

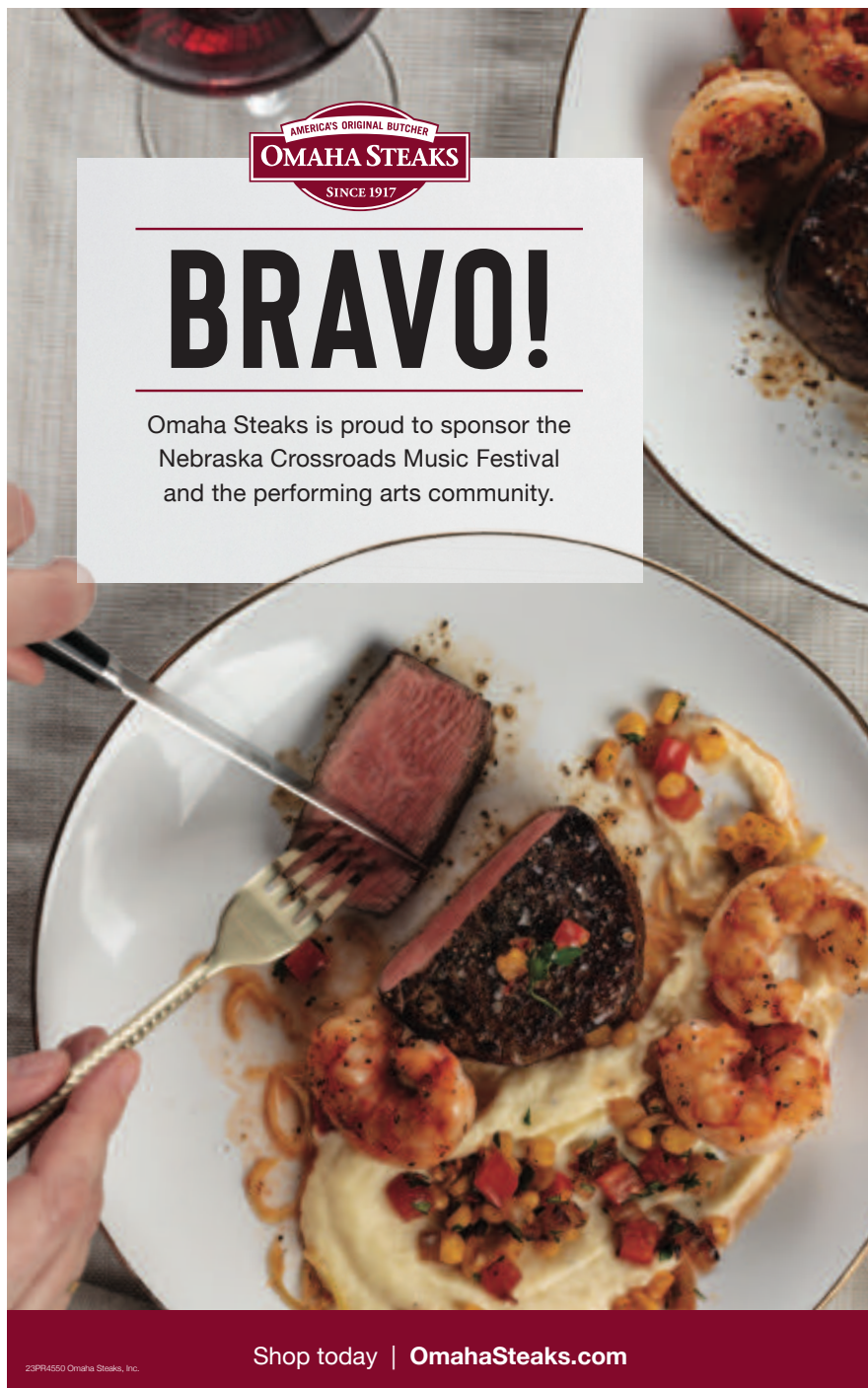
NEBRASKA CROSSROADS MUSIC FESTIVAL



AUG. 4-6
2023
OMAHA &
LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

presented by:





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2023

THE MIDDLE OF EVERYWHERE

Welcome to Crossroads 2023, where you'll discover why Nebraska truly is the Middle Of Everywhere. This year you'll experience the music of over 50 different musicians from 20 different countries, who all make Nebraska their home for a week of stories, music and rich cultural exchange.



