instrumentalist

Hailing from Boulder, CO, with a career that now spans nine albums over nearly a quarter of a century -- he was a teenage prodigy -- Tizer is the son of hippies with a Russian-Jewish background, and the mix of that ethnic family heritage, parental new age influence and growing up with the sights and sounds of '80s and '90s pop culture (alongside the music of the '60s and '70s he heard from his parents) have brought him to a place in his artistic life where he was ready to embrace a wider range of influences and stretch himself and his players to pull off such an ambitious project one all my life."

If the choice of Led Zeppelin's "Ramble On," U2's "Pride (In The Name Of Love)," and Cat Stevens' "Sad Lisa" seem astonishing, Tizer's arrangements render them almost entirely original. They are taken to the transcendent through the warm and soulful vocals of Tita Hutchison, who sang with the likes of Michael McDonald, Rick Rubin, Michael Jackson, and Foreigner, among others.

Hutchison joins Tizer's regular collaborators who are celebrated in their own right: Chieli Minucci, the three-time Emmy-winning and Grammy® Award-nominated guitarist and composer;

Grammy® Award-winning saxophonist Eric Marienthal, who is a permanent member of the Chick CoreaElektric Band; longtime member and EWI/saxophonist/multi-instrumentalist Steve Nieves; and violinist Karen Briggs, who has graced the stage with Yanni, Diana Ross, Wu-Tang Clan, Chaka Khan and more. Tizer also credits the powerhouse rhythm section (bass players include Grammy® Award-nominee Ric Fierabracci and Cheikh NDoye, Grammy® Award-nominated drummer Gene Coye, and percussionist Munyungo Jackson) with underpinning the dynamic force and arrangements for the project

The group in fact stretches to 15 members at times with the addition of a string quartet, horn section and a marimba player. Just watching the video of "Metropolis" shows the vast ambitiousness of the undertaking, the concentration of so many musicians in the studio playing live together and feeding into work that was so much grander than the breathtaking individual performances, while the sultry and intimate duet -- just piano and violin -- on "Forever Searching" reminds the listener and viewer of the purity of Tizer's jazz beginnings.

# UPCOMING EVENTS



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# MIKE SMITH QUARTET

Saturday June 24, 7 PM  
@ Library Atrium

Presented  
by *jj Battist*

A Chicago native, Mike Smith first became enthralled with jazz as an eleven-year-old beginning band student. And his dedication to the art form was so great that eight years later he won the coveted Charlie Parker Scholarship to North Texas State University and was a student of famed saxophone professor Jim Riggs. He earned a Bachelor of Music in Jazz Performance.

Mike has performed and recorded with over a hundred jazz greats, including Nat Adderley, Clark Terry, Art Farmer, Tony Bennett, Jimmy Heath, Natalie Cole, Linda Ronstadt, Diane Schuur, Gloria Morgan, Kurt Elling, Nancy Wilson, Frank Sinatra and Frank Sinatra Jr. He is featured as lead altoist on the Harry Connick, Jr. album *Come By Me* on CBS Columbia.

After spending time with the bands of Maynard Ferguson and Buddy Rich, Mike joined Frank Sinatra's core band as lead altoist and music contractor. His stint with Sinatra included television performances and CD recordings, and the Diamond Jubilee and *Come Swing With Me* tours (with performances in Japan, Australia, the U.S. and Europe--including a gala in Monte Carlo for the Princess Grace Foundation.) Those years on the road inspired Mike's third recording for Delmark Records, *The Traveler*. Mike has continued on as the lead altoist for Frank Sinatra, Jr., touring Europe and the United States. Mike has also held down a continuous weekly gig at Andy's jazz club in Chicago. This year Mike celebrates thirty-four years at this famed venue.



# LUCIA SARMIENTO

Saturday June 24, 1 PM  
@ Crystal Ballroom

Presented  
by *Robert Wood* | ONE STEP AHEAD



Lucia Sarmiento is a young Peruvian Saxophonist, Composer and Educator, based in the United States.

