

## Unique concert opportunities in Youngstown

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I think it's just such a cool experience for the concertgoer to go see a band like A Flock of Seagulls at The Jug. It just seems like it would never happen. I just love that concept, in general, just being kind of the up-close-and-personal, intimate setting.

"Being able to see bands that you really like - like the singer for Spin Doctors that's coming in. I mean, I'm a Spin Doctors fan. Chris Barron is doing his own solo stuff now. So, for me, even as a promoter, that excites me. I'm like, I would love to go see that; so, I know other people would, too."

Barry explained, "You've got to look at the musician themselves - like the attitude of that musician; sort of like how they might react in this situation. And I think guys like Michael and Chris thrive on audience participation, and they want to see people engaged. And when you're in an intimate setting like that, it gives you this energy that you can't get anywhere else."

Glabicki said, "I would be just as happy

playing small rooms as I would be playing stadiums.

"Sometimes I feel a little happier in the smaller venues, just because you can really get like an intimate sense of the connections being made."

He added, "Duo shows are pretty magical. I play kick drum and acoustic guitar and sing. Dirk Miller plays electric guitar mostly. He uses a lot of effects and kind of paints these wider pictures with his guitar. But rhythmically, because I start it off on drum kit, I can kind of play grooves with my right strumming hand on the guitar, and my right foot on the kick drum. I can get these grooves that you really couldn't get with a drummer and a guitarist playing separately. There's like super-fine, delicate, subtle things I can do that are very effective in people watching the show.

"I'm also able to like slow down the tempos, kind of swirl things a little bit in ways that you just really couldn't do unless you were like completely psychic with your drummer. ... And then we're able to ap-

proach the vocals differently. The dynamics of bringing it down to a pin drop, and then being very explosive with the guitars and the vocals and the drum.

"It's pretty magical and, as far as being synced up with an audience, the duo has the ability to do that, I think, a little bit more intensely."

Barron said, "My show is funny. I tell a lot of stories. But it's poetic, and I think it's pretty engaging. I think people, generally when they do come out, they're surprised that I'm a pretty accomplished guitar player. I show up with like a killer vintage guitar - for your guitar fans. And I play kind of a funny, hybrid-style of guitar that's a little bit ragtime and mixing these kind of finger-picking techniques. I'm known for being a virtuoso singer. So, you know, I show up, I sing my @ss off, and I've got a lot of different kinds of songs. I think people are generally surprised by the kind of evening that it ends up being.

"I'm funny, but I'm not like ridiculous. I've got a lot of stories, and my act is pretty

cool. If you like solo acoustic singer/song-writing performance, I think I'm one of the guys out there who's really good at it."

Barry said, "Sometimes - as weird as this might sound - when you're playing in a place that's thousands of people that come to see you ... the band is almost disconnected from the audience because it's so big that it becomes a little bit surreal. And you're kind of disconnected with the audience in a weird way. Whereas, if you're at a smaller venue, a more intimate setting with hundreds of people rather than thousands, you are right there with everybody. You can feel everything. You can feel the energy. ...

"Speaking as an artist, I love that. I love to be in the smaller settings, especially when we can fill them in. If you've got a 600-capacity venue, like The Jug outdoors, and we can fill it in with 500, 600 people, it's going to be a blast for everybody.

• Visit [www.wnypapers.com](http://www.wnypapers.com) to read our full interviews with Chris Barron and Michael Glabicki.

## IN THE NEWS

### Audition notice: NRTG 2024-25 season

Niagara Regional Theatre Guild is looking for performers of all experience levels to join for its 102nd season, running from September 2024 through May 2025.

Actors, singers and dancers (ages 18-plus) are encouraged to sign up for an audition slot at [niagaratheatre.com/auditions](http://niagaratheatre.com/auditions).

Auditions will be held June 6-9 at the Ellicott Creek Playhouse in Tonawanda for the three musicals. For more information, visit

[niagaratheatre.com](http://niagaratheatre.com) or call 716-260-2319.

### Lewiston Choraleers celebrate Broadway

The Lewiston Choraleers will present its spring program, "Celebrate Broadway," at three area churches May 25-26 and June 2.

The program will feature selections from Broadway musicals from the '30s to the '90s.

√ Sunday, June 2, 2 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church, 915 Oneida St., Lewiston

The 45-member choral group will be conducted by its musical director, Dr. Brad Wingert, and accompanied by pianist Lynda Williams. Performances are open to the public with a general admission fee of \$5 (children 12 and under are admitted free).

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