

**CHRISTMAS
COVERAGE:**

Irish Christmas · C2G Christmas · Charlie Brown Christmas
Doo Wop Christmas · Reviewers' Favorite Christmas Albums

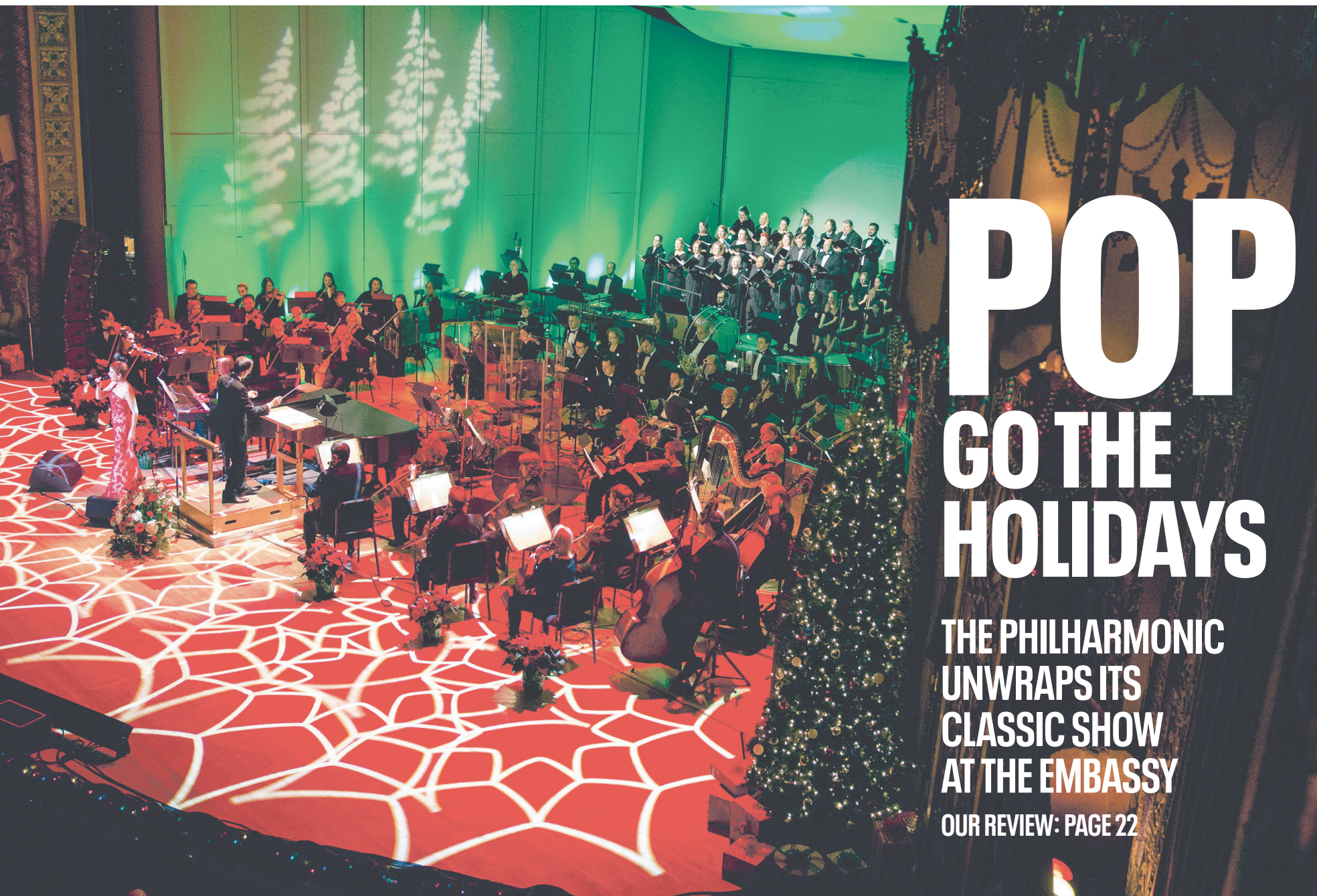
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OUR REVIEW: PAGE 22

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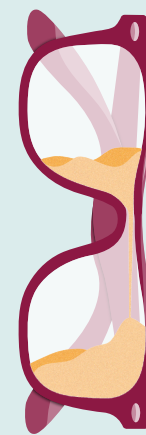
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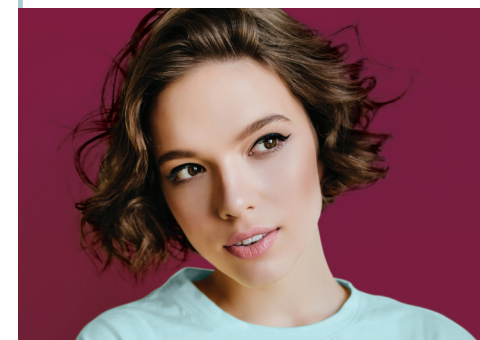


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Coming together in songs of faith

The Gettys' mission: Spread the word about great Christmas carols

BY HEATHER HERRON

WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

A concert that features banjos, violins, drums, harps, and Celtic dancers is bound to be entertaining, and the musicians who fill the stage hope that it's also inspiring.

The world-renowned show "Sing! An Irish Christmas" is coming to Fort Wayne's Embassy Theatre on Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m.

The artists behind it all are Keith and Kristyn Getty. The Gettys, originally from Ireland, are known for combining their tremendous talent with their unabashed faith. As a result, their unique songwriting and elaborate performances tell a vivid story that they've been able to share around the globe.

MUSIC WITH A MISSION

They say it began in 2010 when they became involved in a Christmas production with the Rev. Billy Graham. That morphed into an album which morphed into a concert tour that ended up in prestigious venues like Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.

"I remember 3 or 4 years ago when the show was at its peak on national public television, and it was playing Carnegie and Kennedy, and I remember thinking that this is strange," Keith recalled. "We've got this show playing mainstream concert halls, playing mainstream television and we're singing religious hymns. And I read some statistic that only one of America's 30 most-loved Christmas carols is religious. America apparent-

SING! AN IRISH CHRISTMAS KEITH AND KRISTYN GETTY

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 18

Embassy Theatre

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ly prefers Frosty and Santa and Rudolph. I think that made me doubly determined to keep it going because the great Christmas carols and hymns really help us understand Jesus in such a beautiful and irresistible way."

Their high-energy shows are spectacular in the sense that they fuse traditional and modern music seamlessly and lean on Celtic, Bluegrass, and Americana influences to put together songs that are both timeless and timely.

"Music is such an important part of Christmas because it's as old as Christmas itself," Keith said. "The Christmas story is God making announcements, God saying something, and then people responding with songs. Mary's song. Zachariah's song. That's what it actually is to be human."

"We sing as part of our response as Christians. Twenty percent of the Bible, the Holy Scripture, is just songs, and so singing is just so important to the Christian life. That's why I think singing about the incredible good news of Christ with these extraordinary works is so wonderful."

When he's not on stage, Keith addresses smaller audiences to share the importance of entire congregations coming together in song, and not just during the holidays. He'll spread that message at a luncheon at Sweetwater on the day of the concert.

Under the bright lights, though, he's right at home with his wife at his side. For them, it's a melodic ministry.

"We've been making music together since the

first day we met. I realized the only way I was going to get a date with a girl that beautiful was if I could find some musical collaborations, so I said, 'Let's write songs together.' By the end of the first day, I said, 'We're going to have to arrange to go to your studio to record these,' Keith laughed. "So I paid for all the studio time just so I could keep hanging out with her."

CLOSE-KNIT FAMILY

In addition to the army of instrumentalists and vocalists who travel with the Gettys, they also have four daughters under the age of seven who are on the road with them. There are challenges to having the whole brood on tour, but Keith wouldn't have it any other way.

"I don't mean to be cheesy, but it is mostly joy. Because we work together, we're able to do life together," Keith said. "We've been married over 14 years and we've never had a night apart. She is the joy of my life on this earth. I'm so grateful for that. She makes me smarter. And we have these four beautiful girls with us, so it's really special."

The 8th annual "Sing! An Irish Christmas" kicked off on Nov. 28 in Atlanta and wraps up on Dec. 21 in Nashville. With 17 shows during that stretch, they'll have little downtime, but are energized by the audiences that are making lifelong memories at their concerts.

"It's just a great night. The band is made up of world-class musicians," Keith said. "The first half celebrates the great hymns of Christmas with high-energy music, dance, performance. It's electric. They're brilliant. The caroling tradition in Ireland began with dancing and playing instruments and then sharing them with the villagers. That was the time of year that we tell the story. That was the origin, so the first half of the show is very much built on that. The second half of the show is the more recent celebration of carols."

Fort Wayne Christmas spirit lights up C2G

Conley conducts yet another classic holiday fixture for city

BY MICHELE DeVINNEY
WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

From the sacred to the secular, there may not be any music which inspires everyone to sing along the way Christmas music does. And the best way to experience Christmas music is live, perhaps none better than the annual C2G Christmas Show hosted once again this year by Mike Conley.

Conley has long been a fixture of the Fort Wayne music community and has performed in solo acoustic settings as well as performing with other musicians, including his cool jazzy group The Beef Manhattans. He learned along the way that Christmas music is a pretty good way to stay in the public ear.

"I recorded a Christmas album in 2009 because the thing is, you release a new album and after three months people have forgotten about it," Conley said. "But Christmas music comes back. You know every year you're going to hear Mariah Carey. So I figured if I did a Christmas album, it's a way to force feed my music every year."

Conley said that with a laugh, but self-deprecating humor aside, the annual Christmas concert at C2G is an act of Christmas love and generosity for Conley and the many musicians he invites to participate each year. Conley says that the show is just one example of the spirit of Fort Wayne's talented players not only during the holidays but all year long.

"We have such a close-knit musical community, and we're all pulling for each other," he said. "It's more like a team than a competition. I am so blessed to have so many close friends who I can call on to volunteer to do this."

Admission to the show is only \$6 or \$12 for gold circle seating near the stage. Those who attend are also asked to bring a canned good for Community Harvest Food Bank, which last year received 4,000 cans from the evening, something Conley is proud to see happen each year as the Christmas show becomes a signature event for music and giving.

LOCAL BANDS BRING CHRISTMAS CHEER

The performers who will help bring in music fans and canned goods this year include Will Certain, Conley's Beef Manhattans, the Sunny Taylor Band, a cappella jazz group Smooth Edge 2, and Pop n Fresh.

"And the bonus is that since I'm host for the evening, you get



Among the bands playing at this year's C2G Christmas are, from left, Smooth Edge 2 and Will Certain.

to enjoy my wit and humor!" Conley added. "People will probably groan when they hear that, but I'm up there laughing anyway."

Conley said that every year he sees people come to the show who are not quite in the holiday spirit yet, but by the time they leave, they're ready for the season. And with good reason considering the diverse musical offerings on the C2G stage that evening.

"It's all Christmas music the whole show," Conley said. "It starts at 6 p.m. and lasts about three hours, but it feels like you blink, and it's all over. We set up the stage beforehand so you don't have to sit through a bunch of set changes and sound checks because that's all been done. So it's all music, and since most Christmas songs are about two minutes long, you know you'll get to hear a lot of different songs though some of them may be repeated."

"The first year we did this, the Freak Brothers were one of the groups performing, and I did some Christmas song and they did the same one. But it was not the same song, not the way that we each did it. So everyone brings their own sound to these great songs."

A C2G CHRISTMAS

FEATURING WILL CERTAIN, THE BEEF MANHATTANS WITH MIKE CONLEY, THE SUNNY TAYLOR BAND, SMOOTH EDGE 2, AND POP N FRESH

6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15

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COURTESY PHOTOS

There will be food for purchase as well as a good selection of adult beverages, but Conley was quick to add that it's a very family-friendly event, with kids of all ages welcome and sure to be further inspired to work on that list for Santa.

PART OF FORT WAYNE TRADITION

After several years of putting this Christmas show together, Conley enjoys being part of the Fort Wayne holiday celebration.

"There are so many great traditions in this city around the holidays," Conley said. "There's the Festival of Trees and the Night of Lights when everything really starts. It's nice to have become one of those traditions that people look forward to each year."

Of course, beyond just the sheer pleasure of enjoying some of the most popular songs ever written comes the comfort in knowing that those who have less to look forward to this time of year are being helped as well.

"It's such a great night," Conley said. "It's a lot of fun, a lot of great music, a lot of great people, but it's also about coming together as a team and giving back to the community. Every year when we do this, there's just a lot of love in that room."

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Cool Christmas with these crooners

*Midcentury doo wop
 is refined by the latest
 Drifters incarnation*

BY STEVE PENHOLLOW
 WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

Since the Drifters formed in 1953, there have been many incarnations of the band, some of them existing simultaneously, but not touring together. It is said that no fewer than 60 singers have been able, or are able, to call themselves Drifters.

Jerome Jackson currently leads one version of the Drifters as part of a package tour of vocal groups that all got their start in the early days of rock n' roll.

The Drifters, Cornell Gunter's Coasters & Platters Holiday Show happens Dec. 23 at the Embassy Theatre.

Jackson may not be an original member, but he has spent the better part of three decades in the group, so his bona fides are solid.

In addition to being a talented performer, Jackson may be the best spokesperson alive for the style of music originated and popularized by the groups on this tour. He makes the case that mid-20th century doo wop and vocal R&B have a unique power and purity that are unmatched in more contemporary music.

GROUNDING IN GOSPEL

In a phone interview, Jackson said he got his start in a gospel group. But the unkind and unsavory behavior of the group's leader soured him on singing religious music.

Jackson said his mother was not particularly happy with his move to rock n' roll, but she sup-

THE DRIFTERS, CORNELL GUNTER'S COASTERS & PLATTERS HOLIDAY SHOW

3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 23
 Embassy Theatre
 125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne
 \$30-\$60 · 424-6287

ported him in his endeavors.

One of Jackson's first non-gospel gigs was as a singer with a band called The Richmond Extension. Even though he was performing secular music, Jackson said he was still "the little guy from church" in many ways.

