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THE COMEDY OF ERRORS

TRAVELING THE WORLD 2022
ONE CONCERT AT A TIME

NIPPERFEST
Greetings!

As we embark on our 32nd season of free world-class entertainment here in Central Park, I celebrate the destination series that Music Haven has become, the bevy of distinctive journeys we’ve shared, the private and public support that has made those journeys possible and the adventurous audiences that have greeted them with such zeal.

My exceptional team of seasoned pros and dedicated volunteers and I take pride in welcoming you to enjoy a spectacular season of concerts and events in 2022 that reflects collaborative community partnerships and includes theater, film and symphony alongside the stunning international talent that is our niche.

I’m gratified that our global mission continues to retain its relevance while expanding its reach. We remain committed to presenting brilliant, sometimes underexposed talent from all over the world, as well as new and regional artists who are opening ears and turning heads. The City of Schenectady and Proctors provide the setting, while our generous sponsors and supporters ensure that a free seat awaits everyone. The magic that results is as much a product of the artists’ musical energy as it is of your respect and enthusiasm for the experience.

So, come travel the world with us, one concert at a time, in the heart of Central Park.

Fondly,

Mona Golub
Dear Friends,

Welcome back for another stellar season of entertainment at the Agnes Macdonald Music Haven in beautiful Central Park!

The impressive line-up of world-class performers that Producing Artistic Director Mona Golub has curated for our enjoyment this summer will transport us to faraway places without ever having to leave Schenectady. Legendary roots reggae band Steel Pulse kicks off the season; South Louisiana’s Nathan & the Zydeco Cha Chas offer up some Zydeco dance music; NipperFest celebrates the 518 music scene; Sammy Miller & The Congregation share some joyful jazz; blues superstar Shemekia Copeland headlines the Blues BBQ; Lemon Bucket Orkestra throws a Balkan-Gypsy-Klezmer dance party; DakhaBrakha salutes Ukraine’s rich cultural heritage; Spanish Harlem Orchestra delivers top shelf Latin jazz and salsa while The Schenectady Symphony Orchestra offers a ‘Night at the Movies’; Steep Canyon Rangers dazzle with their harmony-laden bluegrass; a screening of Summer of Soul and mini-fest honor the 1969 Harlem Cultural Fest; Frigg showcases Finland’s finest folk music and Will Kempe’s Players cap the season with a two-night run of The Comedy of Errors.

National artists Aurelio, Nora Brown, Felicia Collins & Friends, and Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas, join standout local artists The Brass Machine, SUNY Schenectady’s Jazz Faculty Combo, Matt Mirabile, Mark & Jill, Golfstrom, Zorepad Dancers, Alex Torres Y Sus Amigos, who appear as special guests.

Central Park is a wonderful place for community to gather and be captivated by these artists. I hope you enjoy Music Haven’s unparalleled experience.

Very Truly Yours,

Gary R. McCarthy
MUSIC HAVEN

CENTRAL PARK I SCHENECTADY. NY

SHOW AT 7PM • QUALITY STAGESIDE CONCESSIONS AT 6PM

SUNDAY, JULY 10

STEEL PULSE

Special Guests: Aurelio

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www.schenectadyfoundation.org
STEEL PULSE
Since the mid-1970s, Steel Pulse has helped spread reggae’s righteous rhythmic fire, a musical force that can ignite anywhere.


Before winning international acclaim, Steel Pulse first burst through industry barriers blocking Rastafarian groups. They performed first in clubs, opening for punk bands including the Stranglers and XTC; then they went on tour with the Jamaican band Burning Spear. Steel Pulse played their first US show in Manhattan’s Mudd Club; a live broadcast from a Washington DC club on the day of Bob Marley’s funeral helped bring worldwide recognition.

Even before their first album (“Handsworth Revolution” 1978), Steel Pulse’s first single “Ku Klux Klan” sent a strong anti-racist message of equality that has continued to power its music despite changing members and record labels.

Steel Pulse studio album titles tell the tale of the band’s commitment to liberation politics and social justice: “Tribute to the Martyrs,” “Caught You,” “True Democracy,” “Earth Crisis,” “Babylon the Bandit,” “State of Emergency,” “Victims,” “Vex,” “Rage and Fury,” “African Holocaust” and “Mass Manipulation.” Steel Pulse has also released several live albums and compilations.

Unlike the pioneering reggae groups - vocal trios backed by rocking bands including Toots and the Maytals, the Wailers, the Heptones and others - Steel Pulse has always focused on the fluent, low-pressure vocals of frontman David Hinds. They have also used horns to accent and spice a basic reggae beat of laid-back bass throb and snare-driven drums clatter - guitars and keyboards in between.

“Mass Manipulation” marks Steel Pulse’s return to the recording studio after 15 years. Their 14th release, it mixes heavy-weight messaging with a deft, engaging musical touch and familiar power. In authoritative but never bombastic vocals, founder and bandleader David Hinds sings against “Human Trafficking” and police brutality (in “Don’t Shoot”) among other societal ills. And he urges us to “Rize Up” in a spirit of “Higher Love” across all the “Nations Of the World.”

AURELIO
Aurelio followed a similar globe-trotting path to Music Haven. Born Aurelio Martinez in Honduras, he made his first album in Japan as leader of the band Lita Ariran. Aurelio celebrates Garifuna culture, a rhythmic Afro-Caribbean blend of Native and West African traditions. In collaboration with Andy Palacio, he co-starred on “Watina,” hailed by Amazon as the Greatest World Music Album of All Time. Aurelio also represented his home region in the National Congress of Honduras. He’s profiled in “Honduras y Belize: La Aventura Garifuna” on Spanish public television, and has released half a dozen solo albums and a stellar NPR-hosted Tiny Desk Concert.
Finding inspiration is important.

