



2024



# NEBRASKA CROSSROADS MUSIC FESTIVAL



Welcome to the 5th annual Nebraska Crossroads Music Festival! It's hard to believe that it's already been half a decade since we started bringing transformational music from all over the globe to Nebraska. Thanks to the belief and dedication of our staff, our community, our listeners and our friends, we've been able to create something special that seems to have the staying power to continue making Nebraska a cultural capitol of our region.

We have an incredible program lined up for you this summer with everything from four new classical commissions, electronic jazz, traditional Cuban music, Indigenous hip-hop and poetry, and folk-rock fusion.

I hope you enjoy this summer's festival as much as the musicians you see on stage and come away with a heart full of joy and a head full of tunes you'll be humming until Christmas. Welcome and Enjoy.

- Erik Higgins, Artistic Director



SCHEDULE //////////////////////////////////////

**Sunday Aug. 4th | 12:30pm**

Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln

**Interactive Kids Concert**

Bring a blanket, your little ones and prepare to have a good time!

Our kids concerts are designed for both you and your kids, with a relaxing environment where participation, movement and exclamations are appreciated. Enjoy getting to know music and musicians from around the globe, as told through the story "This Love Will Go On".

The 30-minute show is timed with 0-5 year-olds in mind, but can be enjoyed by all.

Featuring: Marie Sønderskov, Olga Smola, Valeri Tolstov, Oscar Rios Pohirieth

**Sunday Aug. 4th | 3pm**

Omaha Public Library Downtown Branch

**Interactive Kids Concert**

Featuring: Marie Sønderskov, Olga Smola, Valeri Tolstov, Oscar Rios Pohirieth



**We value your  
feedback!**

Complete the survey below and  
win two VIP tickets to Crossroads  
2025!



**Monday Aug. 5th | 6pm**

Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln

**Story-Sharing Event**

Join the annual storytelling event and share your stories along with the festival's artists!

Led by Brian Seifferlein

**Monday Aug. 5th | 8pm**

Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts in Lincoln

**Jam Session**

Join the Nebraska Crossroads Music Festival's iconic jam sessions, where festival artists join forces with YOU for an evening of improvised music, sharing songs and exploring new musical language.

Led by Oscar Rios Pohirieth, Daniel Martinez and Nicole Sauder

**Tuesday Aug. 6th | 7pm**

Mary Riepma Ross Media Arts Center in Lincoln

**Documentary Screening of "Crossfade" followed by Q&A and Music**

Join Filmmaker Josh Kun and musician Hasan Khalil for a premiere screening of the short documentary "Cultures in the Crossfade" followed by a panel discussion and brief performance

Film by Josh Kun

Panelists: Hasan Khalil, Sheila Dorsey Vinton (Asian Community and cultural Center), Jamie Hottovey (Catholic Diocese of Lincoln)

**Wednesday Aug. 7th | 7pm**

Gallery 1516 in Omaha

**Contemporary Classical Concert****Program:****Juantío Becenti (b. 1983) – Notturnimento #1 (World premiere)**

Becenti takes inspiration from a bit of Schönberg, Brahms and folk music, in this piece written for the evening hours

**John Hadfield (b. 1976) – Blood Moon****Dinuk Wijneratne (b. 1978) – Two Pop Songs on Antique Poems**

1. A Letter from the Afterlife

2. I Will Not Let You Go

"I found the concept of this unique project to be irresistible: 'Pop'-influenced music for a Classical string quartet. Almost as irresistible as the musicians involved. The 'Afiaras' (as I like to call them) are astonishingly equidistant from tradition and innovation. And so I sought to create for them my own kind of 'collision of old and new', where the beauty and meaning of vintage poems might inspire the kind of loops, grooves, and catchy tunes heard in Pop. The melodies are, in fact, settings of the poem texts with the words stripped away. Contained in 'A Letter from the After-life' are two quotes from Schubert's Death & the Maiden quartet. Ironically, they struck me as being Pop-like and so I allowed them to emerge as though improvised; then to be improvised upon."