"I was a little squealer," he said. "The guys I was singing with, they were already in the groups for a while and they were doing some of everything. The manager used to fine them for doing drugs and things like that. And I would tell on them. Because I wanted to do right."

"They told me they didn't want me to hang with them no more," Jackson said, laughing. "So for two or three weeks, I'd be in my hotel room and they'd have a party every night. Finally, I went and knocked on their door and said, 'Fellas. Whatever I need to do to be with y'all, I can't be alone no more.'"

Jackson went on to join the musical stable of songwriter and producer Van McCoy, who had an unexpected disco hit in 1975 with "The Hustle."

Jackson said his voice can be heard on Aretha Franklin's 1979 album "The Diva," which was produced by McCoy.

"That album he did with Aretha Franklin was the most amazing thing that I'd ever seen because he arranged her whole album in one night," he said. "Then we went in the studio and did it the next day."

Jackson was with McCoy when he died from a

heart attack in 1979 at the age of 39.

"There was a party at his house," he said. "He was spilt between being a gay man and the Bible. He was upstairs battling himself. He kind of fought himself to death that day."

Jackson later performed with a New York City-based band called Raw Sugar and with the soul group The Main Ingredient, which had a hit in 1973 with "Everybody Plays the Fool."

DRAFTED INTO THE DRIFTERS

It was Jackson's involvement with Raw Sugar that led the Drifters' manager at that time to ask him if he'd be interested in auditioning for the group. In those days, three members of the New Drifters — which formed in 1959 and scored such hits as "There Goes My Baby," "This Magic Moment," and "Save the Last Dance for Me" — were still involved with the Drifters organization. They were Charlie Thomas, Dock Green, and Elsbear Hobbs.

Fighting between Thomas and Hobbs necessitated the formation of two groups, Jackson said, which was the reason why he and other new singers were recruited.

"They were having problems," he said. "They were headstrong. A lot of entertainers are headstrong."

Nowadays, the members of The Drifters get along a lot better.

Jackson credits the simplicity of the music and the clarity of the message with the longevity of The Drifters' songs.

"The young and the old love it," he said. "Everywhere we go, it's a packed house. People can really relate to these three groups. They were at the beginning of R&B."

"The Coasters bring you comedy, the Platters bring you subtle love songs, and The Drifters bring you sex appeal," Jackson said, laughing.

Surfing the Midwest music scene

Strange Waters channel big waves with surf rock

BY JOHN HUBNER
WHATZUP FEATURES WRITER

Growing up in the Midwest tended to put a damper on dreams of being a surfer. One way we Midwesterners satisfied the surfer craving was through surf music. Bands like The Ventures, Dick Dale, The Surfaris, Jan and Dean, and The Chantays influenced a whole generation of baby boomers to dig fast cars, waxed boards, and big waves.

One Midwesterner that was taken by the groovy and slick sounds of surf music was Mark Brody, lead guitarist of Fort Wayne surf rock band Strange Waters.



SURFING THE MIDWEST

When asked why start a surf rock band, his reply was pretty matter-of-fact.

“I always loved surf rock when I was a kid, listening to oldies on the radio with my parents in the car,” he said. “I came across some cool modern surf groups in 2017 like The Kilaueas, The Atomic Mosquitos, Los Strait-jackets, and Messer Chups, and I was hooked all over again. I knew no one else was currently playing surf rock in Fort Wayne, so I figured it would be a good style to focus on to start a new band.”

Brody, along with Jon Schafer on bass, Chris Lewis on drums, and “some guy” on rhythm guitar, make up Fort Wayne’s premier surf band Strange Waters. The band became a complete unit in 2018, but the project has been a work-in-progress for Brody.

“I became obsessed with playing surf guitar in late 2016, and pretty quickly decided I wanted to put a band together and start playing surf rock around town,” Brody said. “In mid 2017 I enlisted bassist Jon Schafer, who brings a punk rock influence that gels really well with the surf style. Things moved slowly until early 2018, when Chris Lewis joined us on drums. He brought some original surf compositions he had written for a previous project that never got off the ground, so it kinda felt meant to be. He brought his hard-hitting sound and really solidified the band — Jon and Chris are basically the engine room that keeps this train running. It’s hard not to play like a maniac once those two get going.”

Now, in regards to “some guy” playing rhythm guitar, Mark Brody was rather cryptic about the whole thing.

“On stage with us you’ll also find The Stranger With No Name,” Brody said. “We’re not quite sure who he is, but he always shows up to our shows and plays a mean guitar.”

He had this to add, “Rumor has it you can also catch him playing out with a local prog rock trio.”

LOONEY INFLUENCES

When talking influences on a surf rock band, you think of the usual bands listed earlier. But what’s a big influence on Strange Waters?

“Looney Tunes,” Mark said. “The way those old cartoons used musical cues and sound effects to support the animation is masterful, and extremely interesting sonically.”

“Chris wrote some tunes and named them after lines from that ’80s sci-fi movie *The Last*

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Starfighter,” Brody added. “Also, my musical journey with this specific band has much in common with the original *Blues Brothers* movie, but that’s a whole other story.”

One musical influence on Mark Brody is the masterful bassist Victor Wooten.

“I have to say that the book *The Music*

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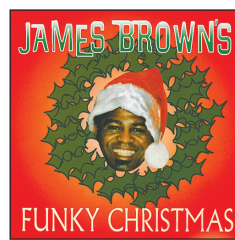
Have yourself a funky jazzy moody classy and just plain weird little Christmas

Our album reviewers share favorite holiday spins



James Brown

James Brown's Funky Christmas



The Godfather of Soul and the Hardest Working Man in Show Business did not let up for the holidays. In his attempt to dominate the R&B charts in the '60s and '70s, Brown released a great deal of Christmas music, the best of which is present on this 1995 compilation.

For the most part, Brown dispenses with covers and traditionals in favor of his original compositions. This can be either a good thing or a bad thing depending on your perspective.

Funky Christmas is at its best when it plays to Brown's strengths. Take one of the standout cuts, "Soulful Christmas." Lyrically, it's not much more than some general Yuletide well-wishing, and not particularly well expressed. There's even a bit of the self-aggrandizement that characterized much of Brown's work. But that groove. That bassline. Those horns. Few artists can say they brought the funk to a Christmas party, but James Brown definitely did.

Take another standout track, "Hey America." Not many Christmas songs have as much urgency as it does. The funk is toned down here, but it's still an upbeat call for everyone to get together during the holidays, regardless of race or creed.

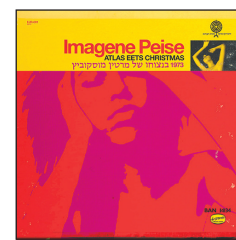
And that brings up another unusual element to Brown's Christmas festivities — a social consciousness. Throughout Brown's career, socio-political themes cropped up in his music. It's a stance that he brings to Christmas music, perhaps never more succinctly than in "Santa Claus, Go Straight to the Ghetto," in which Brown wishes that poverty-stricken youth could be blessed with gifts come Christmas morning. "Let's Unite the Whole World at Christmas" is another appealing plea for unity during the holidays.

Not everything on the album works as well, however. The ballads and covers like "The Christmas Song" and "Merry Christmas, Baby" aren't particularly memorable.

Still, *James Brown's Funky Christmas* contains enough standout tracks that it warrants a place in the completist's holiday collection. — **Ryan Smith**

The Flaming Lips/ Imogene Peise

Atlas Eets Christmas



Imogene Peise was an Iraqi jazz pianist in her late teens when her muse inspired her to record some Western Christmas standards. Though very little is known about her life, she ended hers in 1978, leaving behind her recordings from 1973 to sit idly, the reels collecting nothing but dust.

That is, until the Flaming Lips found and acquired them, cleaned up the recordings, produced them, and had their label distribute them.

Except none of the above is actually true.

The Flaming Lips love gimmicks and Christmas in equal measure (i.e. "Christmas at the Zoo", and their 2001 film *Christmas on Mars*), so naturally they would add an element of intrigue into a project that covers classic Christmas tunes.

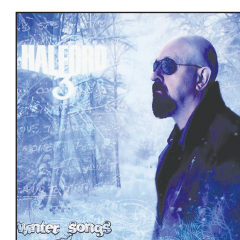
Released as a Record Store Day exclusive in 2014, *Atlas Eets Christmas* is presented under the guise of long-lost recordings from an obscure, foreign musician. Such well-worn classics like "Winter Wonderland," "Silver Bells," "Silent Night," and "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" are artificially made more interesting by mimicking old 78 rpm recordings. To make sure we know we're actually listening to a Lips project, the production includes additional orchestrations, layered reverb, cavernous echoes, and other psychedelic elements to give the impression of aliens from another world broadcasting their own interpretation of Christmas classics.

The performer is the Lips' resident multi-instrumentalist, Steven Drozd, who performs the songs with a melancholic approach while occasionally making a point to play expressively. Sometimes Drozd will gently sing melodies while using filters to obscure his voice, meant to sound like the ghostly utterings of Peise herself.

The album's 38 minutes stick around long enough to make an impression and end just before mirroring itself in rueful nostalgia. As opposed to a contractual obligation outing, the Lips put forth the creativity needed to make *Atlas Eets Christmas* a worthwhile effort for all to enjoy. — **Colin McCallister**

Halford

Halford III- Winter Songs



When legendary metal frontman Rob Halford announced he was going to release a Christmas album a decade ago, the news was met with a lot of curiosity both in the metal community and the music business in general.

Just how a man responsible for hits like "You've Got Another Thing Comin'," "Hell Bent for Leather," and "Breaking the Law" would present the joy of the holiday season was the question. To his credit, Halford and his band found a way to stay true to their roots while conveying the spirit of the season.

Halford took on the challenge of expanding the boundaries of the genre and, quite frankly, knocked it out of the park. *Halford III-Winter Songs* is a predominately upbeat collection of Christmas favorites and original Halford songs that maintain their metallic edge but also prove that even the most metal of metalheads can be filled with the spirit of the season if given the right songs.

On the covers, Halford skips cheesiness in favor of traditional music like "We Three Kings" and "O Holy Night," with "O Come, O Come Emanuel" proving to be the best of the lot, featuring some amazing work contributed by guitarist Roy Z.

The original songs are intermixed with the classics so as not to make a segregated album. The originals really show off the strengths of the band but fit well with the classics. The opener, "Get Into The Spirit," features a commanding chorus and a blistering guitar solo that sets the tone. "Christmas for Everyone" is the campiest of the lot, while "I Don't Care" actually sounds a bit punk rock-ish. "Light of the World" is the most traditional-sounding original and probably the best, leaving a lasting impression long after the final notes fade.

One of the greatest voices in the history of rock made a great Christmas album that everyone can enjoy, no matter your taste in music, and was able to maintain the edge that made him famous. — **Chris Hupe**

TOP PHOTO BY ERIN WALKER ON UNSPLASH

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE ►

Various Artists

A John Waters Christmas (2004)

How about a nice little deviation from normal Christmas music this year? Say, something that actually has an “Explicit Lyrics” tag on the cover? Look no further than Baltimore’s quirky filmmaker, John Waters.

Waters put together a dozen songs from his own collection that would make Santa blush.

You have to understand John Waters to even think about listening to a record such as this. If you don’t know the man, please don’t think about listening to this. It will insult your Christmas spirit, and make you feel a little dirty when it’s over.

Opening with “Fat Daddy,” you are introduced to Baltimore’s coolest disc jockey and his Motown sound, complete with sleigh bells. Tiny Tim does “Rudolph” and the doo-wop a capella sound is heard in “Christmastime Is Here” performed by Gary, Ind.’s Stormy Weather.

“Happy Birthday Jesus” is just plain weird, voiced by a little kid. It’s really creepy, because it isn’t supposed to be.

The bizarre story of a sad orphan is heard on “Little Mary Christmas.” The song rips your heart out, and then gently shoves it back into your chest.

Big Dee Irwin and Little Eva croon out “I Wish You a Merry Christmas” while Alvin and the Chipmunks nauseate us with “Sleigh Bells.” Oh, the agony and the horror.

“Sleighbells, Reindeer & Snow” reminds me of the fifth grade Christmas show that we were all forced to be in. The beautiful theremin is used in “First Snowfall.” Genius.

The album closes with “Santa Claus Is A Black Man.” Only John Waters could put the kitsch in Christmas so well. Merry Christmas everyone. — *Dennis Donahue*

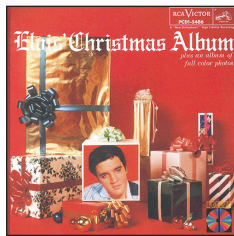


Elvis Presley

Elvis' Christmas Album

Just about every track on *Elvis' Christmas Album* has been a holiday staple since the record was released 60 years ago, but let’s not forget what a groundbreaker the album was when it hit stores in 1957. Only Elvis’ third album release overall, the record made clear that this kid was going to be setting some new standards, even for Christmas music.

First of all, the album wasted no time identifying just whose music Elvis was going to use to launch his career. It kicks off with “Santa Claus Is Back In Town,” a Lieber and Stoller tune that sounds like something straight out of a Delta blues hall. Combined with “Santa Bring My Baby Back (to Me),” a Christmas version of “Teddy Bear,” the opening song is a declaration



that Elvis’ transformation of black music into new-fangled rock n’ roll was going to take over the holiday season, too.

There are other indications that this is not your old-fashioned crooner’s Christmas album. Compared to *A Jolly Christmas* from Frank Sinatra, which was released the same year, Elvis’ album sounds downright emo. While Sinatra demanded a re-write of “Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas” to keep any signs of melancholy off his album, Elvis turned “Blue Christmas” into one of the holiday’s most beloved classics.

On the flip side, Elvis’ Drifters-style version of “White Christmas” bears little resemblance to Bing Crosby’s 1942 rendition — so much so that the song’s author, Irving Berlin, tried to have Elvis’ version banned.