Currently, Lucia tours with international pop star Pitbull, has a single out called "Escape" and is working on her debut full-length album coming out in 2022.

In recent years, Lucia has gained a massive social media following posting videos showing her charisma and skills as a saxophone and EWI player.

Lucia has worked as an ambassador for brands like Yamaha, Akai, Theo Wanne, RS Berkeley, BG, Jean-Paul USA, Syos, Key Leaves among others.

Growing up in South America and living in the US for the past 9 years, Lucia has been exposed to a broad variety of rhythms and styles of music, but her passion has always been jazz and 80's fusion.

Her music is the expression of a diverse musical upbringing, fused with her own sensibility for angular, yet beautiful melodies.



# NEW NOSTALGIA

Saturday June 24, 5:30 PM  
@ Central Park

Presented  
by

**NIBCO**  
AHEAD OF THE FLOW

New Nostalgia is a Chicago-based fusion horn band that blends jazz, pop and rock flavors together in hard-hitting instrumental ensemble arrangements. Led by saxophonist and composer/ arranger Neil Carson, New Nostalgia straddles genre lines with intricate arranging and improvisation, singable melodies, and unstoppable rock energy.

New Nostalgia's 2019 self-titled debut album features instrumental covers of 1980's pop songs and was awarded 4 stars from Downbeat magazine, writing "Power-polychord instrumental rock at its finest, toying thoughtfully with form, deconstructing and reconstructing melody lines...and soloing with soul-stirring exuberance." In 2021 they released *Frankenstein Sessions*, a remote- recorded EP of covid-era original material, and in 2022 recorded three singles for upcoming release.

A one-of-a-kind band that refuses easy categorization, New Nostalgia satisfies the ears while challenging them, and strives to make an honest, thoughtful statement in the modern musical conversation.

# PAUL DECKER AND THE REAL DEAL

Saturday June 24, 9:30 PM  
@ Central Park



Performing together for over two decades, bringing their own style of Jazz, Rock, Pop, and Standards to Michiana, Paul Decker & The REAL DEAL is always sure to please. With Paul leading (keys/vocals) and Tedd Waggoner (head of operations with Bach Musical Instruments, on trumpets/vocals), Dale Anderson (guitarist/ vocals), Craig Ridout (soprano, alto, tenor saxes), Buddy Pearson (bass), and Jim Bollero (drums).

From Louie Armstrong to Motown, Steely Dan to Joe Cocker (you may even get a polka, you just never know), they're sure to bring a smile to your face. No matter what the musical genre, it's always the REAL DEAL, you can bet on that!

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Tom & Fawne Atkinson would like to thank  
the teachers, students and volunteers who  
helped make Elkhart Jazz Festival special  
this year!



# MINDI ABAIR

Friday June 23, 8:30 PM  
@ Lerner Theatre

Presented  
by



Gaska Tape Inc.  
INNOVATORS IN FOAM AND TAPES

*"Forget You, Who's Your Sax Player?"* – Steven Tyler on American Idol

One of the most recognized and sought-after saxophonists, two-time GRAMMY nominee Mindi Abair has been electrifying audiences with her dynamic live performances and sax prowess since her debut album in 1999. No one since Junior Walker has brought saxophone and vocals in one package to the forefront of modern music. In 2014, Mindi received her first GRAMMY nomination in the Best Pop Instrumental Album category, followed by a 2015 GRAMMY nomination for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album for her solo LP *Wild Heart* featuring the late Gregg Allman, Joe Perry, Trombone Shorty, Booker T. Jones, Keb' Mo', and Max Weinberg.