"the Middle Of Everywhere"
by Sarah Rowe, 2023

PERFORMANCES //////////////////////////////////////

Fri. Aug. 4 // 7:30- 10:30pm

Gene Leahy Mall at The RiverFront, OMAHA NE

Free admission

7:30pm **Kusi Taki** // Traditional Peruvian

8pm **"Dawning" for Improvising Musicians & Orchestra** // World Premiere, Kinan Azmeh & Layale Chaker

8:30pm **Authentic Light Orchestra** // Armenian jazz-folk fusion

9pm **Séamus Egan & Maeve Gilchrist** // Irish

9:30pm **toechter** // German indie-experimental

10pm **Sandeep Das & Rajib Karmaker** // Tabla, Sitar & Ensemble



Sat. Aug. 5 // 10am-11pm

Howell Theatre **(H)**, Studio Theatre **(S)** & Lab Theatre **(L)**
Temple building, UNL Campus, LINCOLN NE

10am Baby Concert "This Love Will Go On" //
Free concert for small children and families (S)
Sønderskov, Das, Gilchrist, Khalil, Rios

10am Storytelling slam // Free admission! (L)
Paskowitz

11am Artist Roundtable discussion hosted by
Genevieve Randall // Free admission! (S)
Das, Stalder, Azmeh, Gilchrist

12pm Live Lyve // Rwandan fusion (H)
Ingeri, Kayigamba, Uwamahoro, Nshimiyimana

1:15pm Q&A Session with Brian Seifferlein // Video
Exhibition "the Seat Beside You" (Lobby)

2pm toechter // German indie-electronic (S)
Elbo, Vogel, Schlameus

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4pm Kusi Taki // Peruvian traditional (H)
Rios, Martinez, David Jacobo, Sønderskov, Higgins

6pm Séamus Egan & Maeve Gilchrist // Irish (S)
Egan, Gilchrist, Higgins, Huizinga

8pm Authentic Light Orchestra // Armenian
folk/jazz fusion (H)
Tolstov, Tavano, Somos, Stalder, Hovhannisyan, Huizinga,
Smola, Elbo, Vogel, Divall, Darling, Steinhoff, Schlameus,
Higgins, Egan, Chaker, Azmeh, Rios, Karmaker, Das,
Gilchrist

10pm Humberto Gonzales & Mixed Harmony
// Cuban traditional (S)
Gonzales, Morales, Reina, Chavez



Sun. Aug. 6 // 12pm-10pm

Hazel Abel Park (HAP), First Presbyterian Church (FPC), & Union Plaza Amphitheatre (UP), LINCOLN NE

12pm **Meditation Concert** // Free admission!
(HAP)

Hovhannisyan, Rios, Sønderskov

2pm **Sandeep Das & Rajib Karmaker** // Tabla,
Sitar & Ensemble (FPC)

**Das, Karmaker, Sønderskov, Higgins, Smola, Huizinga,
Chaker, Elbo, Vogel, Darling, Divall, Schlameus, Steinhoff,
Hadfield, Somos, Weaver**

4pm **Group sing** // Come and sing with
Crossroads artists and audience at this free
event! (FPC)



5pm **Ancient to Modern** // (FPC)

Program:

La Follia, Vivaldi, arr. Valeri Tolstov for Baroque & Armenian folk instruments

Flower Market and *Old World New*, John Hadfield

Two Pop Songs on Antique Poems, Dinuk Wijeratne

Three Sister, Marie Sønderskov

Kinan Azmeh & Layale Chaker co-commissioned by the Nebraska Crossroads Music Festival, New York Philharmonic, and Lincoln's Symphony Orchestra.

This program is dedicated to the memory of our dear friend and devoted Crossroads fan, Randy Erb.

Tolstov, Tavano, Somos, Hovhannisyan, Huizinga, Smola, Elbo, Vogel, Divall, Darling, Steinhoff, Schlameus, Higgins, Egan, Chaker, Azmeh, Rios, Karmaker, Das, Hadfield, Sønderskov, Weaver, Coveney

8pm **Andy Williams & The Nebraska All Stars** // Cuban/Latin (UP)

Andy W. Gomez (band leader) percussionist; Tomas Morales, percussionist; Carol Cal Concepcion, Singer; Onelio Perez, Singer; Aliuiski Rojas Fuentes, Singer; Carlos Gomez, percussionist; Bobby Scharmann, bass; Marcus Nunez, trumpet; Shawn Bell, trombone; Victor Luis Delgado, violin; Israel Ordaz, piano



**Kinan Azmeh – Clarinet/
Composer**

Azmeh, a Brooklyn-based, genre-bending composer and clarinetist, has been touring the globe with great acclaim as a soloist, composer and improviser. He has collaborated with Yo-Yo Ma, Daniel Barenboim, John McLaughlin, Aynur and Djivan Gasparian among others. His recent orchestral album, *Uneven Sky* with the Deutsches Symphony Orchestra Berlin, won Germany's OpusKlassik Award in 2019. A graduate of The Juilliard School, the Damascus High Institute of Music, and Damascus University's School of Electrical Engineering, Azmeh holds a doctorate in music from the City University of New York. His first opera, *Songs For Days To Come*, premiered in Germany in June 2022. He has recently been appointed to the National Council for the Arts following a nomination by President Joe Biden.