At M&T Bank, we understand how important the arts are to a vibrant community. That’s why we offer our time, energy and resources to support artists of all kinds, and encourage others to do the same. Learn more at mtb.com.
NATHAN & THE ZYDECO CHA CHAS

More than most music that starts as home-made hoopla, Louisiana zydeco comes from family and celebrates family. It’s a party everybody gets invited to join.

Accordionist Nathan Williams plays in his Zydeco Cha Chas with brother Dennis Williams (guitar) and two cousins - Allen Williams (bass) and Djuan Francis (rub-board and accordion) - plus rub-board player Clifford Alexander. On board when Nathan formed the original Zydeco Cha Chas, Alexander detoured into a 23-year run with C.J. Chenier before recently rejoining the Cha Chas.

For all the rude jokes about accordions harming health or sanity, Nathan Williams started playing the squeezebox while recovering from an illness, just one bump in a sometimes rough ride.

Williams was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame and honored with the Zydeco Music Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award...

Youngest of seven, Williams lost his father at seven. Some years later, Williams lived and worked with his elder brother and accordionist Sid “El Sid O” Williams’s at Sid’s One-Stop in Lafayette. Inspired by his uncle Harry Hypolite who played guitar with Clifton Chenier, arguably zydeco’s first national star, Nathan practiced accordion in the One-Stop’s bathroom - too shy to play in public until Buckwheat Zydeco (Stanley Dural) encouraged him.

Buckwheat’s departure from roots-music-oriented Rounder Records left a vacuum the label filled by signing Williams who called his band the Zydeco Cha Chas. His first singles were on his brother’s El Sid-O label, and he likely played El Sid-O’s Zydeco and Blues Club across the street from the One-Stop. But Williams soon began recording full-length albums. His dozen-plus releases include two recorded live at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival. His kinetic road-work pace inspires the titles of two previous albums: “Let’s Go!” and “A New Road.”

Williams was inducted into the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame and honored with the Zydeco Music Association’s Lifetime Achievement Award while he and the Cha Chas have several times won the Big Easy Award for Best Zydeco Band.

The Cha Chas are elastic as they are exciting, sometimes stacking saxes and doubling up on accordion and rub-board onstage. Like a hardware store etching a groove, rub-board scratches a metallic beat while accordion squeezes beats and blasts the melody.

THE BRASS MACHINE

You know a brass band is for real if they feature a tuba instead of bass, and The Brass Machine – authentic second line torchbearers - plays tap-your-feet New Orleans get-down for real.

University of Buffalo students formed The (Buffalo) Brass Machine in 2015; it now features a statewide collective of trumpets, saxes, trombones, drums and - yes, a tuba – that lay down funky Big Easy-style street beats at clubs and festivals across the United States and Canada and have thrice been name Best Funk Band in Western, NY by JazzBuffalo.
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NIPPERFEST

Nippertown.com’s mission is to promote the incredible local music scene that we enjoy here in the Capital Region. So it was only natural that when Nippertown’s Jim Gilbert wanted to put together their own music festival that it would focus on our local musicians. NipperFest is the largest free local music festival of the year in the Capital Region. The All-Star line-up for the inaugural NipperFest honors the best of what’s produced here and will feature 15 bands and acoustic artists totaling 11 hours of music from several Thomas Edison Music Award winners and nominees, two Capital Region Music Hall of Fame inductees, the winner of NBC’s The Voice, and some up and comers who are destined to be the next generation of hometown stars.

The Figgs, 35 years after forming in Saratoga Springs, Mike Gent (guitar, vocals), Pete Donnelly (bass, vocals), and Pete Hayes (drums, vocals) are still going strong. They’ve served as Graham Parker’s band for multiple tours & records, toured as the backing band for Tommy Stinson (The Replacements), and were inducted into the Capital Region Music Hall of Fame and 2022 saw the release of their 16th LP, Chemical Shake.

Super 400 is Joe Daley (drums), Kenny Hohman (guitar, vocals), and Lori Friday (bass). The band formed in 1996 in Troy and quickly gained legendary status in the Capital Region. Super 400 has an electric and relentless approach to their live shows, intuitively blending a classic 60s-70s heavy rock vibe with contemporary melodic pop mastery to create something uniquely their own.

Sirsy is an indie pop-rock duo with lots of heart, soul, & sass. Sirsy plays 200+ shows per year all over the US and is comprised of Melanie Krahmer and Rich Libutti. The duo manage to sound like a full band and somehow do it all with big smiles on their faces. Sirsy’s fans have supported them through the pandemic, their 11 records, and Mel’s 2 bouts with cancer. Every show is like a celebration for this couple and their fans.

Sawyer Fredericks, hailing from his family farm in Fultonville, cut his teeth at the age of 13, playing local farmers markets, open mics, and iconic venues like Caffe Lena. With his deep, beyond-his-years original lyrics and melodies, Sawyer won over broad audiences with his unique take of classic songs, going on to win season 8 of NBC’s The Voice.

The line-up is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Performer</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:55 AM</td>
<td>Derek Wolfe (Star-Spangled Banner)</td>
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<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>Side B</td>
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<td>11:30 AM</td>
<td>The Tradition</td>
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<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Glass Pony</td>
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<td>12:45 PM</td>
<td>Josh Casano</td>
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<td>1:15 PM</td>
<td>Bad Mothers</td>
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<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>Angelina Valente</td>
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<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>Erin Harkes Band</td>
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<td>3:15 PM</td>
<td>Reese Fulmer</td>
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<td>3:45 PM</td>
<td>Girl Blue</td>
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<td>4:30 PM</td>
<td>Caity Gallagher</td>
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<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Sirsy</td>
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<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Sydney Worthley</td>
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<tr>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Super 400</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Sawyer Fredericks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 PM</td>
<td>The Figgs</td>
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</tbody>
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Sponsored by:

SAMMY MILLER & THE CONGREGATION
Special Guests: SUNY Schenectady Faculty Jazz Combo

SUNDAY, JULY 24
SAMMY MILLER & THE CONGREGATION

While the jazz community reveres its elders, young bloods periodically pop up to pump the energy, tickle the funny bone and detour into places it might not have been invited.