You might know her as the featured saxophonist on American Idol, sitting in with Paul Shaffer on The Late Show with David Letterman and The Roots on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, or as the first solo saxophonist touring with Aerosmith since 1973. She has garnered twelve #1 radio hits in the jazz and blues world, two #1 spots on the Billboard Contemporary Jazz Album Chart and two #3 spots on the Billboard Blues Album

Chart. In 2018, Mindi Abair and The Boneshakers won 8 Independent Blues Awards including Artist of the Year and Best Blues Song fan award for the Independent Music Awards for "Pretty Good For A Girl" featuring Joe Bonamassa. In 2019, Mindi was nominated by the Blues Music Awards as the Best Instrumentalist: Horn and won the LA Critics Award for Best Holiday Album for *All I Got For Christmas Is The Blues*.

Mindi wrote the book "How To Play Madison Square Garden – A Guide To Stage Performance," created the website <http://www.prettygoodforagirl.net> to celebrate women, and has served almost 10 years as an LA Chapter Governor, President and National Trustee for The Recording Academy. Mindi has toured and/or recorded with: Aerosmith, Joe Bonamassa, Smokey Robinson, Joe Perry, Trombone Shorty, Booker T. Jones, Gregg Allman, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Fantastic Negrito, Waddy Wachtel, Bobby Rush, Keb' Mo', Teena Marie, Lee Ritenour, Adam Sandler, Duran Duran, Bill Champlin, Richard Elliott, Jimmy Webb, Max Weinberg, Dave Koz, Peter White, Gerald Albright, Mandy Moore, Lalah Hathaway and the Backstreet Boys.



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## Q SONICS

Saturday June 24, 7:30 PM  
@ South Main St.

Presented  
by

**SURF**Internet.

Q Sonics is Kevin Q's vision of the Blues. Q Sonics have been performing at nightclubs, events, and festivals since 2015. Kevin Q has been performing at the EJF with groups such as Not Just Blues, Kevin Q and the Night Crew and Q Sonics dating back to 1990. Q Sonics comes to life with Kevin Q on vocals and guitar, Marlon Moore on bass and vocals, and Earl Richard Brenneman on the drums. Q Sonics' raw and direct approach to the Blues is sure to connect with the listener as it comes straight from the heart.



## RAFAEL CHAVEZ TRIO

Sunday June 25, 2 PM  
@ Central Park

Presented by

**State Farm**  
Fawne Atkinson  
574-294-4900

You may have seen Rafael Chavez y Moreno as the frontman for his Spanish-rock group, Lalo Cura. Rafael has been a versatile guitar player for many years and has been the go to guitar player for groups such as VibeNation, Kris Brownlee, Truth in Jazz, Yellow Creek Jazz Project, and many more. Rafael is back as the frontman for his own jazz trio. The Rafael Chavez Trio entertains audiences with a mix of traditional, swing, bebop, and modern jazz standards.



# RIVER OAKS PRAISE SERVICE

Sunday June 25, 10:30 AM  
@ Central Park

River Oaks is excited to bring their campuses together for one service at the main stage of the Elkhart Jazz Fest – Sunday, June 25th. This culturally diverse church will bring their musicians and pastors together for a morning of dynamic worship. You are invited to be a part of this unique Jazz Fest event!



## SHAREL CASSITY

Saturday June 24,  
9 PM @ Crystal Ballroom

Saxophonist, Composer and Educator Sharel Cassity (pron. "Sha-Relle") is prominent on the New York and Chicago jazz scenes. Listed as "Rising Star Alto Saxophone" in Downbeat Magazine for the past 12 years, Sharel has appeared on the Today Show, Good Morning America, The Colbert Show, is in the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame, and is a recipient of the ASCAP Young Jazz Composers Award.

