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## MUSICAL CHEER

A C2G CHRISTMAS • PAGE 4



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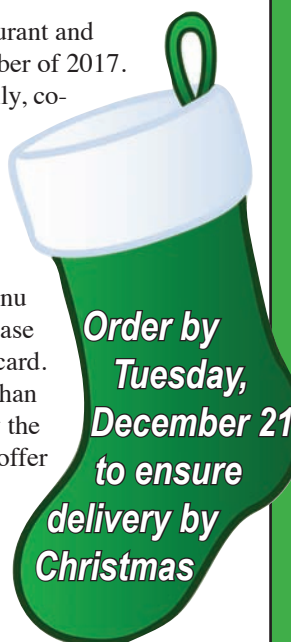
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The holidays are a busy time. So much to do, so few days left in which to get it all done. We can relate, but even so, we feel strongly that it's important to set aside a little time for oneself amidst all the hustle and bustle. Take an hour or two and see a show or catch some music at your favorite hot spot. Take a time out from shopping and wrapping and tree trimming and cooking, and go have some fun.

And, fortunately, we're here to help you do just that. Inside this issue you'll find all kinds of fun things to do and see – Christmas music from some of the area's best musicians at C2G Music Hall, more Christmas music from some of Ireland's best singers at the Honeywell Theatre, community and collegiate theater productions of both the Christmas and secular variety on just about every stage in Fort Wayne, and more. All you've got to do is look and you're certain to find something to brighten up your holidays.

One thing you might consider doing to lessen some of the bustle and help spread some fun is ordering whatzup Dining Club cards for friends, family, neighbors, co-workers and maybe a total stranger or two. Use the handy form on page 2 or go to [whatzup.com](http://whatzup.com) and brighten up someone's 2017.

Now that that's done, let's go have some fun, shall we? Just remember to tell 'em all that whatzup sent you.

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Dixon & McRae



Sugar Shot



Alicia Pyle

# Feature • A C2G Christmas Spreading Musical Cheer

By John Lauer

It is that time of year again, a time of giving and receiving, a time of year that brings with it all kinds of traditions, such as trimming the tree, decorating cookies and exchanging gifts. For some, it is a time to gather with family members and share in all the things that make this such a wonderful time of year.

C2G Music Hall has a tradition this time of year, as well. If anyone is not familiar with this premiere music hall featuring state-of-the-art sound and lighting, now would be the perfect time to discover this gem of a venue. Located in the heart of downtown Fort Wayne, just south of Parkview Field on Baker Street, C2G is a nonprofit music hall that is handicap accessible and open to all ages. They host a wide range of artists throughout the year, but this time of year is truly special for its holiday tradition. This tradition is none other than the 5th Annual C2G Christmas Show.

It all started 6 years ago, when local music icon Mike Conley released a Christmas album chock full of Christmas standards performed by Conley and a number of local

musician friends. *It's a Conley Christmas* is a must-have for the holidays if you do not already have it on repeat this time of year.

**A C2G CHRISTMAS**  
DIXON & MCRAE, SUNNY TAYLOR,  
ALICIA PYLE, FRANCIE ZUCCO,  
SUGAR SHOT & MIKE CONLEY  
6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17  
C2G Music Hall  
323 W. Baker St., Fort Wayne  
Tix: \$5 thru Neat Neat Neat  
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Please bring a canned food item

The album has a variety of tunes, from traditional songs such as "Little Drummer Boy" to jazz standards like "My Favorite Things" to a ska-flavored original titled "Bad Boy Christmas."

With the release of the album came an

opportunity to showcase his music. C2G provided a venue for him to perform material off of his album while at the same time giving back to the community. Canned food donations were collected and proceeds benefited the Community Harvest Food Bank. The first year was such a success that it became a holiday tradition. The tradition continues again this year, once again on the Saturday before Christmas, December 17, with an expected 300 to 400 people in attendance to celebrate the holidays and help out a good cause.

Conley is acting as host this year, though he did admit that he might "perform a song or two." The stars of this year's show are five mostly female acts.

"Fort Wayne is blessed to have a wealth of top tier talent," said Conley, who referred to this year's show as a "diva show" featuring some of the best female vocalists in the area.

The lineup features acoustic rockers Shelly Dixon and guitarist Jeff McRae, a duet that has been making sweet music together around the area. Also performing is

Continued on page 14



Mike Conley



Sunny Taylor



Francie Zucco

## whatzup

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# An Emerald Isle Christmas

By Deborah Kennedy

Before Mairead Carlin was a member of Celtic Woman, she was one of the group's biggest fans. The young singer from Derry in northern Ireland admired the all-female ensemble's honest approach to music, and she listened to their albums when she wanted to feel uplifted. As coincidence would have it,

it was during one of those times – a difficult period in her life when she'd just been dropped by a record label and was making the rent giving voice lessons to children – when she got the call from the group's producers, asking if she might be interested in joining Celtic Woman for their next tour.

"I just couldn't believe it," Carlin told me in a recent phone interview. "It was an amazing opportunity and I was so grateful for the chance. I'm still so grateful. Quite honestly, I don't know where I'd be without Celtic Woman."

When I reached Carlin in her hotel room, she and her mates – Susan McFadden, Eabha McMahon and Tara McNeill – had just arrived in Santa Rosa, California in preparation for their first performance in the U.S. since March 2015's 10th anniversary tour. They were getting ready to launch their Home for Christmas: The Symphony Tour, which will bring them to Wabash's Honeywell Center Thursday, December 16, and Carlin was fresh from a talk with her fellow Celtic women about their individual journeys as youthful singers to professional performers.

Carlin grew up in a musical family. Her father was a band leader who often traveled America, Canada and Turkey, entertaining troops at naval bases, her sister a classical violinist, and her grandmother a singer, and music formed the backdrop of her childhood. She began singing lessons at age four, but her teacher refused to subject Carlin to a strict regimen of technical instruction, and Carlin credits the freedom she had as a youngster to find her own voice, along with her triumphant turn at BBC Talents Young Singer Competition at aged 16, with helping shape the singer she is today.

"The girls and I were talking about how, if you get too technical with young singers, it can be a real hindrance," Carlin said. "Singing is such a primal thing to do. When a baby cries, it's almost like they're singing. We all start out singing, and if someone tells us how

to do it when we're too young, it can take the joy and uniqueness out of it. It should be fun, it should be free. I'm just glad my teacher let me do that."

Carlin, whose resume includes a world tour with her friend and mentor Don McLean, jumped at the chance to join Celtic Woman in 2013 because she sensed that it, too, would give her the freedom to be herself

A year later, PBS aired Celtic Woman's sold-out performance at Dublin's The Helix, and the group's eponymous debut soared to the top of the Billboard World Music charts. Celtic Woman became, in short order, a favorite act stateside.

The group has gone through a number of lineup changes in its 12-year history, but one thing has remained constant: Celtic Woman's absolute devotion to the music they perform, be that music lifted directly from the traditional Irish songbook or something a little more contemporary, like Celine Dion's "My Heart Will Go On," which appears on Celtic Woman's newest album, *Voices of Angels*.

Another thing fans can count on? The members of the group getting along like the proverbial peas and carrots. Their gruelling eight-months-on-the-road touring schedule would be impossible otherwise.

"Being on the road so often means we can't just go home and close the door," Carlin said. "We sleep on the bus together, we wake up together, we share a stage together. The truth is, we get on great. Eabha was my bridesmaid at my wedding. That shows, I think, how much love we have for each other. Obviously you have to have musical talent to be chosen for Celtic Woman, but the producers give a lot of thought to personality as well. Everyone in the group has a lovely disposition. It just wouldn't work if our egos got in the way."

Celtic Woman are known not only for their lack of backstage drama but their ability to take a Christmas classic like "Silent Night" and make it new again for every listener. This year's holiday-themed show, according to Carlin, has the potential to delight even the most jaded Scrooge in the house. That's because the orchestral arrangements – or, in some cases, lack thereof – are designed to surprise, all the while staying true to a tune's original appeal.

"There's a real mix in the repertoire," she said. "There are traditional Christmas songs and really fun numbers like 'Santa Claus Coming to Town,' and 'Joy to the World' and quieter ones like 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear.' There's really something for everyone, and our hope is that the audience has as much fun as we do. This is our favorite time of year. This is when we feel most at home, and the goal is for everyone to link onto their loved ones and have a nice night."



## CELTIC WOMAN

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15  
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and perform music that is important to her on a personal and cultural level.

"Each one of us takes the music incredibly seriously," she said. "Eabha, for instance, is dedicated to keeping the nearly lost art of *sean nos*, a traditional Irish way of singing, alive. It's her mission, and I really admire that. Susan, when she goes through a song, makes sure she understands every single word of it and the emotion behind it, and she works hard to communicate that to the audience. The same is true of Tara. Every note is clearly thought out; every moment is a chance to communicate through music, and it's really a privilege to be part of a group whose music comes from such a heartfelt place."

Celtic Woman first formed in 2004 when artistic partners David Kavanaugh, Sharon Browne and David Downes – the musical director behind the smash hit show *Riverdance* – decided to pool their energies into recruiting five Irish women vocalists who would then tour Europe and the U.S., performing both traditional Irish ballads and modern music with a Celtic twist.

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# Back to the Boards

-----Feature • Kia Miller-----

By Jen Poiry-Prough

Kia Miller was an imaginative child who honed her craft with the resources she had at her disposal: Disney movies and Barbie dolls.

"I always used my Thanksgiving wishbone to wish that I would turn into a mermaid," she recalls. "And my sister and I came up with really complex stories for our Barbie dolls, usually involving them fighting for their lives in some sort of natural disaster. Playacting stuck, I guess, although I don't hide behind toys anymore."

She became obsessed with musical theater when she was in kindergarten and her mother and her father, a theater teacher, gave her a cassette tape of the *Les Misérables* cast recording.

"They're clearly awesome parents," she says. "I could recite every word to the show. I carried around my little tape player and sang along. I would wake my parents up in the morning by singing, 'Look down, look down, don't look 'em in the eye.'"

Miller says she was crushed when her parents saw a production of *Les Misérables* without her, but they made up for it the following year when they took her to see the touring company at the Embassy Theatre for her seventh birthday.

"I had to sit on a pillow to see the stage and I stayed up way past my bedtime," she says, "but it was so worth it."

Her parents fed her craving for live theater by taking her to many plays and musicals after that. She even got an autograph from her hero, Christopher J. Murphy, who played Captain Hook in *Peter Pan* at the Civic Theatre – never dreaming she would one day become friends and colleagues with him.

Soon she was ready for her first audition: *Charlotte's Web* at the Fort Wayne Youtheatre.

"My dad made me go," she says. "I was very nervous. I had one line in the audition."

She didn't get the part, which she says was fine with her, although she admits, "There was some added pressure from being a theater teacher's daughter."

The young Miller persisted and was cast as a Baby Angel in *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever* for the Youtheatre.

"I had three or four lines and had a blast," she says. "I had no idea that being in a show could be so fun. I made so many new friends from all over Fort Wayne, people I'm still friends with today."

Miller cites numerous influences on her performance. In addition to her father, she gleaned priceless theater advice from Harvey Cocks through the Fort Wayne Youtheatre from childhood through her early 20s.

"He helped me master the fundamentals of the craft," she says.

She also learned from Kirby Volz and the Fort Wayne Summer Music Theatre, working with them as an actor for four years and an assistant director for five. She has continued her collaboration with the group, arranging and directing their fundraiser cabarets.

"Fort Wayne Summer Music Theatre gave me an opportunity to try new things as an actor and really challenge myself," she says.

As a teenager, she also spent a summer at the



world-renowned Interlochen Arts Camp.

"They gave me tools and resources that helped me to become an actor of analysis and the teacher that I am today," she says.

As for her singing, Miller says her longtime voice teacher Mindy Cox gave her an invaluable education on vocal production.

"She taught me how to 'mix' [to sing in a combination of head and chest voice]," she says, "which completely revolutionized my vocal technique."

Cox was the person who introduced Miller to *The Light in the Piazza*, which quickly became the high school senior's "favorite piece of musical theater in existence." It is one which is extremely difficult to pull off, both technically and in terms of talent. It has never been produced in Fort Wayne – until now.

Miller won her dream role, Clara, in the Adam Guettel musical, which is being produced by the Fort Wayne professional theater company Three Rivers Music Theatre. It's her first onstage role in four years.

With her directing and teaching background, she approached the role academically at first, researching and analyzing the time period, character, script, score and source material.

"As a director, it's my responsibility to understand the inner workings of all of the characters," she says, "but as an actor, I get to hone that time and energy into one character. I need to understand the way Clara thinks, moves, and behaves."

Once her lines and music were memorized, "it was about getting out of my head and being in the moment. Instead of using my director brain and asking,

Continued on page 19



## Sting

### 57th and 9th

On his first album of purely pop/rock music in more than a decade, Sting proves that he remembers where he got his start musically. While it's being heralded as a welcome return to the artist's original form after too many years of albums filled with lutes and flutes, nothing on *57th and 9th* is going to resurrect the early days of the Police. Yes, there are guitars aplenty here, both jangly and distorted, but this is indisputably an older and less raw Sting than that kid who merged punk and reggae back in the late 70s.

Not that he doesn't try. On "Petrol Head" he shamelessly shoots for driving rock, and even if this kind of music was never truly in his wheelhouse, he doesn't do a bad job here. More often, though, the songs are the kind of layered, easy pop rock you'd expect from the Sting of the 90s, as in the smoothly produced "I Can't Stop Thinking About You."

Lyrical, many of the songs touch on unsurprising political themes – climate change on "One Fine Day," the refugee crisis on "Inshallah" – that the superstar Sting is known for embracing. When "If You Can't Love Me" descends into a dark meditation on a doomed relationship, though, the deeply personal menace of classic Police comes startlingly to the fore.

One of the album's most telling songs is "50,000," an uncomplicated lament about the music superstars who have died recently. It's a tribute to those who have been lost, but Sting is of course singing about himself and his confrontation with his own mortality. How will we think about him when he's gone? The question is very much on his mind.

And he's got to be hoping that we'll let him make a good rock/pop album in his 60s without insisting that it's a return to his younger days. He's made that album with *57th and 9th*, and he deserves credit for it. (Evan Gillespie)

## Brad Laner

### Micro-Awakenings

Brad Laner is one of the most creative musical minds you've probably never heard of. He's a California guy that's been deep in the experimental music scene since the mid 80s.

From cassette excursions with Debt of Nature and Steaming Coils, to the monumental noise pop provocateurs Medicine in the late 80s and early 90s, to the electronic experimentation of Electric Company, Laner seems to pull influence and inspiration from all over the map. Besides his unique industrial-meets-psychedelic guitar sound, he's a prolific studio master. His solo records as well as the two Medicine reunion albums released in 2013 and 2014 have a sound all their own. Laner seems to create sonics that are both futuristic and classic. Buzzing guitars and industrial rhythms are surrounded by almost jazz-inflected vocal harmonies. Laner seems to be as moved by the Mothers of Invention as "Mother Nature's Son."

Last year Laner released *For Magnetic Tape* with Drawing Room Records, a cassette release of Cecil Taylor-esque piano excursions. It's a release where free jazz collides with the avant-garde. It's an intimate and personal release.

Now, Drawing Room and Laner present *Micro-Awakenings*, a double LP with four musical suites that feel like traveling through a musical mind that shape shifts through styles and sounds. It's experimental pop – an art house record that taken in all at once feels like a metamorphosis of the psyche.