Sammy Miller and the Congregation - Juilliard-trained sonic anarchists - have infiltrated the jazz scene with voracious curiosity, a reverence for comedy as well as classic riffs and a driving desire to entertain.

Leader Sammy Miller started playing drums with his five siblings at age five; by 11 he was on Mad TV; at 18 he buzzed to New York from his LA hometown and was chasing a master's at Juilliard by 21. He was also chasing both jazz tradition - grabbing 30 CDs at a time from the library - and kick-out-the-jams comedians.

The Congregation follows both freeways: seven-piece power in the pocket with both sung and played lead parts reaching to tickle and to test the limits.

Seeking new audiences, “We played dive bars where people were scared of jazz,” Miller recalls.

To charm, conquer and kick ass, wherever, they adopted an aggressive but entertaining musical attack, earning comparisons to Ben Folds Five fun and Preservation Hall Jazz Band tradition. And it all works, on their self-named debut album (2017) and “Leaving Egypt” (2020) - and wherever they play live.

Sammy Miller plays drums and sings with the Congregation, which includes Jade Elliot, alto sax; Griffin Ross, tenor sax; Summer Camargo, trumpet; Dan Pappalardo, bass; and David Linard, piano.

When they played the Freihofer’s Saratoga Jazz Festival in 2017, they charmed from the Charles R. Wood Discovery Stage (formerly the Gazebo), as Michael Hochanadel wrote in the Gazette:

“...Sammy Miller & the Congregation…managed both. The Congregation are Juilliard goofballs with chops out to there, over-active funnybones, and New Orleans in their hearts. Turning jazz and pop inside out, they worked up to a costumed ‘jopera,’ a Monty Pythonesque riot after merry melodies like a second line parade through the Borscht Belt.”

SUNY SCHENECTADY SCHOOL OF MUSIC JAZZ FACULTY COMBO

The SUNY Schenectady School of Music Jazz Faculty Combo is a mouthful, and this crew is a stage full of talent and experience.

Like the Juilliard kids in Sammy Miller & The Congregation, these players pack serious academic credentials from conservatories and music schools - and teach in the Capital Region’s finest one: Dylan Canterbury, trumpet; Brian Patneaude and Christopher Brellochs, saxophones; Kevin Grudecki, guitar; David Gleason, piano; Bobby Kendall, bass; and Bob Halek, drums.
Sponsored by:

BLUES BBQ FEATURING
SHEMEKIA COPELAND

THURSDAY, JULY 28

Rain or shine in the park
BLUES BBQ FEATURING SHEMEKIA COPELAND
With Matt Mirabile Band and Mark & Jill

Music Haven gets the blues every summer, and nothing goes better with the blues than barbecue. This year’s music menu features international blues star Shemekia Copeland with local heroes as openers: Matt Mirabile with his electric band and the Eddie Award-winning acoustic duo Mark and Jill.

If the best singers are instruments, Shemekia Copeland is a trumpet, a voice of power and passion that can also croon and soothe.


More seriously, like the politically powerful reggae and Afro-Caribbean Music Haven artists Steel Pulse and Aurelio earlier in July, Copeland also sings on the social justice issues of the day, and past days, on “Uncivil War.” In “Clotilde’s On Fire,” she sings the harrowing tale of the last ship to bring enslaved African people to America. Its captain burned the vessel to avoid arrest, a mass murder discovered in 2019. “Apple Pie and a .45” protests gun violence. Copeland also sings optimism amid struggle in the Staple Singers’ “Walk Until I Ride” and celebrates her late father with his “Love Song” on an all-star showcase featuring guitarists Steve Cropper, Christone “Kingfish” Ingram, Duane Eddy, Jason Isbell and Webb Wilder.

Like Copeland, local blues hero Matt Mirabile started early, playing guitar in Northeast Blues Society jams at 12, opening for Bo Diddley at 15 in Albany’s Fleet Blues Fest, and representing area artists at the Blues Foundation’s International Blues Challenge in Memphis at 19, not to mention warming up the stage for James Cotton at Music Haven’s 25th anniversary Summer Social in 2014. He learned both technique and performing passion from mentors Charlie Smith and Albert Cummings.

The duo Mark and Jill also represented area blues masters in Memphis, reaching the Blues Challenge semi-finals in May. They also won as Blues Artists of the Year at the 4th Annual Thomas Edison Capital Region Music Awards at Proctors in April. Mark (Tolstrup) and Jill (Burnham) both sing, solo and together. If Copeland is a trumpet, Burnham is a viola; and while Mirabile flat-picks electric guitar, Tolstrup finger-picks an acoustic, sometimes with a slide.

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Special Guests: Golfstrom

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LEMON BUCKET ORKESTRA

In two consecutive globe-trotting Music Haven shows, eastern European musicians will protest Russian aggression in Ukraine into musical protest - but also, uplift and entertain.

First, the Lemon Bucket Orkestra from Toronto blends street-busker gusto with pun rock energy to update Balkan folk traditions. DakhaBrakha, from the same troubled part of the world, plays Thursday. Both bands bring far more joy than sorrow in their sounds since the musical traditions they blend also boast a boisterous glee.