Sharel has worked with Multi-Grammy Award-winning artist Jennifer Hudson; Top 40 hit singer-songwriter Natalie Merchant, Aretha Franklin, Vanessa Williams, Trisha Yearwood, Ruben Blades, & DJ Logic among others. Sharel has also worked with NEA Jazz

Masters Herbie Hancock, Wynton Marsalis, Dee Dee

Bridgewater, Jimmy Heath, and Christian McBride; she has also appeared as a guest soloist with the Cincinnati Pops Orchestra. As a bandleader, Sharel's five albums have received top-rated reviews in publications like the Chicago Tribune, New York Times, JazzTimes, Jazziz, Downbeat & American Indian News, & Saxophone Journal. Cassity runs her record label "Relsha Music" and directs the educational program "Jazz Up."

A skilled and versatile sideman, Sharel is a current member of the Dizzy Gillespie Latin Experience and All-Star Big Band. She has also performed frequently alongside renowned Grammy-winning artists Roy Hargrove, Nicholas Payton, Lewis Nash, Joe Chambers & Darcy James Argue. Sharel has toured 24 countries and performed at leading venues like the Newport Jazz Festival, Monterey Jazz Festival & the North Sea Jazz Festival. Additionally, Sharel was lead alto in the Diva Jazz Orchestra from 2007-2014 and performed in Wynton Marsalis' Broadway musical After Midnight.

Presented by **INOVA**  
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2023 Elkhart Jazz Festival



# SHELLY COWLING QUINTET

Saturday June 24,  
1:30 PM @ South Main St.

Presented by **jj Babbitt**

SCQ~ Shelly Cowling Quintet, was formed out of a dream & a series of serendipitous encounters that culminated in a performance for a 90th birthday celebration for Shelly's father-in-law. With decades of individual musical experience, the group blended beautifully together, which led to the decision to keep playing! SCQ quickly gained recognition for their incandescent sound featuring soothing vocals, whimsical percussion, and rhythmic bass & horns on jazz standards & light pop tunes.

SCQ members include Shelly Cowling (Vocals), Jeff Carnall (Trumpet), Randy Horst (Bass), Clayton Quantz (Drums & Vibraphone), and Greg Shearon (Piano & Vocals). SCQ's thoughtfully crafted arrangements and professional demeanor have impressed audiences and bookers alike, leading to return engagements throughout Michiana at Ironhand Wine Bar, Merriman's Playhouse, Yesterday's in Granger, The Pier & Back Porch Restaurant at the Oakwood Resort, South Bend, Mishawaka & Niles Parks Concert Series, and the Elkhart Jazz Festival.

# SOFIA GOODMAN GROUP

Saturday June 24,  
3 PM @ Crystal Ballroom

Presented by  Welch Packaging

The Sofia Goodman Group is a modern jazz ensemble that performs the original compositions of drummer and composer Sofia Goodman. The group has performed at The Elkhart Jazz Festival, The USM Jazz & Blues Festival, Rudy's Jazz Room, The Velvet Note, and more. Goodman's first album *Myriad of Flowers* was inspired by fusion and jazz influences and was nominated for Best Jazz Album by NIMA in 2019. The Nashville Scene described Goodman's work as "truly progressive and fundamentally jazz...a reason to be excited about the continuing evolution of jazz in Music City." Goodman's drumming was described as "brilliant" by Tony Rounce of Ace Records as well. In 2020, she was nominated as Best Jazz Instrumentalist by NIMA and won The Pathways to Jazz Grant. Her next album *Secrets of the Shore* is due to be released in early 2023, and features musicians Joel Frahm, Matt White and more.





# TEEN TOWN

Saturday June 24,  
1:30 PM @ Central Park

Presented by **CONN & SELMER**  
the art of sound

Named after the prominent jazz fusion tune of the 1970s, Teen Town is a DownBeat Award-winning powerhouse group that brings their own creative voice to the genre. Led by the multiple award-winning 18-year-old bass phenom Gabriel Severn, with Connor Rohrer on keys and Logan Bedard on drums, the trio has taken audiences by storm with their energy, talent, and undeniable chemistry. They were recognized by the Central Pennsylvania Music Hall of Fame with the "2020 Best Jazz Artist" Award. Performing original compositions as well as covers, they weave jazz, funk, rock, and world rhythms into tunes by luminaries such as the Average White Band, Weather Report, and the Yellowjackets.