The history of *Micro-Awakenings* begins in the early 2000s when Laner began writing and recording the suites that are included on the record. Between 2003 and 2009 the music was recorded, and there were plans to release it as a double LP, then with another label. Plans fell through and the music was eventually released digitally as



Spins

## BACKTRACKS

### KISS

#### Dressed to Kill (1975)

Without trying to figure out why, the American rock band KISS have a huge following. Not to say I wasn't in the KISS Army when I was younger, but the novelty wore off as I entered high school. That said, my sister was a huge fan, and I did listen to her collection from the basement stereo growing up. This album (their third) was decent enough to bang my 10-year-old head against the wall.

It opens with "Room Service," a garage rocker with simple chords and a basic chorus that sounds like Elton John could have produced it. "Two Timer" is a little harder, but most of the time it was probably due to Gene Simmons' vocals. "Ladies In Waiting" keeps the heavy vibe, and Ace Frehley had a way with his guitar. But still, the misogynistic (boring) feel was something that drove me away from the band in the early 80s.

"Rock Bottom" is an acoustic piece and isn't really that complicated. But two minutes in, you're reminded that these guys were KISS. Paul Stanley has a distinctive vocal characteristic, and I got it back then.

"C'mon and Love Me" has a groovy hard rock vibe, but the sexual overtones are tiring and routine, and I actually prefer the Skid Row version from 1992. "She" is another heavier track that fits perfectly in the period. Although the riffs aren't complex, it still has the KISS double vocals and above-average rock thunder from Frehley and drummer Peter Criss.

The record closes with the ultimate mid-70s anthem, "Rock and Roll All Nite". Still a favorite, I can't think of another song they released (maybe "Beth") that almost everybody knows.

If you love KISS, you should already have this record. If you are a casual fan, they have about a dozen compilations from which to choose that are more worth buying. (Dennis Donahue)



61 individual tracks through Mutant Sounds. But now Laner finally gives *Micro-Awakenings* the proper vinyl release it deserves through the excellent folks at Drawing Room Records.

So how does it sound? Well, imagine driving in some beat up old gas guzzler late through the night and flipping through the radio for something to listen to. It's like channel surfing through these intergalactic stations that only appear when you're traveling at the speed of unleaded through open-skied desert at 2 a.m.

The music ranges from crystalline, futuristic pop to lounge-y late night vibes. It runs the course from groovy bass numbers to experimental electronic. There are moments of Adrian Belew-esque pop experimentation (much like his underrated *Op Zop Too Wah*) and industrial-heavy sonic snark.

If you're at all familiar with Laner's later work (on his solo albums as well as the last two Medicine records) then you know this album sounds incredibly good. Each of the suites ebb and flow within themselves. It is four album sides (or four long single tracks for the digital-only folks), and within those suites the mood and vibe changes and alternates every so often. Though it can be a heady mix to ingest, there's still a playfulness throughout. Side C ends with a child talking in the mic through some heavy delay that reminds me of my own kids messing around in my studio when they were still young enough for things like that to entertain them.

*Micro-Awakenings* isn't for the masses. It's not barbecue and grilling music (though if you are playing this at your next barbecue, please invite me.)

It is, however, music for the musically adventurous. It's an album to savor like a fine wine or exotic dessert. If you love Oneohtrix Point Never, Adrian Belew, Laner's work in Medicine and his solo work (especially his score for the *Beautiful Noise* doc), then seek this album out. It feels and sounds like a lot of work and love went into these pieces. The least we can do is enjoy the fruits of his labor. (John Hubner)

Send two copies of new CD releases to 2305 E. Esterline Rd., Columbia City, IN 46725. It is also helpful to send bio information, publicity photos and previous releases, if available. Only full-length, professionally produced CDs or EPs are accepted.

## Wooden Nickel CD of the Week

\$11.99



### CHILDISH GAMBINO

#### AWAKEN, MY LOVE!

Donald Glover the actor's credits include *The Martian*, *Community* and *Atlanta*, which he also created. Pretty impressive. Even more impressive is Donald Glover the recording artist, known by fans as Childish Gambino. CG's debut *Camp* and his sophomore effort *Because the Internet* had critics drooling, and his follow-up, *Awaken, My Love!*, promises more of the same. Pick up your copy for \$11.99 at any Wooden Nickel Music store.

## TOP SELLERS @

### WOODEN NICKEL

(Week ending 12/4/16)

TW	LW	ARTIST/Album
1	-	THE ROLLING STONES <i>Blue &amp; Lonesome</i>
2	1	METALLICA <i>Hardwired ... To Self Destruct</i>
3	3	TRIBE CALLED QUEST <i>We Got It from Here ...</i>
4	4	SIXX: A.M. <i>Prayers for the Blessed</i>
5	-	CHILDISH GAMBINO <i>Awaken, My Love!</i>
6	-	BOB DYLAN <i>The Real Royal Albert Hall ...</i>
7	5	BRUNO MARS <i>24K Magic</i>
8	8	SOLANGE KNOWLES <i>A Seat at the Table</i>
9	2	THE WEEKND <i>Starboy</i>
10	-	JOHN LEGEND <i>Darkness and Light</i>

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### C2G MUSIC HALL

**Music • 323 W. Baker St., Fort Wayne • 260-426-6464**  
**EXPECT:** Great live music on one of Fort Wayne's best stages. Diverse musical genres from local, regional and national performers, all in a comfortable, all-ages, family-friendly, intimate atmosphere. Excellent venue for shows, events, presentations, meetings and gatherings. Food catered by local vendors during some shows. **GETTING THERE:** Downtown on Baker between Ewing and Harrison, just south of Parkview Field. **HOURS:** Most shows start at 8 p.m., doors one hour earlier. **ALCOHOL:** Beer & wine during shows only; **PMT:** Cash, check

### CALHOUN STREET SOUPS, SALADS & SPIRITS

**Music/Variety • 1915 S. Calhoun St., Fort Wayne • 260-456-7005**  
**EXPECT:** Great atmosphere, DJ Friday night, live shows, weekly drink specials, private outdoor patio seating. Daily specials, full menu of sandwiches, soups, salads, weekend dinner specials and appetizers. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of South Calhoun Street and Masterson; ample parking on street and lot behind building. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-midnight or later Fri.-Sat.; closed Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### CHAMPIONS SPORTS BAR

**Sports Bar • 1150 S. Harrison St., Fort Wayne • 260-467-1638**  
**EXPECT:** High-action sports watching experience featuring 30 HD TVs, state-of-the-art sound systems and booths with private flat screen TVs. Great drink specials. Varied menu to suit any palate. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Jefferson Blvd. and S. Harrison St., inside Courtyard by Marriott. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sun.-Thurs., 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Fri.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Amex, Disc, ATM

### CHECKERZ BAR & GRILL

**Pub/Tavern • 1706 W. Till Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-489-0286**  
**EXPECT:** Free WIFI, all sports networks on 10 TVs. Live rock Thursday thru Saturday. Kitchen open daily with full menu and the best wings in town. **GETTING THERE:** On the corner of Lima and Till roads. **HOURS:** 3 p.m.-2 a.m. Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Thurs.-Fri., 12 noon-3 a.m. Sat., 12 noon-2 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, ATM available

### COLUMBIA STREET WEST

**Rock • 135 W. Columbia St., Fort Wayne • 260-422-5055**  
**EXPECT:** The Fort's No. 1 rock club. Live bands every Saturday. DJ Night every Friday w/ladies in free. Also visit Bourbon Street Hideaway, our New Orleans-style restaurant, in the lower level of C-Street; open at 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday (260-422-7500). Large menu featuring salads, sandwiches, pizzas, grinders, Southwestern and daily specials. **GETTING THERE:** Downtown on The Landing. **HOURS:** Open 4 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### CRAZY PINZ/COCONUTZ RESTAURANT

**Games/Music • 1414 Northland Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-490-2695**  
**EXPECT:** An exciting atmosphere for families. Bowling, arcade, laser tag, mini-golf and weekly live entertainment. Coconutz restaurant serves American cuisine daily with food and drink specials. **GETTING THERE:** North on Lima Road from Coliseum, past Sam's Club to Northland Blvd. **HOURS:** 10 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Wed.; 10 a.m.-midnight Thurs.; 10 a.m.-1 a.m. Fri.-Sat.; noon-10 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### DEER PARK PUB

**Eclectic • 1530 Leesburg Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-432-8966**  
**EXPECT:** Home to Dancioke, 12 craft beer lines, 75 domestic and imported beers, assorted wines, St. Pat's Parade, keg toss, Irish snug and USF students. Friday/Saturday live music, holiday specials. Outdoor beer garden. www.deerparkpub.com. Wi-Fi hotspot. Finger food, tacos every Tuesday. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Leesburg and Spring, across from UFS. **HOURS:** 2 p.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Thurs., noon-2 a.m. Fri.-Sat., 1-10 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Beer & Wine; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

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## ----- Calendar • Live Music & Comedy -----

### Thursday, December 8

**AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE** — Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., no cover, 483-5526  
**BUCCA KARAOKE w/BUCCA** — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 432-8966  
**COLUMBIA STREET UNPLUGGED w/GEORGE GARDNER** — Acoustic at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., no cover, 422-5055  
**DEREK REEVES & FRIENDS** — Holiday variety at Multi-Flex Theatre, Ivy Tech, Fort Wayne, 11:45 a.m.-1:15 p.m., no cover, 399-2826  
**ERIC CLANCY and ALEENA YORK** — Piano/variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 426-3442  
**HUBIE ASHCRAFT** — Acoustic at Trolley Bar, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 490-4322

**JASON PAUL** — Acoustic variety at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 625-1002  
**JEFF McDONALD** — Folk at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 489-2524  
**OPEN MIC** — Hosted by Mike Conley at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8:30-11 p.m., no cover, 426-2537  
**OPEN STAGE JAM** — Hosted by Pop 'n' Fresh at Office Tavern, Fort Wayne, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 478-5827  
**PAUL NEW STEWART** — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m., \$1, (260) 482-1618  
**TRONIC** — EDM at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 422-5896

**USF UNIVERSITY SINGERS w/USF BRASS ENSEMBLE** — Holiday concert at USF Robert Goldstone Performing Arts Center, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., free, 399-8050

### Friday, December 9

**ACOUSTIC COMPONENT** — Acoustic variety at American Legion Post 160, Roanoke, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 672-8883  
**ADAM BAKER** — Acoustic variety at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 426-2537  
**AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE w/JAY** — Variety at Coconutz @ Crazy Pinz, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 490-2695  
**DANCE PARTY w/DJ RICH** — Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., cover, 422-5055

# Your Ugly Sweater Can Win You \$\$

How many of you have already purchased an ugly sweater for the upcoming holiday?

Yeah, me neither.

Somehow those ugly creations that perhaps you got as a Christmas gift back in the day have made a comeback. Search online and you can locate an ugly sweater from your favorite sports team, band, TV show and so on. If you're a Donald Trump supporter, good news: there's a whole array of sweaters of him too.

Anyhow, Friday, December 16 is actually National Ugly Sweater Day. That day is all about wearing your favorite ugly Christmas sweater for the entire day, regardless of circumstances. That means during work or school or at an interview, funeral, wedding, etc. This day works out great for folks who just can't wait until the office Christmas party to put on that old sweater.

If you're planning on wearing your ugly sweater that day, you might as well keep it on through the night, as there's a special party in town that's all about it. That evening, strap on the Rudolph sweater and make your way to Early Bird's Ultra Lounge for the official Ugly Sweater Party. The fun starts at 9 p.m. and will consist of drink specials and a sweater contest with \$500 in cash and prizes. Who knew you could get rewarded for wearing such ugliness? Come out and have some fun during this unique celebration!

It's been some time since we've heard anything from the Elephants in Mud camp. These former *whatzup* Battle of the Bands champs have been pretty quiet these days, so it was a breath of fresh air to hear they'll be performing once again for a one-night affair. On Saturday, December 30, EIM will be stomping their



## Out and About

**NICK BRAUN**

way to the Brass Rail to hit the main stage along with DJ Josh Elias. The EIM boys are hailing this performance as a memory to the late Josh Fischel, with whom they shared numerous stages over the years. The Long Beach, California musician who collaborated with bands such as Sublime and organized the Music Tastes Good Festival, passed away back in September at the age of 47. Pre-sale tickets are available at Brown Paper Tickets for \$7; if you wait around until the day of, they're going to cost you \$10.

That same night, Flamingo Nosebleed will be loading their gear up and heading north to Detroit to perform the annual Black Christmas concert at The Majestic. The event includes acts such as The Suicide Machines, The Black Dahlia Murder, Municipal Waste, Mustard Plug, Koffin Kats, Bison Machine and a whole bunch more. This road trip will be well worth the ticket price of \$35. Get out and support our hometown heroes.

Nosebleed will be performing here in town on Friday, December 16 at the Brass Rail. That evening they'll share the stage with Spicoli Culkin and 90s punk legends The Nobodys who are out supporting their latest effort *Hussy*. Flamingo Nosebleed are keeping a busy schedule, and I, for one, am hoping we'll be getting the same dose of them come 2017.

niknit76@yahoo.com



**THE DEEBEES** — Rock / variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., no cover, (260) 482-1618

**FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC** — Holiday Pops at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$29-\$72, 424-5665

**GUNSLINGER** — Country rock at Fat Boyz, Ligonier, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 894-4640

**JOE STABELLI** — Jazz at Don Hall's Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m., no cover, 426-3411

**JOEL YOUNG BAND** — Country / rock / blues at Eagles Post 3512, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m., no cover, 436-3512

**JUG HUFFERS** — Americana at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 432-8966

**KARAOKE** — Karaoke at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

**LEFT LANE CRUISER** — Blues/punk at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 422-5896

**PHIL'S FAMILY LIZARD** — Rock at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

**PRIMETIME** — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 489-2524

**SHANNON PERSINGER BAND** — Variety at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 8:30 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

**SIDECAR GARY'S KARAOKE & DJ** — Karaoke at 4 Crowns, Auburn, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 925-9805

**STRING THEORY** — Acoustic variety at Friendly Fox, Fort Wayne, 6:30-8:30 p.m., no cover, 745-3369

**TEHILLAH & FRIENDS** — Christian at Cupbearer Cafe, Auburn, 7-9 p.m., no cover,

**TODD HARROLD & NICK BOBAY DUO** — R&B/blues/variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

**TONE JUNKIES** — Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., cover, 483-1311

## Saturday, December 10

**ACTUAL SIZE** — Rock at Hamilton House, Hamilton, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 488-3344

**ADAM BAKER & THE HEARTACHE** — Acoustic variety at Mad Anthony Lakeview Ale House, Angola, 8-11 p.m., no cover, (260) 833-2537

**AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE** — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

**CLUSTERFOLK** — Neofolk/Americana at The Friendly Fox, Fort Wayne, 6-8:30 p.m., no cover, 260-745-3369

**COUGAR HUNTER** — 80s glam rock at Vinnie's Bar, Decatur, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., \$5, 729-2225

**FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC** — Holiday Pops at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., \$29-\$72, 424-5665

**GUNSLINGER** — Country rock at Susie's Sandbar, Warsaw, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 574-269-5355

**IPFW HONOR JAZZ BAND** — Jazz at Auer Performance Hall, Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 2:30 p.m., \$4-\$7, 481-6555

**JOE STABELLI** — Jazz at Don Hall's Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m., no cover, 426-3411

**JOHN CURRAN & RENEGADE** — Country at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 625-1002

**THE KICKBACKS** — Rock at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 422-5896

**MISS KITTY'S REVENGE** — Country rock at Rex's Rendezvous, Warsaw, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 574-267-5066

**MOJO RISING** — Classic rock at Coconutz @ Crazy Pins, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 490-2695

**MUDDSOCK** — Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., cover, 483-1311

**PARTY BOAT BAND** — Trop rock at American Legion Post 499, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 483-1368