Street musicians must set the hook quickly, using buoyant beats and mighty melodies to charm passersby. The Lemon Bucket Orkestra uses this quick-grab engagement to carry fans with them. Like the school-bus bands that roam New Orleans streets snagging passengers off the curbs, Lemon Bucket Orkestra gives everybody a ticket to climb on board.

At home in Canada, then on tour and on lively, dance-intensive albums, the Lemon Bucket Orkestra tells the tale of exile and displacement as bewildering, then of belonging and togetherness as salvation.

And while earlier albums “Lume Lume” (2012) and “Moorka” (2017) collected individual songs as prismatic expressions of eastern European cultures, “If I Had the Strength” (2017) delivers a unified statement touching on their experiences with the conflict in Ukraine.

Some songs bounce like brass-band blasts, others rely on bare, massed voices to reach across languages. After a mournful a cappella chorus in one song, they rap in the next, then rev to klezmer zip, parade through Balkan back alleys, then throw a party in the park.

The Lemon Bucket Orkestra is Mark Marczyk, violin and vocals; Marichka Marczyk, vocals and accordion; Os Kar, drums and vocals; Alex Nahirny, guitar; Jaash Singh, darbouka; Stephanie Woloshyn, vocals, dancing and tambourine; Ian Tulloch, Sousaphone; Michael Louis Johnson, flugelhorn; Mike Romaniak, sopilka; Eli Camilo and Nathan Dell-Vandenberg, trombones. (A darbouka is a goblet-shaped drum, smaller than a doumbek. A sopilka is a Ukrainian fife or flute, traditionally made of wood and with six to ten finger holes. Oh, yeah - a flugelhorn is a trumpet on steroids, a Sousaphone is a tuba wound around your body, originally for marching bands.)

In 2015, Now Magazine named the Lemon Bucket Orkestra Best Band in Toronto, while the Canadian Folk Music Awards honored the band as World Group of the Year that same year for its “Moorka” album, also nominated for a Juno Award as World Music Album of the Year.

GOLFSKROM

They’re local - nominated twice for a Thomas Edison Music Award for International/World Music Artist of the Year - but Golfstrom roam a wide musical map with influences spanning Europe - including Ukraine - the Middle East, Central and South America. Golfstrom is Jonathan Greene, clarinet; Sergei Nirenburg, accordion and vocals; Bobby Kendall, acoustic bass and the resourceful he-plays-everything percussionist Brian Melick. They call it “old world music” but play it with new energy.
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MUSIC HAVEN
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Sponsored by:

DAKHABRAKHA
Special Guests: Korinya

THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

Rain or shine in the park
DAKHABRAKHA

When this Ukrainian quartet made their regional debut at Music Haven in 2016, the Gazette reported:

"Cello plucked like a bass or bowed in spooky drones; accordions swirling or punching; drums booming or teasing; voices rising in declarative cries, sweet croons or unearthly harmonies – they were kaleidoscopic, interstellar.

Imagine Lisa Lisa and Cult Jam playing a wedding in the Carpathian Mountains, Rasputin strut-trotting in a Mardi Gras parade with Sun Ra, “Strange Fruit” suddenly spiced with a wailing reed instrument like Rahsaan Roland Kirk at his wildest. They sang like the Swing Singers or like a trumpeter, they rapped like Eminem. A song formed from bird-calls, accordions etching a melody, band-claps crafting a beat into driving stop-and-go overdrive. Then they slid back to bird-calls; turning, gazing together at the moon.

Almost before the ovation faded, Ukrainians formed a circle alongside the seats. Waving their yellow and pale blue flag, they sang their national anthem, with good harmonies. It was beyond touching: DakhaBrakha was beyond music."

Formed in 2004 at the Kyiv Center for Contemporary Art by theater director Vladyslav Troitskyi, DakhaBrakha began by playing Ukrainian folk-based music, but soon spun the globe to incorporate influences from everywhere and mastered sounds to match. “DakhaBrakha” means “give/take” in Ukrainian - appropriately: The band now plays instruments from India, Africa, Russia and Australia.

DakhaBrakha is Marko Halavevych, darbouka, tabla, didjeridoo, accordion and trombone; Iryna Kovalenko, djembe, bass drum and other percussion, also accordion, bugay, zgaleyka, piano and percussion; Olena Tsybulska, bass drum and other percussion, also garmoska; and Nina Garenetska, cello and bass drum. (A darbouka is a metal-bodied goblet-shaped drum; a djembe is a larger, similar drum. A didjeridoo is an Australian Aboriginal wooden flute-like bass instrument. A bugay is a Ukrainian friction drum, a wooden cylinder capped with a skin at one end through which a horsehair tuft is tugged to make a mournful sound. A zgaleyka is a reed instrument carved of wood with finger holes and a flared bell; it’s sometimes made with two barrels. A garmoska is a small accordion or harmonica.)

DakhaBrakha won the 2010 Grand Prix of S.Kuriokhin, played Australia’s Womadelaide world music festival in 2011 and won the Shevchenko National Prize in 2020.


Onstage, they deliver explosive but focused intercontinental energy that showcases Ukraine’s vital and richly creative culture for all the world to see.

KORINYA

Korinya, meaning “roots” in English, began as a family band in 2005 and has since developed into a contemporary folk band with a fresh, grassroots sound. Their music brings the village band tradition and Ukrainian musical heritage into the context of modern life in the diaspora. Having toured the US, Canada and Ukraine behind two full-length studio albums, a live recording and a digital EP, the band includes Sana Shepak (violin), Zoya Shepak (accordion), Alina Kuzma (vocals), and Nick Hladio (double bass).

*All Proceeds from the night’s sale of Kasia’s pierogies and raffle tickets will benefit local efforts on behalf of Ukrainian refugees.*
SPANISH HARLEM ORCHESTRA

The rhythmic, jazzy, dance-intensive Latin music of New York's barrio comes to Music Haven in the capable hands and voices of the Spanish Harlem Orchestra.

