

2025 VISITOR'S GUIDE

NebraskaMusicFest.org/visit

Nebraska Crossroads
Music Festival

Lincoln & Omaha // July 20-August 2



Plan your visit, explore the full schedule,
and discover the world in Nebraska.

FREE ADMISSION to ALL CONCERTS



A WORLD OF MUSIC, RIGHT HERE

OMAHA LINEUP: JULY 27 – AUG 2

OMAHA SHOWCASE

CROSSROADS STARS:

Dawn of Midi, Layale Chaker
& Sarafand, Kinan Azmeh
and Nebraska State Poets
Jewel Rodgers and Matt Mason

Bring your blanket, lawn chair,
and favorite drink. Enjoy with
family and friends!

SUN, JULY 27, 8:00 PM

Performance Pavilion in
Gene Leahy Mall at
The RiverFront

DINUK WIJERATNE – THE COMPOSER'S MIND

CREATIVITY INSIGHTS

TUES, JULY 29, 7:00 PM

Gallery 1516

1516 Leavenworth St.

DAWN OF MIDI

JAZZ-FLAVORED MINIMALISM

TUES, JULY 29, 8:30 PM

Gallery 1516

1516 Leavenworth St.

ERDEM AND FRIENDS

IMMERSIVE SOUNDSCAPES

THURS, JULY 31, 7:00 PM

KANEKO, 1111 Jones St.

CELLO SPECTRUM: FROM RAGA TO REVERB

HINDUSTANI ROOTS

AND ELECTRIC LOOPS

THURS, JULY 31, 9:00 PM

BLUEBARN Theatre

1106 S. 10th St.

ART-TASTIC

SATURDAYS:

MUSIC, STORYTELLING & MOVEMENT

WITH NEBRASKA
CROSSROADS

SAT, AUG 2, 11:00 AM

The Joslyn
2200 Dodge St.

OMAHA

FINALE

ORCHESTRAL EXTRAVAGANZA

SAT, AUG 2, 7:00 PM

Concert Hall, Strauss
Performing Arts
Center, UNO
6305 University Dr. N

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Scan the QR code to visit
www.NebraskaMusicFest.org
and learn more about the 2025 Season

OMAHA
CO-PRESENTING
PARTNERS



THE JOSLYN





A WORLD OF MUSIC, RIGHT HERE

LINCOLN LINEUP: JULY 20 – AUG 1

FAMILY DAY WITH NEBRASKA CROSSROADS

MUSIC AND STORYTELLING
FOR ALL AGES

SUN, JULY 20, 2:00 PM
Sheldon Museum of Art
12th and R St.

LINCOLN SHOWCASE

CROSSROADS STARS:
Dawn of Midi, Layale Chaker
& Sarafand, Kinan Azmeh
and Nebraska State Poets
Jewel Rodgers and Matt Mason

Bring your blanket, lawn chair,
and favorite drink. Enjoy with
family and friends!

SAT, JULY 26, 7:30 PM
Sheldon Sculpture Garden
UNL Downtown Campus

SARAFAND

ARABIC
JAZZ FUSION

WED, JULY 30, 7:00 PM
Kimball Hall, Glenn Korff
School of Music, UNL
1113 R. St.

ERDEM AND FRIENDS

IMMERSIVE
SOUNDSCAPES

WED, JULY 30, 9:00 PM
Music Box, 1330 N St.

LINCOLN FINALE

ORCHESTRAL
EXTRAVAGANZA

FRI, AUG 1, 7:00 PM
Kimball Hall, Glenn Korff
School of Music, UNL
1113 R. St.

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LINCOLN
CO-PRESENTING
PARTNERS

SHELDON
Museum of Art

LIED CENTER
FOR PERFORMING ARTS



N
GLENN KORFF
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

MUSIC BOX
(MBX)



“

What people are saying about Crossroads

I want to congratulate you on what we had a chance to see. I wish we could have seen more. Everything I saw and heard was exciting and different and world class. I wish that this festival could be experienced and known by more people.

-Hal France, conductor, pianist

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

-JP Jofre, GRAMMY®-nominated Argentinian composer and bandoneon player

I wanted to tell you, young man, thank you so much for this gift! I am 93 years old and I can go peacefully now.

-attendee from Omaha's Chamber Music concert at Gallery 1516

”

About the Festival

Our Mission

The Nebraska Crossroads Music Festival strives to highlight and celebrate the rich and diverse cultural heritage of our community through creative and conscientious musical programming, storytelling, and workshops.

The Festival Is:

- Transformative performances with world-class artists
- Jam sessions and poetry slams open to public participation
- Kids concerts
- Film Screenings/Workshops/Other Events

The Artists

- 12-18 internationally-recognized touring artists
- 40-50 local artists and storytellers, representing cultural traditions that span the globe and call Nebraska home.
- Multiple GRAMMY® winners, Guggenheim Fellows, etc.