**PRIMETIME** — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 489-2524

**RICH HOMIE QUAN** — Hip-hop at The Hub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., \$30-\$125, 486-1979

**SUSAN MAE & NEW YESTERDAY** — Variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

**TESTED ON ANIMALS** — Rock at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 8:30 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

**TODD HARROLD & NICK BOBAY DUO** — R&B/blues/variety at Mad Anthony's Lake City Tap House, Warsaw, 8 p.m., no cover, (574) 268-2537

**UNLIKELY DISCIPLES** — Contemporary Christian at Cupbearer Cafe, Auburn, 7-9 p.m., no cover,

## Sunday, December 11

**APQ HARMONIC** — Celtic Christmas concert at Shiloh Hall, Fort Wayne, 6 p.m., \$65, includes dinner, 637-3643

**BLUES JAM HOSTED BY LEE LEWIS AND FRIENDS** — Open jam at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m., no cover, 489-0286

**IPFW FLUTE ENSEMBLE** — Flute at Rhinehart Recital Hall, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$4-\$7, 481-6555



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## NIGHTLIFE

### DUESY'S SPORTS BAR & GRILLE

**Sports Bar • 305 E. Washington Ctr. Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-484-0411**  
**EXPECT:** 27 huge flat screen TVs with all your favorites sports – NASCAR and more; live trivia 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays; kitchen opens at 11 a.m. w/custom burgers, specialty sandwiches, BBQ, flatbreads, salads and wraps. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of Washington Center Rd. and Coldwater, just south of I-69. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-midnight or later daily. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### DUPONT BAR & GRILL

**Sports Bar • 10336 Leo Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-483-1311**  
**EXPECT:** Great daily drink specials, 3 pool tables, NFL Ticket, 16'x10' Megatron, three 6'x4' Minitrans, 15 flat screen TVs; \$8.99 daily lunch specials; 50¢ wings Wednesdays; Three Rivers Karaoke 9 p.m. Wednesdays. **GETTING THERE:** North of Fort Wayne at Leo Crossing (Dupont & Clinton). **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. daily **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Amex

### EARLY BIRD'S ULTRA LOUNGE

**Music/Dancing • 4201 N. Wells St., Fort Wayne • 260-483-1979**  
**EXPECT:** The city's best DJs spinning today's hottest hits; VIP rooms; the city's biggest outdoor party patio with special events, concerts and more. **GETTING THERE:** From Coliseum Boulevard, behind Evans Toyota on Wells south of Glenbrook Mall. **HOURS:** 9 p.m.-3 a.m. Friday-Saturday. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### FLASHBACK ON THE LANDING

**Music/Dancing • 118 W. Columbia St., Fort Wayne • 260-422-5292**  
**EXPECT:** Dance music from 80s and 90s to today, great DJ and bartenders, free pizza available all night long. **GETTING THERE:** Downtown on The Landing. **HOURS:** 9 p.m.-3 a.m. Friday-Saturday. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### HAMILTON HOUSE

**Neighborhood Bar • 3950 E. Bellefontaine, Hamilton • 260-488-3344**  
**EXPECT:** Great atmosphere with a beautiful view of lake; 20 beers on tap, 6 large HDTVs w/DirectTV (NFL Package during season), internet juke, pool table, karaoke every Friday (9 p.m.), live bands every Saturday (8 p.m.) Memorial Day thru Labor Day. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of roads 1 and 427. **HOURS:** 10 a.m.-1 a.m. Mon.-Wed.; 10 a.m.-3 a.m. Thurs.-Sat.; 10 a.m.-12 midnight Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa

### LAOTTO BREWING COMPANY

**Microbrewery • 202 S. Main St., LaOtto • 260-897-3360**  
**EXPECT:** Easygoing atmosphere in a 100-plus-year-old renovated building. Beers made on site and served with a varied pub menu; soups, burgers, pizza and a variety of daily specials. **GETTING THERE:** 10 minutes north of Dupont and Lima roads on Old SR3 in LaOtto. **HOURS:** 5-10 p.m. Thursday, 5-11 p.m. Friday, 1-11 p.m. Saturday, 1-8 p.m. Sunday. **ALCOHOL:** Beer; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### LATCH STRING BAR & GRILL

**Pubs & Taverns • 3221 N. Clinton St., Fort Wayne • 260-483-5526**  
**EXPECT:** Fun, friendly, rustic atmosphere. Daily drink specials. Mondays, \$2.75 imports; Tuesdays, \$3 margaritas & \$1 tacos; Wednesdays, \$2 wells and 59¢ bone-in wings; Sundays, \$2.50 bloody Marys. Live bands Friday, Sunday, & Tuesday; comedy improv/open mic Wednesday; karaoke Monday, Thursday & Saturday. No cover. **GETTING THERE:** Where Clinton and Lima roads meet, next to Budget Rental. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 12 noon-12:30 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa

### MAD ANTHONY BREWING COMPANY

**Brew Pub/Micro Brewery • 2002 S. Broadway, Fort Wayne • 260-426-2537**  
**EXPECT:** Ten beers freshly hand-crafted on premises and the eclectic madness of Munchie Emporium. 4-1/2 star menu, "One of the best pizzas in America," large vegetarian menu. **GETTING THERE:** Just south-west of downtown Fort Wayne at Taylor & Broadway. **HOURS:** Usually 11 a.m.-1 a.m. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

### MAD ANTHONY LAKE CITY TAP HOUSE

**Music/Rock • 113 E. Center St., Warsaw • 574-268-2537**  
**EXPECT:** The eclectic madness of the original combined with hand-crafted Mad Anthony ales and lagers. Carry-out handcrafted brews available. Live music on Saturdays. The same 4-1/2 star menu, including one of the best pizzas in America and a large vegetarian menu. **GETTING THERE:** From U.S. 30, turn southwest on E. Center St.; go 2 miles. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-12:30 a.m. Fri.-Sat.; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

**JUBILEE CHRISTMAS FEAT. LEGACY FIVE, GREATER VISION, BOOTH BROTHERS** — Holiday Concert at Honeywell Center, Wabash, 3 p.m., \$20-\$35, 563-1102

**UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME CHILDREN'S CHOIR** — Choral at Trinity Episcopal Church, Fort Wayne, 4 p.m., free, 423-1693

**YESTERDAY'S HEADTRIP** — Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 483-5526

### Monday, December 12

**AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE** — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

**OPEN BLUES JAM** — Blues at Red Rok BBQ & Bourbon Saloon, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., no cover, 444-5637

**OPEN MIC NIGHT** — Variety at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 489-0286

**SHELLY DIXON & JEFF McRAE** — Open stage at The Friendly Fox, Fort Wayne, 6:30-8:30 p.m., no cover, 260-745-3369

**THE WOOL GIRAFFES** — Acoustic rock at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 6:30-8 p.m., no cover, 432-8966

### Tuesday, December 13

**CHILLY'S TALENT & TACOS** — Open mic at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 483-5526

**FORT WAYNE AREA COMMUNITY BAND** — Holiday concert at Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$3-\$8, 481-6555

**OPEN ACOUSTIC JAM** — Variety at Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, 5-8 p.m., no cover, 432-8176

**OPEN MIC** — Hosted by Dan Smyth at The Green Frog Inn, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 426-1088

**OPEN MIC COMEDY** — Comedy at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

**STRAIGHT NO CHASER** — A Capella at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m., \$39.50-\$59.50, 424-5665

### Wednesday, December 14

**AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE w/JOSH** — Karaoke at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m., no cover, 422-5055

**FORT WAYNE COMEDY CONNECTION** — Comedy at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

**LIVE DJ** — Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 422-5055

**OPEN JAM** — Hosted by G-Money at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, (260) 482-6425

**OPEN MIC** — Variety at Pedal City, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., no cover, 415-6167

**PAUL NEW STEWART** — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m., \$1, 482-1618

### Thursday, December 15

**AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE** — Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

**BRENT LACASCE** — Piano/variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m., no cover, 426-3442

**BUCCA KARAOKE w/BUCCA** — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 432-8966

**CELTIC WOMAN** — Celtic at Honeywell Center, Wabash, 7:30 p.m., \$45-\$110, 563-1102

**CHRIS WORTH & COMPANY** — Variety at A.J's Bar and Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 434-1980

**COLUMBIA STREET UNPLUGGED w/DAVE PAGAN** — Acoustic at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m., no cover, 422-5055

**HUBIE ASHCRAFT** — Acoustic at Monument Pizza Pub, Angola, 6-9 p.m., no cover, 319-4489

## whatzup PICKS



### STRAIGHT NO CHASER

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, December 13  
 Embassy Theatre  
 125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne  
 \$39.50-\$59.50 thru Ticketmaster and Embassy box office, 260-424-5665

Whether you like your drinks shaken, stirred, with a twist or up against a wall, the 10 members of Bloomington-based Straight No Chaser have what you're looking for. Granted, they're not bartenders. They're singers, and as singers they're purists. Hence the straight up part, and the eschewing of the chaser. SNC, one of the top selling a cappella groups performing today, will be at the Embassy Theatre Tuesday, December 13 doing what they do best: entertaining audiences with hits from their six-album oeuvre, including this year's release, *I'll Have Another ... Christmas Album*, and serving up a big shot of fun just in time for the holidays.

Having formed at Indiana University in 1996, Straight No Chaser are the epitome of the online video success story. In 2007, a 1998 video of their performance of "The 12 Days of Christmas" went viral, resulting in a five-album deal with Atlantic Records. Since then, the group – now a separate entity from the university – has performed with basically everybody, including Elton John, Stevie Wonder, Dolly Parton, Phil Collins and Seal.

They're probably best known for the unique and irreverent takes on Christmas classics, which makes their stop in Fort Wayne so timely. Can someone say "cheers"?

### OAK RIDGE BOYS

7:30 p.m. Friday, December 16  
 Honeywell Center  
 275 W. Market St., Wabash  
 \$35-\$75 thru box office, honeywellcenter.org or by phone, 260-563-1102



It might be difficult to fathom, but the Oak Ridge Boys have been around in one form or another since 1943 when the group sang regularly for the staff confined to a nuclear research facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee during World War II. Seventy-three years and innumerable lineup changes later, the four-part harmony legends from the holler will be at Wabash's Honeywell Center for a one-night engagement Friday, December 16, performing as part of the group's popular annual Christmas tour.

The Oak Ridge Boys began as Wally Fowler and the Georgia Clodhoppers. Back then, the group members stuck mainly to gospel music. That changed in 1973 when the lineup that took the Oak Ridge Boys name to the household level – Willie Wynn, Duane Allen, William Lee Golden, Richard Sterban and Joe Bonsall – solidified and made the subtle switch to country. They lost some gospel fans in the process over the next 15 years, but they gained millions of country followers, thanks in large part to hits like "Elvira," "Bobbie Sue" and "I'll Be True to You."

Through the 70s and 80s the Oak Ridge Boys were staples of the country charts, and they also released two best-selling Christmas albums during that time. The 90s were colored by fading popularity, more lineup changes and declining sales, but in 2000 the boys signed with Spring Hill Records and experienced a renaissance, returning to their gospel roots. Last year, they were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, and, minus Willie Wynn, the core group is going strong.

The boys are back, in other words, with a recipe for success: four veteran singers, their mics and the music of Christmas. (Deborah Kennedy)



**JEFF McDONALD** — Folk at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 489-2524

**MIKE MOWRY** — Rock/variety at Beamer's Sports Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 625-1002

**OPEN MIC** — Hosted by Mike Conley at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8:30-11 p.m., no cover, 426-2537

**OPEN STAGE JAM** — Hosted by Pop 'n' Fresh at Office Tavern, Fort Wayne, 8:30 p.m.-12:30 a.m., no cover, 478-5827

**OUTTA HAND** — Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 483-1311

**PAUL NEW STEWART** — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m., \$1, (260) 482-1618

**SHELLY DIXON & JEFF McRAE** — Variety at Adams Lake Pub, Wolcottville, 7-10 p.m., no cover, 854-3463

**TRONIC** — EDM at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 422-5896

## Friday, December 16

**ACOUSTIC COMPONENT** — Acoustic variety at VFW Post 857, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m., no cover, 432-0032

**AFTER SCHOOL SPECIAL** — Rock at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 489-0286

**AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE w/JAY** — Variety at Coconutz @ Crazy Pinz, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 490-2695

**CHOIR CANTATA w/IMMACULATE CONCEPTION SING-ALONG** — Holiday choral at Cupbearer Cafe, 7-9 p.m., 920-8734

**CHRIS WORTH & COMPANY** — Variety at Arena Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 557-1563

**DANCE PARTY w/DJ RICH** — Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., cover, 422-5055

**HUBIE ASHCRAFT** — Acoustic at Country Heritage Winery, Laotto, 5-8 p.m., no cover, 637-2980

**JOE STABELLI** — Jazz at Don Hall's Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m., no cover, 426-3411

**JOEL YOUNG BAND** — Country / rock / blues at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

**KARAOKE** — Karaoke at Wrigley Field Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m., no cover, 485-1038

**KAT BOWSER** — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 489-2524

**MISS KITTY'S REVENGE** — Country rock at Rex's Rendezvous, Warsaw, 10 p.m., no cover, 574-267-5066

**THE OAK RIDGE BOYS** — Country at Honeywell Center, Wabash, 7:30 p.m., \$35-\$75, 563-1102

**ONE EYED WOOKIE** — Rock at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

**SHANNON PERSINGER** — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., no cover, (260) 482-1618

**SHELLY DIXON & JEFF McRAE** — Variety at Duesy's Sports Bar, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., no cover, 483-5681

**SIDECAR GARY'S KARAOKE & DJ** — Karaoke at 4 Crowns, Auburn, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., no cover, 925-9805

**SUGAR SHOT** — Country / rock at Eagles Post 3512, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m., no cover, 436-3512

**SUGARGLIDERS** — Variety at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 422-5896

**TRIO LISTO** — Funk/jazz at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 432-8966

**WEST CENTRAL QUARTET** — Jazz at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

## Saturday, December 17

**2 OF US** — Classic rock at Fuzzy's Hideaway, North Webster, 8 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 574-834-4251

**AFTER SCHOOL SPECIAL** — Rock at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 10 p.m., no cover, 749-5396

**AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE** — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

**BACKWATER** — Country/country rock at The Post, Pierceton, 9:30 p.m., \$3, 574-594-3010

**THE BLAIRS** — Variety at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 426-2537

**C2G CHRISTMAS HOSTED BY MIKE CONLEY, SHELLY DIXON & JEFF McRAE, SUNNY TAYLOR, ALICIA PYLE, FRANCIE ZUCCO, SUGAR SHOT** — Holiday variety at C2G Music Hall, Fort Wayne, 6 p.m., \$5 plus can food donation, 426-6434

**CHRIS WORTH & COMPANY** — Variety at Oakwood Resort, Syracuse, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 855-929-2733

**EARL'S JAM SESSION** — Country at Cupbearer Cafe, Auburn, 7-9 p.m., no cover, 920-8734

**FORT WAYNE FUNK ORCHESTRA** — Funk at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., cover, 483-1311

**FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC** — Holiday Pops at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m., \$29-\$72, 424-5665

**GUNSLINGER** — Country rock at The Silver Inn, Silver Lake, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 352-2870

**HUBIE ASHCRAFT BAND** — Country at Bar 145, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., \$5, 209-2117

**JIM SHOE AND THE HIGHTOPS** — Rock at American Legion Post 499, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 483-1368

**JOE STABELLI** — Jazz at Don Hall's Gas House, Fort Wayne, 5:45-9 p.m., no cover, 426-3411

**KAT BOWSER** — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 489-2524

**MARK MAXWELL SUPER SAX EXPERIENCE** — Jazz at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-12 a.m., no cover, 426-3442