Elvis was also not at all reluctant to bring pure gospel onto his Christmas album. “There Will Be Peace in the Valley,” “Take My Hand, Precious Lord,” and “It Is No Secret (What God Can Do)” bucked the trend of relying on secular Christmas songs and well-known carols. Christmas and religion were one and the same to Elvis, and it wasn’t any different on his commercial Christmas album.

Elvis' Christmas Album is the biggest-selling Christmas album of all time, and from today’s perspective that’s not surprising. But it’s worth remembering that this Christmas collection was, at one time, a daringly innovative album. — *Evan Gillespie*

The LeeVeEs

Hanukkah Rocks

The LeeVeEs started out when Adam Gardner of Guster and Dave Schneider of The Zambonies (a band that only writes songs about hockey) decided to correct the lack of songs about Hanukkah. Also in the band are Michael Azerrad, Shawn Fogel, and Daniel Saks.

Whereas Adam Sandler’s songs on the subject seem to be purely for laughs, The LeeVeEs take a more reverent approach, albeit still with plenty of humor. A great example, and a great song, is “How Do You Spell Channukkahh” which starts with an edgy, bouncy bass line before blasting into a cheerful power pop chorus of “Tried spell check / And Websters / Is there an answer to my question?” I particularly like the line “A Spanish kid once told me / That it starts with a silent J / But Julio was wrong / Or maybe he was right / Who can decide?”

The slippery guitar riff of the upbeat rocker “Applesauce VS Sour Cream” introduced me to a conundrum I didn’t know existed, namely which one “to put in your potato cakes.” While surely obvious to those raised this way, this song is filled with details concerning latkes that make a goy like me feel like he’s part of the clan.

The “Latke Clan,” that is, which is a jovial celebration of the entire holiday, sounding like a long lost cousin of The Turtle’s smash hit “Happy Together.” Snazzy organ chops spin like a



dreidel in the buoyant “Goyim Friends” which looks at the envy Jewish kids have as their non-Jewish friends rake in snowboards and “memberships to the last restricted golf clubs” while they get a “six-pack of socks from each of our moms/ It’s oh-so wrong / But we will march on.” “Gelt Melts,” those chocolate coins, is the fastest and heaviest song on the album but even this one floats along on breezy, amiable charm.

I’m not Jewish, or even Hebrew Roots, but I know good music when I hear it. The songs on *Hanukkah Rocks* are the kind of playful guitar rockers that I’d enjoy even if it’s not Hanukkah. And since Hanukkah (or Chaunnukahh) moves around on the calendar, there’s a pretty good chance that I’ve missed the window. Highly recommended for fans of Guster, They Might Be Giants, and latkes (baked, not fried). — *Jason Hoffman*

The Vince Guaraldi Trio

A Charlie Brown Christmas

As a little kid, I never realized just how much the music of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* had affected me. It’s an iconic soundtrack by the West Coast jazz pianist and composer Vince Guaraldi. Guaraldi was part of the West Coast jazz movement, falling into the same California cool sound as fellow pianist Dave Brubeck.

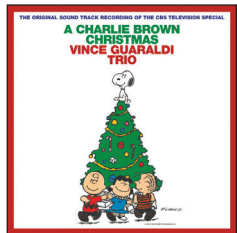
As for how this cool jazz cat was picked to score a holiday cartoon, one of the special’s producers, Lee Mendelson, heard a single version of “Cast Your Fate to the Wind” by Guaraldi’s trio on the radio while traveling in a cab. This led Mendelson to getting in touch with Guaraldi who jumped at the chance to score the Schulz special.

Vince Guaraldi captured such a breezy, cool, and soulful spirit for his score that it’s hard to top. From the opening lines and swinging grooves of “O Tannenbaum” to the burned-in-your-brain catchiness of the classic “Linus and Lucy” theme — which has become *the* Peanuts theme for now and forever — to the exquisite and melancholy “Christmas Time Is Here,” there isn’t a sour note throughout this record.

Vince Guaraldi exposed an entire new generation, and generations to come, to the swinging sounds of West Coast jazz. Little did these kids (and adults) know, but they hearing some seriously hip tunes disguised as a soundtrack to the adventures of a boy and his dog.

Sadly, Vince Guaraldi died in 1976 at the age of 47 after suffering a massive heart attack. He had built a career prior to *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, and sadly, that career stopped there. But in taking on this project, he cemented a legacy. Guaraldi scored 17 Peanuts television specials, as well as the 1969 feature film *A Boy Named Charlie Brown*.

Vince Guaraldi’s songs are the heart and soul of those cartoons and, for me personally, a massive piece of my childhood. — *John Hubner*



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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

Columbia Street West

Rock • 135 W. Columbia St., Fort Wayne • 260-422-5055
EXPECT: The Fort's No. 1 rock club. Dance Party with DJ Rich every Friday & Saturday w/ladies in free on Saturdays until 11 p.m. Columbia Street menu features salads, sandwiches, pizzas, Southwestern and daily specials. 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). **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/Coconut Restaurant

Games/Music • 1414 Northland Blvd., Fort Wayne • 260-490-2695
EXPECT: Exciting atmosphere for families. Bowling, arcade, laser tag, mini-golf and weekly live entertainment. Coconut restaurant serves American cuisine daily with food and drink specials. **GETTING THERE:** North on Lima Rd. 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

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, your Nascar headquarters, 16'x10' Megatron, three 6'x4' Minitrans, 15 flat screen TVs; \$8.99 daily lunch specials; 60¢ 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

Flashback Live

Dancing/Music • Behind Evans Toyota, Fort Wayne • 260-483-1979
EXPECT: The city's only retro dance club with 80s, 90s and today's music. Live entertainment every Friday & Saturday evening starting at 7:30 p.m. as well as the city's hottest DJ between sets and into the late night! Family friendly from 4-9 p.m. with full menu of appetizers, wings, pizzas and sandwiches. Outdoor patio with a full service bar and dance area! **GETTING THERE:** Behind Evans Toyota at Coliseum Blvd. and Lima Rd. **HOURS:** Open 4 p.m. Thurs.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex, ATM on site

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Live Music & Comedy

LOCAL CALENDAR

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 13

Bucca Karaoke w/Bucca — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 432-8966

California Dreamin' — Variety at Park Place Senior Community, Fort Wayne, 2-3 p.m. no cover, 480-2500

Catfish Dave P. — Acoustic at JD Lounge, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. no cover, 483-1311

Fort Wayne Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra w/Philharmonic Chorus — Chamber Series performance of Handel's *Messiah* at First Wayne Street United Methodist, Fort Wayne, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$35, 481-0777

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

Fort Wayne Karaoke w/TJ — Variety at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 10 p.m. no cover, 749-5396

Hubie Ashcraft & Travis Gow — Americana at Three Rivers Distilling Co., Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 745-9355

Jeff McDonald — Oldies at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 489-2524

Ken Jehle — Jazz/variety at Fort Wayne Museum of Art, Fort Wayne, 6-7 p.m. free, 422-6467

Mark Garr — Acoustic variety at Sweet Lou's Pizza, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 483-7220

Michael Patterson — Variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 426-3442

Open Mic — Hosted by Mike Conley at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, 426-2537

Trainhoppers kiss off 2018 at The B-Side

Has 2018 been a good year for you? Perhaps it was a year filled with positive vibes or, then again, a year you would like to quickly put behind you.

Either way, The Legendary Trainhoppers are making sure we all go out on a positive note. On Friday, Dec. 28, The B-Side at One Lucky Guitar will be the setting for 2018 Kiss-Off, an official sayonara to another year with some good old music in the intimate setting of The B-Side. Sign me up!

With the successful year the guys have had thus far, this event only makes sense. As a matter of fact, they performed such events as the Botanical Roots Concert Series, Stoney Fest, Warm & Cozy, Artlink's Anniversary Party, Rattle the Barn, and opening for The Charlie Daniels Band among a myriad of others.

The 2018 Kiss-Off event will get under way at 8:30 p.m. and will feature an array of old and new Trainhoppers numbers as well as cuts from Paul Simon's joyous *Graceland* album. As a bonus, they will be joined that evening by elle/the Remnant. This is an all age's affair with tickets available through Eventbrite for \$10.

A CHRISTMAS STORY TRIVIA NIGHT

By now, many of us have already begun to see an array



Out and About

NICK BRAUN

of Christmas shows on the tube. I know in my household, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* and *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* have already had their run. One particular Christmas classic that I'm certain we'll all be engaged with during the holiday season is *A Christmas Story*. Have you watched this 1983 classic so many times that you think you have it memorized? You can test yourself on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 6 p.m. when Sweet Lou's Pizza, 1235 E. State Blvd., hosts A Christmas Story Trivia Night.

Do you know what little Ralphie wanted for Christmas or what happened to the Parker family's Christmas turkey? If so, gather up a team and head down for what is sure to be an entertaining evening. If you are up to the challenge, reserve your table now by calling 260-483-7220. In addition, if you have a pair of pink bunny pajamas, this would be the opportune time to wear them.

NEW YEAR'S AT THE PHILMORE

The APQ-Harmonic and Will Certain will be ushering in the New Year at the Philmore on Broadway on Monday, Dec. 31. If you haven't made your NYE plans as of yet, this should be highly in consideration.

There will be a heavy hors d'oeuvres buffet, NYE party favors, a champagne toast at midnight, a late breakfast "fourth meal," and of course, live music. Food and beverage will be supplied by Don Hall's Catering, so you know it's going to be top-notch. Tickets are currently available through Eventbrite.



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Live Music & Comedy LOCAL CALENDAR

Chilly Addams — Acoustic at HT2, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, 616-0444

Classic Voice — Oldies/variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 482-1618

Dance Party w/DJ Rich — Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m. cover, 422-5055

Fort Wayne Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra w/Philharmonic Chorus — Chamber Series performance of Handel's *Messiah* at First Wayne Street United Methodist, Fort Wayne, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$35, 481-0777

Fort Wayne Karaoke w/Eric — Karaoke at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 749-5396

Good Night Gracie — Variety at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m. cover, 483-1311

Hairball — 80s rock at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$12.50-\$17.50, 747-0989

Heartland Sings — Spirit of Christmas at Allen County Courthouse, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$35, 436-8080

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steak House, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 444-5898

Joe Justice — Variety at The Cedars Retirement Community, Leo, 2-3 p.m. free, 627-2191

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

Karaoke — Variety at Hamilton House, Hamilton, 9 p.m. no cover, 488-3344

Mountain Dewe Boys — Open jam at Hideaway Lounge, Bluffton, 8 p.m.-midnight no cover, 824-0455

Night to Remember — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. \$5, 422-5292

Open Acoustic Jam/Hymn Sing — Acoustic at Columbia City Church of the Nazarene, Columbia City, 7-9 p.m. no cover, 248-8252

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke & DJ — Karaoke at Club Paradise, Angola, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 833-7082

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke & DJ w/Bob (Sound Man) — Karaoke at 4 Crowns, Auburn, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 925-9805

Strange Waters, Horizon Arcs, Robert Craven, Emily Morrone — Surf rock/pop at The Glory Hub, Fort Wayne, 6:30-11 p.m. \$7, 438-0721

String Theory — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, 432-8966

Sure Shot Karaoke — Variety at Coco-nutz @ Crazy Pinz, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 490-2695

The Why Store — Rock at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5, 387-5063

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15

A C2G Christmas feat. Will Certain, The Beef Manhattans w/Mike Conley, Sunny Taylor Band, Smooth Edge 2, Pop N Fresh — Holiday Concert at C2G Music Hall, Fort Wayne, 6 p.m. \$6-\$12, 426-6434

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Nightlife

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/DirecTV (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

JD Lounge

Pubs & Taverns • 10366 Dupont Rd., Fort Wayne • 260-483-1311
EXPECT: Upscale non-smoking atmosphere, craft beers and local wines, NFL Ticket, acoustic music on Thursdays, carryout, lottery, drink and food specials. **GETTING THERE:** North of Fort Wayne at Leo Crossing (Dupont and Clinton), next to Dupont Bar & Grill. **HOURS:** Open 5 p.m. Mon.-Sat., noon Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **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, \$2.50 well drinks and 59¢ bone-in wings; Sundays, \$2.50 bloody Marys. Live bands Friday, Sunday, & Tuesday; open mic Wednesday; karaoke Monday, Thursday & Saturday. No cover. **GETTING THERE:** Where Clinton and Lima roads meet. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-3 a.m. Mon.-Sat., 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: 20-plus beers freshly hand-crafted on premises with a full bar featuring craft cocktails and more. Expanded menu full of old favorites and exciting new entrees, “One of the best pizzas in America,” large vegetarian menu. Sunday Carry-out available. **GETTING THERE:** Just southwest of downtown Fort Wayne at Taylor & Broadway. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Mon-Thurs; 11 a.m.-12 a.m. Fri-Sat; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sun. **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. Expanded 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.-midnight Fri.-Sat.; 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

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; seven dock slips; 150-seat banquet facility. Expanded 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.-10 p.m. Sun.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-11 p.m. 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 hand-crafted Mad Anthony ales and lagers. Expanded 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.-11 a.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 11 a.m.-midnight Fri.-Sat.; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sun. **ALCOHOL:** Full Service. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc

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

Find out how to put whatzup’s Nightlife program to work for your business. Email info@whatzup.com or call (260) 407-3198.