**Layale Chaker – Violin/
Composer**

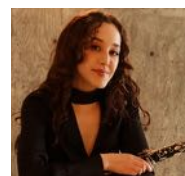
Raised on the verge of several musical streams since her childhood, Lebanese violinist and composer Layale Chaker debuted her musical training at the National Higher Conservatory of Beirut in her native Lebanon. She later pursued her

musical studies at Conservatoire de Paris, the Royal Academy of Music in London, and Ecole des Hautes Etudes in Paris. Layale has appeared as a soloist, performer, improviser and composer in concerts, recitals and projects around Europe, the Middle East, North and South America and Asia. She debuted her first violin concerto with the Bayreuther Philharmoniker as the orchestra's first-ever commissioned composer in January 2018. Layale Chaker is a Ruth Anderson 2017 Competition Prize winner, the recipient of the Royal Academy of Music's 2018 Guinness Award and a finalist of the Rolex Mentor and Protégé 2018 Prize.

**Pablo Humberto Garca Chávez
– Drums/percussion**

Pablo Humberto Garcia Chavez was born in the city of Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, into a family of

artists. At the age of seven, he was enrolled in the Lauro Fuentes Music School where he began playing percussion. After graduating, he began playing in various orchestras in cultural venues throughout Cuba and at 19, he emigrated to Mexico joining an orchestra called "Los Tilihalas," opening for the maestro Arturo Sandoval in Cancun. In 2017, he moved to the United States and settled in Marshalltown, Iowa, where he pursues various musical projects including the band, Andy Williams and the Nebraska All-Star's.

**Myra Coveney – Clarinet
Academist**

Myra Coveney is the Nebraska Crossroads Music Festival's very first academy student. Myra is a student of Dr. Season Cowley at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In her undergrad career, Myra held the role of principal clarinet for the Heartland Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as principal clarinet for the UNO Symphonic Wind Ensemble. Recently Myra participated in the lab orchestra during a fellowship with the Conducting Institute in Ft. Worth, Texas, as principal and second clarinetist.

Sarah Darling – Viola/Violin

Described as "a tireless force of musical curiosity, skill, and enthusiasm" and "the one to up the ante" (Boston Musical Intelligencer), Sarah Darling enjoys a varied musical career as a performer, educator, and musical co-conspirator on viola and baroque violin. She is a member of the Grammy-nominated self-conducted orchestra A Far Cry, as well as Boston Baroque, Musicians of the Old Post Road, Emmanuel Music, the Boston Ballet Orchestra, the Boston Camerata, the Boston Early Music Festival, and the Carmel Bach Festival. Sarah studied at Harvard, Juilliard, Amsterdam, Freiburg,

and New England Conservatory, working with James Dunham, Karen Tuttle, Wolfram Christ, Nobuko Imai, and Kim Kashkashian. She has recorded old and new music for Linn, Paladino, Azica, MSR, Centaur and Crier Records, plus a solo album on Naxos. Sarah is active as a teacher and coach, relishing the opportunity to "translate" between musical worlds while serving on the faculty of the Longy School of Music and co-directing the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra.

Sandeep Das – Tabla

A 2020 Guggenheim Fellow, Sandeep Das is one of the leading Tabla virtuosos in the world today. Since

his debut concert at the age of 17 with legendary Sitarist Pt. Ravi Shankar, Das has established himself as one of India's top Tabla maestros, building a prolific international reputation that spans over three decades.

In addition to performing at major Indian music festivals with renowned musicians such as Pt. Hariprasad Chaurasia, Pt. Shivkumar Sharma, and Ust. Amjad Ali Khan, among others, he is one of the unique Indian Classical musicians to expand beyond his traditional roots and collaborate with musicians from across the globe. Das actively performs with and composes for major symphony orchestras, string quartets, jazz musicians, world music

ensembles and many other unique groups with regularly featured concerts at Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, the Hollywood Bowl, the Royal Albert Hall and the Concertgebouw, to name a few.

Das has performed at prestigious events such as the 150th annual celebration of the UNO at the General Assembly Hall in NYC, the opening ceremony of the Special Olympics in Shanghai, the opening ceremony of the 1st Asia Expo in Kunming, China, the World Economic Forum, the BBC Proms and for visiting dignitaries such as the Queen of England, the Queen of Thailand, the Pope and various other world leaders.

Nikki Divall – Viola



Nikki Divall was a core member of the Australian Chamber Orchestra from 2005 to 2020. A

graduate of the Canberra School of Music, she left Australia in 1992 to begin graduate studies at the University of North Texas before entering the Emerson Quartet Graduate String Quartet program at the Hartt School of Music. She has held the position of Principal Viola with the Ohio Chamber Orchestra, the Cleveland Chamber Symphony, the Cleveland-San Jose Ballet, the Cleveland Opera and Sydney Philharmonia. She has appeared as Guest Principal with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, the Australian Chamber Orchestra, and most recently, Handel and Haydn

Society and Albany Symphony. Divall is currently Principal Viola of Cleveland's baroque ensemble, Apollo's Fire, and a core member of Four Nations Ensemble.

Séamus Egan – Irish Instruments



It's hard to think of an artist in traditional Irish music more influential than Seamus Egan. From

his beginnings as a teen prodigy, to his groundbreaking solo work with Shanachie Records, to his founding of the Irish American powerhouse band Solas, to his current work as one of the leading composers and interpreters of the tradition, Egan has inspired multiple generations of musicians and helped define the sound of Irish music today.