**SIDECAR GARY'S KARAOKE & DJ** — Variety at Kville Pub, Kendallville, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 349-1677

**SOUL 35** — Variety at Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m., no cover, 482-6425

**TODD HARROLD & NICK BOBAY DUO** — R&B/blues/variety at American Legion Post 148, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., no cover, 423 4751

**TRICHOTOMOUS HIPPOPOTAMUS** — Rock at O'Sullivan's Italian Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 422-5896

**WALKIN PAPERS** — Rock / blues at 4D's Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m., no cover, 490-6488

## Sunday, December 18

**BLUES JAM HOSTED BY LEE LEWIS AND FRIENDS** — Open jam at Checkerz Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m., no cover, 489-0286

**OLD CROWN BRASS BAND** — Holiday brass at Grace Point Church, Fort Wayne, 6 p.m., free, donations accepted, 485-2110

**YESTERDAY'S HEADTRIP** — Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m., no cover, 483-5526

## Monday, December 19

**AMERICAN IDOL KARAOKE** — Karaoke at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m., no cover, 483-5526

**MIKE CONLEY** — Holiday carols at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m., no cover, 426-2537

**OLD CROWN BRASS BAND** — Holiday brass at Aldersgate United Methodist, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., free, donations accepted, 432-1524

**OPEN BLUES JAM** — Blues at Red Rok BBQ & Bourbon Saloon, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m., no cover, 444-5637



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## NIGHTLIFE

### MAD ANTHONY'S LAKEVIEW ALE HOUSE

*Eclectic • 4080 N 300 W, Angola • 260-833-2537*

**EXPECT:** Twelve handcrafted beers on tap; also featuring Indiana craft beers and local wines. Patio with seating for 100; 7 dock slips; 150-seat banquet facility. 4-1/2 star menu, including famous gourmet pizza, unique eats and vegetarian fare. **GETTING THERE:** Located on beautiful Lake James above Bledsoe's Beach. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Sun.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-midnight or later Fri.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

### MAD ANTHONY TAP ROOM

*Music/Rock • 114 N. Main St., Auburn • 260-927-0500*

**EXPECT:** The eclectic madness of the original combined with handcrafted Mad Anthony ales and lagers. The same 4-1/2 star menu, including one of the best pizzas in America and a large vegetarian menu. **GETTING THERE:** Take I-69 to State Rd. 8 (Auburn exit); downtown, just north of courthouse. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Sun.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-2 a.m. Fri.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

### MAIN STREET BISTRO & MARTINI LOUNGE

*Music/Variety • 200 E. Main St., Fort Wayne • 260-420-8633*

**EXPECT:** A downtown dining destination with something for everyone, from pizza and wings to fine steaks and seafood. Main Street Goes Live with DJs, live entertainment and special events every Friday and Saturday at 10 p.m.; new menu, low prices, great quality food. **GETTING THERE:** In the First Source Bank Building, corner of Barr and Main streets, downtown. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-close Wednesday-Friday; 4 p.m.-3 a.m. Saturday. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### MITCHELL'S SPORTS & NEIGHBORHOOD GRILL

*Sports & Music • 6179 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-387-5063*

**EXPECT:** Family-friendly atmosphere, great food, all sports packages on over 40 TVs, craft beers and more. Great food from wings and pizza to gourmet sandwiches and entrees; breakfast and blood Mary bar Saturdays & Sundays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. **GETTING THERE:** On the corner of Getz and Jefferson Blvd., southwest Fort Wayne. **HOURS:** 4 p.m.-close Monday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-close Friday-Saturday. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### NICK'S MARTINI & WINE BAR

*Dining & Music • 1227 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-482-6425*

**EXPECT:** Specialty martinis, craft beers and cocktails served up in a classic martini lounge with live music nightly. Serving a variety of small plate appetizers with weekly featured tapas plates and drink specials. **GETTING THERE:** One block east of Crescent on State Blvd., next to the Rib Room. **HOURS:** Open at 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

### STATE GRILL

*Pub/Tavern • 1210 E. State Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-483-5618*

**EXPECT:** 1st Tavern to pour beer after Prohibition; located in a fun and friendly neighborhood; home of the XKE Cranials & most dangerous jukebox. Daily drink specials include \$2 Tall Boy PBR all day, everyday, great craft beer selection. Golden Tee. Free WIFI. Fort Wayne's Sammy Hagar bar & Beach Bar Rum, Riverbend Pizza. **GETTING THERE:** Corner of State and Crescent. **HOURS:** 3 p.m.-3 a.m. Mon., 1 p.m.-3 a.m. Tues.-Fri., noon-3 a.m. Sat., noon-1 a.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service; **PMT:** Cash only; ATM on site

**Find out how a whatzup Nightlife Listing can help your business. Go to [whatzup.com](http://whatzup.com) for rates and information, or email [info.whatzup@gmail.com](mailto:info.whatzup@gmail.com)**

# whatzup PERFORMERS DIRECTORY

## ACOUSTIC VARIETY

Adam Strack.....260-418-2070

Basketcase.....260-431-1416

Jon Durnell.....260-797-2980

Mike Conley.....260-750-9758

## CLASSIC ROCK & COUNTRY

The Joel Young Band.....260-414-4983

## BLUES ROCK

Big Dick & The Penetrators.....260-248-2070

## CLASSICAL

The Jaenicke Consort Inc. ....260-426-9096

## COUNTRY & COUNTRY ROCK

BackWater.....260-494-5364

## HORN BAND

Tim Harrington Band.....765-479-4005

## KARAOKE/DJ

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke/DJ.....260-343-8076

## OLDIES ROCK

The Bulldogs.....260-357-3694

## COUNTRY & ROCK

Sugar Shot.....260-225-3181

## ORIGINAL ACOUSTIC

Dan Dickerson's Harp Condition.....260-704-2511

The Holy Rebels.....260-460-7009

## ORIGINAL ROCK

FM90.....765-606-5550

## PRAISE & WORSHIP

Jacobs Well.....260-479-0423

## ROCK

Big Caddy Daddy.....260-925-9562

## ROCK N' ROLL

Biff and The Cruisers.....260-417-5495

## TROP ROCK & CLASSIC ROCK

Party Boat Band.....260-438-3710

## VARIETY

Dueling Keyboard Boys (Paul New Stewart) 260-440-9918

Night to Remember.....260-797-2980

Who Dat (Paul New Stewart).....260-440-9918

[www.whatzup.com/musicianfinder](http://www.whatzup.com/musicianfinder)



Aaron Lewis	Dec. 11	House of Blues	Cleveland
Aaron Lewis	Feb. 17 '17	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
Aaron Watson w/Zane Williams	Jan. 14 '17	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
The Accidentals	Jan. 6 '17	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
AFI w/The Chain Gang	Jan. 31 '17	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Agent Orange w/The Queers, Guttermouth	Mar. 16 '17	The Hi Fi	Indianapolis
Agnes Obel	Mar. 30 '17	Old Town School	Chicago
Agnes Obel	Mar. 31 '17	The Ark	Ann Arbor
AI Di Meola	Feb. 21 '17	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Alexander Wren	Dec. 30	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Allah-Las	Mar. 16 '17	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Ana Popovic	Feb. 21 '17	Vegetable Buddies	South Bend
Andrew Bird: Gezelligheid	Dec. 14-16	Fourth Presbyterian Church	Chicago
Anoushka Shankar	Mar. 26 '17	Rhinehart Music Ctr., IPFW	Fort Wayne
Anthony Gomes	Jan. 28 '17	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
The Architects w/Stray from the Path, Make Them Suffer	Mar. 7 '17	Shelter	Detroit
Ariana Grande	Feb. 26 '17	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Badfish	Jan. 28 '17	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Badfish	Jan. 29 '17	The Intersection	Grand Rapids, MI
Badfish	Feb. 1 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Badfish	Feb. 2 '17	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
Badfish	Feb. 3 '17	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Band of Merymakers feat. Sam Holland, Kevin Griffin, Mark McGrath, Tyler Glenn	Dec. 8	Sound Board	Detroit
The Beatles 'Abbey Road'	Jan. 20 '17	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Ben Folds	Feb. 17 '17	Buskirk-Chumley Theatre	Bloomington
Benjamin Gibbard	Jan. 19-20 '17	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Big Wreck	Feb. 26 '17	Shelter	Detroit
Black Joe Lewis	Mar. 3 '17	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Black Joe Lewis	Mar. 4 '17	Metro	Chicago
Blackberry Smoke	Dec. 28	House of Blues	Cleveland
Blackberry Smoke	Dec. 29	The Fillmore	Detroit
Blackberry Smoke	Dec. 30	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
Bon Jovi	Mar. 22 '17	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
BonJovi	Mar. 18 '17	Nationwide Arena	Columbus, OH
BonJovi	Mar. 19 '17	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Brantley Gilbert w/Tucker Beathard, Luke Combs	Feb. 23 '17	Ford Center	Evansville
Breaking Benjamin	Jan. 28 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Brendan Bayliss w/Jake Cinninger, Joel Cummins	Dec. 10	Park West	Chicago
Bring Me the Horizon w/Underoath, Beartooth	Mar. 13 '17	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Bush	Jan. 1 '17	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
The Cadillac Three w/Brent Cobb	Feb. 3 '17	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
The Cadillac Three w/Brent Cobb	Feb. 4 '17	Deluxe	Indianapolis
The Cadillac Three w/Aubrie Sellers	Feb. 9 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Canadian Brass	Jan. 7 '17	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Carter Winter	Jan. 20 '17	8 Seconds Saloon	Cleveland
Casting Crowns w/Danny Gokey, Unspoken	Mar. 3 '17	Huntington Center	Toledo
Celtic Woman	Dec. 15	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Celtic Woman	Dec. 16	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Crowder	Dec. 9	Murat Theatre	Indianapolis
Damien Escobar	Dec. 8	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Dan + Shay	Apr. 7 '17	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Dan + Shay	Apr. 9 '17	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
David Bazan	Dec. 20	Thalia Hall	Chicago
David Phelps	Apr. 14 '17	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert, Ohio
Davy Knowles	Feb. 3 '17	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Dawes	Mar. 1 '17	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Daya	Mar. 26 '17	House of Blues	Chicago
Daya	Mar. 29 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Deafheaven w/This Will Destroy You, Emma Ruth Rundle	Mar. 17 '17	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
Delbert McClinton	Dec. 11	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Dennis DeYoung	Feb. 11 '17	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
The Devil Makes Three	Jan. 18 '17	20th Century Theatre	Cincinnati
The Devil Makes Three	Jan. 21 '17	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
The Devil Makes Three	Jan. 22 '17	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
Dionne Warwick	Jan. 21 '17	Stranahan Theatre	Toledo
Dirty Deeds	Dec. 31	Key Palace Theatre	Redkey
DNCE	Feb. 2 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Drive By Truckers	Feb. 3 '17	Majestic Theatre	Detroit
Drive-By Truckers	Feb. 2 '17	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Drowning Pool w/9 Electric, Red Tide Rising	Dec. 21	K.C.'s Time Out	Evansville
Dru Hill	Dec. 15	House of Blues	Cleveland
Electric Six w/Queen Kwong	Dec. 31	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
Elvis Lives	Jan. 26 '17	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Eric Church	Feb. 23 '17	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Eric Church	Feb. 24 '17	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Eric Church	Feb. 25 '17	Palace of Auburn Hills	Auburn Hills, MI
Eric Church	Apr. 13 '17	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Experience Hendrix	Mar. 22 '17	Murat Theatre	Indianapolis
Flaming Lips	Apr. 17 '17	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Follow Friday 6: Back in Them Streets	Dec. 23	CS3	Fort Wayne
Foxygen	Mar. 30 '17	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Foxygen	Mar. 31 '17	Vic Theatre	Chicago

Rock on the Range announced its 2017 lineup recently. The bands look pretty similar to last year's lineup which can happen when you annually book just about every touring rock band available for your festival. The headliner this year is **Metallica**, fresh off the release of their first new album in eight years. Other notables include **Soundgarden**, **Korn** (of course), **The Offspring**, **Volbeat**, **Primus**, **Bush**, **Chevelle**, **Papa Roach**, **Seether**, **Coheed and Cambria** and **Alter Bridge**. All in all, 50 bands have been booked so far for the three-day festival taking place May 19-21 in Columbus, Ohio. The best part of this festival for the Fort in past years is the fact that it has brought a lot of bands to the area at the same time looking for shows to play either before or after Rock on the Range. That means a lot of one-off shows and tours making their way through our city. I'm looking forward to that trend continuing next year.

Summertime and **Grateful Dead** music go together like bread and butter or perhaps, baseball and Cracker Jacks. There's nothing like meeting together with other Deadheads and getting your party on, or so I've heard. **Dead & Company**, the band featuring former Grateful Dead members **Mickey Hart**, **Bob Weir** and **Bill Kreutzmann** will hit the road starting in May and will visit Cleveland June 28 and Chicago's Wrigley Field June 30-July 1. Tickets go on sale December 9.

**Trey Anastasio** has seen his share of summer tours as the frontman for **Phish**. Anastasio also has a solo career, and it will be the music from that career that will be on display when the singer embarks on a spring tour supporting his tenth album, *Paper Wheels*. It's also likely you'll hear a few Phish songs when Anastasio stops at the Murat in Indianapolis on May 6 and the Royal Oak Theatre in Detroit the following night.

**Wilco**, a band that refused to play The Fort despite the best efforts of several big names in the Summit City music scene a few years ago, have announced a few dates to support their newest album, *Schmilco*. While Fort Wayne has been left off of the touring schedule once again, fans of the band can travel to Chicago February 22-23 and February 25-26 or to Kalamazoo March 14 to see them.

**Bon Jovi** have added dates to their own 2017 tour in support of their new album, the mostly uninspired *This House Is Not for Sale*. Their first tour since 2013, Bon Jovi visit Columbus, Ohio March 18, Cleveland the following night, Indianapolis March 22, Chicago March 26 and Detroit March 29. Hopefully they'll shy away from the new material and stick to the songs we all know. I'd be hard-pressed to find one song on the new album that I'd want to hear again.