Live Music & Comedy

LOCAL CALENDAR

Acme Blues Band — Classic rock/blues at Hook & Ladder, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 747-5652

Andy Pauquette — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 489-2524

Band Brother — Rock at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5, 387-5063

California Dreamin' — Variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

CeCe Winans w/Christiana Danielle — Gospel at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. \$39-\$59, 747-0989

Chris Worth & Company — Variety at American Legion Post 296, Fort Wayne, 8-11:30 p.m. no cover, 456-2988

Common Center, Sungate, The Be Colony — Rock/progressive at Brass Rail, Fort Wayne, 10-midnight cover, 267-5303

Dan Heath and Friends — Acoustic variety at Mad Anthony Tap Room, Auburn, 8-11 p.m. no cover, 927-0500

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

Fort Wayne Philharmonic — Holiday pops at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 2-4 p.m. \$29 & up, 481-0777

Fort Wayne Philharmonic — Holiday pops at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 7:30-9:30 p.m. \$29 & up, 481-0777

Good Night Gracie — Variety at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m. cover, 483-1311

Heartland Sings — Spirit of Christmas at Allen County Courthouse, Fort Wayne, 2 p.m. \$10-\$35, 436-8080

James Baker Quartet — Jazz at Ruth's Chis Steak Hosue, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 444-5898

Joe Justice — Variety at Coconutz @ Crazy Pinz, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, 490-2695

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

Jordan Applegate Quartet — Variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 426-3442

Kyle Haller Band — Rock/variety at Alley Sports Bar, Pro Bowl West, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. no cover, 483-4421

Mountain Dewe Boys — Country at The Bell, Huntington, 8-11 p.m. no cover, 359-1777

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — The Vegas Years at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. \$1, (260) 482-1618

Pick Slide — Variety at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. \$5, 422-5292

Rival Sons — Rock at Piere's Entertainment Center, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. \$25, 486-1979

Selah w/Geoffrey Andrews — Holiday/A Capella at Honeywell Center, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$25-\$55, 563-1102

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke & DJ — Karaoke at Fremont Bar & Grill, Fremont, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 527-6223

Todd Harrold Duo — R&B/blues at Trubble Brewing Company, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 267-6082

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy — Swing at The Clyde, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. \$29-\$59, 747-0989

Chilly Addams — Acoustic at Trubble Brewing Company, Fort Wayne, 4-7 p.m. no cover, 267-6082

Heartland Sings — Spirit of Christmas at Allen County Courthouse, Fort Wayne, 2 p.m. \$10-\$35, 436-8080

Mannerchor Damenchor — Weihnachtskonzert (Christmas concert) at Saint Peter's Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, 4 p.m. free, 747-2592

The Mo Show — Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 483-5526

Old Crown Brass Band — Brass at Grace Point Church of the Nazarene, Fort Wayne, 6 a.m. free, donations accepted, 485-2110

PyleStyle Open Jazz Jam — Jazz at HT2, Fort Wayne, 5-7 p.m. \$5, 616-0444

MONDAY, DECEMBER 17

Dave Cofell — Folk at Crescendo Café, Sweetwater, Fort Wayne, noon-1 p.m. free, (800) 222-4700

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

Old Crown Brass Band — Brass at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Fort Wayne, 7 a.m. free, donations accepted, 432-1524

Open Mic hosted by Shelly Dixon & Jeff McRae — Variety at Curly's Village Inn, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 747-9964

Shade Jonze — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 6:30-8 p.m. no cover, 432-8966

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18

Chilly's Talent & Tacos — Open mic at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 483-5526

Chris Worth — Variety at American Legion Post 148, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 423-4751

Fort Wayne Karaoke — Variety at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 9 p.m. no cover, 749-5396

Joe Justice — Variety at Lincolnshire Place, Fort Wayne, 10:30-11:30 a.m. free, 471-1620

Sing! An Irish Christmas — Holiday at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. \$39-\$59, 424-5665

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Carolyn Martin — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 489-2524

Hubie Ashcraft — Variety at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 426-2537

Hubie Ashcraft w/Travis Gow — Variety at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 426-2537

Jason Michael Carroll — Country at Bar 13, Piercetown, IN, 7:30 p.m. \$15, (574) 688-0889

Joe Justice — Variety at Arbor Glen, Fort Wayne, 4-5 p.m. free, 492-2202

Pan Man Dan — World music at Crescendo Café, Sweetwater, Fort Wayne, noon-1 p.m. free, (800) 222-4700

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — The Vegas Years at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. \$1, (260) 482-1618

Shut Up and Sing — Karaoke at Duesy's Sports Bar and Grille, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m. no cover, 483-5681

Three Rivers Karaoke — at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 483-1311

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20

Bucca Karaoke w/Bucca — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 432-8966

The Charlie Brown Trio — A *Peanuts* Holiday at Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, 7-9 p.m. free, 436-8080

Chilly Addams — Acoustic rock at JD Lounge, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 483-1311

Chris Worth — Variety at HT2, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 616-0444

Dan Heath and Friends — Acoustic variety at Don Hall's Triangle Park, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 482-4342

Eric Clancy — Piano at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 426-3442

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

Fort Wayne Karaoke w/TJ — Variety at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 10 p.m. no cover, 749-5396

Hubie Ashcraft — Acoustic at The Woods Too and Lighthouse Lounge, Hudson, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 351-2967

Jeff McDonald — Oldies at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 489-2524

Joe Justice — Variety at Parkview Senior's Club, Fort Wayne, 5-6 p.m. free, 373-4000

Motor Folkers — Acoustic rock at Adams Lake Pub, Wolcottville, 7 p.m. no cover, 854-3463

Open Mic — Hosted by Mike Conley at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8-11 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

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 21

Acoustic Component — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, 432-8966

Andy Pauquette Trio — Blues at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 426-3442

Big Caddy Daddy — Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m. cover, 483-1311

Chilly Addams — Acoustic rock at Olde 303 Music, Bluffton, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 227-1828

Dance Party w/DJ Rich — Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m. cover, 422-5055

Fireball Matinee — Rock at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5, 387-5063

Fort Wayne Karaoke w/Eric — Karaoke at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 749-5396

Jai Baker 3 — Rock at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. \$5, 422-5292

James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steak House, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 444-5898

Joe Justice — Variety at Byler Lane Winery, Auburn, 5-8 p.m. no cover, 920-4377

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

Jon Durnell — Acoustic variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 489-2524

Karaoke — Variety at Hamilton House, Hamilton, 9 p.m. no cover, 488-3344

Keith "BigMeow" Roman — Acoustic 80s at Chapman's Brewing Co., Columbia City, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 244-6252

Motor Folkers — Acoustic rock at American Legion Post 215, LaGrange, 7 p.m. no cover, 436-4172

My Soul's Revolution, Element: Indigo, Hazensol — Rock at Next Level Bar & Arcade, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-1 a.m. \$10, 715-4919

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — Holiday/variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 482-1618

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke & DJ — Karaoke at Club Paradise, Angola, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 833-7082

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke & DJ w/Bob (Sound Man) — Karaoke at 4 Crowns, Auburn, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 925-9805

Smooth Edge 2 — A Cappella at Welch's Ale House, Fort Wayne, 7:30-10:30 p.m. \$5, 456-6542

Sum Morz — Rock at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. no cover, 483-5526

Sure Shot Karaoke — Variety at Coconutz @ Crazy Pinz, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 490-2695

Todd Harrold Duo — R&B/blues at Summit City Brewwerks, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m., 420-0222

Trouble Troubadors — Singer/songwriter at Trubble Brewing Company, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. no cover, 267-6082

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22

Acme Blues Band — Classic rock/blues at Alley Sports Bar, Pro Bowl West, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 483-4421

Big Caddy Daddy — Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m. cover, 483-1311

Electric Winter — EDM at Piere's Entertainment Center, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$10-\$20, 486-1979

Elements — Classic rock/variety at Hamilton House, Hamilton, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 488-3344

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

Hubie Ashcraft Band — Country at The Venue, Angola, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5, 665-3922

James Baker Quartet — Jazz at Ruth's Chis Steak Hosue, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 444-5898

Joe Justice — Variety at teds Beer Hall (and Wine Bar), Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, (888) 260-0351

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 Taps Pub, Avilla, 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. no cover, 897-3331

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — The Vegas Years at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. \$1, (260) 482-1618

Picks

GREAT THINGS TO DO IN FORT WAYNE AND BEYOND

A Peanuts Holiday w/The Charlie Brown Trio

7-9 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 20
Allen County Public Library Theater, Lower Level 2
900 Library Plaza, Fort Wayne
Free • 421-1200

A Peanuts Holiday with the Charlie Brown Trio is not only a holiday themed event, but also a concert that hopes to introduce a new concept to our area.

Fashioned in the format of Leonard Bernstein's "Young People's Concerts" that took place in New York from 1958-1972, A Peanuts Holiday is a family-friendly educational concert featuring the works of Vince Guaraldi's classic *A Charlie Brown Christmas* album.

But that's just where the fun begins since it is also an interactive show. Audience participation is encouraged and will be featured through singing and discussion of

educational music concepts that will be explained between songs. Those concepts include melody, rhythm, musical interpretation, and music terms as well as information about Guaraldi and the history of the music being played. If that's not enough, Irwin Elementary School is lending some rhythm instruments for the concert to allow children in attendance to participate on stage for one of the songs.

The show is set to take place Dec. 20 in the Allen County Public Library Theater Lower Level 2. The performing trio is made up of drummer Terry Vaughn, pianist LeAnna Wilson, and Mike Patterson on string bass. Of course, there will be a special appearance by the star of every Peanuts related show, the beloved beagle himself: Snoopy.

Best of all, the show is free and open to everyone. All that is required are hearts, minds, and souls ready to be filled with holiday music, joy, and fun. — *Chris Hupe*

Christmas Wonderland Holiday Spectacular

7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17
Embassy Theatre, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne
\$35-\$60 • 424-6287

Are you having trouble getting in the mood for the holidays? Does your Christmas spirit need a little shot in the arm?

The Embassy Theatre might just what the doctor ordered. Christmas Wonderland Holiday Spectacular, performing Dec. 17, features costumes full of glitter, a wonderful cast, and the highest-kicking chorus girls this side of the North Pole. A talented cast of singers and dancers bring Christmas Wonderland to life as Santa high kicks with chorus girls and entertains the audience throughout the performance by singing and dancing

right along with the rest of the cast.

A Broadway-style show, Christmas Wonderland sports a cast of dancers from London and New York who transform the stage into a magical winter wonderland of Christmas joy. It promises to be a night the entire family can enjoy as Santa and his helpers make their way through the wonders of Christmas and the excitement of the holiday season with fantastic dance numbers that will amaze even the most Scrooge-like audience members.

And, of course, there is the music. The cast will take you through favorites like "White Christmas," "Winter Wonderland," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," and "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing." It is, quite frankly, the cure for just about any case of the "Bah Humbugs," no matter how extreme. — *Chris Hupe*

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Four lessons must be paid for at the time of registration.
Offer valid through December 31, 2018.

Nightlife

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:** 4 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

Teds Beer Hall & Wine Bar

Pub/Tavern • 12628 Coldwater Rd., Fort Wayne • 888-260-0357

EXPECT: Lively atmosphere, eclectic tap list, knowledgeable bartenders and the kind of backtalk you usually reserve for family reunions, Thanksgiving and 90s sitcoms set in high school. Kitchen features pizzas, sandwiches, burgers, coffee, ice cream and a kids menu. **GETTING THERE:** Located at the intersection of Coldwater and Union Chapel roads. **HOURS:** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Tues.-Sat. **ALCOHOL:** Beer/Wine. **PMT:** MC, Visa, Disc, Amex

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Life

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7:30 pm
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VoicePlaySat. Jan. 12
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The Elvis Tribute Artist SpectacularSun. Jan 20

The Official Blues Brothers RevueFri. Feb. 22

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online at honeywellcenter.org*

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www.honeywellcenter.org

Live Music & Comedy

LOCAL CALENDAR

Plan B — Rock at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. \$5, 422-5292

Reload — Rock at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5, 387-5063

Shelly Dixon & Jeff McRae — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 489-2524

Sidecar Gary's Karaoke & DJ — Karaoke at Fremont Bar & Grill, Fremont, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 527-6223

Susan Mae & New Yesterday — Contemporary R&B/Jazz at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 426-3442

Susan Mae and New Yesterday — Variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 426-3442

Todd Harrold Duo w/Special Guest Bob Bailey — R&B/blues at American Legion Post 148, Fort Wayne, 7 p.m. no cover, 423-4751

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 23

Cornell Gunter's Coasters, Drifters, Platters — Rock at Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, 3 p.m. \$30-\$60, 424-5665

The Mo Show — Variety at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 483-5526

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24

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

Open Mic hosted by Shelly Dixon & Jeff McRae — Variety at Curly's Village Inn, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 747-9964

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25

Chilly's Talent & Tacos — Open mic at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 483-5526

Fort Wayne Karaoke — Variety at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 9 p.m. no cover, 749-5396

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26

Carolyn Martin — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 489-2524

Mark Garr — Acoustic variety at Eagles Post 3512, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. no cover, 436-3512

Paul New Stewart & Charles Rhen — The Vegas Years at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6-9 p.m. \$1, (260) 482-1618

Shut Up and Sing — Karaoke at Duesy's Sports Bar and Grille, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m. no cover, 483-5681

Three Rivers Karaoke — at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 483-1311

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 27

Ann Wilson — Rock at Honeywell Center, Wabash, 7:30 p.m. \$49-\$100, 563-1102

Bucca Karaoke w/Bucca — Variety at Deer Park Irish Pub, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m. no cover, 432-8966

Chris Worth — Variety at Trolley Steaks & Seafood, Fort Wayne, 7-11 p.m. no cover, 490-4322

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

Fort Wayne Karaoke w/TJ — Variety at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 10 p.m. no cover, 749-5396

Hubie Ashcraft — Acoustic at Draft Horse Saloon, Orland, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 829-6465

Jeff McDonald — Oldies at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 7-10 p.m. no cover, 489-2524

Maleena Felger — Acoustic at Crescento Café, Sweetwater, Fort Wayne, noon-1 p.m. free, (800) 222-4700

Michael Patterson — Variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 426-3442

Open Mic — Hosted by Mike Conley at Mad Anthony Brewing Co., Fort Wayne, 8-11 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

Patrick Daley — Acoustic at JD Lounge, Fort Wayne, 7:30 p.m. no cover, 483-1311

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

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28

10 Years — Alternative metal at Piere's Entertainment Center, Fort Wayne, 8 p.m. \$20, 486-1979

Chris Worth & Company — Variety at Arena Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-1 a.m. no cover, 489-0840

