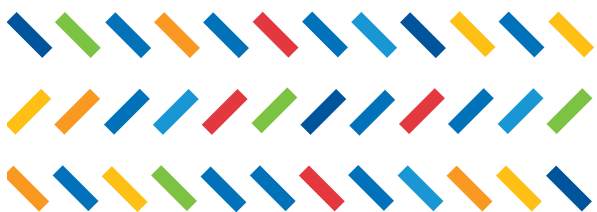




LINCOLN CROSSROADS MUSIC FESTIVAL



2022 Annual report

Erik Higgins, Artistic Director

Better than the before-times

Lincoln Crossroads Music Festival returned with full vigor in 2022 and was held from July 23-31, 2022 in nine different venues throughout Lincoln, Nebraska in a celebration of travel and travelers. Over the course of nine days, the festival presented 12 concerts world-class concerts, two storytelling sessions, two jams sessions and two educational events for young people and children.

CONCERT HIGHLIGHTS



Kiev to New England

The opening concert took place on July 23 with the Kytasty Family Bandura Ensemble, performing both traditional Ukrainian songs and modern compositions on the bandura, which many consider to be the national instrument of Ukraine. After their very moving performance, proceeds of which were donated to support musicians in Ukraine, Julian Kytasty led off the first of two storytelling slams that were hosted by Nebraska actor and storyteller Rita Paskowitz ■



“Powerful, emotional, very beautiful. Hearing the whole family harmonize was quite amazing to experience, and both of the sisters voices were so incredibly beautiful. Teryn sounds like an opera singer, and Alina’s voice is so powerful and emotional that she brought me to tears three different times. I’m absolutely floored!

-Andrea Ringsmuth



–Performing JP Jofre’s double concerto for flute and bandoneon. The festival’s core ensemble is made up from musicians from five different countries.

–Kinan Azmeh performing his Improvisor Suite

Celebration of Places

Syrian composer and clarinetist Kinan Azmeh and Argentinian bandoneon player JP Jofre performed many of their own works on the final three, perhaps most varied and stunning headlining concerts of the festival. They took place on the second festival weekend that also included a second jam session, baby concert, and outdoor performance featured Lincoln’s own Yezidi band Golden Studio with guest oud player, Majed Chamseddine ■



–JP Jofre and Marie Sønderskov perform Jofre’s double concerto

Gabriel Kahane

Singer-songwriter Gabriel Kahane performed many works from his latest two albums in both a solo show on Tuesday, July 26th and a collaborative performance with string quartet on Thursday, July 28th. His intensely lyrical and potent texts and complex chamber music writing captivated audiences at the Lied Center's Johnny Carson Theater and at an outdoor appearance at the Lincoln Community Foundation Gardens



Meditation Concert

Improvisations and short works from five of the festival artists were performed on July 26th as part of the festival's first meditation concert, which was introduced by a licensed mental-health counselor and provided a low-key and stigma-free concert environment



Golden Studio feat. Majed Chamseddine

Lincoln's own Golden Studio was joined by Lebanese Oud star Majed Chemseddine. Majed is based in Michigan and this was the first time the he had met the musicians of Golden Studio. Their performance included both moving vocal ballads as well as an extended dance set, where the audience participated in a traditional circle dance



EDUCATION

SAIL Camp

The first of the festival's education events was a performance for over 300 students of SAIL (Strings Alliance in Lincoln) Camp, which is for young students of string instruments. The Kytasty Family Bandura Ensemble performed traditional and new Ukrainian music for the students with accompaniment from Erik Higgins and Olga Smola.



Baby concert

Another educational program is the festival's annual baby concert for young children and their families. The kids were guided by the story of the little boy with his red balloon, who travels the world to meet musicians from all over the globe. Around 40 children and their families participated ■

STORY SLAMS

Rita Paskowitz led two different storytelling slams during the festival. The first was a storytelling competition where the judges (pictured) gave scores to the eight stories told by audience members. In the second slam audience members were paired together to create stories to try and fool the audience ■



JAM SESSIONS

The jam sessions of the Lincoln Crossroads Music Festival radiates the true spirit of the festival –where festival artists and community members to play, talk and sing together. There were two jam sessions during the 2022 festival ■

Cultural Connection

The festival provides a unique opportunity for people from all cultural backgrounds to meet and interact in a welcoming, celebratory space, utilizing Lincoln's diverse and vibrant cultural life for an experience that many find to be extraordinarily meaningful.



Who we serve



Audiences

We strive to create an audience that represents the community in which we live with representation from the many of Lincoln's different cultural groups and ages. We work with Lincoln's cultural center to increase representative programming and participation.

Children and young people

Through our outreach concert at SAIL Camp, baby concert and jam session for kids, we reached over 350 children and young people, leveraging the high level of artistry that the festival brings to Lincoln to provide musical exposure and inspiration to all ages.

Community of Artists

Serving the needs of Nebraska's musicians, artists and storytellers, especially those whose who have until now mostly unheard and unseen, is equally important as building and serving our audiences. It is also here where the festival has clearly succeeded from the very first season. Many of the artists (both local and visiting) feel that the Crossroads festival is their musical "home" where they feel most appreciated and welcome musically. It is a community that we're constantly striving to expand through outreach and programming ■

By the numbers

TOTAL NUMBER OF EVENTS: 17

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 1700

INCREASE FROM 2021: 70%

TOTAL NUMBER OF PERFORMERS & STORYTELLERS: 52

CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES HIGHLIGHTED: 7

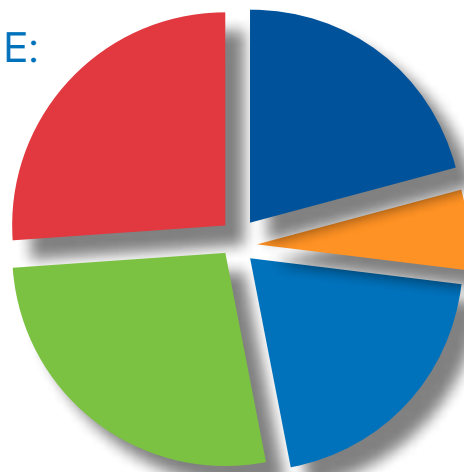
DOLLARS RAISED FOR UKRAINIAN
MUSICIANS' RELIEF FUND: \$1300

INCREASE IN FESTIVAL PASSES SOLD
YEAR OVER YEAR: 91%



AUDIENCE BY AGE:

0-18
18-24
25-40
41-64
65+





an audience member enjoys a beautiful moment during “Kiev to New England”



QUOTES

I feel like I’ve travelled hundreds of miles and spent thousands of dollars to hear this level of music, and then I can go home and sleep in my own bed at night.

–Sharon Roberts-Yuen, attendee

Man, I have to tell you; I go to festivals all the time. That’s what I do. And this is one of the best. The level is top-notch, the vibe is incredible. What else can I say?

–JP Jofre, GRAMMY-nominated composer and bandoneon player, 2022 festival artist.

We left each performance we were able to attend filled with joy, and with an enhanced cultural perspective. This Festival meant more to us than I have words to express. After these difficult years, it’s given us something to look forward to, as well as something to look back on with happiness. (Each year we put the key chain pass on our Christmas tree, as a reminder of one of the highlights of the year).

–Dee Erb, attendee