Producer Aaron Levinson and Oscar Hernandez, a veteran session keyboardist, composer, arranger and producer, formed the SHO in 2002 as an all-star aggregation of Conservatory-trained and/or road-tested musicians.

Their debut album “Un Gran Dia en el Barrio” (2002) earned a Grammy nomination, won the Latin Billboard Award for Salsa Album of the Year and launched the new band, mainly of New York-based Puerto Rican virtuosos, on world-wide tours.

“Across 110th Street” (2004) featured Panamanian singer Ruben Blades and won the SHO its first of three (so far!) Grammy awards; nearly every subsequent release has been nominated; “United We Swing” (2007) and “The Latin Jazz Project” (2020) both

The strength and clarity of Hernandez's musical vision unites SHO in precision section playing with dynamic arrangements, fluent freelance soloing and vocals as instruments as well as words.

won. Respected guests often record with SHO including singer/songwriter Paul Simon on “United We Swing,” pianist Chick Corea and saxophonist Joe Lovano on “Spanish Harlem Orchestra” (2015). Featured on “The Latin Jazz Project” are prominent guests: singer Kurt Elling; saxophonists Miguel Zenon, Dave Liebman and Bob Mintzer; trumpeter Tom Harrell; and vibraphonist Joe Locke.

Simon also chose SHO leader Oscar Hernandez as arranger, producer and musical director of his Broadway musical “The Capeman.” Hernandez previously led Ruben Blades' band through the 1980s while also leading Seis del Solar, his own group.

The strength and clarity of Hernandez's musical vision unites SHO in precision section playing with dynamic arrangements, fluent freelance soloing and vocals as instruments as well as words.

The Spanish Harlem Orchestra is co-founder, pianist and musical director Oscar Hernandez with singers Jeremy Bosch, Marco Bermudez and Carlos Cascante; George Delgado, congas; Luisito Quintero, timbales; Jorge Gonzalez, percussion; Gerardo “Jerry” Madera, bass; Mitch Frohman, saxophones and flute; trombonists Doug Beavers and Noah Bless; and trumpeters Hector Colon and Manuel “Maneco” Ruiz.

ALEX TORRES Y SUS AMIGOS

Specially selected for this opening slot, Alex Torres y Sus Amigos is an instrumental Latin jazz offshoot of the longtime Amsterdam bandleader's larger group - Alex Torres and his Latin Orchestra. One of the area's longest-running bands, Alex Torres and His Latin Orchestra has traveled far beyond its Amsterdam hometown to play worldwide. The band has received the New England Cultural Arts Preservation Award, the New York State Music Achievement Award, the Schenectady League of Arts Award, the Governor's Excellence in Arts Award, the NAACP Albany Chapter Award and three New York Capital District Original Music Awards. Alex Torres y Sus Amigos is Torres, bongos and percussion; Tyler Giroux, keyboards; Ken Olsen, trombone; Tony Garcia, congas; Dylan Canterbury, trumpet; and Dylan Perillo, bass.
THE SCHENECTADY SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Schenectady Symphony Orchestra is a community-based symphony orchestra founded in 1934 to provide cultural enrichment, music education and appreciation, and a home for the talents of accomplished musicians in the community.

The orchestra gave its first concert on February 5, 1935, and its second concert on May 7th was broadcast on General Electric stations W2XAF and W2XAD, making it one of the first American orchestras to be heard overseas via shortwave radio.

Glen Cortese, who has been music director of the Western NY Chamber Orchestra since 2005, was named Artistic Director of the Symphony beginning with the 2019-2020 season. He was previously music director of the Greeley Philharmonic and the Oregon Mozart Players and has appeared as guest conductor both in the United States and abroad with the Symphonies of New Jersey, Syracuse, the Florida Philharmonic, Austin, Mexico City Philharmonic, North Carolina, Colorado Springs, Bangor, Meridian, Queens, New Amsterdam, The New Orleans Philharmonic, the International Chamber Orchestra, the RTF Radio Orchestra Tirana, the Belarus State Philharmonic, Sofia Philharmonic National Romanian Radio Orchestra, Noorhollands Philharmonisch, Orquesta Sinfónica Carlos Chavez, San Francisco Conservatory, Cleveland Institute, and the Altenburg Landeskappele Orchestra. Notably, Mr. Cortese also covered as assistant conductor to the New York Philharmonic in 1990–92 for Zubin Mehta.

The musicians of the orchestra, then as now, are drawn from the local community and comprised of both paid professional and volunteer amateur musicians.

The Symphony sponsors two student competitions, the Parillo Piano Competition and the Stefan Competition – each of which give talented student winners the opportunity to perform a concerto with the orchestra on the stage at Proctors. This annual tradition resumed in 2022 with the Parillo Piano Competition. The Stefan Competition should return in the new 2022-2023 season.

TONIGHT’S FEATURED VOCALIST

Mia Scirocco is a much sought-after vocalist, whose versatility shines in jazz, pop and soul. When she’s not performing high profile gigs and events across the region, recording jingles and demos or arranging and composing music, Mia can be found leading her popular Mia Scirocco Trio. With degrees in both studio engineering and music education, Mia taught in the public school system for many years and is currently an adjunct professor of music at SUNY Schenectady.

The Schenectady Symphony Orchestra 2022-2023 Season
A Musical Time Machine
More info coming soon!
STEEP CANYON RANGERS

The Steep Canyon Rangers formed on a campus, first playing together at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. But there’s nothing academic about the riff zip of their modern take on bluegrass-and-beyond acoustic music.

Even before banjoist-and-every-other-kind-of-star Steve Martin took the wheel, the Steep Canyon Rangers were a well-tuned touring car. They wander America’s cultural back streets and set up shop at the crossroads of folk and country.