Dance Party w/DJ Rich — Variety at Columbia Street West, Fort Wayne, 10:30 p.m. cover, 422-5055

The DeeBees — Variety at The Venice Restaurant, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 482-1618

Eric Clancy Trio — Variety at Club Soda, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 426-3442

Exploit Trio — Variety at Don Hall's Guesthouse, Fort Wayne, 9 p.m.-midnight no cover, 489-2524

Fireball Matinee — Rock at Flashback Live, Fort Wayne, 8-11 p.m. \$5, 422-5292

Fort Wayne Karaoke w/Eric — Karaoke at Rack & Helen's, New Haven, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. no cover, 749-5396

Grateful Groove — Grateful Dead tribute at Latch String Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m. no cover, 483-5526

Hubie Ashcraft — Acoustic at Country Heritage Winery, LaOtto, 5-8 p.m. no cover, 637-2980


James Baker Trio — Jazz at Ruth's Chris Steak House, Fort Wayne, 6:30-9:30 p.m. no cover, 444-5898

JFX — Rock at Mitchell's Sports Bar & Neighborhood Grill, Fort Wayne, 10 p.m.-2 a.m. \$5, 387-5063

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

Karaoke — Variety at Hamilton House, Hamilton, 9 p.m. no cover, 488-3344

Outta Hand — Rock at Dupont Bar & Grill, Fort Wayne, 9:30 p.m. cover, 483-1311



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10 Years	Dec. 28	Piere's Entertainment Center	Fort Wayne
1964 The Tribute	Mar. 22 '19	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
1964 The Tribute	Aug. 17 '19	Honeywell Center	Wabash
A Boogie Wit Da Hoodie, Don Q	Mar. 16 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Adia Victoria	Feb. 25 '19	Schubas Tavern	Chicago
Air Supply	Mar. 1 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
America	Feb. 15 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Anderson .Paak	Feb. 15 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Anderson .Paak	Feb. 16 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Anderson East, Lucie Silvas	Feb. 23 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness, Grizfolk, Flor	Mar. 1 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Andrew McMahon in the Wilderness, Grizfolk, Flor	Mar. 2 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Anita Renfro	Feb. 14-16 '19	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
Anita Renfro	Mar. 14 '19	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Ann Wilson	Dec. 27	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Anthony Gomes	Jan. 19 '19	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Ariana Grande	Mar. 28 '19	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
The Association	Apr. 13 '19	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Badfish	Feb. 15 '19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Badfish w/Bumpin Ugliers, Roots of Creation	Feb. 22 '19	House of Blues	Cleveland
Banda MS	May 3 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Beirut, Helado Negro	Feb. 22 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Bellamy Brothers	Dec. 28-29	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
Between the Buries and Me, Tesseract, Astronoid	Feb. 19 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Big Bad Voodoo Daddy	Dec. 16	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Big Bad Voodoo Daddy	Jan. 25 '19	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Blac Youngsta	Dec. 31	Piere's Entertainment Center	Fort Wayne
Blues Brothers	Feb. 22 '19	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Bob Mould	Feb. 22-23 '19	Metro	Chicago
Bob Seger & The Silver Bullet Band	Jan. 15 '19	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Boombox Cartel	Feb. 16 '19	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Booth Brothers	Jan. 4-5 '19	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
Bowie Live	Jan. 4 '19	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Branford Marsalis	Apr. 12 '19	Clowes Memorial Hall	Indianapolis
Bring Me The Horizon	Feb. 4 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Bring Me The Horizon	Feb. 5 '19	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Brothers Osborne, The Wild Feathers	Jan. 10 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Brothers Osborne, The Wild Feathers	Jan. 11 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Brothers Osborne, Wild Feathers	Jan. 12 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Buckets N Boards	Mar. 17 '19	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Building 429	Jan. 11 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Candlebox	Feb. 14 '19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Candlebox	Feb. 16 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Cash Cash, Madison Beer, Bazzi, Quinn XCII	Dec. 13	The Fillmore	Detroit
Cedric the Entertainer	Dec. 28	Sound Board	Detroit
Celtic Woman	Apr. 14 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Chelsea Cutler	Feb. 16 '19	Metro	Chicago
Chris Lane, Dan + Shay	Mar. 30 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
CNCO	Feb. 22 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Coheed and Cambria, Maps & Atlases	Feb. 26 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Collin Raye	Feb. 8 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Common Center, Sungate, The Be Colony	Dec. 15	Brass Rail	Fort Wayne
Cornell Gunter's Coasters, Drifters, Platters	Dec. 23	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Cypress Hill, Hollywood Undead	Mar. 10 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
The Dandy Warhols	May 11 '19	Metro	Chicago
Dave Cofell	Dec. 17	Sweetwater	Fort Wayne
David Doubilet & Jennifer Hayes	Jan. 27 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
Davy Knowles	Feb. 15 '19	C2G Music Hall	Fort Wayne
Dead & Company	June 12 '19	Ruoff Music Center	Noblesville
Dead & Company	June 14-15 '19	Wrigley Field	Chicago
Demetri Martin	Mar. 2 '19	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Dennis DeYoung	Dec. 14	Hard Rock Rocksino	Northfield Park, OH
Devin Dawson	Feb. 22 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Diamond Rio	Mar. 30 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Dido	June 13 '19	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Disturbed, Three Days Grace	Mar. 8 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Double A	Dec. 14	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Dream Theater	Apr. 2 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Dropkick Murphys	Feb. 19 '19	20 Monroe Live	Grand Rapids

Dylan Scott	Jan. 26 '19	Deluxe	Indianapolis
Elvis Tribute Artist Spectacular	Jan. 20 '19	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Eric Church	Mar. 22-23 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Eric Church	Apr. 19-20 '19	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Fear, Power Trip, Venom Inc	Apr. 27 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
The Four Horsemen	Jan. 19 '19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Freddy Todd, HeRobust, Defunk	Dec. 22	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
G Love & Special Sauce	Jan. 17 '19	The Hi-Fi	Indianapolis
G Love & Special Sauce	Jan. 18 '19	House of Blues	Chicago
G Love & Special Sauce	Jan. 19 '19	St. Andrews Hall	Detroit
G Love & Special Sauce	Jan. 20 '19	A&R Music Bar	Columbus, OH
Gaelic Storm	Feb. 28 '19	House of Blues	Chicago
Galantis	Dec. 30-31	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Gang of Youths	Dec. 14	Metro	Chicago
Grand Funk Railroad	Jan. 26 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Greensky Bluegrass	Dec. 28-31	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Greensky Bluegrass	Feb. 8-9 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Greta Van Fleet	Dec. 14-15	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Guster w/Saintseneca	Apr. 11 '19	The Intersection	Grand Rapids
Guster w/Saintseneca	Apr. 12 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Hairball	Dec. 14	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Henhouse Prowlers	Dec. 30	Martys'	Chicago
Here Come the Mummies	Feb. 8 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Herman's Hermits starring Peter Noone	Dec. 13	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Herman's Hermits feat. Peter Noone	Apr. 27 '19	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Herman's Hermits feat. Peter Noone	Apr. 28 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
The Highwaymen	Jan. 12 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
The Hillbenders	Jan. 18 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Hippie Sabotage	Mar. 1 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
The Infamous Stringdusters, Great Peacock	Mar. 27 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Jake Shimabukuro w/Fort Wayne Philharmonic	Jan. 26 '19	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
James Bay	Mar. 19 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Jamey Johnson	Feb. 2 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Jason Michael Carroll	Dec. 19	Bar 13	Pierceton, IN
Jefferson Starship	Feb. 2 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
Jenny Lewis	Mar. 30 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Jimmy Fortune, Lynda Randle, Aaron Wilburn	Dec. 31	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
John Mellencamp	Feb. 12 '19	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Josh Turner w/Raquel Cole	Jan. 25 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Judas Priest	May 25 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Justin Moore, Cody Johnson	Feb. 21 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Justin Timberlake	Dec. 14	Bankers Life Fieldhouse	Indianapolis
Kansas	May 11 '19	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
Kasey Chambers	Jan. 31 '19	Old Town School	Chicago
KC and the Sunshine Band	Mar. 2 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Kelly Clarkson w/Kelsea Ballerini	Feb. 22 '19	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Kelly Clarkson w/Kelsea Ballerini	Mar. 21 '19	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Kentucky Headhunters w/Confederate Railroad	Feb. 23 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Killer Queen	July 13 '19	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Kim Richey	Jan. 4 '19	The B-Side @ One Lucky Guitar	Fort Wayne
King's Singers	Feb. 16 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
The Kingsmen	Feb. 1 '19	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
Kiss	Mar. 2 '19	United Center	Chicago
Kiss	Mar. 9 '19	Van Andel Arena	Grand Rapids
Kiss	Mar. 13 '19	Little Caesars Arena	Detroit
Kiss	Mar. 16 '19	Nationwide Arena	Columbus
Kiss	Mar. 17 '19	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Knocked Loose	Dec. 21	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
The Kooks	Feb. 21 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Kurt Vile and the Violators w/Jessica Pratt	Dec. 22	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
LANY	May 8 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Leslie Odum Jr. w/Fort Wayne Philharmonic	Mar. 2 '19	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Lettuce	Jan. 15 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Lewis Black	Mar. 29 '19	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
The Little Mermen	Feb. 2 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Lorrie Morgan	Dec. 14	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Los Lonely Boys	Mar. 15 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Lotus	Dec. 30-31	Park West	Chicago
LP	Feb. 8 '19	Vic Theatre	Chicago

Sonic Temple

an echo of

former fest

The inaugural Sonic Temple Art & Music Festival inside Mapfre Stadium in Columbus, Ohio, looks very similar to the festival it is replacing, Rock On The Range.

Basically, the name change was for legal and financial reasons as the original organizers split and a new entity now controls the festival.



Road Notes

CHRIS HUPE

Headliners for the May 17-19 event are **Foo Fighters**, **System of a Down**, and **Disturbed**, with **Ghost**, **The Prodigy**, **Lamb of God**, **Halestorm**, **Joan Jett & The Blackhearts**, **The Cult**, and roughly 50 other bands also booked to play.

The daily lineups have not been released yet, but rest assured, every day will feature some great acts. Tickets are already on sale.

MORE KISS TO LOVE

The second leg of the final **KISS** tour has been announced. After selling more than a half million tickets to the first set of dates, the second set are sure to be in high demand as well.

The first announced dates included Detroit on March 13, Columbus on March 16, and Cleveland on March 17, while the second leg includes Cincinnati on August 29 and Indianapolis on August 31.

The tour is expected to last through 2021, but the band has said there will be no repeat shows in any cities during the tour.

DEAD IN THE SUMMER

Dead and Company will embark on a short 19-city tour this summer.

Grateful Dead members Bob Weir, Mickey Hart, and Bill Kreutzman, along with John Mayer, Oteil Burbridge, and Jeff Chimenti, kick off the tour in California and meander their way to Indianapolis for a show on June 12 and then to Wrigley Field in Chicago for two shows on June 14-15.

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Rascal Flatts, Miranda Lambert, Keith Urban, Kenny Chesney, Jason Aldean, Dierks Bentley, Lady Antebellum	Dec. 31	Riverbend Music Center	Cincinnati
Rayland Baxter	Jan. 15 '19	The B-Side @ One Lucky Guitar	Fort Wayne
The Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band	Dec. 28	Martyrs'	Chicago
Rick Webb Family	Dec. 13-15	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder	May 24 '19	T. Furth Center, Trine University	Angola
Rival Sons	Dec. 15	Piere's Entertainment Center	Fort Wayne
Robyn	Mar. 6 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Robyn	Mar. 6 '19	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Rodney Crowell	Mar. 14 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Rok Hollywood	Dec. 28	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Roots of Creation, Bumpin Uglies, Badfish	Feb. 22 '19	House of Blues	Cleveland
Roseanne Barr	May 17 '19	Lerner Theatre	Elkhart
Russ Taff	Apr. 4 '19	Blue Gate Theatre	Shipshewana
Russell Dickerson and Carly Pearce	Jan. 26 '19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
The Sadies, Kurt Vile	Feb. 21 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis

Dec. 14 Rulli's Bella Luna Lounge, Middlebury

Sweetwater
whatzup

Lesson by Victor Wooten has heavily influenced everything I do musically, especially when it came to starting this band," Brody said. "I recommend that book to every musician, especially musicians that struggle with keeping their enthusiasm level high."

A Strange Waters show is mostly original music with a few covers thrown in for those die-hard Dick Dale groupies. And the songs cover many different styles of surf music. "There are a lot of different flavors of surf-style music to explore," Brody said. "Spy-theme stuff, slow and liquidy latin grooves, horror surf, '50s bubblegum pop, it just keeps going."

GOING TO THE STUDIO

With Strange Waters playing mostly original music, the conversation turned to the band possibly hitting the studio and recording.

"In fact, we just recently completed our very first EP a few weeks before this interview," Brody said. "We did the whole thing (six songs) at Rainmaker Studios here in Fort Wayne. I wish I could provide a date for the album release show, but we're still working on that."

So where does Mark Brody see Strange Waters in five years time?

"It's been a little overwhelming just getting this project up and running. I think for now we're just excited that people seem to like us," Brody said.

"Our original goals were to have fun, play some gigs, and record an album, in that order. And we've accomplished those goals much faster than we expected. So for now we'll focus on playing out regularly, and networking with other surf bands in the midwest."

"I will say that we're working on something special for a show here in Fort Wayne in March 2019, but we're keeping a lid on that until the show is officially announced — keep an eye on the Fort Wayne events calendar and you won't miss it."

But the biggest question is: Have any of the guys ever surfed?

"Two of us have, Chris and The Stranger," Brody said. "I'm more into snorkeling myself. Jon has been landlocked his whole life and does not identify as aquatic."

