

MEDIA RELEASE

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Summer of the Arts Announces Main Stage Line-up for the Iowa Arts Festival!

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This year's Iowa Arts Festival, presented by Veridian Credit Union, promises a dynamic Main Stage line-up. Get ready for an exciting weekend filled with a variety of local and national performers on June 3-5 in the heart of Iowa City!

Friday night kicks off at 5:30 PM with the Iowa City Carnival Parade. Enjoy the colorful costumes & music celebrating the stories of Iowa strolling throughout the festival. At 7 PM, Aoife O'Donovan, an American singer/songwriter whose voice was described by The New York Times as being filled with "sweetness and sadness" takes the stage. O'Donovan takes inspiration from life and infuses those experiences into her music to create a journey of emotions. The Wood Brothers follow at 9 PM with a dynamic set of soulful folk with a rocking style and gripping vocal harmonies. Never before have you heard such full-bodied sound from three live musicians.

During the day on Saturday, audiences can enjoy a number of local performers including many familiar faces. The Iowa City Community Band kicks things off at 10 AM featuring a number of volunteer community members, followed by the rich dynamics and raw harmonies of Red Rock Hill at 11:30 AM. At 1 PM, Sean Costanza takes the stage to share an emotional journey through the themes of love, loss, longing and redemption. Then, the Henhouse Prowlers will entertain festival-goers at 2:30 PM with a wide array of arrangements from lightning fast picking, to sentimental ballads. Parsonsfield will round out the afternoon, starting at 5 PM. This five-piece alt/folk band from Northampton, MA, is sure to get everyone up and moving with a rock 'n' roll spirit that finds its way into their bluegrass and folk-influenced music.

Saturday evening features local favorites, William Elliot Whitmore and Dave Zollo, leading their band, Middle Western, at 7 PM. At 9 PM, American musical legend, Buckwheat Zydeco, closes the night with the Creole dance music he knows and loves. His live performances have been described by the New York Times as a "down-home and high-powered celebration." Buckwheat's set is one you don't want to miss!

If you're a fan of bluegrass, then Sunday's Main Stage performances are just what you need. Goin' Up Caney kicks off the morning at 10 AM with a traditional style that calls to mind the first generation of bluegrass players in the early 1950's. Following at 11:30 AM, is an encore performance from Parsonsfield. The Cedar County Cobras will perform a contagious, acoustic rockabilly takeover of the Main Stage at 1 PM. Stick around after for The Dandelion Stompers at 2:30 PM for a local dose of New Orleans-influenced jazz.

The Iowa Arts Festival started in 1983 and typically attracts around 30,000 people throughout the course of the weekend to downtown Iowa City. The Iowa Arts Festival not only includes a Fine Arts Fair, but also an Emerging Artist Pavilion for student artists, a Beverage Garden, Culinary Row, FUN Stops, and Children's Activities along with two side stages.

Summer of the Arts is a nonprofit organization for local arts and culture events which include: Iowa Arts Festival presented by Veridian Credit Union, Iowa City Jazz Festival presented by UICCU, Iowa Soul Festival, Friday Night Concert Series presented by Toyota of Iowa City, and Free Movie Series co-presented by Urban Acres Real Estate and UICCU.

The mission of Summer of the Arts is to build community by bringing people together in the heart of Iowa City to experience, learn about, and enjoy free arts and cultural programs.

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