

# Artpark preparing for different, but full season

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While large-scale concerts will not be possible this summer, Artpark offers its natural beauty and inspiration to artists and visitors. Looking at this new emerging season, I see an Artpark that serves its community through the healing and uniting power of the arts and nature – an Artpark that serves its mission to nurture artistic talent while providing invaluable service to our audiences through experiences in the park that make us stronger.”

The new season began at Artpark with a juried selection of **Rob Lynch & Matt Sargurney (The Solo Roths)** as lead artists on Artpark’s parking lot mural project. They will collaborate with the **Artpark Bridges** community outreach program partners to, together, transform the largest Artpark parking lot (nearest to South Fourth Street) into a large canvas of color that, “gives voice to the underserved members of our community and expresses shared humanity.”

Project development and workshops with organizations including People Inc., Artisan’s Edge and Parkinson’s Community will be conducted throughout the summer, with parking lot painting currently slated to take place over the course of late June through August.

The project is supported by Charles D. and Mary A. Bauer Foundation, Pamela and Joseph Priest, and Jeffrey Williams/Apartments Niagara.

“**The Art of Walking**” is a new program created by an international collaboration of New York-based theater and visual artist Carin Jean White and Catalan artists Itsaso Iribarren and German de la Riva. Beginning June 27, small walking groups of up to 10 will be led by two performance artists, weaving a moving meditation combining walking, stillness, listening and cheerful interaction.

Artpark & Company said, “Much more than a traditional walking tour, participants will explore the nature, poetry and story of Artpark in an engaging and surprising way. An option for a picnic basket meal will be offered for purchase upon pre-registration.”

“Art of Walking” is supported by Niagara Falls National Heritage Area, M&T Bank and the Cullen Foundation. For more information on registration, schedule and distancing procedures/safety protocols, visit [www.artpark.net](http://www.artpark.net).

Many recent park visitors have been taking in Artpark’s natural beauty and finding relief from stress. Beginning this summer, select trails and landscapes throughout the park will have their own soundtrack.

The **Holladay Brothers** compose music



The Fairy House Festival is slated to return in August. (File photo)

and map it to a physical space using GPS – a concept referred to as “Location-Aware Music.” Upon downloading a free app, visitors may use their mobile device to dynamically experience the music and hear how it transforms as they traverse through the park.

Hays and Ryan Holladay’s first production, “The National Mall,” is a location-aware album mapped to the eponymous park in Washington, D.C. It was included in the Washington Post’s list of top albums (a first for an app). They’ve since gone on to create similar works for New York’s Central Park, SXSW Interactive in Austin, Texas, and other sites around the world, partnering with groups such as IBM and the U.S. State Department in the process.

The Holladay Brothers are now actively working to develop the site-reactive musical app exclusive to Artpark to be finalized in 2021. Watch for the launch of the test run of the app this summer to be announced soon.

This summer, Artpark will welcome **Taylor Mac**, a widely recognized playwright, actor, singer-songwriter, performance artist, director, producer and a MacArthur Genius award recipient. Mac uses “judy” as a gender pronoun. judy’s work has been performed at New York City’s Lincoln Center, The Public Theatre and Playwrights Horizons, London’s Hackney Empire, Los Angeles’s Royce Hall, Chicago’s Steppenwolf Theatre, the Sydney Opera House, Stockholm’s Sodra Theatre, the Spoleto Festival, MOMA, and literally hundreds of other theaters, museums, music halls, opera houses, cabarets, and festivals around the globe.

Mac will have an artist residency toward a new work commission with his music director Matt Ray from June 8-12. Taylor and his band will return to Artpark in 2021 for a public performance and a meet-the-artist talk.

A **Native American Peace Garden** is being imagined to overlook the Niagara River Gorge and serve as a reflection space for healing, celebrating and tranquility. It will “share the deep-rooted beauty of Native American culture and heritage through traditional stories and songs while cultivating Native American plants and medicines.” Artpark is planning to host a variety of teaching sessions for all ages, including drum, dance, storytelling, art and beading within the garden setting – all to the extent safety guidelines permit this summer.

The Peace Garden was conceptualized by Strawberry Moon Festival Artistic Producer Michele-Elise Burnett and is implemented by a team of Tuscarora artists and gardeners led by Rene Richard. The garden will be officially opened during the Strawberry Moon Festival on Aug. 1.

A new **Mary E. Garden** with an installation titled “**Bell Tower**” by composer and sound artist William Close will be completed this summer in the park. Audiences enjoyed Close’s performances at Artpark in 2017 and 2018 when he toured with his Earth Harp Collective. The garden installation will be opened to public in early-mid-July and will be a second sound installation by Close after his “Gong Temple” in Artpark’s Percussion Garden.

