

ROCHESTER LILAC FESTIVAL

# MUSIC LINEUP

2023



MAY 12-21, 2023

10 STRAIGHT DAYS OF FREE MUSIC

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HIGHLAND PARK | ROCHESTER, NY

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# 2023 ROCHESTER LILAC FESTIVAL HEADLINER BIOGRAPHIES



## Friday, May 12: Surprise Special Guest (TBA)

## Saturday, May 13: Zac Brown Tribute Band

ZBTB is the premier tribute to the chart-topping Zac Brown Band. With 12 number-one singles and three GRAMMY wins, the Zac Brown Band is one of the hottest names in the music business, and ZBTB is the first and most authentic tribute to their recorded music and live show. Not only does ZBTB capture the sound and creativity of the Zac Brown Band, but they bring a similar atmosphere of family to their shows while engaging the audience in a way that is all their own.



## Sunday, May 14: The Seven Wonders

The Seven Wonders are seven world-class musicians paying homage to the music of Fleetwood Mac. The band's collective performing experience brings the crowd powerful renditions of these timeless tunes. They authentically recreate all the great hits of Fleetwood Mac, including Dreams, Go Your Own Way, Rhiannon, Landslide, Gypsy, and more. Since its inception in 2017, they have garnered national attention for their high-energy performances. The Seven Wonders reconnect fans with the music they love.



## Sunday, May 14: The Iguanas

What if Americana actually encompassed ALL of the Americas? You Would have the Tejano and Conjunto sounds of the Texas/Mexico border region, as best exemplified by the accordion and bajo sexto, the American South's Blues, Jazz and New Orleans R&B, and the lilting grace and fiery passion of the music of the Caribbean, Mexico and Colombia. You'd also have New Orleans' premier distillers of this musical m lange, The Iguanas.



## Monday, May 15: Mikaela Davis

A prolific and distinctive harpist, Davis molds her classical music training to create an original and genre-bending catalog that weaves together 60s pop-soaked melodies, psychedelia, and driving bluegrass rock. Davis has also shared the stage with the likes of Bob Weir, Christian McBride, Bon Iver, Lake Street Dive, and Circles Around the Sun, showcasing her ability to stretch her creative talents across just about any canvas. Along with her band Southern Star, the group recently recorded at the Relix studio in New York City, releasing an exclusive Relix Studios vinyl. Featuring songs from her 2018 debut album Delivery, as well as her latest single, "Don't Stop Now," the release boasts the trajectory and intimacy of a band who have been playing together for the better part of a decade.



### **Tuesday, May 16: Sam Grisman Project**

“The music that my father David Grisman, and his close friend, Jerry Garcia, made in the early 90s (in the house that I grew up in) is not only some of the most timeless acoustic music ever recorded, it also triggers my oldest and fondest musical memories. What I find most inspiring about this material is the way their camaraderie and their love and joy for the music simply oozes out of each recording. It is also impressive how deeply they get beneath their favorite songs—whether they are originals, covers, or traditional/old-time tunes—and how expertly that material was curated.



### **Wednesday, May 17: Blue Sky Brothers**

Paying tribute to The Allman Brothers Band’s (ABB) original lineup are members of Giant Panda Guerrilla Dub Squad, Mikaela Davis & Southern Star, The Moho Collective, The Mighty High and Dry, The Rita Collective, and The Flood. Informed by years of intense study of the ABB sound, the musicianship in this thoughtfully curated group possesses an unmatched fire to honor ABB’s legacy. You’ll recognize the delicate blend of great song craft and the spirit of improvisation that long ago set the ABB apart and now inspires each unique performance by this all-Rochester line-up.



### **Thursday, May 18: Almost Queen**

The most authentic QUEEN live show since the days of QUEEN themselves. A deliberate four-piece band, Almost Queen delivers a live performance showcasing signature four-part harmonies and intricate musical interludes. Donning genuine costumes, Almost Queen recaptures the live energy and precision that is the ultimate Queen experience.