Katrine Grarup Elbo – Violin



Katrine Grarup Elbo is a violinist, composer and performer based in Copenhagen and Berlin. Her

work often combines improvisation, composition, performance and installation. In addition to her own creative practice, she enjoys playing both chamber music and symphony orchestra. She is a founder and core member of Danish sound collective, We like We (f. 2012), Berlin based string ensemble, toechter, the neo classical duo, Søndag Søndag (f. 2019), and performance duo, La Mia

Bella Sorella, with soloist from The Royal Danish Ballet, Astrid Grarup Elbo. Her first solo release, the EP SLUTSANG / endpoem for five young voices and solo violin with electronic effects, was released digitally and on limited edition cassette tape by MoBC in August 2020. Her first full studio album, Fold Unfold, was released by the acknowledged German label Sonic Pieces, on vinyl, CD, and digitally in April 2021.

Maeve Gilchrist – Celtic Harp

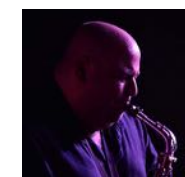


Edinburgh-born harpist and composer Maeve Gilchrist has been credited as an

innovator on her native instrument and has taken the Celtic (lever) Harp to new levels of performance and visibility. Currently based in Kingston, NY, Gilchrist tours internationally as a solo artist and composer and is a member of the grammy-nominated Silkroad ensemble, Arooj Aftab's Grammy winning Vulture Prince Ensemble, and of the multi-disciplinary quartet, Edges of Light. She has performed and recorded with such luminaries as Yo-Yo Ma, Frankie Gavin, Esperanza Spalding, Bruce Molsky, Ambrose Akinmusire and Solas. As a composer, Gilchrist straddles the worlds of folk and classical with an ever-increasing number of chamber and orchestral works. Gilchrist is the music and co-artistic director of the Rockport Celtic festival, an innovative new festival focused on cross-curation and the outer-fringes of Celtic Music.

'Both Fascinating and Absorbing in equal measure, an Original Voice' (Scotsman)

Humberto Raul Garcia Gonzalez – Keyboard, Saxophone



Son of Humberto Garcia Vidal and Maria del Carmen Gonzalez Puig, Humberto Raul Garcia Gonzales

was born in 1978 in Cuba. His mother is a theory and solfege teacher, composer, singer, and pianist, so it's no surprise that his passion for music was ignited from an early age. He began his musical studies in classical violin at the age of six at the prestigious Esteban Salas Conservatory Art School, switching to saxophone three years later.

His professional career started in 1986, performing with several orchestras including "Granma," "La Idea," "Banda XL," "Sueno Cubano" and "Moneda Nacional," touring throughout Central America and the Caribbean. In the year 2000, he joined the legendary Buena Vista Social Club, touring across Europe, Africa, Central and South America, and served as the group's musical director, administrator, arranger and pianist.

In 2006, he emigrated to Mexico, started his life as an independent artist, and toured the country accompanying renowned artists like Barry Ivan White, Miguel Angel Cespedes, Francisco Cespedes and Denise de Calaf. Garcia Gonzalez

recently emigrated to the United States and is based in Iowa.

Erik Higgins – Double Bass



Nebraska Crossroads Music Festival founder and Artistic Director Erik Higgins

spends most of the year as a double bassist performing, recording and touring with chamber music and other projects. He especially enjoys crossover projects and bringing together people from different musical backgrounds, which probably won't surprise you if you've been to a Crossroads performance before. Higgins lives with his family in Denmark.

John Hadfield – Percussion



As a composer and percussionist, John Hadfield's dedication to music has taken him

from his native Missouri to performing globally. He has released four albums of his own compositions and composes for many projects. Hadfield also composed and performed in Apologue 2047, a multimedia performance art piece directed by Zhang Yimou which explored themes of the relationships of humans and technology.

John has also performed with the Saturday Night Live Band, Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra, and

the Silk Road Ensemble. He has collaborated on more than 100 recordings, including GRAMMY award winning albums.

Emmanuel Hovhannisyan – Duduk



Emmanuel Hovhannisyan is one of the most accomplished musicians in Armenia. He is

first duduk player at the Armenian State Orchestra of National Instruments, solo player at Tagharan Ancient Music Ensemble and lead duduk player at the Gurdjieff Folk Instruments Ensemble. Together with the latter ensemble, Hovhannisyan collaborated in the production of the Ensemble's CD, The Voice of George Gurdjieff (German ECM Records Company), which received a high appraisal from the musical world in line with several prestigious international awards.

Alongside his permanent commitments at the Conservatory of Yerevan and various ensembles, Hovhannisyan also has an extensive record of collaboration with various musical projects: New Voices of Duduk, Arie Toun (Come Back Home), Beiteddine Art Festival, Roots Revival Festival and the Hamazgayin Theatre of Yerevan, where he performs live at different theatre performances and even in roles as an actor.

