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Northwest Jazz Festival celebrates Great American Songbook with 'unprecedented' main stage lineup



Clockwise: Northwest Jazz Festival main stage performers Pete Malinverni, Champion Fulton and Anais Reno. (Photos provided by the Northwest Jazz Festival)

PRESS RELEASE

The 2024 Northwest Jazz Festival is thrilled to announce a special tribute to the Great American Songbook at this year's highly anticipated event. The annual festival will take place on Friday and Saturday, Aug. 23-24, in the Village of Lewiston. With five stages throughout the grounds, the highlight of the festival continues to shine on the main stage.

Kicking off the festivities on Friday is renowned New York City jazz pianist Pete Malinverni. A Lewiston native, Malinverni's performance marks a homecoming celebration not to be missed. Joined by his dynamic trio, Malinverni's innovative style and captivating stage presence are certain to captivate audiences, echoing the acclaim of his recent tribute

album to Leonard Bernstein.

Later in the evening, rising jazz vocalist Anaïs Reno will grace the stage, enchanting listeners with her magnetic interpretations of jazz standards. Reno will be joined by the Pete Malinverni Trio and the esteemed jazz guitarist Peter Bernstein as a special guest. The quintet promises a performance that will resonate long after the final note.

Continuing the celebration on Saturday, the festival presents a creative program by the Jazz at the Ballroom organization, which has presented special programs on the Great American Songbook at the country's most respected venues such as the Kennedy Center, Skirball Cultural Center, Lobero Theatre, and at New York City's famed Birdland. Jazz at the

Ballroom will feature a lineup of rising stars led by extraordinary jazz pianist Konrad Paszkudzki and featuring bassist Dylan Shamat, vocalist Olivia Chindamo, pianist/vocalist Champion Fulton, vocalist Vanessa Perea, vocalist Wyatt Michael, trombonist Rob Edwards and saxophonist Adrian Cunningham.

Three themed performances titled "Get Out of Town," "Flying High" and "Accentuate the Positive" will spotlight the timeless classics of the Great American Songbook, offering fresh perspectives and arrangements on beloved jazz standards. The Saturday portion of the festival on the main stage will open with a special performance by UB Zodiague Dance for the third year in a

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Officials offer look at Law Enforcement Academy site

Facility to feature state-of-the-art training at SUNY Niagara



An outside view of the soon-to-open Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy on the SUNY Niagara campus.

BY TERRY DUFFY
 Editor-in-Chief

Niagara County officials provided a construction update this week on the nearly 15,000-square-foot Niagara County Law Enforcement Academy that's set to open this June on the SUNY Niagara campus in Sanborn.

"We've cooperated with the law enforcement community. What they have here is state-of-the-art in every aspect – in terms of assimilation," SUNY Niagara President William Murabito said. "We have a new program where we are incorporating the academy as part of our associate's degree program. The student spends two years with us; that student leaves with an associate's degree and oftentimes they're hired."

Niagara County Sheriff Michael J. Filicetti said the academy would train students to meet the ever-growing demands of law enforcement.

"There's a need to have a stronger academy; this facility has the best training facilities possible," he said. "We have stepped up; the county has stepped up. Those who want a law enforcement experience will have the opportunity here."

Filicetti said the academy is a partnership with SUNY Niagara, the City of Niagara Falls and Niagara County.

"This is a state-of-the-art academy," he said. "It will not only train recruits; it will train our

corrections officers; it will provide training for all the existing police officers, deputy sheriffs here in Niagara County. It brings to the cutting edge of all the things we're capable of doing."

Murabito said NCLEA students "are the sons and daughters of law enforcement professionals. There's an attachment here. It's something that is very unique."

Filicetti went on to discuss the academy's newest features, including a reality-based training classroom on the second floor; use-of-force simulators; and expanded training, office, locker and gathering spaces.

"It would have a moveable wall system in here," Filicetti said of the classroom setting. "Think of active shooter situations (in schools): You want to be able to train, to clear those rooms, to get in there fast, stop that threat. There will be reality-based training. It just raises the levels to make it more realistic."

He said the facility would have rollout mats for use in defensive tactics training, even jail cells for use in corrections classes. Rooms will accommodate up to 25 students, with average sizes expected to range from 15-20 with split-up options as needed, depending on situations.

The NCLEA will operate as a 24-week program and utilize professional law enforcement as instructors. The new complex will be a secure facility on the

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