*christopherhupe@aol.com*

G. Love & Special Sauce	Jan. 14 '17	House of Blues	Chicago
G. Love & Special Sauce	Jan. 18 '17	The Vogue	Indianapolis
G. Love & Special Sauce	Jan. 19 '17	A&R Music Bar	Columbus, OH
G. Love & Special Sauce	Jan. 21 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Gabriel Iglesias	Mar. 5 '17	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Gabriel Iglesias	Feb. 23 '17	Clowes Memorial Hall	Indianapolis
Gaelic Storm	Mar. 3 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Game of Thrones: Live Concert Experience	Feb. 22 '17	Nationwide Arena	Columbus, OH
Get the Led Out	Feb. 24 '17	Emens Auditorium	Muncie
Green Day	Mar. 27 '17	Joe Louis Arena	Detroit
Greensky Bluegrass	Dec. 30-31	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Greensky Bluegrass	Jan. 11 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Greensky Bluegrass	Jan. 15 '17	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Greensky Bluegrass	Feb. 10-11 '17	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Greg Brown	Feb. 17 '17	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Hamilton Leithauser	Feb. 11 '17	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
The Handgrenades	Dec. 16	The Intersection	Grand Rapids, MI
Handsome Ghost	Dec. 17	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
The Head and the Heart w/Whitney	Feb. 23 '17	Murat Theatre	Indianapolis
The Head and the Heart w/Whitney	Feb. 28 '17	Hill Auditorium	Ann Arbor
Hed P.E. w/Flaw	Feb. 12 '17	The Hub	Fort Wayne
Here Come the Mummies	Feb. 18 '17	House of Blues	Chicago
Herman's Hermits Starring Peter Noone w/The Buckingham, The Grass Roots	Jan. 21 '17	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Hollerado	Jan. 26 '17	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
Hot Club of Cowtown	Jan. 15 '17	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Houndmouth	Dec. 30-31	Thalia Hall	Chicago
J. Mark Mowry & The Heartland Singers	Mar. 18 '17	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert, Ohio
Jacob Sartorius	Jan. 28 '17	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Jake Miller w/MAX, Spencer Sutherland	Feb. 21 '17	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Jake Miller w/MAX, Spencer Sutherland	Feb. 23 '17	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Jake Miller w/MAX, Spencer Sutherland	Feb. 24 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Jake Miller w/MAX, Spencer Sutherland	Feb. 27 '17	House of Blues	Chicago
Japandoids w/Craig Finn	Feb. 15 '17	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Jay Owenhouse	Jan. 14 '17	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Jeff Dunham	Dec. 31	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Jeff Dunham	Jan. 28 '17	Joe Louis Arena	Detroit
Jeff Dunham	Jan. 29 '17	Wolstein Center	Cleveland
Jim Brickman	Feb. 12 '17	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Jim Jefferies	Jan. 26 '17	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis
Joan of Arc w/Magas	Jan. 24 '17	The Hi Fi	Indianapolis
John Mark McMillan w/Josh Garrels	Feb. 23 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
John Mark McMillan w/Josh Garrels	Feb. 26 '17	House of Blues	Chicago



# Calendar • On the Road

John Oliver	Dec. 30-31	Fox Theatre	Detroit	Lukas Graham	Jan. 24 '17	The Fillmore	Detroit
John Tesh	Dec. 17	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert, Ohio	The Lumineers w/Andrew Bird	Jan. 20 '17	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Johnnyswim	Mar. 8 '17	Deluxe	Indianapolis	The Lumineers w/Andrew Bird	Jan. 26 '17	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids, MI
Johnnyswim	Mar. 10 '17	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH	The Lumineers w/Andrew Bird	Jan. 27 '17	Palace of Auburn Hills	Auburn Hills, MI
Johnnyswim	Mar. 14 '17	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit	The Lumineers w/Andrew Bird	Jan. 28 '17	Schottstein Center	Columbus, OH
JoJo	Mar. 12 '17	Concord Music Hall	Chicago	The Lumineers w/Andrew Bird	Jan. 31 '17	U.S. Bank Arena	Cincinnati
JoJo	Mar. 30 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland	Lumineers w/Kaleo	Mar. 10 '17	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
JoJo	Mar. 31 '17	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH	Lupe Fiasco w/RXMIN, The Boy Illinois	Dec. 20	House of Blues	Cleveland
Joseph	Dec. 8	Metro	Columbus, OH	Lynyrd Skynyrd	Feb. 2 '17	Sound Board	Detroit
Journey	Mar. 31 '17	Allen Co. War Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne	Mala Rodriguez	Dec. 31	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Journey	Apr. 1 '17	Ford Center	Evansville	Mannheim Steamroller	Dec. 16	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Jubilee Christmas feat. Legacy Five, Greater Vision, Booth Brothers	Dec. 11	Honeywell Center	Wabash	Mannheim Steamroller	Dec. 17	State Theatre	Cleveland
Juicy J w/Belly, Project Pat	Mar. 9 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland	Mannheim Steamroller	Dec. 18	Palace Theatre	Columbus, OH
Juicy J w/Belly, Project Pat	Mar. 10 '17	The Fillmore	Detroit	Maroon 5	Feb. 22 '17	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Juicy J w/Belly, Project Pat	Mar. 12 '17	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis	Maroon 5	Mar. 3 '17	U.S. Bank Arena	Cincinnati
Juicy J w/Belly, Project Pat	Mar. 17 '17	House of Blues	Chicago	Martina McBride w/Lauren Alaina	Feb. 3 '17	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Julian Lage w/Chris Eldridge	Feb. 26 '17	Old Town School	Chicago	Matthew Curry	Dec. 17	Vegetable Buddies	South Bend
Julian Lage w/Chris Eldridge	Feb. 27 '17	The Ark	Ann Arbor	Mayhem w/Inquisition, Black Anvil	Jan. 23 '17	Metro	Chicago
Justin Furstenfeld	Feb. 3 '17	The Ark	Ann Arbor	Melissa Etheridge	Jan. 11 '17	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
Kane Brown	Dec. 15	Egyptian Room	Indianapolis	The Menzingers w/Jeff Rosenstock, Rozwell Kid	Mar. 1 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Kane Brown	Dec. 17	House of Blues	Chicago	The Menzingers w/Jeff Rosenstock, Rozwell Kid	Mar. 3 '17	Metro	Chicago
Kane Brown w/Jordan Rager	Dec. 29	House of Blues	Cleveland	Michael Stanley & the Resonators w/Donnie Iris and the Cruisers	Dec. 16	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
Kait Williams	Feb. 11 '17	Joe Louis Arena	Detroit	Mike Eggs	Mar. 31 '17	Joe Louis Arena	Detroit
Keller Williams w/Leo Kottke	Mar. 10 '17	Park West	Chicago	Mindless Behavior w/4EY the Future, Joe Moses	Dec. 10	The Fillmore	Detroit
Keller Williams	Mar. 16 '17	Blind Pig	Ann Arbor	Mo	Jan. 13 '17	Metro	Chicago
Keller Williams	Mar. 17 '17	The Intersection	Grand Rapids, MI	Molly Hatchet w/Davy Knowles	Apr. 22 '17	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Kenny Rogers w/Linda Davis	Dec. 8	Fox Theatre	Detroit	MusiQ Soulchild	Feb. 25 '17	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Kip Moore w/Jon Pardi	Dec. 8	The Fillmore	Detroit	Neil deGrasse Tyson	Mar. 21 '17	Morris P.A.C.	South Bend
The Knocks w/Bipolar Sunshine, Gilligan Moss	Mar. 11 '17	Concord Music Hall	Chicago	Neil Zaza's One Silent Night	Dec. 10	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
The Knocks w/Bipolar Sunshine, Gilligan Moss	Mar. 16 '17	Shelter	Detroit	Nightmre w/Joyryde	Dec. 29	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Laurn Hill	Dec. 13	Murat Theatre	Indianapolis	Nick Moss Band	Dec. 27	House of Blues	Chicago
Laurn Hill	Feb. 7 '17	Palace Theatre	Columbus, OH	Night Riots	Mar. 24 '17	House of Blues	Chicago
Lee Brice w/Justin Moore, William Michael Morgan	Jan. 12 '17	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis	Night Riots	Mar. 25 '17	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Less Than Jake w/Pepper	Feb. 8 '17	Concord Music Hall	Chicago	Night Riots	Mar. 26 '17	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
Less Than Jake w/Pepper	Feb. 9 '17	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI	Night Riots	Mar. 29 '17	Newport Music Hall	Columbus, OH
Lettuce	Feb. 23 '17	The Intersection	Grand Rapids, MI	Night Riots	Mar. 31 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Lettuce	Feb. 24 '17	Vic Theatre	Chicago	The O'Jays	Dec. 31	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Lil Durk	Dec. 18	Deluxe	Indianapolis	The Oak Ridge Boys	Dec. 16	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials	Dec. 31	Vegetable Buddies	South Bend	Oh Hellos	Dec. 10	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Lil' Ed & the Blues Imperials	Feb. 2-3 '17	Kingston Mines	Chicago	Oh Hellos	Dec. 11	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit

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Old Skool w/The Players Club, Pop Fiction, Sparky B	Jan. 6 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Orgy w/Powernman 5000	Jan. 7 '17	Harpo's Concert Theatre	Detroit
Osmond Brothers & Lennon Sisters	Dec. 10	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert, Ohio
Paric! at the Disco w/MisterWives, Saint Motel	Mar. 8 '17	Wolstein Center	Cleveland
Passenger	Mar. 17 '17	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Pat Benatar w/Neil Giraldo	Mar. 11 '17	Stranahan Theatre	Toledo
Patti Smith	Dec. 31	House of Blues	Chicago
Paul Anka	Apr. 1 '17	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Paula Poundstone	Dec. 17	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Pink Martini w/Fort Wayne Philharmonic	Mar. 4 '17	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Presley, Perkins, Lewis & Cash	Jan. 6 '17	House of Blues	Chicago
Rain: A Tribute to the Beatles	Mar. 6 '17	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert, Ohio
Regina Spektor	Mar. 23 '17	The Fillmore	Detroit
Regina Spektor	Mar. 24 '17	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
The Revivalists	Mar. 18 '17	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Rich Homie Quan	Dec. 10	The Hub	Fort Wayne
Ryan Stevenson	Feb. 3 '17	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Sam Roberts Band w/Hollerado	Jan. 27 '17	Lincoln Hall	Chicago
Sara Watkins	Jan. 22 '17	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Sara Watkins	Jan. 27 '17	The Warehouse	Carmel, IN
Sawyer Brown	Dec. 29	Firekeepers Casino	Battle Creek, MI
Scott Bradley's Postmodern Jukebox	Jan. 30 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Second City	Jan. 21 '17	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Senses Fail w/Counterparts, Movements, Like Pacific	Mar. 25 '17	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
Senses Fail w/Counterparts, Movements, Like Pacific	Mar. 26 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Senses Fail w/Counterparts, Movements, Like Pacific	Mar. 28 '17	Concord Music Hall	Chicago
Shawn Holt and the Teardrops	Jan. 27-28 '17	Kingston Mines	Chicago
Shawn Mullins	Apr. 7 '17	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Shiner w/Milemarker	Feb. 25 '17	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Singing Hoosiers	Feb. 4 '17	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Sir Charles Jones w/Willie Clayton, Bigg Robb, Bishop Bullwinkle, Shirley Brown, TK Soul	Mar. 11 '17	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Snarky Puppy	Mar. 16 '17	Hill Auditorium	Ann Arbor
Sons of the Silent Age	Jan. 15 '17	Metro	Chicago
Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes	Mar. 18 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Steve Gunn w/Lee Ranaldo	Jan. 16 '17	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Steve Martin w/Martin Short, Steep Canyon Rangers	Mar. 5 '17	Murat Theatre	Indianapolis
Steve Martin and Martin Short w/Steep canyon Rangers	Mar. 17 '17	Morris P.A.C.	South Bend
Steven Wright	Feb. 4 '17	Royal Oak Music Theatre	Royal Oak, MI
Stevie Nicks w/The Pretenders	Mar. 29 '17	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Sticky Fingers	Mar. 4 '17	Double Door	Chicago
Sting w/Joe Summer, The Last Bandoleros	Mar. 3 '17	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Straight No Chaser	Dec. 10	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Straight No Chaser	Dec. 13	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Straight No Chaser	Dec. 16	Palace Theatre	Columbus, OH
Straight No Chaser	Dec. 17	Civic Opera House	Chicago
Straight No Chaser	Dec. 21-23	Murat Theatre	Indianapolis
Strand of Oaks	Mar. 18 '17	Thalia Hall	Chicago
The Strumbellas w/Joseph, Joe Hertler & the Rainbow Seekers	Dec. 18	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
STS9	Feb. 3-4 '17	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Susan Werner	Jan. 27 '17	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Susan Werner	Jan. 28 '17	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Switchfoot w/Relient K	Feb. 16 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Taizhou Luanlan Opera	Mar. 19 '17	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Tedeschi Trucks Band w/North Mississippi Allstars	Jan. 19 '17	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Temptations	Jan. 29 '17	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH

Tennis	Mar. 9 '17	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Tesla	Feb. 17 '17	Hard Rock Rocksino	Battle Creek, MI
Tesla	Feb. 18 '17	Star Plaza Theatre	Merrillville
Tesla	Feb. 21 '17	The Fillmore	Detroit
Texas Tenors	Mar. 17 '17	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
The Texas Tenors	Mar. 18 '17	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Thomas Rhett	Mar. 2 '17	Allen Co. War Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Tom Chaplin	Jan. 26 '17	Park West	Chicago
Travis Tritt	Feb. 18 '17	Stranahan Theatre	Toledo
Trey Songz w/Chris Brown	Dec. 28	Joe Louis Arena	Detroit
Tuck & Patti	Jan. 26 '17	The Warehouse	Carmel, IN
Twiztid	Dec. 31	Aloha Villa	Columbus, OH
UFO & Saxon	Mar. 28 '17	House of Blues	Cleveland
Umphrey's McGee	Dec. 10	Park West	Chicago
Umphrey's McGee	Dec. 29	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Umphrey's McGee	Dec. 30	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Valerie June	Feb. 20 '17	Park West	Chicago
Vince Gill & The Time Jumpers	Feb. 4 '17	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert, Ohio
Vishten	Mar. 2 '17	The Ark	Ann Arbor
Wayne Brady	Jan. 12 '17	Firekeepers Casino	Battle Creek, MI
Ween	Mar. 16 '17	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
The Weepies	Jan. 13 '17	Thalia Hall	Chicago
Wilco	Feb. 22-23 '17	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
Wilco	Feb. 25-26 '17	Chicago Theatre	Chicago
ZZ Top	Feb. 25 '17	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH

## Road Tripz

<b>BackWater</b>	Aug. 4	Little Nashville Festival, Ottawa, OH
Feb. 11	American Legion # 313, Fairmount	
<b>Gunslinger</b>	Dec. 8	Rulli's Bella Luna, Middlebury
Dec. 31	The Hideaway, Gas City	
<b>Hubie Ashcraft Band</b>	Dec. 9	The Distillery, Toledo, OH
Dec. 9	Old Crow River North, Chicago	
Dec. 10	Old Crow Wrigleyville, Chicago	
Jan. 7	McSober's, Coldwater, OH	
Feb. 4	Rulli's Bella Luna, Middlebury	
Feb. 25	The Distillery, Toledo	
June 23	St. Dan's Summerfest, Chicago	
July 27-30	T&J's Smokehouse, Put-In-Bay, OH	

Dec. 16	36 Bar, Indianapolis
Jan. 7	Union 50, Indianapolis

**Fort Wayne Area Performers:** To get your gigs on this list, give us a call at 691-3188, fax your info to 691-3191, e-mail info. [whatzup@gmail.com](mailto:whatzup@gmail.com) or mail to whatzup, 2305 E. Esterline Rd., Columbia City, IN 46725.

## A C2G CHRISTMAS - From Page 4

the well-known jazz singer Francie Zucco, a staple in the Fort Wayne music scene; singer-songwriter Sunny Taylor, always a welcome addition to any musical lineup; the ultra-talented and classically trained Alicia Pyle who skillfully blends classical, jazz, pop and world music into her performances; and Sugar Shot, a country rock group featuring the amazing duo of Jen Fisher and Gwen-dra Turney on vocals. Any single performer alone would be worth admission price. of \$5 and a canned food item (\$12 gets you Gold Circle tickets and a table next to the stage).

Last year over 4,300 cans were collected, and Conley hopes to match or exceed the collection this year. Part of the admission costs also goes towards buying food, so not only does the can you bring go towards the benefit, but a good portion of ticket sales is donated.

The show starts at 6 p.m. with each of the five acts performing half-hour sets. It is

a family-friendly event, so bring the kids, bring the grandparents, your neighbors or whoever you wish to share in the good times. Food and adult beverages will be sold as well.

Basically, there is something for everyone: an excellent variety of Christmas music presented with one of the best sound systems around.

Anyone attending the show "will leave full of Christmas spirit, even if they were not feeling it before the evening began," Conley promised.