Edwin Huizinga – violin



Over the last decade, Edwin Huizinga has crossed many borders and boundaries as

an artist around the world. He is finding new and unique ways to connect with audiences, performing in different genres, on various stages and platforms, and always striving to commit and connect with the community. Huizinga is a founding member of ACRONYM, a world-renowned baroque ensemble, and Fire & Grace, which gives him the opportunity to share modern baroque premieres, new arrangements and compositions with the musical community.

Huizinga is a professor of baroque violin at Oberlin Conservatory the Artistic Director of the Sweetwater Music Festival and also the Director of the Baroque and Classical Academy at the Carmel Bach Festival. Huizinga loves to compose and works with a vast number of artists in the world of rock and roll, ambient music, as well as with Opera Atelier and the National Arts Centre Orchestra in Canada on contemporary and historically informed collaborations as well.

Ingeri Japhet – Multi-instrument



Ingeri Japhet, a singer, songwriter, and keyboard player from Kigali, Rwanda, is a

dynamic artist making waves in the music industry. As a key member of an Afro-fusion Live-live band, he brings unparalleled energy to their performances. Ingeri's musical prowess extends beyond stages at small restaurants to massive stadium shows. Notably, he has showcased his talent at renowned venues such as The Nebraska LIED Center, the Nebraska History Museum, the annual University of Nebraska-Lincoln Commencements, since 2021, Nebraska Wesleyan University, and Lincoln Calling. Ingeri's captivating presence and undeniable talent continue to leave an indelible mark on the music scene.

Rajib Karmakar – Sitar



Rajib Karmakar is a Los Angeles based performer, composer and educator. He has played and been

featured in various movies and TV shows for Disney, Warner Bros., Sony, Universal, A&E network and many more. He has collaborated and performed with top musicians like Herb Alpert, Beck, Chris Martin, Sandeep Das, Kayhan Kalhor, Wu Tong and many others. He has performed in iconic venues like Shrine Auditorium, Lincoln Center, Walt Disney Concert Hall, National Arts Centre, the Straz Center and has given lectures at various schools, colleges and universities all over the world. He is currently the Artistic Director of Los Angeles International Music and Arts Academy and

President of LAIMA Foundation.

Benoit Kayigamba – Guitar



Benoit (Ben) Kayigamba is a skilled Rwandan multi-instrumentalist, composer, and

educator. With expertise in keys, guitars, and music production, Kayigamba's talent knows no bounds. As the music director for Live-Lyve band, an electrifying Afro-fusion group, he blends diverse influences to create unforgettable performances celebrating music's power and cultural expression. With notable appearances at renowned venues like the Lied Center, Lincoln-Calling, AfrOmaha, and prestigious events such as UNL's annual commencements, Kayigamba's musical arrangements and exceptional musicianship captivate audiences. In 2022, the band embarked on a successful tour, leaving an indelible mark on the music scene. Currently, Kayigamba is co-producing Starruwa's album set to be released in late fall 2023.

Hasan Khalil – Keyboard



Hasan Khalil was born near Mt. Sinjar in Northern Iraq. With his parents in the late 1980s, his family escaped

the war and persecution when he was 3 years old, moving to Syria where he spend most of his life in

refugee camps. When he was 14, his family made its way to the United States, first to Buffalo, NY and then to Lincoln NE. They were among the first of what would become around 5,000 Yazidis, most of them fleeing religious persecution and genocide. Khalil is a self-taught musician and improvises and composes his music. Khalil believes it is a universal language and through it, we can all listen to one another's stories, learn about other cultures, and freely express our emotions.

Daniel Martinez – Guitar



Daniel Martinez, Flamenco guitar stylist, composer and teacher hails from Iquitos, Peru. Growing up

surrounded by the ocean and the Amazon Rainforest, Martinez first picked up the guitar as a young teen at the encouragement of his mother.

Martinez honed his skills through the mastery of classical guitar training and preparing for and winning national guitar competitions. He has performed in South America, Canada and across the U.S. Today, five solo instrumental recordings later, he is a sought-after instructor and a familiar presence on stages in the region. Martinez is a guitar professor at Union College in Lincoln, NE, and offers private and group lessons for all ages and abilities, as well.

Janet Morales – vocals



Janet Morales was born in 1986 in Santiago de Cuba to the dancer Alicia Fonseca and the legendary trumpet

player Rafael Morales Jorge. She began her studies at the age of six at the Jose Maria Heredia Vocational Art School, starting her career as a classical violinist, switching to her true passion, singing, two years later. She later moved to Mexico, teaching music and continuing her career as a solo singer and backing vocalist in various genres like jazz, soul, blues, bossa nova, country music, rock and roll, R&B, reggae, son, guarachas, chachachas, salsa, cumbias, merengues, bachatas and others. She appeared on Televisa with the Karenka Orchestra and shared the stage with artists like Reily Barba, Miguel Angel Cespedes and others. Upon her arrival in the United States, she formed her own orchestra called "Janet y su Sangre Latina" and also performs with other projects.

