

Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel

May 19, 2023 FREE 20 Pages Vol. 36 / No. 15 • Vol. 39 / No. 10



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Lewiston Artisan Farmers Market returns with local produce, space to build community, connections

Artpark's anniversary celebration begins with international performers, Indigenous artists, rising musical stars

Part I of interview with President Sonia Kozlova Clark



Your guide to a FUN(NER) SUMMER



Pictured, clockwise: Cirque Inxtremiste • "Carmina Burana" (Photos provided by Artpark & Company) • Artpark & Company President Sonia Kozlova Clark (Photo by dellas, traffic east)

BY JOSHUA MALONI

GM/Managing Editor

When the coronavirus caused most of the world to shutter in the spring of 2020, the Lewiston Artisan Farmers Market was open – deemed an “essential business” because it sold fresh foods.

In the years that followed, the venue has kept that “essential” title – but for different reasons.

Aurora Schul Schunk, owner of Schul Farmstead in Cambria, said, “We decided to become a part of the Lewiston Farmers Market to meet new customers in the Niagara County community. As a new farm, we think it’s important to get to know our neighbors who value locally grown, in-season agricultural products.”

She added, “Our experience at the market has been incredible – which is why we are coming back as a full-time vendor for the second year! The Lewiston Farmers Market is in a welcoming and accessible



Lewiston Artisan Farmers Market photos by Chelsea Sears, Chelsea Modern Images // Jamie Symmonds

location. It’s always bustling, but in a way that’s not overwhelming to patrons, where you’re able to shop without feeling rushed, and free to ask questions or have conversations with the vendors – which is one of my favorite parts – being able to speak with customers, answer their questions about growing practices, or recipe suggestions, or how to use a vegetable they may be unfamiliar with.”

Danielle MacKenzie and her family are regular visitors to the village venue. She said, “Saturday mornings at the Lewiston Farmers Market has become a bit of a summertime family ritual. Each week, my family will meet up at Academy Park in the Village of Lewiston – four generations of us – to enjoy our time, as a family, at our local farmers market.

“The farmers market is something we look forward to each summer. The park is a perfect location for the market, and they

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BY JOSHUA MALONI

GM/Managing Editor

Artpark & Company’s focus for this summer – its 50th season – centers on five key words: spectacle, drama, Indigenous & global influences.

Indeed, arts and culture will take center stage this year, as the award-winning venue will host educational and entertaining events across the Lewiston state park’s 150-acre campus.

Organizers shared, “Hotly anticipated events this summer include the North American premiere of the spectacular production of ‘Carmina Burana’ by Spain’s La Fura dels Baus; a hot air balloon escape act by the French Cirque Inxtremiste and a ‘Cirque Celebration’ fundraiser directed by Sxip Shirey; guitar legend Buddy Guy’s farewell tour; the 13th annual Artpark Fairy House Festival, this year adding a celebration of the culture of Ukraine under the creative collaboration of Kyiv’s theater director Vlad Troitskyi and Tbilisi’s designer Uta Bekaia; concert attractions like Ben Folds and double-headers like Pixies with Modest Mouse; rising music artists like Noah Kahan, Orville Peck and Larkin Poe; and



the Artpark Strawberry Moon Festival, celebrating Indigenous cultures of the Buffalo-Niagara Region. ...

“Artpark has already announced more than 30 performances and concerts, two festivals, several art installations, six international creative residencies, art camps, and even the launch of Artpark’s ‘Art Ale’ in partnership with Resurgence Brewing Co.”

President Sonia Kozlova Clark previewed the new season in a recent Q&A. This is part one of her interview.

Q: I would say Artpark probably fared better than most over the pandemic – the site remained open, you came up with creative new programming, and received several grants and awards. You had crowds in thick and thin. What have you learned about your audience in recent years, and how do you best serve them in 2023?

Sonia Kozlova Clark: That’s a very good question – and it is complicated because our audiences are changing – and they are changing more rapidly since COVID.

SEE ARTPARK, continued on Page 8

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