So, on the Saturday before Christmas when you and your loved ones are looking for something to do, pack everyone in the car, bring some canned food and get down to C2G Music Hall to hear some Christmas tunes, eat some good food, spread Christmas cheer and help out a great cause. Make this tradition part of your own holiday traditions this year and many years to come.

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# In Search of the Real Batman

**The Caped Crusade: Batman and the Rise of Nerd Culture** by Glen Weldon, Simon and Schuster, 2016

Who is the true Batman? Is it the brooding, violent outsider in Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight* movies? Or is it the silly, spoofy caricature played by Adam West in the 60s TV series? To satisfactorily answer the question, you've got to meet a couple of conditions. First, you've got to care. Second, you've got to believe that there is a true version of the character – a version that's right and versions that are wrong. In order to enjoy Glen Weldon's *The Caped Crusade*, you definitely have to satisfy the first condition. If you meet the second condition, the book might make you angry. Meet the first condition but not the second, and Weldon has just what you're looking for.

Weldon's book is an exhaustive history of the character of Batman, from his origin in the comics in the 1930s to his ascent to full-fledged cultural phenomenon in the late 20th century and the opening decades of the 21st. Weldon tracks every iteration of the character, every development in his history and development, no matter how small or monumental, in comics, TV, movies, merchandising and every other aspect of the culture in which Batman has had even a little presence.



## On Books EVAN GILLESPIE

Through it all, Weldon pays careful attention to the character's identity. Who is Batman? How do we think of him? How does he behave? What motivates him? Weldon's thesis is that Batman is cyclically mutable. He shifts through a number of identities, from brooding loner to devoted father figure to wise overseer of a big, wacky family. Batman never stays in one place for very long, and if you want him to have a fixed cultural identity, you're bound to be disappointed.

Right now, Weldon points out, we're in the middle of a brooding phase. In his earliest years, Batman was a hard-boiled crime fighter, a take-no-prisoners detective who didn't hesitate to kill criminals (with a gun) because that's what detectives in the 30s did. In the 60s, Batman had transformed into a space-traveling, sci-fi clown, and that version of the character culminated in the campy take presented by Adam West in the TV series. After a series of movies from Tim Burton and

Continued on page 19

# Disney Dominates the Box Again

**Tops at the Box:** Disney's new animated hit, *Moana*, once again took the top spot at the U.S. box office last weekend, selling another \$28 million over the sleepy weekend, bringing the film's 10-day sales total to just under \$120 million in the U.S. and \$177 million worldwide. Expect this one to keep making money through the holidays, almost certainly topping the \$400 million mark worldwide – and maybe sneaking away with an Oscar for Best Animated Feature. I've not yet seen the movie, but I've heard and read some really great things. Sounds very fun.

**Also at the Box:** The new Harry Potter world flick, *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* took the No. 2 spot at the U.S. box office last weekend, selling another \$18 million and bringing the movie's 17-day sales total to \$183 million in the U.S. and \$607 million worldwide. My little sister says that it's very good, and she knows her Potter. Can't wait to see this one for sure; director David Yates and J.K. Rowling make a great pair.

Taking the No. 3 spot at last weekend's box was Denis Villeneuve's new sci-fi thriller *Arrival* which sold \$7.3 million, upping the movie's worldwide sales total to over \$100 million. This is a new classic, I believe. And I think that might become the campaign going forward into Oscar season. Consider the cast, the commercial success, the critical success, the creative accomplishment, the brilliant script. I think topping the \$100 million mark makes *Arrival* one of the top four films in the Best Picture conversation along with *Moonlight*, *La La Land*, *Manchester by the Sea* and Denzel Washington's *Fences*. Perhaps Martin Scorsese's *Silence* as well. (Why isn't anyone talking about the new Jim Jarmusch film as a contender?)

Robert Zemeckis' new romantic thriller, *Allied*,



## ScreenTime GREG W. LOCKE

starring Marion Cotillard and Brad Pitt, continued to bomb, selling just over \$7 million last weekend, good enough for the No. 4 spot at the weekend box office. Thus far the \$85 million film hasn't even made \$30 million in returns. So much for Pitt being a sure-thing draw. That said, I do think it looks like a good film and I hope to see it sooner than later. The competition for well-made, artsy dramatic films is just very crowded right now, and so *Allied* isn't getting the attention it may receive any other year.

Rounding out last weekend's Top 5 was *Doctor Strange* which has now made \$215 million in the U.S. and \$635 million worldwide. Good for you, Benedict Cumberbatch.

Also of note, *Manchester by the Sea* continued to sell out theaters while in limited release, playing on just 156 screens this past weekend. The movie has already made \$4.4 million before seeing a wide release. I would love to see this film explode and be a surprise holiday season hit. It has all the makings of a new American classic, and that's exciting.

**New This Week:** This weekend's releases are all about three very different films, starting with the only one that will see a major wide release, *Office Christmas Party*, an ensemble holiday comedy from Josh Gordon and Will Speck (aka the *Blades of Glory* guys). Looks fun, but the other two releases are much more interest-

Continued on page 19

# SATURDAY NIGHT ROCK BLOCK



**SAMMY HAGAR**  
8PM-10PM



**DEE SNIDER**  
THE HOUSE OF HAIR  
10PM-1AM



**96.3XKE**  
FORT WAYNE'S CLASSIC ROCK

Every IU basketball game  
plus pre- and post-game  
shows on the home of IU  
sports in northeast Indiana



## Featured Events

### ARTLINK EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS —

Art classes offered by Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, **dates and times vary**, Artlink, Fort Wayne, fees vary, 424-7195

### FORT WAYNE DANCE COLLECTIVE

**WORKSHOPS** — Workshops and classes for movement, dance, yoga and more offered by Fort Wayne Dance Collective, **dates and times vary**, Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Fort Wayne, fees vary, 424-6574

**IPFW COMMUNITY ARTS ACADEMY** — Art, dance, music and theater classes for grades pre-K through 12 offered by IPFW College of Visual and Performing Arts, fees vary, 481-6977, [www.ipfw.edu/caa](http://www.ipfw.edu/caa)

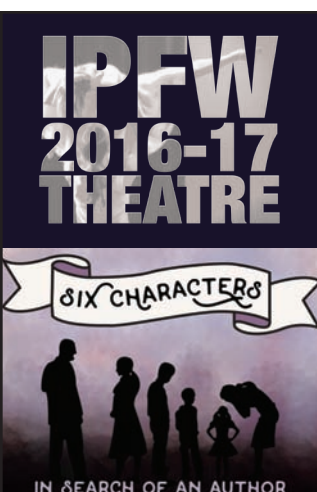
**LIVE TRIVIA** — Trivia night with live host, **7-9 p.m. Tuesdays**, Duesy's Sports Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, free, 484-0411

### SWEETWATER ACADEMY OF MUSIC —

Private lessons for a variety of instruments available from professional instructors, ongoing weekly lessons, Sweetwater Sound, Fort Wayne, call for pricing, 432-8176, [academy.sweetwater.com](http://academy.sweetwater.com)

**TEAM TRIVIA** — Trivia for teams of up to 6 players, **7 p.m. Thursdays**, Crazy Pinz/Coconutz, Fort Wayne, free, 969-9336

**TINCTURE TRIVIA** — Trivia night for teams of 4 or 6 people, **7-9 p.m. Tuesdays**, Nick's Martini & Wine Bar, Fort Wayne, free, 482-6425



**Dec. 2-10, 2016**  
*Studio Theatre*

*Six Characters in Search of an Author*  
Directed by Bev Redman

Floating onto the stage like apparitions, six characters interrupt a rehearsal at a professional theatre to demonstrate that their "lives" remain suspended by the fictional author who abandoned them before completing his ghastly story.

[ipfw.edu/theatre](http://ipfw.edu/theatre)  
[ipfw.edu/tickets](http://ipfw.edu/tickets)  
**260-481-6555**

DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE  
INDIANA UNIVERSITY—PURDUE UNIVERSITY FORT WAYNE  
COLLEGE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS



## This Week

**CHRISTMAS AT THE CHAPEL** — Videos and live music from 30-piece orchestra, live drama, Gunther the camel and more, **4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10**; **9:15 and 10:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11**, The Chapel, West Hamilton Road, Fort Wayne, free, 625-6200

**CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY** — Chili supper, photos with Santa, live animals and living nativity, wagon rides, crafts and more, **6-9 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 9-10**, Allen County Fairgrounds, Fort Wayne, \$5, 705-9526

**FANTASY OF LIGHTS** — Drive-thru Christmas lighting displays, **6-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8**; **6-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 9-10**; **6-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, Dec. 11-15**; **6-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 16-17**; **6-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, Dec. 18-22**; **6-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 23-24**; **6-9 p.m. Sunday-Wednesday, Dec. 25-29**; **6-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 30-31**, Franke Park, Fort Wayne, \$5-\$10 per carload, \$10-\$15 per 15-passenger van, \$25-\$30 per bus or trolley, 755-1900

**FESTIVAL OF GINGERBREAD** — Gingerbread creations made by preschoolers through professional baking artists on display, **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8**; **9 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 9-10**; **12-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11**, History Center, Fort Wayne, \$4-\$6, 426-2882

**FORT WAYNE CITY CHURCHES TOUR** — Tours of 14 area churches including First Wayne St. United Methodist, St. Paul's Evangelical, St. Mary Mother of God, Shepherd of the City, Bethlehem Lutheran, First Missionary, Fort Wayne Baptist, Emmanuel Lutheran, St. John Lutheran, Trinity Episcopal, Plymouth Congregational, Trinity English Lutheran, and First Presbyterian, **6-10 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9**, various locations, Fort Wayne, free, 579-0447

**THE GREAT CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST** — Choice of breakfast, bake sale, ugly Christmas sweater competition, and pictures with Santa to benefit HearCare Connection, **8 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10**, Fort Wayne Fire Fighters Local, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$10, 602-3276

**SANTA & LIVE REINDEER** — Meet and greet and photos with Santa and live reindeer, **12-4 p.m. Saturdays, Dec. 10 and 17**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, 427-6440

**SANTACON** — Costumed holiday bar crawl with post "Wrap Up Party" featuring live entertainment, costume contest and cash bar, **1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10**, various downtown locations (Wrap Up party at Free Mason Hall), Fort Wayne, \$20, [santacoonfortwayne.com](http://santacoonfortwayne.com)

## Lectures, Discussions, Authors, Readings & Films

**ART 21 SCREENING** — Screening of Art 21's Art in the Twenty-First Century: Chicago, **7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8**, Artlink, Fort Wayne, free, 424-7195

**CYNDA WILLIAMS** — Actress and author reads excerpts from her book, **6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9**, Business Center café, University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne, free, 399-8050

**INCARNATE WISDOM SCRIPTURE** — Sister Felicity Dorsett speaks, **3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11**, North Campus Auditorium, University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne, free, philosophy.sf.edu

**THREE RIVERS: A BRIEF HISTORY** — George R. Mather lecture with Don Orban, **2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 8**, History Center, Fort Wayne, free, 426-2882

**ISIS AND THE CRUSADES: ON THE USES AND ABUSES OF HISTORY** — Dr. Adam DeVille speaks, **7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 25**, Brookside Ballroom, University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne, free, philosophy.sf.edu

**THE ADVENTURES OF PRINCE ACHMED** — Showing of the early silent animated silent film with soundtrack performed by Kurt Roembke, **7 p.m. Friday, Jan. 27**, Cinema Center, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$15, 426-3456

**SUE WALSH** — Closer Look Artist Lecture from creative director at SYPartners, NYC and School of Visual Arts faculty member, **7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 2**, North Campus Auditorium, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, free, 399-7700

**WAR AS A TOLL FOR UPLIFT: AFRICAN AMERICAN THOUGHT & WARTIME MILITARY SERVICE IN THE 20TH CENTURY** — George R. Mather lecture with Anthony Conley, **2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 5**, History Center, Fort Wayne, free, 426-2882

**MARK EMMERT** — Omnibus lecture with president of the National Collegiate Athletic Association, **7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7**, Rhinehart Music Center, IPFW, Fort Wayne, free, tickets required, 481-6555

**POLKAS AND THE MASSES** — Dr. Lance Richey speaks, **7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 15**, Brookside Ballroom, University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne, free, philosophy.sf.edu

**INDIANA'S ALL-TIME GREATEST SPORTS STORIES** — George R. Mather lecture with Blake Sebring, **2 p.m. Sunday, March 5**, History Center, Fort Wayne, free, 426-2882

## Call for Entry

**HOBNOBBEN FILM FESTIVAL (JUNE 15-18, 2017)** — Call for narrative, documentary, experimental, animated, family, student and short film submissions, regular deadline **Thursday, Feb. 16** (late deadline **Thursday, March 3**), Fort Wayne, \$20-\$40, to submit a film visit [www.hobnobben.org](http://www.hobnobben.org)

## Storytimes

**STORYTIMES, ACTIVITIES AND CRAFTS AT ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY:**

**ABOITE BRANCH** — Born to Read Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Mondays**, Smart Start Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Tuesdays & Thursdays**, Baby Steps, **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays**, 421-1320

**DUPONT BRANCH** — Born to Read Storytime, **10:15 a.m. Mondays**, Baby Steps Storytime, **10:15 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Tuesdays**, Ants in Your Pants Storytime, **10:30 & 11:30 a.m. Wednesday & Thursdays**, PAWS to Read, **4 p.m. Wednesdays**, Bookworms Storytime, **11:15 a.m. Thursdays** Smart Start Storytime for ages 3-5, **1:30 p.m. Tuesdays and 10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, 421-1315

**GEORGETOWN BRANCH** — Born to Read Storytime, **10:15 a.m. and 11 a.m. Mondays**, Baby Steps Storytime, **10:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Tuesdays**; Family Storytime, **10:15 & 11 a.m. Thursdays**, 421-1320

**GRABILL BRANCH** — Born to Read, **10:30 a.m. Tuesdays**; Smart Start Storytime **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays**, 421-1325

**LITTLE TURTLE BRANCH** — Storytime for toddlers & preschoolers, **10:30 a.m. Mondays and Tuesdays**; Babies and Books, **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays**, 421-1335

**MAIN LIBRARY** — Babies and Books, **10 a.m. Fridays**; Family Story Time, **10:30 a.m. Wednesdays**; Storytime for preschoolers, daycares and other groups, **9:30 a.m. Wednesdays**; Toddler Time, **10:30 & 11 a.m. Fridays**; 421-1220

**NEW HAVEN BRANCH** — Babies and books for kids birth to age 2, **10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, 421-1345

**PONTIAC BRANCH** — Smart Start Storytime for preschoolers, **10:30 a.m. Fridays**, PAWS to Read, **5 p.m. Thursdays** 421-1350

**TECUMSEH BRANCH** — Smart Start Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Tuesdays**, YA Day for teens **5 p.m. Wednesdays**, Wondertots reading for ages 1-3, **10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, 421-1360

**SHAWNEE BRANCH** — Born to Read Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Thursdays**, Teen Thursdays, **3:30 p.m. Thursdays**, 421-1355

**WAYNEDEALE BRANCH** — Smart Start Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Mondays & Tuesdays**, Born to Read Storytime for babies and toddlers, **10:15 a.m. Tuesdays**, 421-1365

**WOODBURN BRANCH** — Smart Start Storytime, **10:30 a.m. Fridays**, 421-1370

## Kids Stuff

**SNOWMEN AT NIGHT** — Story, craft and game night for children in grades 3 and under, **10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16**, Huntington City-Township Public Library, Huntington, free, registration requested, 356-2900

**SCIENCE OF SUGARY STRUCTURES** — Create sturdy or not so sturdy edible sugary structures as part of the Festival of Gingerbread, **1-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10**, History Center, Fort Wayne, \$7-\$9, includes museum admission, 426-2882

**SNOWMEN AT NIGHT** — Story, craft and game night for children in grades 3 and under, **2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10**, Markle Public Library, Markle, free, registration requested, 356-2900

**COOKIE DECORATING PARTY** — Gingerbread cookie decoration, part of the Festival of Gingerbread, **1-4 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11**, History Center, Fort Wayne, \$5-\$7, includes museum admission, 426-2882

## Sports and Recreation

**GINGERBREAD PURSUIT** — 4 mile walk/run, **8:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 10**, race begins on Wayne street, east of Clay, Fort Wayne, \$20-\$185, [veepaces.com](http://veepaces.com)

## Spectator Sports

### BASKETBALL

**HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS** — Exhibition basketball game and meet and greet, **2 p.m. Monday, Jan. 2**, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$22.50-\$84.50, 483-1111

### RACING

**RUMBLE IN FORT WAYNE** — Midget, winged and non-winged 600cc midget, multiple go-kart and quarter midget racing, **7 p.m. Friday-Saturday Dec. 30-31**, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$24, 483-1111

### HOCKEY

**FORT WAYNE KOMETS** — Upcoming home games at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne

**FRIDAY, Dec. 2** vs. Missouri, 8 p.m.  
**SUNDAY, Dec. 4** vs. Utah, 5 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, Dec. 9** vs. Kalamazoo, 8 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, Dec. 17** vs. Wheeling, 7:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY, Dec. 18** vs. Orlando, 5 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, Dec. 23** vs. Brampton, 8 p.m.