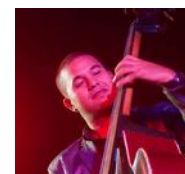
Rita Paskowitz – Storytelling



Rita Paskowitz is a professional storyteller, speaker coach and writer of oddly engaging things. Her hair

exemplifies her brain--both are surprisingly agile but take off in unexpected directions. Plus--she's even more fun than she looks.

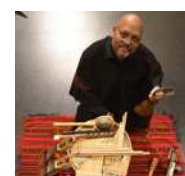
Yordano Parsons Reina – Bass



Yordano Parsons Reina was born in Cuba and in 1994 began studying music with Professor

Ángela Norbert. In 2005, he started touring internationally with Andy Gola, performing in Sweden, Italy and Spain. In 2007, he moved to Cancun, Mexico, performing for the Iberostar Resorts hotel chain. At the same time, he continued freelancing with other groups in the Riviera Maya, a place known worldwide for its cultural diversity. By 2011, he had become an independent artist and participated in groups and festivals throughout the United States, emigrating there in 2014 and continuing to perform throughout the country.

Oscar Rios Pohirieth – Andean instruments



Pohirieth helps students learn unique instruments that they have often never seen or heard before. He

analyzes the history, development and playing techniques of various Native Andean instruments such as the Zampoñas (Andean Pan Pipes), the Quena (a recorder-like flute) and the Bombo (drum from African influence), to name a few. Through this process, Pohirieth creates curiosity, cooperation and collaboration for exploring new

music and culture.

Sarah Rowe – Visual arts



Sarah Rowe is a multimedia artist based in Omaha, NE, and her work is featured in all of the 2023 festival

materials, including this booklet. Her work opens cross cultural dialogues by utilizing methods of painting, sculpture, performance and Native American ceremony in unconventional ways. Rowe's work is participatory, a call to action, and re-imagines traditional Native American symbology to fit the narrative of today's global landscape. Her imagined landscapes are bold and vibrant, containing a shape-shifting bestiary of tales both familiar and strange. Rowe holds a BA in Studio Art from Webster University and has studied in St. Louis, MO, and Vienna, Austria. She is of Lakota and Ponca descent.

Marie-Claire Schlameus – cello



Marie-Claire Schlameus is a composer, producer and musician. She explores the full percussive and

lyrical range of the cello, drawing on sound-effect worlds created through electronic production and vocal textures. With her set up she performs in co-founded projects, toechter, and Sometimes with Others. Since 2021, she is the cellist of Agnes

Obel's Live Band and the German rapper CASPER. She studied cello at the University for Music and Theater, Leipzig.

Olga Smola – violin



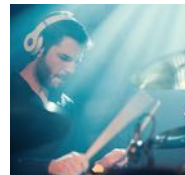
A native of Siberia, Russia, Nebraska Crossroads Music Festival Executive Director Olga Smola is a versatile

violinist, arranger, improviser and composer. Smola plays solo and ensemble performances in many different styles of music including classical, jazz, rock, country and electronic music as a violin DJ.

Music has taken Smola around the world. Her solo touring credits include concerts in Monaco, Spain, Belgium, Croatia, France, England, Azerbaijan, the United States, and throughout the Russian Federation.

Since August 2016, Smola has served as a professor of music at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. In last 5 years, she appeared in the theater productions "Indecent", "Morozko" and "The Legend of Sleeping Hollow" as a music director, cultural consultant, arranger, actress violinist, and composer of the stage music.

Peter Somos – Drums/percussion



Growing up in Budapest, Peter started working professionally at the age of 14. He's

a summa cum laude graduate of the Codarts University of Music in Rotterdam. Throughout his career he has performed with artists such as Casey Benjamin, Mahesh Vinayakram, Nadishana, Sharrie Williams, Besh o droM, Sylvain Barou, Machito Crespo, Guy Bernfeld, Krzysztof Scieranski, Ralph Kaminski, and appeared on recordings alongside musicians like Dawid Podsiadło, Rhani Krija and Hayden Chisholm.

He's also performed in festivals like Sziget (HU), Exit (SR), WOMAdelaide (AUS), Meskie Granie, Jamboree, Opener' (PL), Sudtirol Jazz (IT), JodhpurRIFF, Kolkata Jazz (IN), Nebraska Jazz (US), Shanghai World Music (CN), Jeju World Music (KR), Dubai Blues (UAE), and more.

Marie Sønderskov – flute



Exploiting the endless possibilities for producing sound with her instrument, Marie Sønderskov

cultivates the beauty of the unknown. Working with internationally acclaimed composers, she has premiered pieces for solo flute in venues all over the world. Ms. Sønderskov also regularly participates in cross-aesthetic collaborations with artists which combine diverse art forms with music, performance art and improvisations.

Marie Sønderskov is fluent in many musical genres and plays a variety of flutes including piccolo, alto flute,

bass flute and baroque flute. She specializes in contemporary music and regularly performs and records pop and world music. In addition, she has studied jazz improvisation and Gagaku (an ancient form of Japanese music).

