



Erie Art Museum

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For Immediate Release

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**ERIE ART MUSEUM PRESENTS 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
BLUES & JAZZ FESTIVAL**

*June 28, 2016, Erie, PA* – The Annual Erie Art Museum’s Blues & Jazz Festival returns to Frontier Park to celebrate its 24th year on Saturday, August 6 and Sunday, August 7, 2016. The Festival runs for two days, noon until 10:00 p.m., at Frontier Park, on the corner of West 8<sup>th</sup> Street and the Bayfront Parkway in Erie, PA. The Festival is the largest of its kind in the region, and is uniquely produced by the Erie Art Museum.

The Erie Art Museum Blues & Jazz Festival annually attracts more than 20,000 visitors for the musical acts that range from regional favorites to international super-stars.

The Museum has launched a crowd-funding campaign on IndieGoGo to raise funds for the Festival with public support. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$25,000, which would allow the Museum to "break even" on the annual free festival, Erie Art Museum Director John Vanco said. The total budget of the festival is \$75,000. To donate to the Festival or to learn more about the perks for donations please visit:

<https://igg.me/at/eambluesandjazz>

Another exciting way to support the Erie Art Museum while enjoying the Festival is through the Goose Island VIP Tent! You no longer have to haul your cooler to the park. Please stop by the Goose Island Beer Garden and enjoy a refreshing beer (21 years old or older). Guests can choose to stay in the Goose Island VIP Tent, which offers a prime viewing area of the Festival in the shade. The fee to attend the Goose Island VIP Tent is \$25, with admission for the entire weekend and the first beer free. All proceeds from the sale of beer will support the Erie Art Museum Blues & Jazz Festival.

**The 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Blues & Jazz Festival Line up:**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 6**

**Noon — YMCA Teen Center Collaborative**

The YMCA Teen Center in downtown Erie has an active program that supports all aspects of music production including composing, arranging, recording, and performance. Teen musicians and their adult mentors will present a lively program of original music, dance, drumming, and poetry with their partners LifeThruMusic, Erie Dance Theater, and Poets Hall. Hear the remarkable talent of Erie’s musical future!

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### **2:00 pm – The Jeff Fetterman Band**

Jeff Fetterman says his soul is controlled by the music he plays. The self-taught blues/rock guitarist began playing guitar at age 13. The Jeff Fetterman Band got its start in Bradford, PA and has toured throughout Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York. Comprised of Jeff Fetterman, vocals and guitar; Ralph Reitingger III bass; John McGuire, drums; and Judy Kessler, percussion and vocals, this band plays music with heart and soul. They have opened shows for Molly Hatchet, Buck Cherry, 38 Special, Chris Duarte, Ana Popovic, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Mato Nanji and Indigenous, and numerous other national acts.

### **4:00 pm – Diablo Dimes & His Dixie Deacons**

The unique sound of Diablo Dimes can be described as Blues, Americana, Ragtime, Boogie Woogie, Dixieland and Calypso. Dimes is a seasoned multi-instrumentalist who plays myriad instruments, including guitar fiddles, banjo fiddle, harmonicas, kazoo, and vocals. Dimes has played coast to coast from CBGB's in New York, Slim's in San Francisco, Le Bon Temps Roule in New Orleans, to The Viper Room in Los Angeles. Diablo Dimes, who also provides lead vocals, is joined by Marvin Ray Hawkins on drums and vocals, and David T. Blaetz on upright bass.

### **6:00 pm – Jontavious Willis**

Jontavious Willis has it all: deep roots feeling, instrumental chops, and a voice that communicates the heart and soul of the blues. This self-taught, young musician is a talented vocalist and multi-instrumentalist who plays country blues on harmonica, 5-string banjo, and guitar. He credits as his main influences Muddy Waters for guitar, Sonny Boy Williamson on harmonica and Papa Charlie Jackson on banjo. Fan and mentor Taj Mahal raved in *Living Blues* magazine, “Jontavious Willis. That’s my Wonderboy, the Wunderkind. He’s a great new voice of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the acoustic blues.” Joining Willis are Devon Rosser on drums and washboard and Ralph Reitingger on bass.