Bands from the golden era of fusion influenced Severn's earliest musical sensibilities. Before forming Teen Town, it was a challenge for him to find other musicians around his age (12) who wanted to experiment with jazz fusion. After meeting then 16-year-old Rohrer and 14-year-old Bedard at a jazz camp, the three were immediately on board with the idea.

Teen Town has been together for six years, but if you close your eyes, you'd think it's been decades.

They cut their teeth on tunes from the bands they admire, such as Weather Report's "Havona" and the namesake tune, "Teen Town". Over time the trio has found their own voice and compositional style, and their long-awaited debut album, *A Month of Sundays*, was released in 2022.

Teen Town has supported headliners including Sheila E., the Victor Wooten Trio, and the Tierney Sutton Band, and appeared at multiple festivals including the Berks Jazz Fest, the Dauphin County Wine & Jazz Festival, and the Elkhart Jazz Festival. They've appeared on ABC TV and NPR radio and led music education clinics.

The trio has been described as "a tribute to the golden era of fusion hitting the improvisational buffet at a dance party".

For more info, visit: <https://www.gabrielsevern.com/teen-town>



# SWC

Saturday June 24, 9:30 PM  
@ South Main St.

Elkhart's beloved SWC Band has been rocking Michiana since the early 2000's. Covering everything from classic rock, pop, alternative, soul and even a few country gems; SWC performs everyone's favorite artists along with taking a deeper dive into their catalog. Artists such as... The Doors, Prince, Radiohead, Ohio Players, Flock Of Seagulls, Rolling Stones, Garth Brooks, Duran Duran, Janis Joplin, Eagles, Foo Fighters, Ozzy, Mellisa Etheridge, Weezer, Van Morrison, AC/DC, Johnny Cash, Led Zeppelin, INXS, Elton John, Outfield, Doobie Brothers and more.

Let your hair down, and join the party with George Anagnos (guitar/vocals), Nikki Kinkaide (vocals), Mark Barr (bass), Matt Miller (drums) and Steph Tapp (piano/keyboard).

Presented by **SURF Internet**

## THE FOUR FRESHMEN

*"...singing a super-tight, ultra-hip four-part harmony over a foundation of straight-ahead jazz...borderline magical downright electric, inducing chills."* Palm Beach Daily News

The Four Freshmen stand as America's most enduring vocal group. Staying authentic in their performance for over seven decades. The Four Freshmen deliver a world of music with pure passion that will take some listeners back to the bygone era of their youth while introducing others to a brand of vocal harmony entertainment unique to the legendary Four Freshmen. No pyro techniques. No backing tracks. No confetti cannons. Their show recipe is straight ahead: Authentic harmonies, mixed with celebration of great songs, a twist of elegance, a splash of swing And a whole lot of fun!

Saturday June 24,  
3 PM @ Lerner Theatre

Presented by  
**NIBCO**  
AHEAD OF THE FLOW





# THIRD SHORE COLLECTIVE

Saturday June 24,  
5 PM @ Library Atrium

Presented by **NIBCO**  
A B F A C O F T H E P U S A

Third Shore Collective is a contemporary jazz/fusion quintet based in the Midwest. The group consists of French hornist William Schneider, alto saxophonist Kyle Brooks, guitarist Zakk Jones, bassist Dylan Bretz, and drummer Brad Billmaier. The ensemble formed in Bowling Green, OH but has performed extensively throughout the region, bringing a specialized blend of bebop, Americana, R&B, world music,

and the avant-garde. The groups' debut record Third Shore Collective features a mix of compositions from each of the band's constituent members, each of them accomplished composers, educators, and performers in their own right, hailing from Lansing, Chicago, Columbus, Cleveland, and Toledo respectively.