As a composer, folk music traditions and soundscapes using extended techniques are a trademark of her music. Compositions include two flute ensemble works, "The Lost Forest" and "Saltøje," which was premiered at the Lincoln Crossroads Music Festival in 2019, and several other solo and chamber works.

Veronika Stalder – Vocals



Internationally acclaimed Swiss singer and multi-instrumentalist Veronika Stalder melts jazz, ethnic

singing, folk as well as classical into her unique vocal style. Her passion is to connect cultures and people through music.

Anna Steinhoff – Cello



Anna Steinhoff is a Chicago based cellist specializing in the baroque cello and viola da gamba. She performs with

Haymarket Opera Company, Third Coast Baroque, Second City Musick, the Bella Voce Sinfonia, Music of the Baroque, Apollo's Fire and at the Staunton Music Festival. In addition to classical music, Anna has performed or recorded with bands

such as *Mysteries of Life*, *MONO*, *Poi Dog Pondering*, *Saturday Looks Good to Me*, and children's artist *Justin Roberts*. Anna received degrees in cello performance from the *Oberlin Conservatory* and *Northwestern University*.

Tomas Tavano – Electric Bass



Thomas Tavano is a bassist who works in a wide variety of genres: from *Drum & Bass*, *Funk*, and *Jazz*

to *WorldMusic*, he lets his 6-string bass sound groovy, melodic and chord-like. Always careful to give a solid foundation, he enriches the music with tasteful top notes. Influences and mentors of Tavano are certainly *Matthew Garrison*, *Dominique di Piazza*, *Hadrien Feraud* and *Panagiotis Andreou*. His current bands besides *Authentic Light Orchestra* are *Dogon* (dogon.ch) and *Nova* (novamusic.ch).

Tavano played for years with the *Ambient* band, *Tratosphere*, with whom he toured throughout Europe.

Valeri Tolstov



Valeri studied flute and organ at the *Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory* & *Aspirantura* in Armenia,

Musikhochschule Zürich, and at the *Musikhochschule Luzern*. He has won numerous prizes for his

playing including at the *Uhlau, Nicati, Kiwanis, Kiefer-Hablitzel Preis* flute competitions. He has toured around the globe including North and South America, Asia and Europe and has contributed music to numerous film and theatre productions. He is the founder of the *Authentic Light Orchestra* which exists to cross cultural borders and create mutual understanding through music.

Esther Uwamahoro



Esther Uwamahoro, known as *StarrUwa*, is a passionate Rwandan musician whose journey began in 2013. As

the lead singer of *Live Lyve* band, she has performed at prestigious events like *UNL's annual Commencement*, collaborating with *Inspirmidia*, the *LIED Center*, *Lincoln Calling*, *MLK Day* celebrations, and *AfrOmaha*. Inspired by her performances, *StarrUwa* shares the rich culture of Rwanda through her music. Now embarking on her solo artist journey, she is set to release her debut album this year featuring seven tracks that showcase her personal style and heritage. With soulful performances and heartfelt lyrics, *StarrUwa's* goal is to share her fire while representing her culture.

Lisa Marie Vogel



Lisa Marie Vogel is a German violinist/violist and composer based in Copenhagen.

She is founder and core member of Danish/German string ensemble, *tochter*, and string quartet, *Berlin Strings (DE)*. Lisa was trained as a classical violinist at *Hanover University of Music, Drama and Media*, *Münster University of Music* and *The Royal Danish Academy of Music* in Copenhagen. Vogel works as a freelance musician within chamber music, contemporary music, the symphonic repertoire as well as pop/experimental music.

Hannah Weaver



An avid solo and chamber performer, Hannah Weaver has special interests in contemporary literature and the

solo literature of J. S. Bach. Weaver also toured with the *Heartland Marimba Quartet*, with whom she recently performed in *Stuttgart, Germany*, and at *PASIC 2022*.

Weaver has competed internationally, placing in the semi-finals at *TROMP (2018)* and the *Paris International Marimba Competition (2009)*. She was a featured concerto performer with the *National Repertory Orchestra (2015)*. Weaver holds the position of Assistant Professor of Percussion at *University of Nebraska-Omaha*. Orchestra credits include the *Kansas City Symphony*, *Indianapolis Symphony*, *Omaha Symphony* and *Fort Wayne Philharmonic*.

Andy Williams and The Nebraska All Stars



Since 2018, *The Nebraska All-Stars* have been delighting audiences as the Midwest's only authentic Cuban orchestra. Bandleader Andy William brings his experience as a top performing percussionist in *Havana* and his passion for sharing Cuban culture, to present a high-energy, engaging, and diverse show.

The All-Stars also feature legendary *Havana* vocalist *Onelio Perez*, known worldwide as the front man for such legendary groups as *Orquesta Riverside*, *Conjunto Casino*, *Roberto Faz*, and others. His dignified voice has graced many classic recordings from the 1960s to the present.

Presenting Cuban music styles such as *Danzón*, *Son Cubano*, *Cha-Cha-Cha*, and *Guaguanco*, with a taste of American funk, jazz, and soul, this prestigious 12-piece orchestra brings the sounds of Cuba to the stages of the Midwest.