You can keep up with Strange Waters, their gigs, and their EP release online at the following links:

strangewatersband.com
facebook.com/StrangeWatersFW
instagram.com/strange_waters

On the Road NATIONAL TOURS WITHIN DRIVING DISTANCE

Sanctus Real	Apr. 14 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
Sandi Patty w/Fort Wayne Philharmonic	Mar. 30 '19	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Sawyer Brown	Dec. 15	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox	Feb. 1 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Selah w/Geoffrey Andrews	Dec. 15	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Shinedown w/Papa Roach, Asking Alexandria	Mar. 7 '19	Memorial Coliseum	Fort Wayne
Sing! An Irish Christmas	Dec. 18	Embassy Theatre	Fort Wayne
Sixteen Candles	Dec. 22	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Skism, Zomboy, Trampa, Badklaat	Feb. 8 '19	Aragon Ballroom	Chicago
Small Town Murder	Dec. 14	Vic Theatre	Chicago
Small Town Murder	Dec. 15	The Fillmore	Detroit
Snail Mail	Jan. 17 '19	Metro	Chicago
Snarky Puppy	May 17 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Snarky Puppy	May 18 '19	Riviera Theatre	Chicago
Space Jesus, Buku, Toadface, Huxley Anne	Feb. 17 '19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Spafford	Feb. 1 '19	The Vogue	Indianapolis
Straight No Chaster	Dec. 19	Fox Theatre	Detroit
Straight No Chaser	Dec. 21-23	Old National Centre	Indianapolis
Switchfoot w/Colony House, Tyson Mostenbocker	Mar. 3 '19	The Fillmore	Detroit
Switchfoot w/Colony House, Tyson Mostenbocker	Mar. 8-9 '19	Park West	Chicago
Terri Clark, Pam Tillis, Suzy Boggus	Mar. 9 '19	Shipshewana Event Center	Shipshewana
Texas Tenors	Mar. 16 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
Tim Hawkins	Apr. 26 '19	Honeywell Center	Wabash
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 28	Allstate Arena	Rosemont, IL
Trans-Siberian Orchestra	Dec. 30	Quicken Loans Arena	Cleveland
Travis Tritt	Mar. 2 '19	Niswonger P.A.C.	Van Wert
Umphey's McGee w/Moser Woods	Feb. 21 '19	The Clyde	Fort Wayne
Weird Al Yankovic	July 2 '19	Foellinger Theatre	Fort Wayne
Whitesnake	May 15 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland
Why Don't We	Apr. 12 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Winner	Jan. 24 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Yuri, Pandora	Mar. 16 '19	Rosemont Theatre	Rosemont, IL
Zhu	Feb. 23 '19	Agora Theatre	Cleveland

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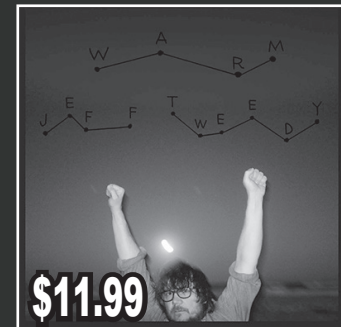
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Wooden Nickel CD of the Week



JEFF TWEEDY WARM

Wilco frontman Jeff Tweedy has released his first solo album of original material, called *Warm*. This follow up to last year's catalog retrospective, *Together at Last*, was produced and recorded entirely by Tweedy at Chicago's legendary studio, the Loft, and features his usual collaborators such as Spencer Tweedy (Jeff's son), Glenn Kotche (Wilco drummer), and Tom Schick (producer/engineer). *Warm* features the singles, "Let's Go Rain" and "Some Birds". Get *Warm* for \$11.99 at all three Wooden Nickel Music stores.

TOP SELLERS @

WOODEN NICKEL

Week ending Dec. 9, 2018

TW	LW	ARTIST/Album
1	10	QUEEN Bohemian Rhapsody Soundtrack
2	3	THE BEATLES White Album Remix
3	1	THE 1975 A Brief Inquiry Into Online Relationships
4	-	VAN MORRISON The Prophet Speaks
5	-	METAL CHURCH Damned If You Do
6	6	GRETA VAN FLEET Anthem of the Peaceful Army
7	-	JOHN MELLENCAMP Other People's Stuff
8	-	BRETT YOUNG Ticket To L.A.
9	-	COLDPLAY Live in Buenos Aires
10	4	NEIL YOUNG Songs for Judy

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Imagine Dragons Origins



Imagine Dragons is an enigma to critics. The band has managed to have huge commercial success despite playing the kind of rock music that's not particularly in fashion and failing to build any sort of celebrity for themselves as individuals. That doesn't seem to make much sense. It makes more sense, though, when you consider that they infuse their rock music with plenty of fashionable electronic elements and their lyrics with a plethora of pithy Instagram-level philosophy, just the way that pop music fans love it.

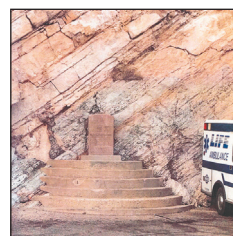
The band's fourth album, *Origins*, leverages those strengths perfectly, and it's guaranteed to baffle skeptics with its popularity.

The album's opening track, "Natural," gets things started in a familiar way, with an atmospheric verse that transitions into a shouted chorus, all of it built around a bone-simple beat, just like the band's breakthrough single, "Radioactive." The same formula holds for the rest of the album, although there's a surprising amount of genre jumping, from EDM ("Machine") to R&B ("Cool Out"). Never fear, however; the songs always return to the recognizable pattern in time for the chorus.

The songs' lyrical content is mostly earnest insistence that the world would be a beautiful place if we'd all just put down our phones and get along like brothers. It doesn't amount to much beyond the wisdom you gain from memes posted on social media, but it's the kind of stuff that sells.

That's true of the entire album, and *Origins* is likely to keep Imagine Dragons in the space they've occupied for the past several years, as a wildly popular successor to Coldplay and Maroon 5. It might be a mystery to critics, but that doesn't really matter. — *Evan Gillespie*

This Will Destroy You New Others Part Two



I can't say that this album is a surprise to me. This Will Destroy You dropped a new record back in September called *New Others Part One*. So just one month later, here comes *New Others Part Two*.

New Others Part Two feels like a continuation of the sonic delights and heady noise of *New Others Part One*. It would not be surprising to find out that these two were originally going to be released as a double LP.

"Sound of Your Death" opens *Part Two* with a blitzkrieg of noise. The band blows up into a cloud of sonic shrapnel as the song has an almost black metal feel to it. "Lie Down in the Light" is a quick swath of ambient audio light. Producer John Congleton, who recorded *Part One*, once again brings This Will Destroy You's sound from the shadows into the crystalline sunlight. He makes the band's

sound shine as brightly as it ever has. Case in point is "Clubs," which is more than eight minutes and seems to mosey along like a late-night drive through the desert. There's a vast and ethereal feel to this epic song. Soon enough, the track blows up in a fireball of guitars, electronic noise, and cymbals before settling back into the slow motion groove it began with.

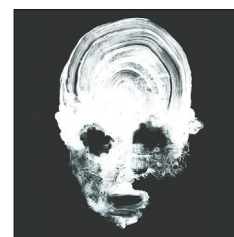
Elsewhere, TWDY take their sound to new, experimental heights. Songs like "Jesse Ray" and "New Promise Land Inc." start out almost like Sparklehorse tracks, as if they're coming out of some dilapidated machine running on lost dreams and faint longing, before working themselves into beautiful crescendos. Songs like these are what differentiate This Will Destroy You from other like-minded bands.

Likewise, "Cascade" is as big and as beautiful a track as any. Its widescreen sound seems to surround you. And album closer "Provoke" unfurls for more than 11 minutes with ambient textures and lilting guitar, building into a wall of guitar. It's this calming moment that brings us resolution from the fiery beginnings of the record.

New Others Part Two is a beautiful continuation and conclusion to *New Others Part One*. This Will Destroy You sound as great as they ever have, and continue to push their sound forward. — *John Hubner*

Daughters

You Won't Get What You Want



This is not for the faint of heart. Just like Throbbing Gristle, Test Dept., Nurse with Wound, and Big Black before them, Daughters continue the tradition of making a virtue of alienation through music.

Hailing from Providence, R.I., the members of Daughters can be just as volatile as the music they create, given how *You Won't Get What You Want* is a comeback after a years-long hiatus prompted by in-fighting and creative differences.

Daughters' previous three albums made it a point to keep their sound loud and nasty, but brief, as their longest album before this record totaled 28 minutes.

You Won't Get What You Want marks a clear step forward, since the record runs a colossal 49 minutes and embraces more sonic dynamics to avoid monotony, making the disturbing moments even more unsettling. It's their most complete artistic statement to date.

The teaser track released a few months before, "Satan in the Wait," is a seven-minute death march complete with pounding drums and a filthy sounding bass that gravitates away from their grindcore roots, but maintains a sinister air that alludes to the rest of the album's style.

Similar in scope is the album opener, "City Song," an industrial grind, and a patience exercise to hear how the individual parts build on themselves slowly, but surely.

Against a backdrop of low, pulsating static, sudden snare cracks on the track bear resemblance to gunshots, and frontman Alexis S.F. Marshall's

Backtracks CLASSIC ALBUMS

Leafhound

Growers of Mushroom (1971)



Leafhound were a London-based band that employed several lineups over the period of a couple years in the early '70s. But they never really made it after this release, and broke up soon thereafter. It's a great record, and is hailed by modern-day critics as one of the first "stoner rock" bands.

Opening with "Freelance Fiend," the album has qualities of grunge and even Led Zeppelin. There is nothing great about the arrangement, but it chugs along behind the vocals from Pete French and some bluesy-psych guitars from Mick Halls. "Sad Road to the Sea" is another blues-rock tune, and features a decent acoustic guitar. The band almost has a Black Crowes vibe about them, but the late '60s hard rock is evident in "Drowned My Life in Fear."

It really has a groovy sound, and maybe they were ahead of (or behind) the genre that was yet to be named.

"Work My Body" is an eight-minute jam that again resemble Zeppelin, and has a prog-rock emotion about it. You could even say that they borrowed from the folksiness of their contemporaries like The Faces or Traffic.

"With a Minute to Go" blends some classic rock with polished guitars and above average percussion from Keith Young. The title track is a blend of Cream and The Who. It fits perfectly in the sound from 1971 and is one of the highlights of the album. But the band gets back to their harder sound in "Stagnant Pool" and the closer, "Sawdust Caesar."

It's a great album from a band that fits nicely between acid and blues rock. It is very original and honest rock n' roll. Furthermore, the sound they introduced to the music world has made a comeback over the last decade with bands like Queens of The Stone Age, Wolfmother, and Eagles of Death Metal. — *Dennis Donahue*

lyrics seem to describe a once-thriving urban environment reduced to the quality of a thrown-away empty glass, where the decrepit buildings shriek and the poisoned air shrieks louder.

Other harried highlights on the album, "The Flammable Man" and "The Lords Song," allude to Daughters' past sounds of blistering no wave and grindcore while being distinguishable enough to pave a new path for the band.

Not everyone will get what they want from this album, even if they find at least a few things to enjoy about it initially. *You Won't Get What You Want* certainly succeeds in separating the wheat music fans from the chaff casuals, and even those who lean towards the left-of-field material may find it takes a few listens to fully embrace. — *Colin McCallister*



Bradley Cooper and Lady Gaga star in *A Star Is Born*, the fourth remake since the original 1937 film. The 2018 version returns to IMAX theaters this weekend.

COURTESY PHOTO

Retold story dazzles in Cooper's hands

Bradley Cooper makes an auspicious directorial debut with *A Star Is Born*, an often dazzling and occasionally overwrought crowd-pleaser that soars with rousing music and plenty of pathos.

There have been four remakes since the original 1937 film, and while the story does hit many of the expected beats that line up with the previous iterations, Cooper and crew are able to find just the right notes to deftly bring this timeless tale up to date. Anchored by strong chemistry between the leads and some admirable technical aspects behind the camera, this awards season contender may have what it takes to score some serious Oscar gold next February.

Cooper stars as Jackson Maine, a hard-drinking country singer whose best days are seemingly behind him until he meets a singer named Ally (Lady Gaga) in a burlesque bar one evening. Blown away by her raw talent, Maine invites her on tour and after a guest performance that brings down the house, Ally begins to pursue her own music career first as a singer-songwriter and then later transitioning into pop superstardom.

As a romance blossoms between the two, their relationship is constantly tested by the rigorous pressures of the music industry and by the personal demons that continually drive Maine to the bottle.

Given how much Lady Gaga's real-life career mirrors the trajectory of Ally's character in the film, she was a smart choice for the lead role and proves that she has more to bring to the table on top of her stunning vocals. Her performance, both in scenes on and off the stage, feels natural and unrestrained in a way that most big-screen debuts typically do not. She and Cooper form a bond that's not only believable for their characters but also makes it easy to root for them as a couple, too. A scene of confrontation between the two, during which ugly remarks are exchanged by one another, is hard to watch but played perfectly by the two performers.

While Cooper and Gaga play the rock stars in front of the camera, there's also rock star talent behind the camera in the form of Oscar-nominated cinematographer Matthew Libatique, known for his work with director



Reel Views

BRENT LEUTHOLD

A STAR IS BORN

R for language throughout, some sexuality/nudity, and substance abuse

2 hours 16 minutes



Darren Aronofsky. He captures the on-stage sequences with an immediacy that makes them jump off the screen and feel like we have a backstage pass to an exhilarating rock concert.

There are plenty of other eye-catching moments off-stage as well, including an especially a captivating close-up of Ally sharing a first glance with Jackson in a bar; the flawless composition of that shot in particular makes it especially memorable.

Of course, a film like this that's so entrenched in the music industry lives and dies by the quality of its original music and *A Star Is Born* certainly does not disappoint in that area. The obvious stand-out is the slow-burn duet "Shallow," whose name is probably being etched into the Best Original Song trophy as we speak, but other cuts like "Maybe It's Time" and "Always Remember Us This Way" seem to have tremendous staying power as well. The combination of music and melodrama makes for a predictable but ultimately enjoyable movie that marks a promising start to Cooper's career as a director and to Gaga's career as an actress.