# TRUTH IN JAZZ

Thursday June 22, 7 PM @  
Lerner Theatre

Presented by **jj Babbitt**

Truth in Jazz big-band, sponsored by Horizon Transport, is celebrating their 25th Anniversary in 2023. The band brings together local professional musicians who share a deep love for big-band jazz. This 18-piece group has performed with Jiggs Whigham, Eddie Severn, Harry Waters, Mike Smith, Todd Williams, Victor Haskins, Patrick Hession, Jay Jehl, and many more. Truth in Jazz continues in the big-band tradition and adds new arrangements based on jazz standards. Truth in Jazz is led by Steve Allen and features vocalist Erica Kinsman.



# VIBENATION

Sunday June 25, 3:30 PM  
@ Central Park

Presented  
by



VibeNation has performed at The Elkhart Jazz Festival every year since 1993. VibeNation plays jazz standards in a wide variety of styles from Swing, Latin, Ballads and BeBop. Musicians in VibeNation include leader and founder, Jim Catalano - Vibes / Percussion, Chris French - Woodwinds, Sean Patrick - Bass, Rafael Chavez - Guitar, Jim Bollero - Drums and our featured vocalist is Rania El-Kareh. When not playing jazz with VibeNation, musicians in VibeNation are music educators, college music instructors, music instrument repair technicians, music industry professionals and everyone plays in a wide variety of other musical ensembles.

VibeNation performs frequently in the Michiana area and is always looking for performance opportunities. See our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/vibenationjazz](http://www.facebook.com/vibenationjazz)

# WHISTLE PIGS

Friday June 23, 7:30 PM  
@ South Main St.

Presented  
by



The Whistle Pigs are a 7-piece horn band from Northern Indiana playing the finest in Classic Rock, R&B, Funk, Jazz, Boogie and Soul.



Music and food are two of Elkhart's best-paired activities. Elkhart's restaurants, w/ their distinctive design, architecture & cuisine, will more than satisfy jazz fans' food and drink cravings during the annual Elkhart Jazz Festival. While enjoying great jazz, be sure to sample the best of Elkhart's local and independently owned restaurants.

## 523 Tap & Grill

Sleek, sophisticated atmosphere. Bistro fare with a Mediterranean flair. Lunch & Dinner. Full bar. Daily cocktail specials. Lounge area.

523 S. Main St. | 574.523.1523  
523tapandgrill.com

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231 N. Main St. | 574-327-6851

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artisanelkhart.com

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333 NIBCO Pkwy | 574-326-3938  
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574.970.7445 BakersNookCafe.com

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317 N. Main St. | 574.293.0506  
iechyddabrewingcompany.com

## La Esperanza

Flavor 574's Marshall King reports, "The salsa is spicy. The Mexican food is prepared fresh and served quickly. The atmosphere is clean, bright and warm."

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## Mini Delights Bake Shoppe

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217 S. Main St. (next to art alley) |  
574.286.9902  
MiniDelightsBakeShoppe.com

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300 E. Jackson Blvd | 574.294.3394  
facebook.com/HNLMoringaTree

## Old Style Deli

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200 S. Main St. | 574.295.2133

## Vanilla Bean Creamery

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538 S Main St | 260.350.0619  
https://vanillabeanicecream.com/

## The Vine

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574.295.8606  
volcanopizzaelkhart.com

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1105 Goshen Ave. | 574.295.8424  
antoniositalian.com

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3421 Plaza Ct. | 574.264.5700  
chubbytrout.com

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Flavor 574's Marshall King says, "For those who want a comfortable spot to have a good margarita, eat some chips and salsa and a freshly prepared meal in a nice atmosphere, El Maguey's a good option."

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smokinfattysbbq.com

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528 Harrison St. | 574.522.3664

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28046 CR 16 W. | 574.226.0838

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Swasdee Khaa! ( Hello !)  
Welcome to Bangkok Place Thai Restaurant where you will be experiencing our authentic Thai foods in Michiana area.

