

Artpark's July lineup HITS ITS STRIDE

We're a little more than a month into our 53rd season, and July sees our concert schedule kicking into high gear. Artpark is a place where this region comes together, and this month proves it.

Before I look ahead, I want to pause on what's already happened. Four area high schools (Lewiston-Porter, North Tonawanda, Lockport and Wilson) once again chose Artpark as the setting for their graduation ceremonies, and there's nothing quite like watching a Mainstage full of families cheering for their graduates while making memories to last a lifetime.

The Fairy House Festival returned on June 20, drawing hundreds of families for a day of fun and imagination, and that same day the U.S. Navy Band Commodores gave the community a free evening of big band jazz. Wonder Wednesdays and our new Mindfulness Mondays are off and running, and our July Artcamps are very close to sold out.

Tonight, July 10, Femmes of Rock takes the Amphitheater stage, and I'm especially glad to note that founder Nina DiGregorio is a Lewiston native performing at Artpark for the first time. Ziggy Marley follows tomorrow with his "Brightside Tour," and Sarah McLachlan returns July 14. Blackberry Smoke brings its "Rattle, Ramble and Roll Tour" to the Amphitheater on July 15, and I want to flag the opener – former Metallica bassist Jason Newsted, playing with his band The Chophouse Band. Newsted spent nearly 15 years anchoring one of the biggest bands in rock history before he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2009, and these days he's channeling that same energy into a rootsier, genre-blending sound with The Chophouse Band. It's a great pairing with Blackberry Smoke's Southern rock, and a rare chance to see a rock legend on an intimate outdoor stage. Later in the month, Shakey Graves and Dope Lemon share the Amphitheater on July 22, and DJO's July 23 show has already sold out, a sign of just how much demand there is for shows at Artpark this summer.

A once-in-a-century evening
But the show I keep circling on my own calendar is July 17, when we present "Legacy in Motion: Celebrating Miles Davis at 100." This world premiere brings together the Jon Lehrer Dance Company and jazz artists John Bacon and Star People for an evening marking Miles Davis's 100th birthday. Here's what makes it especially meaningful. Davis performed on our Mainstage in 1974, during Artpark's very first season. More than 50 years later, we're bringing his music back to the same stage, paired with athletic, original choreography in an intimate, club-style setting where the audience and performers share the space. Star People, the ensemble behind



Dave Wedekindt
Artpark & Company President

the live music, is made up entirely of Western New York musicians, which makes the evening feel like a full-circle moment for the region as much as for Davis.

Capacity is limited, and only a couple dozen tickets remain, so if this one speaks to you, don't wait.

Classical by candlelight

Two days later, on July 19, we host our second Candlelight Concert in partnership with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra for one of the most unique afternoons we

offer all year. Guests are seated directly on the Mainstage, surrounded by candlelight, for a wine and cheese reception followed by a performance from BPO's Brett Shurtliffe on bass and Loren Silvertrust on violin, playing a program curated especially for the occasion. Coffee and dessert with the musicians follow the music.

Seating is limited by design, since part of what makes this event special is how close you'll be to the performers. It's also a fundraiser, with proceeds supporting both Artpark and the BPO's education programs.

Closing out the month with Cole Swindell

July wraps up on the 30th with Cole Swindell, the country hitmaker behind chart-topping singles like "She Had Me at Heads Carolina" and "Never Say Never." Swindell has built a career on the kind of songs that feel made for a summer night outdoors, and there's no better setting for that than our Amphitheater with the gorge as a backdrop. Expect a big, sing-along crowd for this one.

Why this all matters

I say this often, but it bears repeating. Artpark is a nonprofit, and every ticket you buy this July does more than get you into a great show. It helps fund the programs that don't come with a price tag – Wonder Wednesdays, Mindfulness Mondays, our Memory Café, and free community concerts like the Navy Band Commodores. The grounds themselves are free to enjoy, and they always will be, but keeping that true depends on the support this community shows for our ticketed events. When you come out for "Legacy in Motion," Candlelight Concert, or Cole Swindell, and contribute to our annual fund, you're investing directly in the next Fairy House Festival and the next family discovering Artpark for the first time.

Come see what July has in store. This is your park.

Artpark & Company is located at 450 S. Fourth St., Lewiston, NY 14092. The box office is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Saturday, with extended hours on event days. Find tickets and registration at www.artpark.net or by calling 716-754-4375.

Artpark

More info: artpark.net

JUL 10 TONIGHT
Femmes Of Rock
with The Fabulous USA Band & Second Hand News



JUL 11 TOMORROW
Ziggy Marley
with J BOOG



JUL 14
Sarah McLachlan
with special guest Allison Russell
Mainstage



JUL 15
Blackberry Smoke
with Jason Newsted & The Chophouse Band
Amphitheater



JUL 17
Legacy in Motion: Celebrating Miles Davis at 100
Mainstage



JUL 22
Shakey Graves & Dope Lemon
with special guest Texino
Amphitheater



JUL 19
Candlelight Concert
featuring a BPO String Duo with piano accompaniment
Mainstage



JUL 30
Cole Swindell
with Chase McDaniel
Amphitheater



AUG 04
Tori Amos
with special guest Barteas Strange
Mainstage



Get tickets at the Artpark Box Office and ticketmaster.com

Artpark

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