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Time for summer to get more **FUN(NER)!**

New songs, new set – even new award for Lauren Daigle ahead of Artpark show



Lauren Daigle will headline a concert at Artpark on July 14. (Images courtesy of Atlantic Records/Centricity Music/PFA Media)

Singer performs in Lewiston on Friday, July 14

PREVIEW BY JOSHUA MALONI

GM/Managing Editor

It's been a minute since Artpark & Company slotted a straight-up Christian music-making artist into its list of concert headliners. In the summer of 2007, Rebecca St. James performed inside the Mainstage Theater to a crowd of about 1,000 people.

In this, Artpark's 50th anniversary season, the Lewiston visual, cultural, educational and performing arts company welcomes the genre back – and has not only moved the venue – to the outside amphitheater – but has booked perhaps the biggest name in all of Christian music: Lauren Daigle.

How big, you ask?

Daigle's top five songs on Spotify – "You Say," "Rescue," "Trust in You," "Look Up Child" and "How Can It Be" – have been played more than 915 million times. On YouTube, the videos for these songs have been watched more than 575 million times, not counting live and special versions.

Now, before anyone starts to limit this concert experience in their minds (say, "That's only for church folks," or "I don't want to be preached to," for example), consider this: Daigle is a recurring performer on "American Idol"; her music has been featured on "Dancing with the Stars," "The Voice" and the film "Sing 2"; and her bio notes "Daigle ... grew up in Lafayette, singing constantly, absorbing the local zydeco, blues and Cajun music. She loved pop stars like Celine Dion and Whitney Houston and soul icons like Aretha Franklin, Al Green and James Brown; at her elementary school, they played 'Respect' every morning before the Pledge of Allegiance."

Daigle's music is about three things universally accepted and valued: hope, positivity and joy. It's not for or against anyone, but values human connection – for everyone.

The singer, who will perform at Artpark on July 14, recently released a self-titled album – and is set to drop another batch of songs later this year. A newly crowned K-LOVE Female Artist of the Year, Daigle shared more in this edited Q&A.

SEE DAIGLE, continued on Page 8

Your guide to a **FUN(NER) SUMMER**

•In addition to the Lauren Daigle concert, **Artpark & Company** has a huge month of programming in Lewiston. Among the highlights: Tori Amos performs a Mainstage Theater show on July 8, while the Barenaked Ladies bring their "Last Summer on Earth Tour" to the amphitheater (along with Five For Fighting and Del Amitri) on July 11. The weekend of July 15-16 sees the return of the Fairy House Festival (Saturday) and RAIN: A Tribute to the Beatles (Sunday). The month ends with opera, and the North American premiere of Carl Orff's "Carmina Burana" by La Fura dels Baus on July 29 (conducted by Gil Rose and accompanied by the BPO).

•The **Lewiston Council on the Arts** presents the annual "Summer of '69" concert from 7-10 p.m. Friday, July 7, in Lewiston's Academy Park. The LCA's "Music Mondays" concerts feature the Maria Aurigema Band (July 10), Banjo Juice Jazz Band (July 17) and Miller & The Other Sinners (July 24), from 7-9 p.m. at the Hennepin Park Gazebo; and Seventh Sign (July 31), at 7 p.m. inside Academy Park.

•"**Music Mania Mondays**" continues each week in the Town of Niagara's Veteran's Memorial Community Park. Upcoming acts include July 10, 6:30 p.m. Rusty Nickel/8 p.m. Who's Bad; July 17, 6 p.m. JB Aaron/7:30 p.m. Fresh Horses (Garth Brooks tribute)/7:30 p.m. Shania Twin (Shania Twain tribute); July 24, 6:30 p.m. Flipside/8 p.m. Nerds Gone Wild; July 31, 6:30 p.m. Chris Borgatti and Friends/8 p.m. Bee Gees Gold (Bee Gees tribute).

•The **Jack Beatty Memorial Hospice Cruise and Clambake** returns to the lower Niagara River following a three-year pandemic-related hiatus. The Niagara Hospice fundraiser begins at 2 p.m. Friday, July 14, at the Youngstown Yacht Club. Land-lovers can opt to skip the trip and just partake of the clambake and cookout, which begin at 5:30 p.m.

•Youngstown's "**Third Thursdays on Main Street**" series is set for July 20. **Concerts continue at Falkner Park**, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. each Friday. Upcoming shows include July 7, The Taverners (classic pop and rock); July 14, Alex Rene Big Band ("big band" and swing); and July 21, Waterstreet Quartet (jazz and musical standards). The village also will be the site of the **Youngstown Yacht Club's Can-Am Challenge** on July 29-30.

•The **Sanborn Area Farm Festival** is slated for July 22-23.

•**Old Fort Niagara** presents "Reverberations of Revolution" on July 22-23 in Youngstown.

This list is only the beginning. Check your local chamber of commerce for more information.

Summerfest at Porter-on-the-Lake

Porter happening has skydivers,
family fun & entertainment



Last year's Summerfest featured a spectacular fireworks display.

Summer fun is in full swing, with a whole slew of outdoor happenings going on wherever you look.

Coming off this weekend's Pirate Festival in Olcott, next up on the calendar is the annual Porter-on-the-Lake Summerfest, set for Saturday, July 15, at scenic POTL, located on Dietz Road, off Lake Road. The event is presented by the Town of Porter.

Summerfest opens at 3 p.m. and continues until dusk. This family-oriented happening will feature foods, vendors, beer/wine, as well as live music sets.

Supervisor John "Duffy" Johnston welcomes visitors to enjoy a day by the lake. Look for skydiving displays from Skydive the Falls; free children's activities, including pony rides, bounce houses, balloon art and face painting; entertainment, with the Rick Zachary Band on the lakeside stage from 3-6 p.m., and the Thurman Brothers Band performing from 6 p.m. to dusk; and a firework display to wind up the day.

Admission is \$5 per adult, with children 12 and under free. All proceeds from this event will go toward projects to benefit Porter-on-the-Lake Park. The event will be held rain or shine. No coolers or carry-ins permitted.

"Each year, Summerfest is getting bigger and better," Johnston said. "Please come to support Porter-on-the-Lake and see the new outdoor fitness court!"

The town noted beach access to Lake Ontario from Dietz Road will be closed to the public that day due to preparations for the fireworks display.

Porter's Summerfest is brought to the community with support from Modern Disposal Services, Severson Environmental Services Inc., Mark Cerrone Inc., Waste Management and First District Niagara County Legislator Irene Myers.

Additional sponsors include D.T. Truesdell Trucking, Ki-Po Chevrolet, Hardison Funeral Home, Mawhiney Trucking, Fox Fence, CRB Holdings Inc. (Tim Hortons), Skydive the Falls, Ed's Garage, Wendel Engineering, Weibert's Auto Place, Congressman Brian Higgins, New York State Sen. Rob Ort, Assemblyman Angelo Morinello and Frey Electric.

For more information on Summerfest, call the Town of Porter at 716-745-3730.

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