

ARTPARK SEASON BEGINS

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To define what is our audience today versus what it was three years ago, I would say that, during COVID, we were able to think about our strengths, our unique features, and also our future with support from federal and state funding sources and the local community. We were able to strengthen our partnerships with presenters like Live Nation, AEG Live, Funtime; grow our artistic and management team; and with that take some risks. What we learned in the process of trying some new bands and recalibrating some of our event structures and expectations, is that there's a tremendous new audience for Artpark, both locally, which includes Lewiston, Buffalo, the rest of Western New York, and as far as Canada, as Canadians are starting to come back.

We learned that our audiences are, indeed, interested in the great diversity of music and other programs. They represent different



Artpark's front outdoor lobby area

demographics, segments or pockets of the population that we can serve in very different ways.

Artpark itself occupies a vast territory, and its 150 acres offers some very interesting opportunities for engagement. We have several stages: the well-known

Artpark Amphitheater with a large capacity of up to 10,000 people. We also have the Artpark Mainstage Theater, which is the enclosed theater with an open lawn in which Artpark opened in 1974.

We also have the intimate Emerald Grove stage, named after the

installation by Jesse Walp that surrounds it. This chamber stage has a garden-like setting and has become the primary setting for the fast-growing "New Music in the Park Series" where the informal atmosphere gives our audiences permission to experience something very new to them.

We also have been using the grounds of Artpark, rich with performance and festival opportunities. Both our Strawberry Moon Festival celebrating the local Indigenous cultures and the Fairy House Festival this year focusing on the art of Ukraine mixed with the local fairy house creations in the woods will take advantage of the wonderful nature of the lower park.

The Cirque Inextremiste performance calling for a large outdoor area for the hot air balloon hoisting acrobats up in the air will take place on the upper parking lot B. One of the "New Music in the Park" concerts – "Louiseau," curated by now local conductor

Brett Chancellor – will take our audience on a walking music tour on the stunning Niagara Gorge to explore the work of contemporary composers Kaija Saariaho, Iannis Xenakis, Brent Chancellor and Messiaen with dance and Native American spoken word.

We will have on-stage performances of music by Philip Glass and Vivaldi and take advantage of the natural acoustic dome of the Emerald Grove with Third Coast Percussion.

And, of course, the massive theatrical production of "Carmina Burana" by La Fura dels Baus with Buffalo Philharmonic, Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus conducted by Gil Rose, and 200-plus performers will take place on our exceptional, one-of-a-kind opera stage.

• See Part II next week.

• For more information on Artpark & Company programming, visit www.artpark.net. Tickets are available online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Artpark & Company announces lineup for 'New Music in the Park Series'

Artpark & Company has announced the 2023 "New Music in the Park Series." Six performances will be held in various locations throughout Artpark's scenic grounds, curated by Artpark staff and award-winning conductor and composer Brent Chancellor.

A press release stated, "The series offers an eclectic snapshot of music, performance and collaboration happening now with works by living, female, and underrepresented composers, alongside iconic and legendary figures that broaden and enrich the musical conversation around creativity, social unity, and identity."

Tickets for all performances are \$12 and are available at the Artpark box office (450 S. Fourth St., Lewiston) and online at ticketmaster.com.

'New Music in the Park Series' Lineup

Per Artpark:

• **Jeremy Dutcher**, 7 p.m., Friday, July 7 / Mainstage Theater: Jeremy Dutcher is a classically trained operatic tenor and composer who takes every opportunity to blend his Wolastoq First Nation roots into the music he creates, blending distinct musical aesthetics that shape-shift between classical, traditional and pop to form something entirely new.

Dutcher's debut release, "Wolastoqiyik Lintuwakonawa," involves the rearrangement of early 1900s wax cylinder field recordings from his community.

"Many of the songs were lost because our musical tradition was suppressed by the Canadian government," he said. "I'm doing this work as there's only about a hundred Wolastoqey speakers left. It's crucial that we're using our language because, if you lose the language, you're losing an entire distinct way of experiencing the world."