**Vardan Ovsepien (b. 1975) – title announced from the stage****Valeri Tolstov (b. 1979) – La Folia Global, parts 4-6**

La Folia Global is a project that combines the baroque music of Vivaldi with Armenian folk music and other traditional music from across the globe. The project premiered in a shorter version at the 2023 festival and recently, on July 27, the full piece was premiere in Finland at the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival. Tonight, you'll hear the new movements that have never been performed outside of Finland.

**Musicians:** Véronique Mathieu, Nicole Sauder, Olga Smola, Shah Sadiskov, James Wilson, Erik Higgins, Vardan Ovsepien, John Hadfield, Emmanuel Hovhannisyanyan, Marie Sønderkov, Myra Coveney, Ron Blake, Darryl White, Valeri Tolstov

**Wednesday Aug. 7th | following the concert**

Gallery 1516 in Omaha

**Composer Q&A**

Join the composers of the evening concert's pieces for a Q&A, hosted by KVNO's Colleen Cook

**Panelists:** Juantío Becenti, John Hadfield, Vardan Ovsepien, Valeri Tolstov

**All Artist Bios can be found at:**

[NebraskaMusicFest.org/artists](https://NebraskaMusicFest.org/artists)



**Thursday Aug. 8th | 7pm****Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts in Lincoln  
Contemporary Classical Concert****Program:****Juantío Becenti (b. 1983) – Notturmento #1 (World premiere)**

Becenti takes inspiration from a bit of Schönberg, Brahms and folk music, in this piece written for the evening hours

**John Hadfield (b. 1976) – Blood Moon****Corey Payette (b. 1987) – Gimikwenden Ina**

Children of God is a musical about an Oji-Cree family written by Oji-Cree composer, Corey Payette. In the musical, children Tommy and Julia are taken from their family and sent to a religious boarding school in Ontario. Gimikwenden Ina, a song from the musical, is sung by Tommy as he tries to remember what he is called, where he is from, and the family members that he left.

**William-Linthicum Blackhorse (1989) – Chanté Wašté Hokšila**

This Lakota lullaby was traditionally sung by mothers towards their young boys, though the song was, and still is, sung to all children regardless of gender. Old songs are often mistaken for having no words because many of the ancient vocabulary were single syllables and, to the non-native speaker/singer, they sound like assorted, meaningless vowels.

**Vardan Ovsepien (b. 1975) –****Valeri Tolstov (b. 1979) – La Folia Global, parts 4-6**

La Folia Global is a project that combines the baroque music of Vivaldi with Armenian folk music and other traditional music from across the globe. The project premiered in a shorter version at the 2023 festival and recently, on July 27, the full piece was premiere in Finland at the Kuhmo Chamber Music Festival. Tonight, you'll hear the new movements that have never been performed outside of Finland.

**Musicians:** Véronique Mathieu, Nicole Sauder, Olga Smola, Shah Sadiskov, James Wilson, Erik Higgins, Vardan Ovsepien, John Hadfield, Emmanuel Hovhannisyan, Marie Sønderkov, Myra Coveney, Ron Blake, Darryl White, Valeri Tolstov, Mary Young, Nebraska Crossroads Music Festival choir

Tonight's piano is sponsored by Great Plains Piano Company

**Thursday Aug. 8th | 7pm****Lakeside Pavilion at The RiverFront in Omaha  
Jarana**

Lead Daniel Martinez formed Jarana in 2009 for versatility and added creative energy. Pronounced JaRaNa (HAH-RAH-nah), it is a noun and verb meaning an event when all ages come together socially in a public place to enjoy and celebrate with food, games, music and dancing. It's used much like the English "party," but with richer meaning and more energy.