### **Friday, May 19: The Founders**

The Founders with 5 original members of Roomful of Blues: Duke Robillard, Al Copley, Rich Lataille, Greg Piccolo & Doug James



### Friday, May 19: The Record Company

The Record Company is a Grammy-nominated American rock band from Los Angeles. The members are Chris Vos (guitar, lead vocals), Alex Stiff (bass, backing vocals), and Marc Cazorla (drums,

backing vocals). Their music is influenced by blues musicians like John Lee Hooker,<sup>[1]</sup> early punk bands like The Stooges, and rock bands like The Rolling Stones.



### Saturday, May 20: Shamarr Allen

Shamarr Allen is the definition of New Orleans! Hailing from the Lower 9th Ward of New Orleans, Allen has influences in jazz, hip-hop, rock, funk rhythms, blues, and country. He is the lead vocalist and trumpeter of his band “Shamarr Allen & The Underdawgs.” In addition to performing with his band, Allen has collaborated with many renowned artists around the world such as Willie Nelson, Patti LaBelle, Galatic, Harrick Connick Jr, and Lenny Kravitz, to name a few. He is a sought-after artist for festivals and venues around the world. In addition to displaying his skills on the front line as a lead performer, Allen is also a music composer, writer, and producer. With a scintillating and unique sound, look, and exemplary talents, Shamarr Allen transcends musical boundaries. He is the True Orleans experience!



### Saturday, May 20: Big Eyed Phish

Big Eyed Phish is the only regionally touring full 7-piece Dave Matthews Tribute in the country and is based out of **Rochester, N-Y**. In the five years they have been performing, they have grown to become a highly sought-after headlining act in the Northeast region for festivals, resorts, casinos, and live music venues. The band is led by front-man Brandon Depaul, the founder of the former DMB Tribute: Tripping Billies. He is backed up by a great band with fantastic musicians and is the only DMB Tribute that can claim to have a full-time lead guitar and keyboard player.



### Sunday, May 21: Into the Now

Into the Now is a Rochester, NY-based tribute band that plays the best of the Grateful Dead, The Stones, The Doors, and more.

# 2023 ROCHESTER LILAC FESTIVAL SUPPORTING TALENT BIOGRAPHIES



## Friday, May 12: Personal Blend, 4:00 pm

Personal Blend is a Rochester, NY-based seven-piece reggae-rock band with pop-driven melodies and ear-catching hooks. Personal Blend's first full-length album, "Skin Deep," was released in 2016. Now coming off their 2017 release, the "Ride" EP, Personal Blend, is breaking boundaries and performing regionally, bringing the party to the masses



## Friday, May 12: Sneezy, 5:30 pm

Sneezy (like ACHOO) is a fusion rock, funk & soul band from Chicago, IL. Sneezy's six members have been building musical chemistry together for over a decade. Live performances are best characterized by engulfing grooves, crowd interaction, and occasional freak dancing! A loyal fan base stretches across Illinois, where the band has supported national touring acts as well as headlined at major colleges and universities.



## Saturday, May 13: MoChester, 3:00 pm

MoChester is a four-piece rock-reggae-driven band from Rochester, NY. The band's name is actually a fusion of the city it started in and Motown, one of its original influences. While the Motown groove provided early inspiration for the group, their current sound has a mainstream flair that has been compared to a blend of O.A.R. and Incubus, with a west coast swagger reminiscent of The Dirty Heads and Sublime. MoChester consists of Brandon Sheffer on lead vocals and guitar, Jonathan Sheffer on keys, guitar and backup vocals, Ben Overmyer on bass guitar, and Jimmy Grillo on drums. MoChester has released three studio albums, "Stop and Go," "Lost and Found," and most recently, "More Than It Seems."



## Saturday, May 13: Shine, 4:30 pm

Formulated in 2012 in Rochester, Shine has some of the most talented and experienced musicians in the business, with performances featuring a wide range of popular songs from all eras so that all the guests can dance to songs they love. From Frank Sinatra and Al Green to Bruno Mars and Beyoncé, they reproduce your favorite songs authentically. Band members are Shawn Powell and Kholaa Lewin on vocals, Jonathan Stevens on the drums, John Viviani plays guitar, Terrance Walker on the keyboard, and Sheldon Tripi on bass.