They knew, or drew, this map before Martin came along. Working with him won them new fans, but they roll fast and far on their own. Prolific as they are powerful, the Steep Canyon Rangers released three albums in 2020 alone. “North Songbook” celebrates Carolina fellow tar heels Olla Belle Reed, Doc Watson, James Taylor, Ben E. King and others. On “Be Still Moses,” these ace collaborators team up with Boyz II Men and the Asheville Symphony. And “Arm In Arm” introduces all original material.

The Rangers are Woody Platt, guitar; Graham Sharp, banjo; Mike Guggino, mandolin and mandola; Nicky Sanders, fiddle; Mike Ashworth, drums; and Barrett Smith, bass. Platt, Sharp and bassist Charles R. Humphrey were the original trio. They later added bass and drums, beefing up their beat. Everybody sings.

The Rangers’ 16 albums include “Rare Bird Alert” (2011) with guest vocals by Paul McCartney and the Dixie Chicks and “The Long Awaited Album” (2017) with Martin and “Steve Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers featuring Edie Brickell Live” (2014) while their “Nobody Knows You” release (2012) won the Grammy Award for Best Bluegrass Album.

Their collaboration with Martin began when he invited them to play a benefit for the Los Angeles Public Library with him in May 2009. They later toured together, playing New York’s Carnegie Hall, London’s Royal Festival Hall, the Wang Center in Boston, Benaroya Hall in Seattle; also Delfest and the Bonnaroo and Hardly Strictly Bluegrass festivals. They also broadcast on “A Capitol Fourth” from Washington DC, on “Later with Jools Holland” and on “A Prairie Home Companion.”

The International Bluegrass Music Association honored Martin and the Steep Canyon Rangers as Entertainers of the Year in 2011.

NORA BROWN

Special guest Nora Brown, a talented young artist who is opening ears and turning heads, has learned well from venerable mentors Schlomo Pestcoe, Lee Sexton and George Gibson. Playing both banjo and guitar in the eastern Kentucky and Tennessee style, Brown has performed at folk and bluegrass festivals, and on radio programs and podcasts, including “Dolly Parton’s America,” “TED Music” and “Road to Blue Ox.” Her debut album “Cinnamon Tree” (2019) and EP “Sidetrack My Engine” (2021) showcase traditional songs. Brown is joined by fiddler Stephanie Coleman.
SUMMER OF SOUL
(...Or When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)
SATURDAY, AUGUST 20
5PM – 9PM • QUALITY STAGESIDE CONCESSIONS AT 6PM

A Mini Cultural Fest - with soul food, art, a step show, double dutch, gospel, and danceable funk by Felicia Collins & Friends - precedes the screening.
SUMMER OF SOUL
(…Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)
Cultural Fest at 5:00PM; Movie at 7:30PM

A mini fest teeming with the community-building energy of a step show, double dutch, gospel, empowering and uplifting art, soul food by Allie B’s Cozy Kitchen, and a special appearance by regional guitar icon Felicia Collins & Friends who promise to bring the house down with some righteously danceable funk and soul precedes a screening of the Questlove-directed multi award-winning documentary, Summer of Soul.

The same summer when Woodstock brought rock fans pilgrimaging into the Catskills, the Harlem Cultural Festival drew throngs to New York City’s Mount Morris Park (later renamed Marcus Garvey Park) in Harlem.

Director (and leader of The Roots on “The Tonight Show” and on records and tours) Ahmir “Questlove” Thompson reviewed hours of Hal Tulchin’s long-forgotten film of the summer-long concert series. Thompson selected the musical segments song by song, then blended this concert footage with vintage newscasts and present-day interviews with participants and fans. The result is greater than the impressive sum of its parts, a musical document as exciting as Woodstock and a cultural document of deep resonance and meaning. Thompson said he had never heard of these 1969 concerts until producers Robert Fyvolent, David Dinerstein and Joseph Patel and editor Josh Pearson approached him as they worked to complete the long-delayed project.

As musical director of the 93rd Academy Awards, Thompson introduced the film’s trailer at the Oscars. The completed “Summer of Soul” won the Grand Jury and Audience Awards for documentaries at the 2021 Cannes Film Festival, the Best Documentary Award and five other awards at the 6th Critics Choice Awards, Best Documentary Award at the 75th British Academy Film Awards, Best Documentary Feature at the 94th Academy Awards and Best Music Film at the 64th Annual Grammy Awards - among literally dozens of other honors.

“Summer of Soul (…Or, When the Revolution Could Not Be Televised)” - subtitled for a Gil Scott-Heron song - stars Sly and the Family Stone (also at Woodstock), Stevie Wonder, the 5th Dimension, Mahalia Jackson, Mavis Staples, Gladys Knight and the Pips, the Chambers Brothers and others.

A highlight is the double role of the 5th Dimension, seen both in performance and in an interview explaining the significance of the event to them as artists and as people. The recently departed musician and critic Greg Tate - whose band Burn Sugar the Arkestra Chamber has played Proctors - speaks with particular eloquence.

FELICIA COLLINS

One of the most high-profile artists ever to call the Capital Region home, Felicia Collins was living in Arbor Hill in downtown Albany, when she bought her first guitar. In the 1980s, Collins began playing with local musicians in NYC, befriending producer and artist Nile Rodgers, who offered her studio work. Soon thereafter, The Thompson Twins invited Collins to play guitar on their world tour in 1985; she made her live debut with the band that summer at Live Aid. She toured with Al Jarreau, after being featured on his L is for Lover album (1986) and quickly became an integral part of his band. She’s also toured and/or recorded with Rodgers and Philippe Saisse, Madonna, George Clinton, Cyndi Lauper, Vonda Shepard and P-Funk. After answering Paul Schaffer’s call to join The Late Show’s house band for the entirety of David Letterman’s 20-year run on CBS, Collins headlined an epic concert at Music Haven in 2015.
Personalize a Seat, Brick or Block Today!