### **8:00 pm – Bernard Allison Group**

**\* Eric Gales, who was originally scheduled to perform, has had to cancel his July and August engagements.**

Bernard Allison is a true son of the blues. The youngest of nine children, he grew up in the deep blues shadow cast by his father, the late, great Luther Allison. “I didn’t start to play ‘til I was maybe 10 years of age,” Bernard recalls, “I picked up the guitar and listened to his records.” Those records included Luther’s influences—T-Bone Walker, Lightnin’ Hopkins, Magic Sam, Otis Rush, and B.B. King. These, along with the next generation of blues artists, such as Jimi Hendrix, Johnny Winter, and Stevie Ray Vaughn, became Bernard’s blues academy. He began performing with his father at age 13 and immediately after high school joined Koko Taylor’s Blues Machine. Bernard eventually followed his father to Europe, where he performed with Luther’s band as well as his own, and in 1990 released the first of his 16 recordings as leader. Since his father’s untimely death in 1997, Bernard has carried the Allison brand of music into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. “The blues is my roots,” he says. “Regardless of how far outside of the blues I reach for tones, I can’t ever leave the blues.

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Whenever I play, all those guitar parts are Luther Allison coming through me. My dad was the same way; he wasn't all blues. He loved Otis Redding and Chuck Berry. I'm just showing where my influences come from, and respecting the people who got me to this point."

## **SUNDAY, AUGUST 7**

### **Noon – Bruce Johnstone Quartet**

One of jazz's premier baritone saxophonists, Bruce Johnstone performs in a post-bop style honed through a long and distinguished career. Recently retired as Director of Jazz Studies at SUNY Fredonia, Johnstone's jazz talents took him from his hometown of Wellington, New Zealand first to Australia, and then to Europe and England. He came to the U.S. with Maynard Ferguson's orchestra and later toured with Woody Herman. "New York Mary," a group formed by Johnstone, was one of the first 1970s jazz fusion bands. Regularly featured in *Down Beat's* Readers Poll, Johnstone has recorded with artists as diverse as Anthony Braxton and Luther Allison. Johnstone is joined by Frank Singer on guitar, Harry Jacobson on the bass, and Brad Amidon on drums.

### **2:00 pm – House of Rhythm**

House of Rhythm is a guitar/piano/harmonica/bass and drums band fronted by the Froman brothers. Jim Froman (guitar), Sonny Froman (drums), and Jackson Froman (keys, bass, harmonica). Their music is a mix of pre-1940 hot jazz, mixed with blues and a heavy New Orleans influence, including original arrangements of tunes by the likes of Professor Longhair, Muddy Waters, Robert Johnson, and Count Basie. The band lives by the philosophy of Louis Armstrong, who once said, "There ain't nothing but two types of music: Good music and bad music, and anything you can tap your foot to is good music!"

### **4:00 pm – Tony Grey/Ian Maciak Galactic Duo featuring C. Brown**

Tony Grey is a multi-instrumentalist, composer, and master bass player well known for his impressive technique on six string electric bass. A native of Newcastle, England, Grey's circuitous route to success in the U.S. involved studies at Berklee School of Music, a stint with the successful pop band Bliss, a longtime collaboration with Japanese pianist Hiromi Uehara, and a growing reputation as a sideman and session player. He has performed and collaborated with John McLaughlin, Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Zakir Hussain, Mike Stern, Branford Marsalis, Ice-T, Dave Holland, Lionel Loueke, and Christian Scott, among many others. He has also dedicated himself to teaching aspiring bassists. Since settling in Erie, Grey has continued touring and performing worldwide, while developing the online Tony Grey Bass Academy, which features both free online lessons and personalized instruction. Accompanying Grey are drummer Ian Maciak and hip hop vocalist C. Brown.

### **6:00 pm – Paul McCandless with Charged Particles**

Grammy-winning composer and multi-instrumentalist Paul McCandless is joined for a special appearance by San Francisco-based trio Charged Particles, known for blending jazz with Latin, funk, classical, and other genres. A virtuoso performer on oboe, soprano sax, clarinet, and other woodwinds, McCandless is a founding member of the celebrated and long-running ensemble, Oregon, which has broken ground repeatedly since 1970 by bringing world music and classical elements into the jazz canon. McCandless has also

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recorded extensively, both solo and with a host of other musicians, including numerous collaborations with Paul Winter and Bela Fleck.

Charged Particles is Murray Low on keyboards, Aaron Germain on acoustic and electric bass, and Jon Krosnick on drums.