# Sofrito

LATIN JAZZ QUINTET

## Sunday, May 14: Sofrito, 1:00 pm

Sofrito Latin Jazz Quintet was formed in 2009 by flutist Tim Forster and Latin percussionist Tony Padilla. Originally a quartet, the group added a drummer 5 years ago to expand its repertoire. This versatile high energy group performs a blend of Latin music including Afro Cuban, Latin jazz fusion, and Brazilian. The group has performed at clubs, festivals, and private events throughout Western NY. Their current performances have been almost entirely dedicated to the music of late great Latin flutist, Dave Valentin.



## Sunday, May 14: BB Dang, 2:30 pm

BB Dang is a high-energy rock cover band based in Rochester, NY. The group was notably formed through Elvio Fernandes' Camp Roc Star Academy.



## Monday, May 15: Big Blue House, 4:00 pm

Big Blue House is your home for songs to remember. It's a trio of seasoned musicians (Brian Bruley, Harvey Possemato, and Bob DeRosa) with experience in a variety of forms, merging styles and voices, acoustic rhythm, and lead guitar and stand-up bass into a unique gumbo of folk, rock, blues, jazz, and reggae. Big Blue House often adds percussion and a random horn or harmonica to fill up the house.



## Monday, May 15: Public Water Supply, 5:15 pm

Public Water Supply is Rochester, NY's premier psychedelic ALT country/indie Americana act. PWS blends the cosmic sound of psychedelic music with classic outlaw country twang. The band members include Iggy Marino (frontman), Adrianna Noone (lead singer), Karis Gregory, Jr. (lead guitar), Alex Brophy (team captain and bass), and Spencer Kornrich (bus driver and drums) – all masters of their craft! The group has boogied at Rochester's Fringe Festival and Rochester Music Hall of Fame and sold-out venues like Iron Smoke Distillery, Three heads Brewery, and Water Street Music Hall. The group has just debuted an album and plans on expanding its empire.



**Tuesday, May 16: Diggler's Bridge, 4:00 pm**

Diggler's bridge is a Rochester, NY-based band that has been playing the rock they love to play for five decades. No gimmicks. No mullets. No funny hats. No falsettos. No transposing. Music the way it was meant to be played, with a modern edge as if they wrote it themselves. Covers include Bush, Candlebox, Collective Soul, The Doors, Foo Fighters, Kings of Leon, Neil Young, Metalica, Pearl Jam, STP, Tom Petty, U2, Cracker, The Toadies, The Who, and that's just the start.



**Tuesday, May 16: Organ Fairchild, 5:30 pm**

Jam scene mainstays Joe Bellanti, Corey Kertzie and Dave Ruch met in 1983 as members of Buffalo NY Grateful Dead cover band "Wild Knights," a group that still plays reunion shows to this day. But it wasn't until early 2020 that they wrote their first original music together, this time as three-piece instrumental organ trio/funky jam band Organ Fairchild. Since 2020, they've been joined together in the pursuit of groovy tunes and juicy jams in a high-powered organ trio format. -Seriously, get ready to get down with Organ Fairchild!



**Wednesday, May 17: Inside Out, 4:00 pm**

From the harmonic passages of The Beatles to the hard driving straight ahead Rock 'n' Roll of The Rolling Stones, INSIDE OUT is the definitive Classic Vinyl 60s band. INSIDE OUT delivers the authentic sounds of The Beatles, Stones, Doors, Lovin' Spoonful, Kinks, Traveling Wilburys, Tom Petty, Steppenwolf, The Who, Grass Roots and The Hollies...just to name a few. Clubs, Festivals, Parties and Special Events are equally appropriate venues for the band.



**Wednesday, May 17: Root Shock, 5:30 pm**

Conscious, soulful, uplifting, even healing—that's how many fans of Root Shock have described the band's infectious sound and energy. Root Shock was formed in 2012 with regional veteran musicians whose love of reggae music flows deep. Their unique blend of reggae and heavy drum & bass combined with American roots and soul and a focus on conscious lyrics result in positive dance music that will make you want to move! The band has been surprising and delighting crowds across the New York region and beyond, bringing their unique high-energy style spearheaded by the stunning soulful vocals and stage presence of Jessica Brown to a wide range of settings. The band is spreading its uplifting message and vibes to the masses with its genre-bending sound that's proven to fit many musical settings yet always stands out!