Note: This film was originally released the first weekend in October; it now returns to theaters for a limited IMAX engagement.

COMING TO THEATERS THIS WEEKEND

Mortal Engines, starring Hera Hilmar and Hugo Weaving, is a post-apocalyptic tale set in a world where entire cities compete with one another for limited resources while mounted atop gigantic vehicles.

The Mule, starring Clint Eastwood and Bradley Cooper, tells the true story of a World War II veteran in his 80s who became a drug courier for a Mexican cartel.

Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse, starring Shameik Moore and Hailee Steinfeld, brings everyone's favorite webslinger back to the animated world as he teams up with other versions of Spider-Man from alternate universes.

Komets

UPCOMING PROMOTIONS

SATURDAY, DEC 8 | 7:30PM

vs. **INDY FUEL**
STAR WARS™ NIGHT PRESENTED BY



SUNDAY, DEC 9 | 5:00PM

vs. **TULSA OILERS**
SEASON TICKET EXCHANGE NIGHT
POST GAME SKATE

FRIDAY, DEC 14 | 8:00PM

vs. **WICHITA THUNDER**
FAMILY 4-PACK NIGHT PRESENTED BY



SATURDAY, DEC 15 | 7:30PM

vs. **TOLEDO WALLEYE**
KIDS SEAT FREE NIGHT PRESENTED BY



FRIDAY, DEC 21 | 8:00PM

vs. **KALAMAZOO WINGS**
FAMILY 4-PACK NIGHT PRESENTED BY



SATURDAY, DEC 22 | 7:30PM

vs. **TOLEDO WALLEYE**
FAMILY 4-PACK NIGHT PRESENTED BY



THURSDAY, DEC 27 | 7:30PM

vs. **KALAMAZOO WINGS**
KIDS SEAT FREE NIGHT PRESENTED BY



SATURDAY, DEC 29 | 7:30PM

vs. **CINCINNATI CYCLONES**
NICKELODEON NIGHT PRESENTED BY
POST GAME SKATE



MONDAY, DEC 31 | 7:30PM

vs. **BRAMPTON BEAST**
NEW YEAR'S EVE BASH



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COURTESY PHOTO

Emma Stone and Olivia Colman star in the upcoming Yorgos Lanthimos film, *The Favourite*.

Box office bows to *Ralph* again

For the third consecutive weekend, *Ralph Breaks the Internet* took the No. 1 spot at the U.S. box office with another \$16 million in sales, upping the flick's 17-day domestic sales total to \$140 million.

With \$258 million in worldwide sales and a projected overall profit of over \$200 million, it's pretty safe to say that we're going to have Ralph in our lives for years to come. And that's a good thing — Ralph is a blast.



**Screen
Time**

GREG W. LOCKE

ALSO AT THE BOX

Dr. Seuss' The Grinch sold another \$15 million over its fifth weekend, taking the No. 2 spot and upping the flick's worldwide sales total to \$322 million. I would never, ever had bet that this flick — which seems more like a Netflix-level release — would make this kind of money. I need to see this flick!

The great *Creed II* took the No. 3 spot at last weekend's box office with another \$10.3 million in sales, bringing the \$50 million film's 17-day worldwide sales total to just under \$120 million. I was really hoping this one would sell better. Bummer.

The latest Harry Potter film, *Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald*, continued to put up disappointing numbers, selling just \$6.8 million while taking the No. 4 spot at the domestic box office. Oof. J.K. would have done better to write scripts for 20- and 30-something crowd who were raised on her books.

The year's biggest surprise, *Bohemian Rhapsody*, continued to over-perform, selling another \$6 million, bringing the film's six-week sales total to \$173 million in the U.S. and an incredible \$596 million worldwide. This is now not only the most successful queer film ever made, but the most successful music biopic ever made.

This is a new classic whether it's a good film or not.

Also of note: No one cared that Steven Spielberg re-released his most critically-praised film of all-time, *Schindler's List*. Sorry, Steve.

NEW THIS WEEK

In addition to a PG-13 re-release of the second *Deadpool* film, this weekend will see a lot of smaller movies expanding and three wide releases, starting with action/adventure/fantasy flick *Mortal Engines*, directed by Christian Rivers, starring Hera Hilmar and Hugo Weaving, and produced by Peter Jackson. Looks like this one could be really fun, and perhaps a surprise hit.

Next up is animated Spider-Man film *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*. Looks unessential to me.

And, finally, we have Clint Eastwood's new film, *The Mule*. Looks like the kind of movie that sneaks in and steals some Oscar chatter — or at least wants to.

Two of the most promising films of the year, Barry Jenkins' *If Beale Street Could Talk* and Yorgos Lanthimos' *The Favourite*, will start hitting theaters outside of NYC and LA. These both look like major must-see films to me. Go if you can.

SCREEN RANT

As you probably know by now, the Golden Globe nominees were releases last week. If you've not yet seen the list, I'd recommend taking a look.

There were a lot of notable snubs, including Ethan Hawke's all-time great performance in *First Reformed* (a movie I think is worthy of Best Actor, Best Screenplay, Best Director, and Best Picture nominations), and, of course, *Atlanta*.

I could go on, but mostly I'm just really disappointed with this year's nominations. The Hollywood Foreign Press really, really isn't the greatest. Send your Golden Globe thoughts my way at gregwlocke@gmail.com.

NOW PLAYING

All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914 — Based on the true story of the truce along the Western Front of World War I during Christmas, **3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16**, Niswonger Performing Arts Center, Van Wert, Ohio, \$25-\$45 through box office, 419-238-6722

A Charlie Brown Christmas — Fort Wayne Youtheatre's production of the popular Christmas musical featuring the cast of Charles Schulz's Peanuts comic strip, **7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14; noon Saturday, Dec. 15; 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16**, First Presbyterian Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$20, 422-4226

Macbeth — Shakespearemachine's production of the famous tragedy, **8 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14; 2 and 8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15; and 8 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16**, PPG ArtsLab, Auer Center for the Arts & Culture, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$15, 424-0646

She Loves Me — Musical set in a 1930s perfumery with music by Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick (Fiddler on the Roof) and book by Joe Masteroff (Cabaret), **7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. curtain, Friday-Saturday, Dec. 14-15**, Arena Dinner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$40 (includes dinner & show), 424-5622

Tom and Thom's Christmas Songs and Stories — Tom Didier and Thom Hofrichter sing and read the best-loved songs and stories of the Christmas season, with Tommy Saul on piano, **7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15; and 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, \$12-\$20, 426-7421 ext. 121

ASIDES

AUDITIONS

Bach Collegium — Auditions for new collegium members, by appointment, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, 485-2143

Ben Butler (April 18-May 4) — Roles for 15-20 actors of all genders and races for Civil War drama directed by John O'Connell, **6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 20**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, 426-7421 ext. 121, thofrichter@firstpres-fw-org

A Comedy of Tenors (March 8-23) — Roles for four men and three women in comedy by Ken Ludwig (Lend Me a Tenor), **7 p.m. Sunday-Monday, Jan. 20-21**, Arena Dinner Theatre Rehearsal Hall, 1020 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne, 424-5622

SPECIAL EVENTS

SNAFU in Santa's Workshop — Ecstatic Theatrics production with gift-making activities, games, and selfies with Santa,

2 p.m. and 4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15, TekVenture, Fort Wayne, \$3, 750-9013

Breakfast with Santa Preshow Party — Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus prior to Fort Wayne Youtheatre's production of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, **10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 8 and Dec. 15**, McKay Hall, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, \$30, 422-4226

UPCOMING PRODUCTIONS

JANUARY

The Christians — Lucas Hnath's drama examining a church's dispute over doctrine, **7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Jan. 3-5 and Friday-Saturday, Jan. 11-12; 2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 13; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Jan. 18-19**, First Presbyterian Theater, Fort Wayne, \$12-\$20, 426-7421 ext. 121

Swan Lake — National Ballet Theatre of Odessa's production of classic Tchaikovsky ballet, **7:30 pm. Wednesday, Jan. 16**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$40-\$60 through Ticketmaster and Embassy box office, 424-5665

Love/Sick — A collection of nine slightly twisted, hilarious short plays by John Cariani (Almost, Maine), **7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. curtain, Friday-Saturday, Jan. 18-19, Jan. 25-26 and Feb. 1-2**, Arena Din-

ner Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$40 (includes dinner & show), 424-5622

The Magic School Bus — Musical adaptation based on the original Scholastic book series featuring Mrs. Frizzle, **10 a.m. and noon, Wednesday, Jan. 30**, Ford Theater, Honeywell Center, Wabash, \$10, 563-1102

Kinky Boots — Broadway at the Embassy's production of Harvey Fierstein's Tony Award-winning musical, **7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 29**, Embassy Theatre, Fort Wayne, \$35-\$70 through Ticketmaster and Embassy box office, 424-5665

FEBRUARY

After the Miracle: Helen Keller — Gregory Stieber's adaptation of the Helen Keller story for Fort Wayne Youtheatre's Linda L. Ruffolo Young Heroes of Conscience Series, **7 p.m. Friday, Feb. 8; 2 p.m. & 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 10**, Black Box Theatre, PPG ArtsLab, Auer Center for Arts & Culture, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$20, 422-4226

Love Notes — Fort Wayne Ballet's annual Valentine-themed production, **7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 15-16**, PPG ArtsLab, Auer Center for the Arts & Culture Fort Wayne, \$20 (\$50 VIP package), 422-4226

Thursday, Dec. 27 vs. Kalamazoo, **7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 29** vs. Cincinnati, **7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31** vs. Brampton, **7:30 p.m.**

RACING

Flat Track Motorcycle Racing — Motorcycle racing on a 1/8th-mile short track covered in Coke syrup, **5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22** at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$35-\$120, 483-1111

Rumble in the Fort — Midget, quarter midget, and 600's racing, **7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Dec. 28-29** at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$20, 483-1111

DANCE

Embodiment Dance — Guided dancing for adults of all ages and abilities to exercise the mind, body, and spirits, **1:23 p.m. every Sunday**, Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Fort Wayne, \$10 suggested donation, 244-1905

Contra Dance — Old-time dance with live caller and live music from Spy Run String Band, no partner necessary, **8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15**, Fort Wayne Dance Collective, Fort Wayne, \$6-\$9, 244-1905

DECEMBER

Kwanzaa Celebration — Music, dancing, poetry, Kwanzaa feast, concert performance by Majestic, **6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 27**, Weissner Park Youth Center, Fort Wayne, free, 427-6780

PopCon — Celebrity guests, YouTubers, board gaming, video gaming, laser tag, panels, workshops, podcasts, cosplay contest, and more, times **TBA Friday, Dec. 28, 10 a.m.-midnight Saturday, Dec. 29, and 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30**, Grand Wayne Convention Center, Fort Wayne, \$10-\$50, (866) 544-4007

NYE Ball Drop — Live music, fireworks, countdown to 2019, ball drop, and more, **7 p.m.-midnight Monday, Dec. 31**,

The Wedding Gift — Fort Wayne Civic Theatre musical production about 1950s scam artists who target wealthy bachelors, **8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 17; 8 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Feb. 22-24**, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, \$17-\$30, 422-4226

An Ideal Husband — all for One's production of Oscar Wilde's PG-rated romantic comedy, **7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 22-23; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24; 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, March 1-2; 2:30 p.m. Sunday, March 3**, Black Box Theatre, PPG ArtsLab, Auer Center for Arts & Culture, Fort Wayne, \$11-\$20, 422-4226

Once Upon a Mattress — Purdue Fort Wayne Department of Theatre's production of the musical loosely based upon the story of "The Princess and the Pea," **8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Feb. 22-23; 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24; 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Feb. 28-March 2**, Williams Theatre, Purdue Fort Wayne, \$5-\$18 through Purdue Fort Wayne box office 481-6555

Aladdin — Fort Wayne Ballet Family Series production, **10 a.m., 11:30 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23**, Fort Wayne Ballet Studios, Auer Center for the Arts & Culture Fort Wayne, \$10, 422-4226

Things To Do

CURRENT

Christmas Market — Artisan market with various vendors, wine tasting, live music, and visits with Santa, **10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15**, Tippy Creek Winery, Syracuse, free, 453-9003

Fantasy of Lights — Two-mile drive-through featuring more than 300 illuminated light displays to benefit Blue Jacket, **6-9 p.m. Sunday-Thursday and 6-10 p.m. Friday-Saturday, through Dec. 31**, Franke Park, Fort Wayne, \$10 personal vehicle, \$20 commercial van, \$40 trolley or bus, 744-1900

Old Time Country Christmas Festival of Lights — 1800s themed Christmas village with thousands of lights, holiday music, Christmas trees, and general store, **4-8 p.m. daily, through Dec. 22**, Moose Lake Christian Craft Village, LaOtto, free, 637-2372

Santa Train — Train rides with Santa, hot chocolate, and access to Santa's workshop, **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15 and noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16**, Fort Wayne Railroad Historical Society, New Haven, \$7, 493-0765

Tree Lighting — Holiday music from Chris Ford & Friends, hot cocoa and refreshments, and tree lighting, **6-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13**, Cooper Community Center, Fort Wayne, free, 426-6725

LECTURES, DISCUSSIONS, AUTHORS, READINGS & FILMS

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, A Christmas Story, Die Hard — Triple movie screening, trivia and more, **7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14**, Sweets So Geek, Fort Wayne, free, 312-5728

Art21: San Francisco Bay Area — Screening of the final episode from season 9 featuring artists Stephanie Syjuco, Lynn Herschman Leeson, Katy Granna, and

the Creative Growth Art Center, **7-9 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 19**, Wunderkammer Company, Fort Wayne, free, 424-7195

Susan Man McCulloch: Heirloom Fruits and Traditional Recipes — George R. Mather Lecture by John Beatty, **2 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6**, History Center, Fort Wayne, free, 426-2882

KIDS STUFF

Santa & the Reindeer — Santa and two live reindeer host a meet and greet during the Conservatory's Victorian Holiday exhibit, **noon-4 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5 (2 and under, free), 427-6440