**TUESDAY, Dec. 27** vs. Indy, 7:30 p.m.  
**THURSDAY, Dec. 29** vs. Cincinnati 7:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, Dec. 31** vs. Toledo, 7:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, Jan. 7** vs. Quad City, 7:30 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, Jan. 13** vs. Tulsa, 8 p.m.  
**SUNDAY, Jan. 15** vs. Indy, 5 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, Jan. 20** vs. Cincinnati, 8 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, Feb. 3** vs. Rapid City, 8 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, Feb. 10** vs. Indy, 8 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, Feb. 17** vs. Kalamazoo, 8 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, Feb. 18** vs. Brampton, 7:30 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY, Feb. 22** vs. Quad City, 7:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, Feb. 25** vs. Wichita, 7:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY, Feb. 26** vs. Wheeling, 5 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, March 4** vs. Wheeling, 7:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY, March 5** vs. Wheeling, 5 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, March 17** vs. Tulsa, 8 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY, March 22** vs. Norfolk, 7:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, March 25** vs. Cincinnati, 7:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY, March 26** vs. Florida, 5 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY, March 29** vs. Alaska, 7:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY, April 8** vs. Quad City, 7:30 p.m.

## Dance

**EMBODY DANCE** — Guided dancing for adults of all ages and abilities to exercise the mind, body and spirits, **7-8:30 p.m. first and third Sunday of each month**, Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Fort Wayne, \$10 suggested donation, 244-1905

**SINGLES DANCE** — Open dancing, **6-9 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11**, American Legion Post 47, Fort Wayne, \$7, 409-3321

**MONTHLY DANCE** — Fort Wayne Dancesport's monthly dance, dinner and mini showcases; formal attire required, **7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17** (reservations due Dec. 7), Walb Classic Ballroom, IPFW, Fort Wayne, \$20, [fwdancesport.org](http://fwdancesport.org)

**CONTRA DANCE** — Old time dance with live caller and live music from Spy Run String Band, no partner necessary, **8-11 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17**, Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Fort Wayne, \$6-\$9, 244-1905

**MONTHLY DANCE** — Fort Wayne Dancesport's monthly dance, **8:45 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17**, Walb Classic Ballroom, IPFW, Fort Wayne, \$10, [fwdancesport.org](http://fwdancesport.org)

## January

**WINTER BRIDAL SPECTACULAR** — Bridal expo with vendors, photographers, marketplace and more, **12-4 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Jan. 7-8**, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$10, 483-1111

**HOGWARTS YULE BALL** — Harry Potter-themed charity event featuring movie characters, carriage rides, ballroom dancing and a chef prepared meal to raise money for Salvation Army, **6:30-11 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21**, Salvation Army, Clinton St., Fort Wayne, \$100-\$150, 312-5758

## February

**PRICE IS RIGHT LIVE** — Live taping of the interactive game show featuring games and prize giveaways, **7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$33-\$53, 424-5665



## Now Playing

**BEST CHRISTMAS PAGEANT EVER** — Fort Wayne Youththeatre performances of beloved holiday tale, **7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9; 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 10-11; 7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 16; 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 17-18**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, \$12-\$18, 422-6900

**THE CEMETERY CLUB** — Comedy about three Jewish widows who meet monthly to visit their husband's graves, **7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. curtain, Friday-Saturday, Dec. 9-10; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11; 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 16-17**, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$40 (includes dinner & show), 424-5622

**IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE: A LIVE RADIO PLAY** — Recreation of Frank Capra's holiday classic as a 1940s radio program, **7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10; 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11; 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 17; 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, \$12-\$20, 426-7421 ext. 121

**THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA** — Three Rivers Musical Theatre musical production, **8 p.m., Friday, Dec. 9; 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 10; and 2 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 11**, Parkview Physicians Group Arts Lab, Auer Center for Arts and Culture, Fort Wayne, \$18-\$25, 422-4226

**THE NUTCRACKER** — Fort Wayne Ballet performance of Tchaikovsky's classic ballet, **7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9; 2:30 & 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11**, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, \$17-\$49, 422-4226

**SESAME STREET LIVE "MAKE A NEW FRIEND"** — Characters from PBS series perform, **6:30 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 13-14**, Allen County War Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$17.50-\$60.50, 483-1111

**SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR** — IPFW Department of Theatre's adaptation of Luigi Pirandello's meta-theatrical masterpiece, **8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 8-10**, Studio Theatre, IPFW, \$5-\$16 thru IPFW box office 481-6555

## Asides

## AUDITIONS

**HIGH SOCIETY (FEB. 23-26)** — Girls under 18 sought for role of 13-year-old Dinah Lord in Arts Place production of Cole Porter musical, **7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 12**, Arts Place, Portland, 726-4809

## SPECIAL EVENTS

**45TH ANNIVERSARY PAGEANT PARTY** — Pre-show party celebrating Fort Wayne Youththeatre's 45th anniversary of producing *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*, **12 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, free, 422-6900

## Upcoming Productions

## DECEMBER

**ICE KINGS, SNOW QUEENS AND COLD WINTER TALES** — Fort Wayne Dance Collective stages an evening of stories through dance, **7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 15**, South Side High School Auditorium, Fort Wayne, \$13-\$15, 424-6574

## Six Thought-Provoking Characters

It's rare that I'm excited when I see a play listed on a local theater's upcoming season listing. When I saw *Six Characters in Search of an Author* would be a part of IPFW's 2016-2017 season, though, I was truly pleased. Although I hadn't read it in several years, it's always been one of my favorites.

Seeing the masked Characters walk through the back entrance of the Studio Theatre was exciting to me since the characters in question felt like unchanged old friends, and it was, at the very least, an interesting experience for other members of the audience on opening night. It was clear, too, that meeting this strange family was fun and thought-provoking for the rest of the audience.

As directed and modified from Luigi Pirandello's original 1934 script by IPFW Department of Theatre Chair Beverly Redman, *Six Characters* tells the story of the cast and crew of a production of *Macbeth*. It was an effective decision on Redman's part to transport the scene to IPFW and add references to members of the Department of Theatre, the campus itself and contemporary happenings. Doing so made it feel as if Pirandello's odd Characters had truly just walked into the actual space we as audience members were inhabiting with the players on the open stage.

Thanks to luck and the open seating of the little theater, I ended up sitting next to Redman, as I found out during the first of two intermissions when she overheard me say that I was teaching the play in a literature class this semester and introduced herself. Watching her tune into the reactions of the audience as they watched the unusual plot of the play within a play gave me a little something extra.

Without giving away too much, I can say that, with a somewhat shaky memory of what the ending



## Curtain Call

KEVIN SMITH

## SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH OF AN AUTHOR

8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Dec. 8-10  
Studio Theatre, IPFW  
2101 E. Coliseum Blvd., Fort Wayne  
\$5-\$16, 260-481-6555

actually might mean and require of an actual audience. I took advantage of my position next to the director and actually asked what to do when the play seemed to be over and there was no clear answer. Going to see this is worth the time and ticket price if for no reason other the challenge of figuring out the ending.

Redman told me that the changes she had made to the original script and setting were to make the play more accessible to a local and modern audience. The changes work beautifully and no doubt enrich the overall impact of the play for theatergoers.

The Characters (Father, Mother, Step-Daughter, Son, Boy, Child) who interrupt the rehearsal of a contemporary performance have been in a kind of limbo, as they were created by an author who abandoned them without fully completing the play in which they "lived." So, they propose to the director and actors of the production on stage that they be given life by

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## New Twist on an Old Classic

For many, the special programs and films are a big part of the pleasure people get every December in anticipation of the holiday season. While there can be a debate about what the best of those films might be — with candidates ranging from the sweetness of

*Miracle on 34th Street* to the hilarity of *Christmas Vacation* — it can't be argued that *It's a Wonderful Life* is likely the most watched of all the holiday films. Although rights to the film are now firmly held, and airings are a bit more sparingly doled out, the film was for decades in the public domain and could easily be seen on nearly every channel dozens of time from Thanksgiving on. There are few moments more intrinsically Christmas than George Bailey's poignant brush with the eternal and Clarence's quest for his wings.

First Presbyterian Theater has staged *It's a Wonderful Life* before, but this year's performances have a unique and special twist. For those who remember or have heard stories from parents and grandparents about the days when radio dramas and comedies provided the escape that now belongs to television, this year's FPT production is a radio-drama inspired telling of the classic story of the Bailey Building and Loan. Part heart-warming Christmas play and part behind the scenes storytelling, the play — as adapted by director Thom Hofrichter — is a sweet and entertaining twist on a standard stage play and allows for both a smaller set and a trimmed cast while never losing any of the heart and spirit of the Capra

Continued on page 18



## Curtain Call

MICHELE DEVINNEY

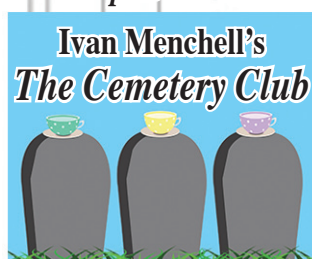
IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE:  
A LIVE RADIO PLAY

7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10 & 17  
6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11 & 18

First Presbyterian Theater  
300 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne  
\$12-\$20, 260-426-7421 ext. 121



Arena Dinner Theatre  
presents



Nov. 25-Dec. 17, 2016

Fridays & Saturdays  
Doors at 6:15, Dinner at 7, Show at 8  
Sunday, December 11  
2 pm Matinee

Directed by Becky Niccum

Produced through special arrangement  
with Samuel French, Inc.

Sponsored by the  
Ron Venderly Foundation

Arena Dinner Theatre  
719 Rockhill St., Fort Wayne  
(260) 424-5622  
arenadinnertheatre.org

## Fort Wayne Youththeatre

Presents



PERFORMANCES AT

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN THEATER

DECEMBER 9 &amp; 16: 7PM

DECEMBER 10, 11, 17 &amp; 18: 2PM

## For Tickets

Call: 260.422.4226

fortwayneyouththeatre.org





# Rising to the Challenge

Three Rivers Music Theatre is once again doing something well worth noting in its Fort Wayne premiere of the Broadway musical *The Light in the Piazza*.

Adam Guettel's music and lyrics won the 2005 Tony Award for Best Original Musical Score and Best Orchestration, and it's easy to hear how this music would have charmed Broadway that year, with its plush mixture of the "golden years" of Guettel's grandfather Richard Rodgers and the beautiful passions of Italian opera.

As Director Andy Planck noted in his opening remarks last Friday, "they said it couldn't be done, that Fort Wayne doesn't have the singers, that we couldn't manage the orchestrations." And yes, this production proves the doubters wrong. Three Rivers Music Theatre has assembled a cast of amazing musical capacity, starring the splendid Leslie Beauchamp, Billy Dawson and Kia Miller, along with a strong supporting cast and ensemble.

Set in Italy, 1953, the book by Craig Lucas is an adaptation of an earlier novella and movie. The story is one of romance and the complications that love and passion can stir. Tourists Margaret and Clara Johnson, an American mother and daughter, are marveling at Florence when Clara meets Fabrizio, a handsome young Italian man, and the two fall instantly in love. Margaret is protective of Clara, who chafes at the ongoing maternal attention, which is the first of several oh-so-delicately revealed conflicts among the characters.

From an audience member's viewpoint, it is this delicacy of dealing with the conflicts among the characters that holds this script back. The potential exists for some delicious drama along with love and lightness, but it's as if the playwright ducks and runs for the piazza and another stroll. This reticence may be very true to the denial-drenched 50s, but between that and the substantial amount of Italian dialogue, it opens the audience to having to do a lot of guessing.

That said, however, this production does many, many things right. Leslie Beauchamp as Margaret is stunning. She is by turns coy, clever, tormented, resolute, loving, funny and tragic. It is worth the cost of a ticket to see this local talent in one of her best roles ever. As the young lovers, Billy Dawson and Kia Miller have that unusual quality for a local cast: real chemistry. That they are both tremendous singers and actors able to present subtleties of their characters through gestures as well as the spoken word is wonderful to watch.

The supporting cast includes good performances by Fabrizio's family, including Renee Gonzales as Franca, Nick Abbott as Giuseppe, Justin T. Herber as the papa and Jen Poiry-Prough as Fabrizio's mother. I adored the scene at their home, with momma translating the action for us – the funniest scene of the whole show!

The cast is complete with Greg Stieber (off stage as Mr. Johnson), Mary Alberding, Bobbi Jo Carroll, Isabel Chilian, Nico DiPrimio, Jordan Gameon, Lindsay Hoops, Darby LeClear, Minelli Manoukian and Jimmy Mitchell.

On the production side, I found the profile staging to be a problem. With no curtain, scene changes involved moving one couch multiple times in quick succession, and no full walkway around the stage meaning the many strolls turned into pacing. Lighting Designer Jeff Salisbury did not seize the opportunities to help shape the mood of a show with "light" in its title. Where is the Tuscan sunlight?

In other production comments, Jill Bixler's costumes were terrific and absolutely right. Music Director Tommy Saul and the five-person string orchestra were good, with one area for improvement: the keyboard seemed to play at full volume all night. Because of that volume, it forced the singers to sing over the forte of the piano, at the cost of emotions in a few of the later tunes.

The performances are worthy of this show, and what few areas there are for improvement do not detract from what one earlier reviewer described as "an atmospheric musical."

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## Curtain Call SUSAN BURNS

**THE LIGHT IN THE PIAZZA**  
THREE RIVERS MUSICAL THEATRE  
8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9  
2 p.m. & 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10  
2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 11  
PPG Arts Lab, Auer Center for  
Arts and Culture  
300 E. Main St., Fort Wayne  
\$18-\$25, 260-422-4226

# Bringing Back a Holiday Favorite

The director of a children's Christmas play (literally) breaks a leg right before rehearsals begin. Sounds like a far-fetched set-up, right? Life sometimes imitates art, though; and while *Best Christmas Pageant Ever*'s fictitious, wheelchair-bound Mrs. Armstrong turns her pageant over to unsuspecting Grace Bradley, I've limped along on crutches directing Youtheatre's production since breaking my foot in November.