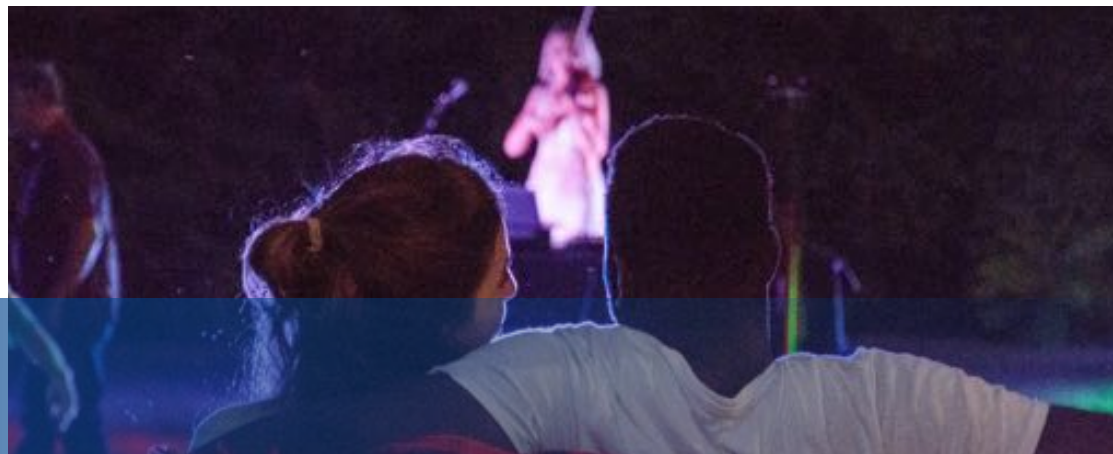
Jarana is a band built on energetic, danceable music blending South American music styles, Mexican folk music and Latin dance styles. Jarana's music blends South American, African and Mediterranean beats such as Flamenco, Rumba and Salsa, accompanied with authentic, traditional instruments. Band members are natives of Peru, Mexico and the US.

**Jarana:** Daniel Martinez, Oscar Rios Pohirieth, Andy Williams, Stephen Cantarero

**Thursday Aug. 8th | 9pm****Kiechel Art Gallery Rooftop in Lincoln  
Rooftop Love Songs**

The festival's Revue program takes place in a cozy corner of the Kiechel Gallery Rooftop. There's limited space available, so make sure to get there early!

**Musicians will be announced from the stage**



**Friday Aug. 9th | 7-10pm**

Performance Pavilion at Gene Leahy Mall at The RiverFront in Omaha

**Omaha Showcase**

Program:

Mixed Harmony – Traditional Cuban

John Hadfield and Ron Blake Duo – Jazz/Electronic

Dream Warriors – Indigenous Hip Hop

Authentic Light Orchestra – Armenian Folk/Rock

Omaha's flagship event, the showcase concert brings the festival's full breadth of style and artistry in one thrilling evening. Don't forget your blanket, lawn chairs and picnic, because you'll want to stay from the beginning to the end!

Musicians: Véronique Mathieu, Nicole Sauder, Olga Smola, James Wilson, Erik Higgins, Vardan Ovsepiyan, John Hadfield, Emmanuel Hovhannisyan, Ron Blake, Darryl White, Valeri Tolstov, Tall Paul, Twin City Tone, Mic Jordan, Gunner Jules, Aliyah American Horse, Humberto Gonzales, Mixed Harmony

**Saturday Aug. 10th | 10am**

Auld Pavilion at Antelope Park in Lincoln

**Meditation Concert with Bel Canto Duo**

Join Bel Canto Duo for a one-hour performance of relaxing and contemplative music. We'll have yoga mats and pillows available (but feel free to bring your own too) so you can get comfortable and zone into the music.

Bel Canto Duo: Darci Gammerl, David Downing

**Saturday Aug. 10th | 5-8pm**

Antelope Park Bandshell in Lincoln

**Lincoln Showcase**

Co-presented by the Asian Community and Cultural Center

Program:

Mixed Harmony – Traditional Cuban

John Hadfield and Ron Blake Duo – Jazz/Electronic

Dream Warriors – Indigenous Hip Hop

Authentic Light Orchestra – Armenian Folk/Rock

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**Sunday Aug. 11th | 12pm**

Johnny Carson Center for Emerging Media Arts in Lincoln

**Dream Warriors Workshop**

The 2024 festival will play host to a 5-day workshop bringing together hip-hop, classical, and indie music, together with visual and digital art that explores indigenous narratives. Come and get a sneak peak of the results of this 5-day creative process and hear the artists speak about their creative process, their motivations and their dreams for the future.

Dream Warriors: Tall Paul, Mic Jordan, Gunner Jules, Twin City Tone

Producers: Fredrik Serholt, Paulina Delin

Visual Arts: Sarah Rowe, Jinku Kim

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