Breakfast with Santa Pre-Show Party — Breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus, meet and greet with the Peanuts characters, photo with Santa, holiday sing-along, goodie bag, and preferred seating the A Charlie Brown Christmas, **10 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 15**, McKay Hall, First Presbyterian Church, Fort Wayne, \$30, 637-3166

Countdown to Noon — Balloon drop, noisemakers, science demonstrations, face painting, party hats, and more, **10 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31**, Science Central, Fort Wayne, \$9, 424-2400

Young Naturalist Series: History of Groundhog Day — Educational presentation, Groundhog Day predictions, crafts and snacks for ages 5-10, **10-11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 19**, Psi Ote Lower Pavilion, Northside Park, Fort Wayne, free, 427-5166

INSTRUCTION

Fort Wayne Ballet — Dance classes for ages 3 and up with live accompaniment and personalized training, dates and times vary, Arts United Center, Fort Wayne, fees vary, 484-9646

Purdue Fort Wayne Community Arts Academy — Art, dance, music and theater classes for grades pre-K through 12 offered by Purdue Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne, fees vary, scholarships available, 481-6059

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

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Ice Skating — Ice skating for all ages and abilities, **1-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, noon-10 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday** through Dec. 16; **noon-10 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, and 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17-Jan. 8; 1-8 p.m. Monday-Thursday, noon-10 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 9-March 3**, Headwaters Park, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5, skate rental \$2, 422-7625

SPECTATOR SPORTS

BASKETBALL

Mad Ants — Upcoming home games at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne **Thursday, Dec. 13** vs. Westchester, **7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 17** vs. Rio Grande Valley, **7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 28** vs. Delaware, **7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 30** vs. Greensboro, **5 p.m.**

Harlem Globetrotters — Exhibition basketball featuring theater, athleticism, and comedy, **1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 3**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$19-\$259, 483-1111

HOCKEY

Komets — Upcoming home games at Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne **Friday, Dec. 14** vs. Wichita, **8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15** vs. Toledo, **7:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 21** vs. Kalamazoo, **8 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 22** vs. Toledo, **7:30 p.m.**

Parkview Field, Fort Wayne, free, VIP gala \$45, fwballdrop.com

New Year's Eve Grand Gala — DJ Rello, cash bar, photographer, dancing, hors d'oeuvres buffet, and appearances from Big Kress and Whitney White, **8 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31-1 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 1**, Grand Wayne Convention Center, Fort Wayne, \$35-\$1000, 424-3700

NYE Masquerade Ball — Costumed party with Billy & Jodie Ballenger and Break the Grey; alcohol-free event **8:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 31-1 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 1**, Life Bridge Church, Fort Wayne, \$15-\$75, 338-0700

JANUARY

Gun and Knife Show — Archery, military collectibles, army surplus, survival gear and related items on display and for sale, **9 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 5, and 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$6-\$7, 493-6144

Bridal Spectacular — Bridal show featuring over 100 booths of wedding related items and services, door prizes, samples, runway show, and more, **noon-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, and noon-3 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 6**, Memorial Coliseum, Fort Wayne, \$10, 438-3395

Savor Fort Wayne — Twelve days of menu deals from dozens of local restaurants, **hours vary per locations, Sunday-Thursday, Jan. 9-20**, various locations, Fort Wayne, prices vary per location, visitfortwayne.com/savor

Nouvelle Annee — Living history reenactment of the French and Indian war, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26**, Historic Old Fort, Fort Wayne, free, 427-6000

Winter Cozy — Heated tent with cozy furniture featuring cocktails, food for purchase, live music, games, ice sculptures, and drink luges, **8 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 26**, Headwaters Park, Fort Wayne, \$10, ages 21 and up, 427-6248



Broadway's Lisa Vroman sings with the Fort Wayne Philharmonic as part of its Holiday Pops series at the Embassy Theatre.

PHOTO BY MICHAEL SCHONE

The Phil unwraps Vroman holiday

The wait is finally over. One of Fort Wayne's favorite holiday traditions, the Holiday Pops, is back at the Embassy Theatre. The Fort Wayne Philharmonic's two-week, five-performance event doesn't disappoint.

This year's show, as part of the Phil's 75th anniversary season, has a bit of an Old Hollywood feel. The musical repertoire includes several orchestrations by Carmen Dragon, whose original music and pops arrangements were widely used in TV and film in the mid-20th century.

The energetic and lyrical dance performances hearken back to classic movie musicals and display the talents of Rachel Jones, Heather Closson, Desiree Lantz, Aijaye Crowder, Chandler Chastain, and choreographer Olivia Rang.

The opening number, "Jingle Bell Fantasy," orchestrated by Carmen Dragon, turns one of the holidays' simplest tunes on its ear, presenting it in multiple musical styles and showcasing various instruments.

Guest vocalist Lisa Vroman brings years of Broadway experi-

ence, a classy sense of humor, and a gorgeous soprano voice to the Embassy stage. With 2,700 performances as Christine in *Phantom of the Opera* under her belt, her high notes evoke chills. She has astonishing range, singing a torchy rendition of Mel Torme's "The Christmas Song" accompanied by a jazz trio.

But her voice especially soars with the classics like "I Saw Three Ships/Bring a Torch," "Go, Tell It on a Mountain," and "O Holy Night."

Vroman's personality shines through not only in her singing but in her audience banter. She even pokes a little affectionate fun at Fort Wayne. She's actually kind of a hometown girl by proxy. Although she grew up in upstate New York, her sister taught music at Homestead High school for 13 years.

Backing Vroman on several numbers are the Fort Wayne Children's Choir, led by Jonathan Busarow, and the Holiday Pops Chorale.

The Fort Wayne Children's Choir are also spotlighted with two numbers: "Do You Hear What I Hear?" and "Mis zeh Hidlik (Behold the Lights)," which also features a beautiful poem reading by one of the young singers.

The Holiday Pops Chorale is comprised of a selection of members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic Chorus as well as a few professional singers. The result is a gorgeous, full

HOLIDAY POPS THE FORT WAYNE PHILHARMONIC W/ LISA VROMAN

2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15

Embassy Theatre, 125 W. Jefferson Blvd., Fort Wayne \$29 and up, through the Philharmonic box office, fwphil.org, or 481-0777

blend of voices, all led by Benjamin Rivera.

Santa and Mrs. Claus even make their appearance near the end of the show, and this year's performance brings back the popular "Santa Tap" number.

Audience participation is another feature of the Holiday Pops that includes a holiday singalong, the Hallelujah Chorus, and the second year of "five gold(en) rings" solos during "Twelve Days of Christmas." Conductor Caleb Young stopped the song several times to good-naturedly remind the opening night audience that the line was a solo effort.

The Fort Wayne Philharmonic has been described as a cultural jewel for the community. The Holiday Pops wraps up that jewel with a shiny bow as a gift to audience members who might not typically attend an orchestral concert.

Christmastime is here with Peanuts and friends

Practice makes perfect, an axiom well demonstrated by this year's production of *A Charlie Brown Christmas* presented by Fort Wayne Youtheatre. Having staged the show last year, it was hard to imagine how they might top an already delightful and entertaining show, but somehow they managed to do it.

The set itself is a stylish accomplishment. The eye-catcher is the large TV which at first glance looks like a charming nod to the kind of old, boxy sets most families

had in the 1960s when *A Charlie Brown Christmas* first aired. But it turns out to be much more, providing projected images which beautifully augment the storyline. It also provides an immediate practical purpose, with the actors taking the stage alongside the images of which iconic and familiar Peanuts character they're portraying.

It would be easy to get confused with so many on the stage and only the cartoon faces in our collective memory, and that quick introduction is very helpful. (Of course, the shirts they wear with their characters' faces is pretty handy, too.)

One of the highlights of last year's performances was the jazz trio on stage to play the fantastic and beloved Vince Guaraldi music, instantly recognizable from radio airplay. Having the trio — Ben Wedler on piano, Dan Katter on drums and Tom Neumann on bass — on stage to accompany the show is the perfect touch, and they seem to be even more prominently featured this year than last, including some fun interplay between them and Charlie Brown during rehearsals of the Christmas show.

Christopher Murphy's direction is once again spot on, and his notes in the program were extremely entertaining while settling in before the show began. His cast not only showcases how capable he is in his role but how well-taught the young students of Fort Wayne Youtheatre and area schools are.

Harley Babbitt once again shines as Charlie Brown, providing the perfect guileless and yet hopeful charm you want to see in the Pea-

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

FORT WAYNE YOUTHEATRE

7 p.m. Friday, Dec. 14

Noon Saturday, Dec. 15

2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 16

First Presbyterian Theater

300 W. Wayne St., Fort Wayne

\$15-\$20 through 422-4266 or

fortwayneyoutheatre.org



Curtain Call

MICHELE DeVINNEY



COURTESY PHOTO

Harley Babbitt once again plays Charlie Brown in the Fort Wayne Youtheatre production of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.

nuts intrepid hero. Lana Thompson is well-suited to Lucy, particularly nailing the flirtation with Schroeder (played by Bobby Way). If anyone might come close to stealing the show, it's Margaret Gaughan as Snoopy, which seems only fair since Snoopy tends to steal the show in every animated classic of the Peanuts series.

Murphy and the cast wring every bit of comedy out of the piece, which features all of the great lines from the 1965 original but also some added vignettes from other Peanuts material (including one of the funnier scenes from *It's Christmastime Again, Charlie Brown*). The laughter of the children filling the First Presbyterian Theater proved that *A Charlie Brown Christmas* is a welcome repeat performance for Fort Wayne Youtheatre and will hopefully return in the years to come.

CURRENT EXHIBITS

1026 West Berry Street: The Fort Wayne Art School — Pieces loaned by students, friends, family, and faculty from the "Old Art School," **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday through Feb. 10**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$6-\$8 (members, free), 422-6467

The Art Show of Traveling — Oil paintings by Rodka "Roddy" Dammeyer, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday through Dec. 30**, Foellinger-Freimann Botanical Conservatory, Fort Wayne, \$3-\$5 (2 and under, free), 427-6440

Daniel Clayman: Shift — 8-10 diverse forms sculpted in minimalist style, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday through Feb. 24**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$6-\$8 (members, free), 422-6467

Fall 2018 BFA Exhibition — Purdue Fort Wayne senior thesis projects in graphic design and photography, **6-9 p.m. Thursday-Saturday through Dec. 28**, Wunderkammer Company, Fort Wayne, 481-6977

Fort Wayne Artist Guild Exhibitions — Works by Karen Bixler at Active Day of Fort Wayne, Jerry Hertenstein at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Carey Collie at Allen County Retinal Surgeons, Valerie McBride at Citizens Square 2nd floor, Nancy Longmate at Citizens Square 3rd floor, Fort Wayne Artists Guild Members' Show at Heritage of Fort Wayne, Linda Hall and Nancy Longmate at Ophthalmology Consultants (Southwest), Mary Johnston at Ophthalmology Consultants (North), Lynne Padgett at Pat Bryan Insurance Agency, Brenda Stichter at Rehabilitation Hospital of Fort Wayne, Carol Bennett at Town House Retirement, Barb Yoder at Visiting Nurse Hospice, and Dick Heffelfinger and Mary Lou Hutter at Will Jewelers **through Dec. 31**, fortwayneartistguild.org.

From It To Thou — Photographic works from Jim Gabbard and graphic design works from Peter Bella, **5-8 p.m. Friday, 4-7 p.m. Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Sunday, and by appointment, through Dec. 23**, Garrett Museum of Art, Garrett, 704-5400

Holiday Themed Art — Ornaments, Nativity scenes and other holiday-themed art, **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday and 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday through Dec. 31**, Orchard Gallery of Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 436-0927

Holiday Show — Artist invitational featuring works from Nancy Haley, Charles White, C.W. Munday, Michael Poorman, Donna Shortt, Forrest Formsma, Randall Scott Harden, EJ Paprocki, Fred Doloresco, Joseph Orr, and Pamela Newell, **11 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday through Jan. 5**, Castle Gallery Fine Art, Fort Wayne, 426-6568

Holiday Pop Up Gallery — Works in a variety of mediums including ceramics, fiber, jewelry, mixed media, sculpture, glass, metal, and more on display and for sale, **noon-6 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday through Dec. 30**, Art Farm, Spencerville, 740-8725

Medieval to Metal: The Art and Evolution of the Guitar — Exhibition showcasing the history and evolution of the guitar, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and**

noon-5 p.m. Sunday through Jan. 6, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$6-\$8 (members, free), 422-6467

A Moveable Feast — Graphic designs, sketches, 3-D compositions, sculptures, and oil and acrylic paintings by Dale White, **7 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday through Jan. 5**, Conjure Coffee Roastery & Cafe, Fort Wayne, 422-7770

Reclamation: The Art of Lucien Shapiro, Ben Venom, and Ravi Zupa — Works made from discarded items in a variety of mediums, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday through Jan. 27**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$6-\$8 (members, free), 422-6467

Stream of Consciousness — Works in a variety of mediums from Bob Cross, **10 a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 15-Feb. 24**, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, \$6-\$8 (members, free), 422-6467

EVENTS

2nd Thursday in the Paradigm Gallery — Bauble party featuring jewelry, cash bar, edibles, and live music from Ken Jehle, **5-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 13**, Paradigm Gallery, Fort Wayne Museum of Art, free, 422-6467

The Art Market: Winter Edition — Curated marketplace featuring contemporary craft and handmade goods, **11 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 15**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, free, 424-7195

JANUARY

Regional Exhibition — Juried art show featuring works in a variety of mediums from local and regional artists, **noon-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 4-Feb. 8**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

FEBRUARY

Mother Sea, Haha Naru Umi: Sayaka Ganz — Recycled items sculptures, **noon-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22-March 22**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

Trace Evidence: Claudia Berlinski — Photography examining the fugative nature of personal history and memory, **noon-7 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday and noon-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 22-March 22**, Artlink Contemporary Art Gallery, Fort Wayne, 424-7195

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