It helps to love your material, and I love this show. *Best Christmas Pageant Ever* has everything a good show (especially a good Christmas show) should have. When Grace Bradley and family take over their church's Christmas pageant, they're forced to contend with incapacitated but pushy Mrs. Armstrong and the Herdmans – possibly the most inventively awful kids in history! Throw in three reluctant wise men, a group of ragtag shepherds, some adorable baby angels and a surprise visit from the fire department and you've got the recipe for a classic family comedy. Like all great Christmas shows though, *Christmas Pageant* finds a way to tickle your funny bone and pull your heartstrings in the end. It's that mix of comedy and holiday heart that has made the story an enduring classic since its debut 45 years ago.

For decades, Youtheatre's production was a December tradition alongside *The Nutcracker*, Holiday Pops and 24 hours of *A Christmas Story*. Local audiences flocked year after year as countless



## Director's Notes CHRISTOPHER MURPHY

young performers cut their teeth in bathrobes and bed sheets.

I've lost count of how many I directed. Now, after a hiatus, the Herdmans and I are back with a fresh new anniversary production. For me, it feels like a family reunion. Not only are all my favorite characters back, but I'm reunited with a few faces of

*Christmas Pageants* past. Janet Piercy, mother in all my previous incarnations, returns as Mrs. Armstrong, while an all-grown-up Kimi Holmes-Eckman graduates from playing daughter to mother. They're joined by local stage veterans Jim Matusik, Ellen Akins-Schroeter, Ben Wedler and a talented Youtheatre cast of thousands (or so it

**BEST CHRISTMAS  
PAGEANT EVER**  
FORT WAYNE YOUTHEATRE  
7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9 & 16  
2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday,  
Dec. 10-11 & 17-18  
First Presbyterian Theater  
300 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne  
\$12-\$18, 260-422-6900

seems).

We're also excited to invite previous *Pageant* casts, friends and audiences who grew up on this story to a special free reunion party. So if you were ever the angel in the balloon sheet or remember when the Herdmans set fire to Fred Shoemaker's old broken down tool shed, join us before the Dec. 10 matinee to reconnect, reminisce and celebrate 45 years of the Fort Wayne favorite. (Just don't sit in Mrs. Armstrong's wheelchair; I may need it.)

## IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE - From Page 17

original.

In fact, in Hofrichter's Director's Notes, he says that this production – the fifth for FPT – is staged as a radio drama to allow the script to follow the film more accurately. No longer required to cut scenes or characters due to staging concerns, Hofrichter's adaptation allows for the entire tale of George Bailey to shine. And shining along with the story are the actors who very capably handle their roles.

In fact, other than Kevin Torwelle and Catherine Harber who play George and Mary Bailey respectively, every other performer is left to tackle multiple roles, each demonstrating tremendous range. Watching Austin Berger move seamlessly between Mr. Martini, Pa Bailey, Gower and a hilariously understated bank examiner is a delight. But perhaps no one showed more ability to channel different characters than David Sorg who managed to perfectly portray both the guileless Clarence and the dastardly Potter, managing voices completely unique to each character.

While Torwelle and Harber aren't required to

switch from character to character as their costars do, their challenge was still significant. So iconic are the film portrayals of Jimmy Stewart and Donna Reed that it would be easy for them to underwhelm. But Harber sweetly captured Mary Hatch Bailey, showing a lightness and loyalty that we've come to expect from the character. And Torwelle brilliantly resisted any attempt to impersonate or invoke Stewart's distinctive delivery, portraying the beleaguered George as less world weary and more earnest than what we've seen in other performances. If he drops the ball, the entire show collapses, but he was clearly up to the challenge.

An added bonus was the delightful contributions of Duke Roth, who capably handled duties as Sam Wainright and more significantly provided sound effects as Foley artist for the "radio" production. Those added touches, and the classic radio organ music provided by Jeanette Walsh, were the icing on the cake of an exceptional production.

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## SIX CHARACTERS IN SEARCH - From Page 17

a staging of their sad story. As one of the Characters explains, "the instrument of the creation will die, but his creation does not die," and they are desperate to be given a chance to live, if only momentarily.

As the Father tells us, "Ours is an immutable reality which should make you shudder when you approach us if you are really conscious of the fact that your reality is a mere transitory and fleeting illusion, taking this form today and that tomorrow." Their constant state of sameness leads the Characters to some-

times seem almost cartoonish, which is made completely understandable by the script and actors.

The decisions of the production team work brilliantly. The student actors of both parts of the cast give fine performances and the black box theater is used exceptionally well as the play within the play is built, allowing the characters their chance to live, if only for a moment, as Pirandello's Characters suggest, in IPFW's young cast.

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## Current Exhibits

**11TH REGIONAL EXHIBIT** — Juried mixed media pieces from local and regional artists, **Tuesday-Sunday, Dec. 9-Jan. 11** (opening reception, 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9), Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

**ALEXANDRA HALL** — Whimsical painting, giclée print and ink drawings, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Dec. 31**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5 (2 and under, free), 427-6440

**ALUMNI/FACULTY EXHIBITION** — Works from alumni and current and retired faculty from the School of Creative Arts, **Monday-Friday thru Dec. 18**, Weatherhead Gallery, USF Rolland Art Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, 399-7999

**ART FOR THE HOLIDAYS** — Handmade ornaments and Nativities from local artists, **Monday-Saturday thru Dec. 31**, Orchard Gallery of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 436-0927

**ART WORK BY HEATHER MILLER** — Painting and mixed media pieces, **Tuesday-Sunday, Dec. 9-Jan. 11** (opening reception, 6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9), Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

**CASH & CARRY HOLIDAY EXHIBIT** — One-of-a-kind works for purchase, **daily thru Jan. 15**, Clark Gallery, Honeywell Center, Wabash, 563-1102

**CROP IT LIKE IT'S HOT** — Works from seniors graduating from IPFW's Department of Visual Communications and Design, **Thursday-Sunday thru Dec. 30**, Wunderkammer Company, Fort Wayne, 417-8846

**DECATUR SCULPTURE TOUR** — 31 original sculptures and 15 permanent exhibits on display, walking tour maps available, **thru April 1**, Decatur, free, 724-2605

**FESTIVAL OF WREATHS** — Holiday exhibition of Christmas wreaths, **daily thru Dec. 30**, Creative Arts Council, Bluffton, 824-5222.

**FORT WAYNE, AMERICAN MONOLOGUE** — A new body of Fort Wayne-based works by Oakland, California-based artist Brett Armory, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Feb. 26**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$5-\$7 (members, free), 422-6467

**HOLIDAY POP-UP GALLERY** — Works from 12 local artists, **Wednesday-Sunday thru Dec. 31**, The Art Farm, Spencerville, 238-4755

**HOLIDAY SHOW 2016** — Winter- and holiday-themed works, **Tuesday-Saturday and by appointment Dec. 10-Jan. 7** (opening reception 6-10 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10, \$10 admission), Castle Gallery Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 426-6568

**JOHN BAEDER TAKES WING ON A HIGHER ROAD** — Hyper-realist art from one of the 20th century's most important artists, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Jan. 22**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$6-\$8 (members, free), 422-6467

**MASTER PRINTS** — Diverse collection of prints acquired by the university over the past 15 years, **Monday-Friday thru Dec. 22**, Lupke Gallery, University of Saint Francis North Campus, Fort Wayne, 399-7999

**NATURE'S THREAD** — Works by Nancy Fritz and Lizabeth Yager, **daily thru Jan. 16, 2017**, The Gallery at Pranayoga School, Fort Wayne, 423-9642

**OUTDOOR SCULPTURE INVITATIONAL** — Fifteen outdoor sculptures from regional artists, **daily thru April 30**, School of Creative Arts campus, University of Saint Francis North Campus, Fort Wayne, 399-7999

**ROBERT KIPNISS: THE WHISPERING LIGHT** — Recent painted and printed works by American artist, **Tuesday-Sunday thru Jan. 22**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$5-\$7 (members, free), 422-6467

**SOCA STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS EXHIBITION: ANIMATION** — Works from students enrolled in USF's School of Creative Arts' animation program, **Monday-Friday thru Dec. 18**, John P. Weatherhead Gallery and Goldfish Gallery, Mimi and Ian Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, 399-7999

**SOCA STUDENT POSTCARD SHOW** — Small works by students enrolled in USF's School of Creative Arts, **Monday-Friday thru Dec. 18**, Spotlight Gallery, Mimi and Ian Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, 399-7999

**WOMEN IN ART: A CELEBRATION** — Works by Gwen Gutwein, Barbara Nohinek, Patricia Weiss, Cara Lee Wade, Elizabeth Wamsley, Marcy Neiditz, Suzanne Galazka, Diane Groenert and more, **Tuesday-Saturday thru Jan. 12**, Crestwoods Frame Shop & Gallery, Roanoke, 672-2080

## Artifacts

**ANNUAL JEWELRY SHOWCASE** — 2nd Thursday in the Paradigm Gallery event features jewelry by Susan and Steve Shaikh, hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar, **5-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 8**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, free, 422-6467

## Upcoming Exhibits

## JANUARY

**MILTON GLASER: SIXTY YEARS OF DESIGN** — Works from the one of the nation's preeminent graphic designers, **Monday-Friday, Jan. 21-Feb. 21** (opening reception 6-9 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 21), Weatherhead Gallery, USF Rolland Art Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, 399-7999

## FEBRUARY

**TIM BRUMBELOE RETROSPECTIVE** — A retrospective of local photographer's works over the past 25 years, **Monday-Friday, Feb. 2-March 17** (opening reception 6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 2), Lupke Gallery, University of Saint Francis North Campus, Fort Wayne, 399-7999

**2017 SCHOLASTIC ART & WRITING AWARDS** — Award-winning works from northern Indiana and north-west Ohio middle and high school students, **Tuesday-Sunday, Feb. 12-April 9**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$5-\$7 (members, free), 422-6467

## MARCH

**41ST HIGH SCHOOL EXHIBITION** — Student art from Great Lakes region high schools, **Monday-Friday, March 2-19** (awards ceremony 6-8 p.m. Thursday, March 2), Weatherhead Gallery, USF Rolland Art Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, 399-7999

**SOCA STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS EXHIBITION: 3D** — Works from students enrolled in USF's School of Creative Arts' 3D studio art program, **Monday-Friday, March 2-19** (opening reception 6-8 p.m. Saturday, March 2), John P. Weatherhead Gallery and Goldfish Gallery, Mimi and Ian Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center, University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, 399-7999

## KIA MILLER - From Page 6

"What would Clara think about this?" I needed to think as Clara. I'm doing my best to be in the moment, listen to my cast mates, and be as honest in situations as I can be."

Clara is a sweet girl who comes of age in Florence, Italy, during the early 1950s. "She's sweet and she's funny, without trying to be. She wants so badly for there to be good in her world and she's willing to fight for it," says Miller.

She has also had to rely on nonverbal communication in this role.

"Clara's not great with words," she explains. "I feel like I developed many of the relationships I have with other characters in the moments when Clara isn't saying anything at all, when she's reacting to something, or waiting, or observing, or listening. Those moments are just as telling to me as the moments when she's speaking."

Musical theater is filled with young, naïve ingenues. What makes Clara different, Miller says, is that "she grows in a way that those characters did not. They may come to a realization, but Clara gains control of her decisions in a way that's different from other characters I've played."

Part of what makes *Piazza* so special, Miller believes, is its balance between humor and depth.

"This show is funny," she says. "Really funny. It's also tragically realistic. The show is an experience. You'll leave the theater thinking, 'Life is beautiful. Love is real.' We've been working on this show for weeks and we're still laughing and crying happy tears at every rehearsal. It hits home every time."

Director Andy Planck loves the musical as much

as Miller does. "His heart is in this show," she says, "and I can't wait for people to see his work."

She also has accolades for the rest of the cast and crew. "I think what makes Three Rivers Music Theatre different from other companies is that everyone came into this process on their A game," she says. "This show is hard but everyone was willing to work to conquer it from day one. I have never worked with a comparable group of prepared actors, musicians, and technicians in Fort Wayne."

She also admires the company's dedication to "not just doing shows that will draw a crowd. They're about creating art with a purpose, bringing something different to Fort Wayne, making a lasting impact on the hearts and minds of their audiences."

When she's not onstage, she teaches at Northrop High School, the same school where her father teaches.

"Growing up, he would introduce me to new shows by producing them," she says. "Now I'm introducing him to new material. We're not just father and daughter, but colleagues and col-

laborators."

She also directs theater at Bishop Dwenger High School.

"I've realized that performing is a lot less stressful than directing," she says, "but it requires a lot more focus on personal wellbeing and health. As a high school director, my needs are always my last priority. As an actor, your voice and your body are your responsibility and you need to take care of them."

Once *The Light in the Piazza* is over, she will go back to teaching and directing for a while. But she says the joy of performing has been officially rekindled.

**"We've been working on this show for weeks, and we're still laughing and crying happy tears at every rehearsal!"**

## ON BOOKS - From Page 15

Joel Schumacher that extended the buffoonery, fans were ready for a back swing. In the 80s and 90s, Frank Miller had written Batman stories for the comics that painted the character as a violent obsessive who, again, didn't hesitate to kill his enemies, because that's what comic-book characters in the 90s did. It's that Batman that Nolan brought to the screen after the turn of the century, and it's the Batman were still living with now.

Unlike many diehard Batman nerds, Weldon is unwilling to express a strong preference for any one Batman, although he does seem to have a distaste for Miller's psychopathically violent vision and an affection for the sly good-heartedness of West's Batman. Weldon recognizes the pendulum effect, though. The grimly violent Batman gets boring and depressing after a while, and the culture longs for something lighter. But then the lighter Batman tends to get ridiculous, and we reach for something with depth. It doesn't

end, just as Batman as a big – but elusive – idea never ends.

All the bat-philosophizing aside, Weldon's book is often delightful. His opinions are colorfully expressed – there's an undercurrent of criticism, for example, for Bob Kane, the self-proclaimed creator of Batman who, according to Weldon, spent many decades taking credit for other people's work – and his insights are generally keen and convincing. For readers who are not heavily invested in Batman, the meticulous cataloging of comic-book plot lines and creative teams grows wearisome, but there's enough fascinating trivia sprinkled throughout to keep even casual bat-fans engaged.

For those true fans who are open-minded enough to accept that their Batman might not be the only possible Batman, the book is an encyclopedic gem.

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## SCREENTIME - From Page 15

ing. First up is thriller John Madden's wannabe Oscar contender, *Miss Sloane*, starring Jessica Chastain, Mark Strong, John Lithgow, Michael Stuhlbarg and ScreenTime favorite Gugu Mbatha-Raw. Everything about this film screams "Oscars," but supposedly it's just not anything special. So who do we blame? The director? Or maybe the press? Maybe the film is better than the reviews are suggesting? It certainly looks very promising. But the big buzz topic this week is going to be the test release of *La La Land*, a film the film media has been talking about as the one-to-beat all year. The movie is supposedly a modernization of old timey musicals, or something like that. It looks to be beautifully crafted, and it stars two of the most exciting youngish actors, Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling. So that all sounds good, but the real conversation

should be about 31-year-old writer/director Damien Chazelle, whose debut feature, *Whiplash*, showed an incredible amount of promise. Is Chazelle the future of American cinema the way PT Anderson was leading up to the release of *Boogie Nights*? We'll find out soon. *La La Land* will test on five screens, with a wide release planned in the coming weeks. Looks pretty magical.

**ScreenRant:** Not much to say this week, other than that if you haven't yet seen *Hell or High Water*, you'd do right to see it. It's fun, well made and features the best dialogue I've heard in a while. Great performances from the three lead actors, as well, especially Jeff Bridges who apparently keeps getting better.

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