Built in 1999 with widespread public and private support, the Agnes Macdonald Music Haven Stage replaced a 50-year old trailer and has since hosted hundreds of concerts and community gatherings in the heart of Central Park.

Thanks to two Municipal Facilities Program Grants through the NYS Assembly and generous contributions from The Wright Family Foundation, Neil & Jane Golub Foundation, William G. Broughton Foundation, Carlilian Foundation's Green Space Initiative and a host of neighbors and friends, Music Haven was blessed with a beautiful new house & hill, security gates for the stage when it’s not in use, and state-of-the-art main audio speakers in 2018.

Our capital project for 2019 teamed Music Haven with Habitat for Humanity of Schenectady County to enclose and enhance our stageside concession stand, with support from Schenectady County. And the installation of two façade panels of original artwork by Wren Panzella added a world-class touch to our 30th anniversary celebration. We continue to work with our partners at the City of Schenectady on plans to improve parking, lighting, and signage in the park.

Opportunities to dedicate a stadium seat or brick in the façade or ‘Wall of Support’ remain available. All dedications are 100% tax-deductible and help to sustain and improve the venue that has become a true summer destination and gathering place for community.

Dedication forms are available at all concerts and via www.musichavenstage.org

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SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

SHOW AT 7PM • QUALITY STAGESIDE CONCESSIONS AT 6PM

FRIGG

Special Guests: Alasdair Frasier & Natalie Haas

The Carilian Foundation

Decrescente

Decrescente

PROCTORS

COURTYARD® at Mohawk Harbor
FRIGG

The Finnish instrumental folk band Frigg plays “nordgrass” - a spirited virtuoso string-band amalgam of sometimes somber Nordic folk energized with Americana bluegrass zing.

Formed in 2000 at the Pelimannitalo “folk house,” the teenaged members soon focused their classical training through deep folkloric interests on a world-wide curious quest to hybridize music from everywhere through their own expressive energy.

Frigg began touring mainly in Europe, playing at Scotland’s Celtic Connections, Glatt und Verkehr in Austria, Forde Festival in Norway and the Cambridge Folk Festival in England, before expanding their audiences world-wide with appearances at WOMADelaide in Australia, the Rainforest World Music Festival in Malaysia and the Telluride Bluegrass Festival in Colorado. Broadcast appearances on “El Mundo” via NHK World Japan and “A Prairie Home Companion” also helped Frigg earn international attention.


With diverse musical tools at their command, and the power of precision playing, the seven-piece band has also mastered many moods. On “Frixx” (2020), for example, venerable folk melodies proceed at a stately pace, carving a serene sonic space. Then boisterous bluegrass energy erupts, all speed and spirit; followed by pulsating jazzy excursions, then closely-knit ensemble runs with the intricacy of classical string quartets.

Frigg also combined forces with the Kuopio City Orchestra conducted by Jaakko Kuusisto in Finland’s first “Folkfonia” hybrid concerts.

Frigg is Juho Kivivouri, bass; Esko Jarvela, Alina Jarvela, Tommi Asplund and Tero Hyvaluoma, violins; Petri Prauda, mandolin, bagpipe and cittern; and Anssi Salminen, guitar.

Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas

Scottish fiddler Alasdair Fraser had recorded and toured for a decade before joining musical forces with California cellist Natalie Haas in the globally adventurous duo that sets the stage for Frigg tonight. While Frasier made his mark in the folk festival and film worlds - he plays on the scores of “Last of the Mohicans” and “Titanic,” for example - Juilliard graduate Haas became a valued accompanist with Mark O’Connor, Natalie Mackey and the Irish bands Solas and Altan. The Alasdair Fraser & Natalie Haas debut album “Fire & Grace” won the Scots Trad “Music Album of the Year” Award.
The Comedy of Errors
written by William Shakespeare

DRAMATIS PERSONAE
in order of appearance

SOLINUS, Duke of Ephesus.................................Lauren Wicks
EGEON, a shipwrecked merchant..........................Dan Smirlock*
JAILOR.........................................................Dominic DiCaprio
BALTHASAR, FIRST MERCHANT.............................Devin Trager*
ANTIPHOLUS of SIRACUSA, a merchant’s son.........Michael Sinkora*
DROMIO of SIRACUSA, a servant..........................Phillip Beattie*
DROMIO of EPHESUS, a servant............................Michael Anderton
ADRIANA, a married woman of Ephesus................Rachel Moore*
LUCIANA, her sister........................................Shae Fitzgerald*
ANTIPHOLUS of EPHESUS, a merchant’s son..........Imzak Mohamed*
ANGÉLO, a goldsmith........................................Ashley Visker
COURTIZAN, LUCE, NELL, MESSENGER, ATTENDANT....Lita Carbone
SECOND COURTIZAN......................................Giulia Pezzulo
PINCH, ATTENDANT........................................Joey Cappuccitti
ABBESS.......................................................Maureen Aumand

PRODUCTION TEAM

DIRECTORS..................................................Sandra Boynton* and Kristoph DiMaria*
PRODUCER....................................................Michael A. Lake*
STAGE MANAGER...........................................Cameron Richardson
ASSISTANT STAGE MANAGER..............................Dominic DiCaprio
PUPPETEERS...............................................Lita Carbone and Devin Trager
MOVEMENT COUNSEL.................................Eleah Jayne Peale and Sean Fagan
DANCE CHOREOGRAPHY.................................Nancy Boynton*
WARDROBE................................................Sandra Boynton, Rachel Moore, Sharon Greene
PROPERTIES................................................Phillip Beattie
BOX OFFICE................................................Diane J. Walsh