### **8:00 pm – Red Baraat**

Brooklyn-based Red Baraat is the Bhangra/jazz/funk brainchild of drummer Sunny Jain, who has connected his north Indian roots with his extensive jazz experience and a desire to “celebrate life.... If we can unite people of all backgrounds and ethnicities to partake in the exuberance of life through the universal language of music,” Jain says, “then life is that much sweeter.” NPR’s Bob Boilen calls Red Baraat “the best party band I’ve seen in years.” But if you were on hand for the final performance at the 2012 Blues & Jazz Festival, you already knew that. Only a few months later, the group released its second studio CD, which went immediately to the top of the world music charts, propelling the band to a nonstop three-year world tour that included performances at Bonnaroo, Austin City Limits, and Monterey Jazz Festival, along with clubs, theatres, and arts centers. Along the way, they sold out rooms as diverse as the Luxembourg Philharmonic and the Bowery Ballroom, and performed at the request of The White House, Peter Gabriel, TED, and the Olympic Games. Led by Jain on the dohl (a double-sided Indian drum), Red Baraat includes Rohin Khemani, percussion; Chris Eddleton, drumset; Jonathan Goldberger, guitar; Jonathon Haffner, soprano sax; Sonny Singh, trumpet; Ernest Stuart, trombone; and John Altieri, sousaphone.

Every year a community artist generously creates a new, original design to promote the Festival in posters, ads, buttons and t-shirts. This year’s design was created by HigherGlyphics, an artist team lead by Todd Scalise. The characters in the poster design were created by Scalise from Sculpey®, a multicolored, polymer clay that is baked in a conventional oven. He started working with the material as a hobby but it became “an obsession”, Scalise notes, and he has created hundreds of characters in the past few years. Some of these were the featured awards for the recipients of the Innovation Collaborative’s inaugural Disrupt Erie Awards.

“What is most unique about this poster design is that hand-drawn typographic elements are integrated over the sculptural elements. This combination of 2-d and 3-d sets this design apart from the designs from previous years,” says Todd Scalise. The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Festival logo (2002) was also designed by Scalise.

Major sponsors include: Highmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield, WJET/FOX66/yourerie.com, UPMC Health Plan, WQLN Media and Connoisseur Media.

Festival merchandise for purchase includes limited edition organic cotton t-shirts, posters and a variety of items for the kids such as instruments, bubbles and glow-in-the-dark necklaces. Local vendors will cook-up festival fare ranging from Pittsburgh-style sandwiches and veggie burgers to funnel cakes and fresh squeezed lemonade.

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Again, this year, the Festival has partnered with Waste Management, the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park and WJET-TV, Fox 66, and YourErie.com build upon the Festival's efforts to reduce the environmental impact and to create awareness of the need for environmental stewardship.

The public can support the Festival's efforts in the following ways:

1. Recycle what you bring – no Styrofoam or other non-recyclable materials. Recycling cans are located throughout the Festival grounds.
2. Walk or ride a bike to the Festival. A secure, complimentary Bike Corral is offered for those riding their bikes.
3. Riding The E park-and-ride shuttle

Other GREEN efforts also are being implemented throughout the Festival's operations.

“The Erie Art Museum is committed to sustainable practices in all of our operations. The Blues & Jazz Festival is not an exception, and is in fact one of our most successful green efforts. Last year, we recycled nearly one ton of materials, and that is really something to be proud of. Our vendors are again doing their part, by eliminating plastic, foil and Styrofoam, and the Museum prints our Festival guide on recycled content paper and the commemorative t-shirts are 100 percent organic cotton,” said Carissa Snarski, Festival producer.

One of the most notable elements of the Festival is its unique green community park setting. “It's one giant music celebration,” said Snarski. “It's the only Festival in town that becomes an all-day outing for families. From the beautiful outdoor setting to the music to the kid-friendly art activities, there is really something for everyone to enjoy.”

And, according to Snarski, the tent policy was seamlessly enforced last year and greeted by Festival visitors with full compliance. “We clearly mark a designated area at the Festival grounds for tents. In addition to regulating tent placement, the Erie Art Museum does not permit any tents to be set-up prior to 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, August 6. Tents set-up prior to this time will be taken down and can be redeemed at the Festival's Information Tent.”

Also enforced, are the prohibition of overnight camping and open-flame cooking. “Overnight camping at Frontier Park is against City of Erie ordinance, as is open-flame cooking (e.g. charcoal grills and turkey fryers). City of Erie police will be strictly enforcing this rule. Propane grills are permitted,” said Snarski.

Hallmark to the Festival is the Bucket Brigade – a group of community volunteers, which circulate through the crowd to collect a minimum \$10 donation per person.

“We ask Festival visitors to help the Erie Art Museum keep the Festival free by making a contribution to the Festival. We only ask a visitor once, and in exchange for his or her donation, we give the patron a commemorative Festival button,” said Snarski.

For Festival policies visitor tips and more information, visit [erieartmuseum.org](http://erieartmuseum.org).

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