**Thursday, May 18: Mothership, 4:00 pm**

Known for their captivating live performances, San Antonio-based MOTHERSHIP goes to great lengths to recreate the authentic feel of a Zeppelin concert during the band's heyday in the mid-'70s; including an elaborate laser, light, and fog show, complete with theremin, bow solos, and more. Like Zeppelin, the band also arranges intricate medleys of popular rock anthems into the show, keeping each show fresh, energetic, and full of surprises.



**Thursday, May 18: Stunt Double, 5:30 pm**

Stunt Double is a Rochester band that's a jack of all trades with covers ranging from classics like Stevie Wonders "I Wish" to The Beatles "Don't let me down." This unique range of genres allows them to blend many sounds in their original songs. Two female vocalists make up this 5 piece band! Stunt Double is one of a kind and definitely not one to miss live!



**Friday, May 19: Steve Grills & The Roadmasters, 3:45 pm**

Blues guitar virtuoso Steve Grills has been a mainstay of the Rochester, NY, music scene for over 30 years. Steve and his group, the Roadmasters, play a broad repertoire that appeals to audiences of a wide range of ages. Steve's album After Hours charted at # 39 on the Roots Music Report's Top 100 Blues Albums for 2011 based on radio airplay. In 2009, Steve was invited to perform at the Chicago Blues Festival with pianist Ernest Lane for a 100th birthday tribute to blues legend Robert Nighthawk. Steve's album After Hours charted at # 39 on the Roots Music Report's Top 100 Blues Albums for 2011 based on radio airplay.



**Saturday, May 20: Hello City, 2:00 pm**

HELLO CITY is the Northeast's premier live tribute to Barenaked Ladies. The band is comprised of members of some of Western New York's top original and cover bands. Collectively, the band has decades of experience playing live shows at the region's top venues, festivals, and events - and has sold out nearly every venue they've performed at since first hitting the stage with this group in 2020. With a deep set list that spans the entire BNL catalog (including classic live show mashups and antics), the band is excited to bring HELLO CITY to a stage near you!



**Saturday, May 20: The Medicinals, 3:30 pm**

Forged out of a mutual love for classic reggae music, this 10-piece band, led by Dylan Savage of Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad, is now performing their roots sound all over NY state and beyond. The band was formed in Rochester, NY, through weekly jams that served as musical therapy for one of its founding members Dave Bernis. The Medicinals play in Dave's memory.



**Sunday, May 21: Head to the Roots, 1:00 pm**

Head to the Roots has evolved into its mightiest form yet. Anthony Siciliano (guitar, vocals) fronts this roots rock outfit with feel-good wordplay and thunderous didgeridoo sound, while members Chris Palace (drums), Jordan Rabinowitz (bass), and Drew Rosenberg (keys) bring jungle-boogie groove and cerebral synth power to the Rochester, NY band.



**Sunday, May 21: Vintage Pistol, 2:30 pm**

One of those bands that will both captivate and confound you quickly. With remnants of early Lotus and the storytelling of Vince Gill. You can often see and hear their conversations on stage about Good vs. Evil, Inner battles, Growth, and Living in the moment. Expect to crave an escape: a trip to explore a vibe they understand well. This is a late evening into early morning band that leaves no story untold. Based out of Fayetteville, Arkansas, Vintage Pistol strives to further grow its community of crowds fueled by the love of sound and the band's relentless desire to connect. No matter where or when you see them, you'll never catch them on an off night.



**Sunday, May 21: Judah, 4:00 pm**

Formed in 2018, JUDAH's signature style has delivered an album that proves the rock and blues genre is in good hands for young music lovers.



**Sunday, May 21: Workingman's Dead, 5:00 pm**

Workingman's Dead is a Buffalo, NY-based Grateful Dead tribute band. The six-piece band prides itself on playing Grateful Dead music respectfully and enthusiastically!