*members of Will Kempe’s Players Cooperative

We are grateful for season sponsorship and grant funding from THE FRIENDS OF PROSPECT PARK, MUSIC HAVEN, and A.R.T./NY CREATIVE OPPORTUNITY FUND. A very special thank you to all of our families both inherited and chosen, friends, animal companions, volunteers, public donations, the membership and board of WKP, our guest directors Erin Ouellette and Catherine Seeley, our guest production staff, McCauley Cannizzio and everyone at The Electric City Barn, Brian Sheldon of Sand Lake Center for the Arts, Peter Hughes of WAMC’s The Linda, David Snider of Hubbard Hall, Peter Grimm, Mona Golub, Paul Ricciardi of Ancram Opera House, Michael Kennedy of Creative Action Unlimited, Siena College, EMPAC, and many others.

Will Kempe’s Players Cooperative is a registered worker-owned theatre cooperative based in Troy, NY. | www.willkempesplayers.com
The History of Music Haven

While Central Park has had a Music Haven building since 1950, it hasn’t always offered a series of music performances. During the heyday of the 1960s and early 1970s, concerts ranged from barbershop quartets to the Schenectady Symphony. Tough financial times meant cutbacks to musical programs. Sadly, for a number of years the stage was rarely a haven for music. In late 1989, Mona Golub approached then-Mayor Karen Johnson about coordinating a summer series of live performances to the stage.

“I knew a concert series would be a great way to build community around music and culture,” said Golub, Music Haven’s volunteer artistic director since 1990. Seasons through the 1990s expanded on the multicultural theme - “Traveling the world one concert at a time.” A few of the groups logging thousands of miles to include Schenectady: Congolese soukous musician Kanda Bongo Man, the first artist from Africa to headline the series; traditional Irish band, Altan, led by the ethereal voice of Mairéad Ní Mhaonaigh; Nego Gato Afro Brazilian Ensemble; along with American artists from nearly every state in the Union.

However, that success also brought strain to the stage. Left unprotected from the elements, the Northeast weather had its way with the wooden structure. Golub formed a task force to raise a new stage in 1997. With support from a New York State Department of Parks matching grant and leadership gifts from the Schenectady Foundation in the name of Agnes Macdonald, The Golub Foundation, the Wright Family Foundation, The Gazette Newspapers and Schenectady Steel, as well as the City of Schenectady, plans made throughout 1998 became reality.

Supported by a single steel beam, the rickety old stage was demolished in less than 20 minutes on Jan. 20, 1999, making way for the new stage’s February 18 groundbreaking. Work continued through the winter, into the spring and as cinder blocks went up, so did the eastern Wall of Support that bears engraved bricks purchased by generous supporters. The inaugural concert and dedication of the Agnes Macdonald Music Haven, featuring the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra, drew a standing room only audience to the heart of the park on July 7, 1999.

Equipped to handle the 21st century, Music Haven has continued to define its global niche in the 2000s. Season highlights since then included The Roches, Jake Shimabukuro, Esperanza Spalding, King Sunny Ade, Steelye Span, Joey Alexander, Bassekou Kouyate & Ngoni Ba, Dakha Brakha, Bombino, Jerry Douglas & the Earls of Leicester, Amadou & Mariam, Yemen Blues, Red Baraat, Septetto Santiagouero. “There’s something about enriching yourself through a cultural experience, an exchange, that allows you to hear or taste or see something that’s different, and beautiful, and carries with it a history or a story that’s new to you,” Golub told the Times-Union in 2016.

Growing audiences elevated the call for improved seating and creature comfort leading to the 2016 “House and Hill” campaign supported by a Municipal Facilities Program Grant through the NYS Assembly, gifts from the Wright Family Foundation, Neil & Jane Golub, The William G. Broughton Foundation, Carlillian Foundation’s Green Space Initiative and more than 200 neighbors and friends who dedicated seats, bricks and blocks, leading to the installment of 460 permanent, stadium-quality seats, a lush, terraced hill, and state-of-the-art digital speakers.

Those facility improvements, dedicated in May 2018, served to broaden Music Haven’s scope, welcoming new partnerships with performing arts organizations across the region. “Each time we spark the creation of art, engage in collaboration and encourage the melding of cultures and the gathering of community, we impact people far beyond this building, this park and this City,” said Golub.

The additional efforts earned Music Haven Best Concert Series of the Year at the inaugural Capital Region Thomas Edison (Eddie) Music Awards in April 2019, with Golub taking home Best Presenter/Promoter honors.

The 30th anniversary season in 2019 reminded us why world-class national and international touring artists beat a path to Music Haven’s door. From Indian folk-rock to Brazilian Samba, Colombian Joropo and Congolese Funk-Rhumba, the distinctive “outdoor concert hall” vibe continued to bring the rhythms, melodies, and broader cultural experiences of the world to heart of the park.

Shakespeare in partnership with Will Kempe’s Players, a Hamilton/Hamiltunes Singalong with Proctors, new Woodstock documentary from WMHT, Broadway Cabaret with students from Proctors Collaborative School of the Arts, tribute to jazz saxophone legend Nick Brignola, and what has become an annual appearance by the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra added further dimension to the program.

And more capital improvements came to bear via a new concession stand, built by Habitat for Humanity of Schenectady County and the installation of two stunning art panels by world class Castleton-based visual artist Wren Panzella.

After the pandemic pause of 2020 and an abbreviated 2021 season, Music Haven is back with a full itinerary destined to unify and uplift as it transports audiences to the Caribbean, South Louisiana, Harlem, The Balkans, Chicago, Ukraine, Puerto Rico, Nashville, and Finland.
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