705 Co Rd 6 E. | 574.264.0402  
bkkplacrestaurant.com

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By donating to the Elkhart Jazz Festival Endowment, maintained at the Community Foundation of Elkhart County, your contribution will help ensure the festival's continuation and growth.

To encourage support of the festival, the Community Foundation of Elkhart County generously established a 20% match for any gift up to \$5,000 to the Elkhart Jazz Festival's Endowment fund.

If you are interested in helping the Jazz Festival experience another outstanding quarter-century, complete and send in your tax-deductible donation to CFEC.

Community Foundation of Elkhart County  
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☐ I am interested in learning more about The Elkhart Jazz Festival

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*The Elkhart County CVB has been a proud sponsor of the Elkhart Jazz Festival for 35 years.*

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1991 – Tony Biggs & Gail Nilsson

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1997 – Glenn E. Holtz & Duane Picking

1998-2008 – Glenn E. Holtz

2009 – Steve Gruber

2010 – Lee Burdorff

2011-12 – Tim Shelly

2013 – David Smith & Kurt Janowsky

2018 – David Smith, Kurt Janowsky & Ben Decker

2019 – Ben Decker & Kurt Janowsky

2021 – Ben Decker & Kurt Janowsky

2022 – Ben Decker

# THANK YOU!

Our festival succeeds because of our dedicated committee, hard-working volunteers, stage emcees, and these community-minded individuals, businesses and groups who support our efforts. Thank you to all for helping the Elkhart Jazz Festival once again.

Experience Jazz in Elkhart because Elkhart is experienced in Jazz!

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Elkhart Festivals, Inc.

Erik Shultz & Donita Moody - Alpha Graphics

Gary Boyn

Gateway Mile Merchants Alliance

Greater Elkhart Chamber of Commerce

Hacienda Mexican Restaurant – Elkhart

Hass Hakim – Seifert Drug

Hawkins Water Tech

Lerner Governing Board

Libby Decker

Linda and Gary Sieber

Lori and Jeff Whisler

Madalyn Metzger

Marc Barfell

Midwest Museum of American Art

Navarre Catering and Events

Rent-A-Center – Downtown Elkhart

Rise N Roll Bakery

Rocky Enfield – State Farm Insurance

Rodney Goldy & Bob Evans

Sara, Gavin, and Eli Decker

Sports Time Family Pub

Stephenson's - Danny Reynolds

That's Dancing Studio – Sally Lee

The Lerner Theatre Box Office Staff

Tom & Becky Jones

Tom & Fawne Atkinson - State Farm Insurance

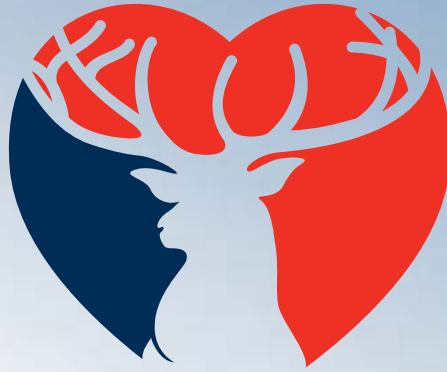
Vala Marketing

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And a special thanks to the employees and volunteers affiliated with the City of Elkhart who contribute so much every year to ensure our festival's success.

Board of Works, Buildings and Grounds, Common Council, Emergency Management, Fire Department, Mayor's Office, Parks and Recreation, Police Department, Street Department, Lerner Theatre Staff, Ushers, Box Office, Techs, and Volunteers.



# Elkhart


*Mayor Rod Roberson*

**The City of Elkhart is proud to support the Elkhart Jazz Festival and other arts and cultural initiatives in downtown Elkhart that make our community distinctive and attractive to new and growing businesses.**

**[www.ElkhartIndiana.org](http://www.ElkhartIndiana.org)**  
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