

Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

March 24, 2023 FREE 20 Pages Vol. 36 / No. 7 • Vol. 39 / No. 2

VOTE for PARKS
Town of Niagara Town Board
"A Spark Starts with Parks"
VOTE FOR CHANGE
Running on the Democratic & Working Families Line's
Paid for by Johnny Parks for Town of Niagara Board



Top: Something Else! • Below: Benny Benack III (Images courtesy of Jazz Festival Committee)

Northwest Jazz Festival announces main stage headliners for 2023

Jazz Festival's main stage to spotlight award-winning international jazz artists and Something Else! supergroup

The 2023 Northwest Jazz Festival in Historic Lewiston, NY main stage headliners will truly be SOMETHING ELSE!

An illustrious gathering of some of the biggest names in jazz will take place Friday, Aug. 25, and Saturday, Aug. 26. For two days, Grammy winners, nominees, and award-winning jazz artists will entertain the throngs of festivalgoers.

The Northwest Jazz Festival will present top international and North American jazz artists, including Benny Benack III, Heather Bambrick, Vincent Herring, James Carter, Randy Brecker, Janet Evra, Greg Abate, Bill O'Connell, Harvie S, Paul Bollenback, Jonathan Blake and Dave Kikoski.

A lineup curated by music director Tony Zambito will welcome a cavalcade of all-stars to the main stage with two special projects highlighted each day.

The festival's main stage will open with the United States Air Force Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble and will close with the supergroup Something Else! performing a powerhouse soul jazz revue. The supergroup will perform classic soul jazz and hard-bop songs by Cannonball Adderley, Horace Silver, Herbie Hancock and others by an all-star septet ensemble.

"I could not be more excited for the people who make it this year to see and hear the great jazz stars who will take the stage," Zambito said. "We're excited to have Grammy winners, nominees, and a Juno Award nominee



Main Stage Lineup

Friday, Aug. 25

✓ The United States Air Force **Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble**

✓ Trumpeter and jazz vocalist **Benny Benack III** and his quartet

Saturday, Aug. 26

✓ Juno Award nominee and Jazz FM 91.1 host, jazz vocalist **Heather Bambrick**

✓ International jazz bassist/vocalist **Janet Evra** and her quartet, featuring **Randy Brecker**

✓ The **Greg Abate Quartet** with award-winning **Bill O'Connell**, **Harvie S**, and **Jason Tiemann**

✓ The **Something Else!** supergroup featuring **Vincent Herring**, **James Carter** and **Randy Brecker**

on the main stage this year.

"We kick things off with the popular United States Air Force

Rhythm in Blue Jazz Ensemble. The highly entertaining rising star Benny Benack III headlines our Friday night main stage concert. On Saturday, we are honored to welcome one of the greats, Randy Brecker, to the stage. Not once but twice! Plus, a great quartet will hit the stage led by alto saxophonist Greg Abate, a direct lineage to Phil Woods. And having a septet of all-star jazz musicians performing the classic soul jazz songs we love is one heck of a special treat. It is going to be an exciting time for both the musicians joining us and for the audience."

Each year, the Northwest Jazz Festival depends on sponsors and fundraising to remain the largest free jazz festival in the region.

"We thank all who have sponsored us in the past, and continue to do so now and in the future – especially Northwest Bank, who has helped us move the festival into a new direction. The support from our sponsors make it possible to bring tremendous jazz musicians to the festival," said Carol Calato, chairwoman of the annual Northwest Jazz Festival.

A press release noted, "The festival is free, but relies on the support of sponsors to ensure a world-class event. A limited number of tickets are available in front of the main stage for \$25 online at www.LewistonJazz.com."

For more information about the festival, sponsorship or fundraiser, or to sign up for alerts on Jazz Festival news, visit the festival's website at www.LewistonJazz.com.

Higgins & Wheatfield Supervisor MacSwan honor more than 75 local Vietnam veterans



Above: VVA Chapter 268 President Bob Hull with Congressman Brian Higgins and Town of Wheatfield Supervisor Don MacSwan. • American Vietnam War 50th anniversary commemorative lapel pins. (Submitted photos)

Congressman Brian Higgins, along with Town of Wheatfield Supervisor Don MacSwan, held a ceremony Monday recognizing the service of Western New York Vietnam veterans. During the event, more than 75 local veterans each received an American Vietnam War 50th anniversary commemorative lapel pin.

"Decades ago, Vietnam veterans put their lives on the line and returned to a nation that did not properly welcome them home," Higgins said. "And while we can't undo the unjustified reception they received years ago, we can work today and each day forward to appropriately express the sincere appreciation they deserve for their service to this country."

MacSwan, a U.S. Army veteran who served during the Vietnam War, said, "It is an honor and privilege to meet all the veterans, especially the Vietnam veterans that served our country under extremely difficult conditions at home and abroad."

The America Vietnam War Commemoration was authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War. Higgins is a registered commemorative partner. Under the program, veterans who served on active duty in the

U.S. Armed Forces between Nov. 1, 1955, and May 15, 1975, or their surviving spouse, are eligible to receive a commemorative anniversary pin.

Featured on the pin is the message, "A grateful nation thanks and honors you."

An outreach event followed the ceremony and featured several veteran service providers, including: Niagara County Veterans Service Agency, Erie County Veterans Service Agency, VA Western New York Healthcare System, New York State Division of Veterans' Affairs and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Benefits Administration. Also attending the event were members of the Wheatfield Veterans Memorial Committee, Vietnam Veterans of America chapters 77 and 268, Patriot Guard Riders of New York Military Order of the Purple Heart chapters 187 and 264, Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and the Buffalo Niagara Honor Flight.

The ceremony was held at the Town of Wheatfield Community Center in the week leading up to National Vietnam Veterans Day, which is recognized annually on March 29. This time was chosen to observe the last day U.S. combat troops departed Vietnam: March 29, 1973.



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