The project is funded by Mary E. Knotts.

An adapted version of the **Strawberry Moon Festival** will be held Aug. 1. The event will feature a special program by the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by JoAnn Falletta in collaboration with the Jon Lehrer Dance Company and Kakekalanicks Indigenous Consultancy. The program will celebrate the legacy and indigenous cultures of Niagara Falls on the famed Niagara 1979 site (aka the “Painted Parking Lot”) following social distancing guidelines.

The project is funded by the Regional Economic Development Council/New York State Council on the Arts, M&T Bank and Cullen Foundation. The Seneca-Iroquois Museum will sponsor Native-American themed activities that will take place during the event. More updates on this event will be announced.

Artpark’s annual **Fairy House Festival** will take place Aug. 15. It will be modified to include contact-free activities and will feature a walk-through tour of artist-created fairy houses, winding through the Artpark

woods. Artpark will accept artist submissions to create fairy houses that will be displayed at the festival via a forthcoming RFP. The 10th annual festival is supported by the Cullen Foundation.

Described by The New York Times as “one of the most vital and original ensembles on the American Music scene,” **Alarm Will Sound** is a 20-member touring ensemble led by Artistic Director Alan Pierson that will present John Luther Adams’ “Ten Thousand Birds” on Aug. 9 as part of Artpark’s “**Music in the Woods**” series (TBA). The piece is based on the songs of birds that are native to, or migrate through the area in which the piece is performed. It explores the connections between nature and music, a topic that Pulitzer Prize and Grammy Award-winner Luther Adams has pursued over the course of his career – and is a common theme in Artpark’s programming.

This performance is crafted so that the musicians and audience can move around each other, always at a safe distance, listening from changing perspectives while surrounded by the music.

“One of my greatest hopes for my music is that it may be of use. So, I’m thrilled that Alan and the musicians of Alarm Will Sound have found such a creative use for ‘Ten Thousand Birds.’ At this difficult moment, it’s more important than ever for us to remember our connections with the larger-than-human world, and to celebrate the never-ending music of this miraculous planet that is our one and only home,” Luther Adams said of this upcoming performance.

The performance and the “Music in the Woods” series are funded by New York Council on the Arts, Thomas Burrows and HSBC Bank.

Artpark & Company noted that all listed programs are complying with COVID-19 safety guidelines, required by the federal and the New York state authorities. Moreover, “We will ask our visitors to exercise social distancing practice, wear masks, use cleaning stations available throughout the park, and follow Artpark attendance guidance during the programs.”

Artpark’s 2020 season is supported by M&T Bank, the Cullen Foundation, New York State Council on the Arts and Arts Services Initiative.

Check [artpark.net](http://artpark.net) or consider joining the Artpark e-list for updates on these and other events.

Earl W. Brydges Artpark State Park and its trails, public art and fishing spots are free and open daily from dawn until dusk.

## IN THE NEWS

### Jastrzemski:

#### DMVs not open yet

Niagara County Clerk Joseph A. Jastrzemski issued the following statement Wednesday regarding Department of Motor Vehicle offices:

“There is perception by many in the public that DMV offices have reopened as part of phase two and we have had many people showing up at our three DMV locations looking to process transactions. This is simply not the case.

“New York State DMV Commissioner Mark Schroeder informed Niagara County and all counties across the state that the soonest DMVs can reopen is when their respective region reaches phase three. For Niagara County, that is expected to be about two weeks away.

“Even when we enter phase three, transactions will require a reservation and be limited to Niagara County residents. We are working through some of those logistics now and will make an announcement at a later date.

“We do know that CDL permit

tests will resume by reservation-only during phase three. The state has provided no timetable for Class D permit tests nor the resumption of Class D road tests. I understand the frustration regarding permits and road tests and, as soon as we know more, we will pass that information along.

“I remind people that we have processes in place for registrations and to surrender plates that do not

require an in-person transaction. Information on these can be found on the Motor Vehicles Department page at [niagaracounty.com](http://niagaracounty.com).”

### NFMMC updates COVID-19 testing

Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center has updated its schedule for performing community diagnostic testing for COVID-19. The

schedule, effective immediately, was revised to better reflect public demand for this testing.

- Drive-thru testing is available by appointment from 8 a.m. to noon daily on Memorial’s downtown Niagara Falls campus.

- Drive-thru testing also is available by appointment behind the Summit Healthplex, 6934 Williams Road, Wheatfield, from 1-5 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Thurs-

days, and 1-6 p.m. Tuesdays.

Pre-registration is required. Call 278-4496 to schedule an appointment.

Health care providers should fax prescription test orders for their patients to 278-4061. Prescription test orders for people without a primary care doctor will be provided by a medical center physician upon request.

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