The Concerts

Multiple genres including [classical](#), world-, [folk](#)-, and traditional music, [hip-hop](#) to [Hindustani](#) and [jazz](#) to electronica. Always representing the **highest artistic standard** and **telling relevant stories of today**. We also take pride in performing in creative venues, fitting the music into the best space for the optimal experience.

Cross-Cultural Exchange

Nebraska has become a multi-cultural hub. The festival buzzes with an electric synergy between visiting artist, local artists and the community.

Achievements

The Festival was [awarded a \\$40,000 Arts Project Grant](#) from the **National Endowment for the Arts** to support our 2025 festival, making our organizations the youngest ever in Nebraska to receive such an award.

La Folia Global by Valeri Tolstov, commissioned by the Nebraska Crossroads Music Festival in 2023, was recently [featured at the Kuhmo International Chamber Music Festival in Finland with Crossroads Artists in July, 2024](#).

Getting Here

Driving

Both Lincoln and Omaha are located right along I-80 and going between cities is not as long as you think! You can get from Downtown Omaha to Lincoln in under one hour. There's also plenty to see between the two cities,

including the [Strategic Air Command Air and Space Museum](#), the [Platte River State Park](#) and the [Holy Family Shrine](#).

Parking

Both Lincoln and Omaha have plenty of street parking, which can be used with credit cards or the passport app, and ample garage parking.

Flying

Both Lincoln and Omaha have modern and well-connected airports: LNK (Lincoln) and OMA (OMA). Omaha's airport is somewhat bigger and is serviced by a number of airlines. LNK is serviced exclusively by United.

Getting Around in Town

Both Lincoln and Omaha have a robust Uber/Lyft scene and it's an easy way to get around if you're without a car. However, there is a quite practical and inexpensive bus service in both cities (StarTran in Lincoln/Omaha Metro)

Hotels/Airbnb

Stay with the Artists at [The Graduate Hotel in Lincoln](#), or enjoy the hospitality of many of the other wonderful hotels in both cities; plenty of options on Airbnb, too!

See for Yourself

[2024 Festival Highlights](#)

[2024 Gene Leahy Mall Concert](#)

[Kinan Azmeh \(live - 2019\)](#)

[La Folia Global \(live from Kuhmo, Finland 2024\)](#)



Featured Artists

Kinan Azmeh

Syrian-born Kinan Azmeh is an internationally acclaimed clarinetist and composer, celebrated for his genre-defying blend of classical, jazz, and Arabic folk music. A member of Yo-Yo Ma's Silkroad Ensemble, he has performed at Carnegie Hall, the Berlin Philharmonie, and the Royal Albert Hall. His compositions have been commissioned by major orchestras worldwide, and his work explores themes of migration, identity, and cultural dialogue. As Guest Curator of the Nebraska Crossroads Music Festival 2025,



festival, fostering artistic exchange and innovative cross-cultural collaborations.

Azmeh brings his global vision to the

[Listen to Kinan at the festival in 2019:](#)



Dawn of Midi

Dawn of Midi is an experimental acoustic trio from Brooklyn, consisting of pianist Amino Belyamani, bassist Aakaash Israni, and drummer Qasim Naqvi. Known for their minimalist, rhythmically intricate sound, they craft trance-like compositions that mimic electronic music but are performed entirely on acoustic instruments. Their critically acclaimed 2015 album *Dysnomia* showcases their unique ability to blend genres, creating a mechanical, hypnotic feel without the use of electronics. Dawn of Midi has captivated audiences around the world with their innovative, genre-defying approach to music.

[Listen to Dawn of Midi here:](#)





Erdem Helvacioclu

Erdem Helvacioclu is a renowned Turkish electric guitarist, composer, and sound artist celebrated for his innovative fusion of contemporary classical, ambient, and experimental music. His works explore the intersection of technology and music, utilizing live electronics, prepared guitars, and immersive soundscapes. Helvacioclu has released critically acclaimed albums, collaborated with international artists, and composed for film and theater. His genre-defying approach has earned accolades worldwide, positioning him as a pioneering figure in Turkey's avant-garde and global music scene. [Listen here!](#)



Layale Chaker & Sarafand

Sarafand is a dynamic ensemble led by acclaimed Lebanese violinist and composer Layale Chaker. Known for their innovative fusion of classical, Arabic, and contemporary music, the group creates a sound that transcends genres while honoring traditional roots. Chaker's compositions are deeply influenced by the rich musical heritage of the Levant, but she skillfully blends these elements with modern classical and jazz influences, crafting an evolving and intricate soundscape. Sarafand's performances are distinguished by their expressive depth, masterful improvisation, and the interplay of traditional and contemporary instruments. The ensemble's music explores themes of memory,



migration, and cultural dialogue, offering audiences a profound listening experience that bridges East and West.

[Listen to Sarafand here:](#)