Performing in this concert are: Andy W. Gomez (band leader and percussion), *Tomas Morales* (percussion), *Carol Cal Concepcion* (vocal), *Onelio Perez* (vocal), *Aliuiski Rojas Fuentes* (vocal), *Carlos Gomez* (percussion), *Bobby Scharmann* (bass), *Marcus Nunez* (trumpet), *Shawn Bell* (trombone), *Victor Luis Delgado* (violin) and *Israel Ordaz* (piano).

Authentic Light Orchestra

Authentic Light Orchestra was founded in 2009 by Valeri Tolstov, a Swiss multi-instrumentalist with Armenian roots, combining different musical genres such as jazz, rock, elements of Armenian folk, modern classics and live electronics. With no special emphasis of any of the genres, instead they combine to produce a unique sound and original interpretation of Armenian folk music, creating a fresh new musical language and distinctive sound that can only be found with the Authentic Light Orchestra.

A.L.O.'s musicians perform regularly in renowned halls including Carnegie Hall, Tonhalle Zurich, and in world-renowned music festivals such as North Sea Jazz, Jazz Baltica, and Montreal Jazz Festival and have been awarded numerous prizes, individually. Since 2012, the band has performed about 200 concerts in 45 cities. In 2014, the band won the grand prix of Armvision and two years later, received the very first Russian World Music Award. That same year, A.L.O. recorded a soundtrack with Serj Tankian for a Hollywood movie, "The Promise."

Kusi Taki

Experience the Andean cultures of Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru and Chile through an acoustic journey and storytelling. The award-winning Lincoln-based Andean musical group Kusi Taki (Quechua for 'Enchanting Music') will play traditional South American instruments including the Quena (flute), Zampoñas (panpipes), Charango (10-stringed small guitar) and Bombo (goatskin drum) and sing in Spanish and Quechua to bring alive the cultures and history of the indigenous people of the Andes.

Director Oscar Rios Pohirieth is a professional musician and has performed throughout Mexico, the United States and Europe. With over 30 years of experience, he specializes in the music of the Andes. Pohirieth is also a traveling and teaching artist through the Nebraska Arts Council and Humanities Nebraska.

Live Lyve

Live-lyve is a dynamic and talented band comprising four Rwandan youths: Esther Uwamahoro, Benoit Kayigamba, Jean Nshimiyimana, and Japhet Ingeri. Drawing inspiration from a diverse palette of African, world, and western music genres, Live-lyve stands out for their unparalleled ability to blend these influences seamlessly, crafting a mesmerizing fusion that's affectionately known as "Afro-Fusion."

With roots deeply entrenched in the musical heritage of Rwanda, the soul-stirring rhythms are infused in their sound. Their performance celebrate cultural diversity and musical traditions from around the globe.

Live-lyve's performances are nothing short of an electrifying experience. Their seamless transitions between genres, energetic stage presence, and soulful melodies have won them a devoted following, both locally and beyond. Live-lyve's music carries a message of unity, bridging gaps between cultures, and fostering a sense of togetherness that transcends boundaries. Their melodies carry the heartbeat of Africa while harmonizing with the world's musical tapestry.

toechter

toechter is a German Danish band researching the use of stringed instruments in sound design. Using their classical training as a starting point, they explore the percussive and lyrical range of the acoustic instruments, drawing on sound effects created through pedals and vocal textures. toechter creates electronic beats and soundscapes by manipulating acoustic stringed instrument sounds (violin, viola, violoncello). Together they create their own language by mixing genres and unusual string sound samples to create a human and touching electronic sound world.

In March 2022 they released their debut album "Zephyr" which was nominated for Opus Klassisk and awarded a place on the Quarterly Critic's Choice 03/2022 by "Preis der deutschen Schallplattenkritik" in the category Electronic and Experimental.



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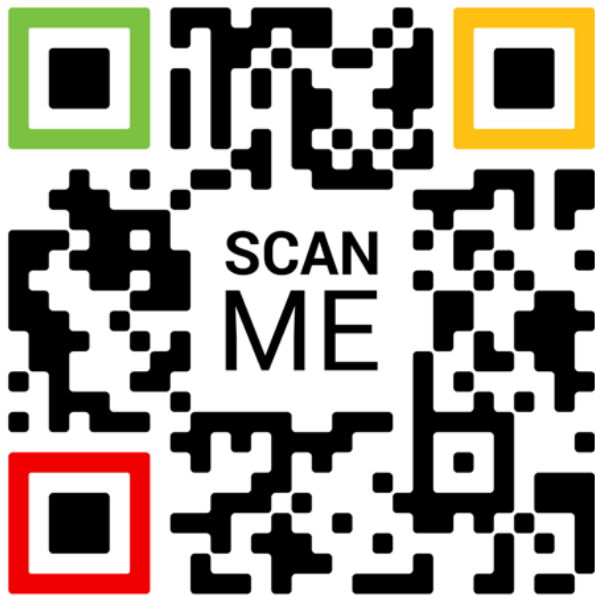
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