• **Third Coast Percussion**, 4 p.m. Sunday, July 9 / Artpark Emerald Grove Stage: Third Coast Percussion (TCP) is a Grammy Award-winning Chicago-based percussion quartet and Grammy-nominated composer collective.



Third Coast Percussion (Photo by Rich Polk // provided by Artpark & Company)

For over 15 years, the ensemble has created exciting and unexpected performances that constantly redefine the classical music experience. The ensemble has been praised for "commandingly elegant" (The New York Times) performances, the "rare power" (Washington Post) of their recordings, and "an inspirational sense of fun and curiosity" (Minnesota Star-Tribune).

TCP's program for this performance, titled "Perspectives," invites listeners to embark on an exciting musical adventure, featuring virtuosic repertoire written for TCP by some of today's leading

music creators. Iconic film composer Danny Elfman, innovative electronic music producer Jlin, American legend Philip Glass, and groundbreaking flute/electronics duo Flutronicx embody the diversity of 21st century music-making, drawing inspiration from a wide range of influences and points of view.

NPR Music's Tom Huizenga said, "Third Coast Percussion, with albums like 'Perspectives,' continues to push percussion in new directions, blurring musical boundaries and beguiling new listeners."

• **L'Oiseau: Guided walking-concert along the Niagara Gorge**, 7 p.m. Thursday, July 13 / Artpark upper park: L'Oiseau is a guided walking-concert set along Artpark's iconic Gorge Trail that explores the works of contemporary composers Kaija Saariaho, Iannis Xenakis, Brent Chancellor and Messiaen, body movement, and Native American spoken word. Celebrating nature and transformative experience, the performance culminates with Michael Gordon's "Timber for six 2x4's." Performers include Cathie Apple, Tim Stanley and Mantra Percussion.

• **CS4: Philip Glass String Quartets**, 7 p.m. Thursday, July 20 / Mainstage Theater: Hailed by NPR, Apple Music and Strings Magazine as one of the most noteworthy interpreters of the music of Philip Glass, violinist Chase Spruill leads San Francisco-based CS4 in an all-Glass program celebrating 30 years of the composer's iconic

music for string quartet. This special program includes music from Mishima, Quartet Satz, and the U.S. premiere of Glass's String Quartet No. 9, "King Lear."

• **John Bacon Quintet**, 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 6 / Artpark Emerald Grove Stage: The John Bacon Quintet consists of some of the region's finest jazz artists and composers, including John Hasselback III on trumpet, Elliot Scozzaro on alto saxophone, Jared Tinkham on guitar, Ed Croft on bass and John Bacon on drums. The group is a modern jazz quintet playing original music composed by the members. They are celebrating the release of their first recording in early summer 2023.

• **LUX: Vivaldi Redefined – The Four Seasons**, 4 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 13 / Mainstage Theater: Vivaldi's most radical work redefined. Violinist Hee Sagong, conductor Brent Chancellor, and projection artist Nicholas Taboni reimagine Vivaldi's groundbreaking work in an immersive performance surrounded by audience members on stage, a backdrop of digital projections, and electronic music interludes. "Vivaldi Redefined" blurs the lines between listener, performer, past, and present.

The "New Music in the Park Series" is made possible in part by HSBC Bank. More information on all performances is available at www.artpark.net

Curator & Collaborative Artist

Brent Chancellor is an award-winning conductor, composer and curator recognized for his powerful, dynamic style and direct human communication. A passionate educator and founder of the immersive orchestra project LUX, he has performed throughout the U.S., including at Carnegie Hall, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Symphony Space, DiMenna Center, and New Jersey Performing Arts Center. His music and sound installations have been featured at the Festival of New American Music, Festival of the Arts, Sacramento Film Festival, and New York Fashion Week. Fascinated by the intersectional merging of interdisciplinary arts, performance practice and education, his programming explores collaborations that present important works in new and compelling ways.

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