

Harbor Nights Concert Series Performer Bios

June 18, 2021 Mike Ward

Lyric-driven, simple folk songs are what singer/songwriter Mike Ward produces. Currently living in Detroit, Mike grew up listening to the Irish Music of the Clancy Brothers and singing in church choirs. His influences are the likes of Bob Dylan, Simon & Garfunkel, Neil Young, Bruce Springsteen, Jason Isbell and John Prine.

June 25, 2021 Jim Bizer & Jan Krist

Jan Krist and Jim Bizer hail from Detroit, justly famous as Motown, but home to myriad musical influences. They met and made music together while still in their teens. On their own they have each garnered acclaim as songwriters and performers. Now, Jim and Jan have joined forces in a fun and formidable duo where the sum is greater than the already substantial parts. Jan and Jim pay homage to their roots, reflecting the music of their hometown and Midwest U.S.A. Their songs range from heartfelt to hilarious - sometimes both at once. Lush harmonies, intelligent and insightful lyrics, plenty of groove - and at the heart is the profound respect and playful interaction Jim and Jan share with their listeners. It's not surprising that, between the two of them, their accomplishments have been recognized by The Great American Song Contest, Detroit Music Awards, New Folk (Kerrville Folk Festival, TX) and NewSong Festival (WV).

July 2, 2021 Beverly Meyer The Music Lady

Singer/Songwriter, Beverly Meyer is a soulful performer that draws from her vast experience through a 30 year career in music. Her songs are insightful reflections of everyday experiences. Inspiration can stem from a glorious piece of pie, to a worrisome night waiting for her love to return. She weaves beautiful melodies with her outstanding vocal prowess that leaves you wanting to hear more. She loves to write songs but performing them is where the real magic happens. She has studied the styles of legends of jazz, blues, pop and folk. She is a gifted story teller as well, but her songs speak for themselves, crafted from real life and transforming ordinary moments into memorable melodies. She well known in children's music circles and has traversed the state performing in schools and in libraries bringing music into the lives of Michigan's children.

July 9, 2021 Kitty Donahoe & Friends

Michigan Emmy award-winning songwriter Kitty Donahoe was born into a large, creative family outside of Detroit and has been 'making up' songs for as long as she can remember. Describing her music as 'folky, bluesy, Irishy, American, Canadianish', she draws from her roots to create music that is uniquely her own ~ music that's **'haunting, melodic and literate' ~ All Music Guide**. With a love of language, an innate sense of melody, and the

soul of a storyteller, she backs herself on piano, guitar and cittern with equal finesse, but she sees these skills as mostly providing the foundation for the music she writes, both songs and instrumentals. **'Kitty creates a glorious sound'~ Sing Out.** Kitty's latest CD, *'The Irishman's Daughter'*, combines her original pieces with some traditional music and is getting great reviews. **'Kitty is making a name for herself in Irish America and you can see why from the high quality of the work here.'** **Irish Music Magazine.** Singing her songs with a **'soaring voice' (Victory Music Review)** she often performs solo, but can ramp it up when joined by Canadian Len Wallace on accordion, Luke Panning on fiddle, or 'uber multi instrumentalist' David Mosher on pretty much everything else. In 2002 Kitty was awarded an Emmy for her 9/11 song 'There Are No Words', which led to it's use in a film and an appearance at the Pentagon for the dedication of the Pentagon 9/11 Memorial.

July 16, 2021 Josh Rose

Growing up on a sheep farm in Michigan's Upper Peninsula, Josh Rose found musical inspiration in some unusual places. Much of it came from his grandfather, "the consummate lounge player," churning out old standards on a Hammond organ in a back room in Sault Ste. Marie. Now a seasoned singer-songwriter, Rose boasts an impressive inventory of insightful and personally compelling songs. Rose, who by day works as a chemistry teacher in Lake Odessa about 30 miles from his home in Ada, recently released his third studio album, "Old Laminat," recorded at Mackinaw Harvest Music studios in Grand Rapids — a project that's earned accolades from fans and critics. For Rose, writing songs and pursuing music as a vocation has meant juggling job and family responsibilities, but he concedes it's a passion that continues to drive him forward. "I've got a long commute every day, so my mind goes where it goes and usually that's a lot of my writing," he says. "It's constant. It's part of who I am. Rose's tunes "run the gauntlet of humanity" – the joys, sorrows, victories and letdowns of life. "I just want to make music an expression of who I am," he offers.

July 23, 2021 Kyle Rasche

Grand Rapids-based singer-songwriter **Kyle Rasche** (rhymes with "Kashi") celebrates the 10th anniversary of his band, Chain of Lakes. His most recent album is *Next Few Winters*. Kyle's smooth vocals and finger style guitar are the framework for his masterfully painted tales that are punctuated with melodies that make the stories they tell stick with you. His songs are entertaining, moving and have even been known to be historically educational. Kyle is currently one of twenty-four finalists in the Kerrville Folk Festival 2021 Grassy Hill New Folk competition. (Winners will be announced May 29). He is also working on a musical entitled *Chevy Town*.

July 30, 2021 Claudia Schmidt

Claudia Schmidt is one of the Midwest's most popular folk and jazz musicians. With her smoky alto vocals and multi-instrumental skills, Schmidt has crafted a unique style from the musical traditions of the past. While much of her repertoire consists of original material,

[Schmidt](#)'s work has incorporated a diverse range of musical influences. [Schmidt](#)'s concerts reflect her eclectic approach as well; one critic has observed that her shows are "a lot like falling in love -- you never know what's going to happen next." Hailing from Michigan, she knew at a young age that she was destined to be a singer. Performing in numerous choirs throughout her youth, Claudia soon pursued a professional career while in Chicago, leading her to Wisconsin and Minnesota, where she was a frequent guest on the early days of **A Prairie Home Companion**. More than thirty years and 16 albums later, Claudia continues to perform on the road to her loyal legions of fans across the country. Mixing folk, jazz, traditional ballads and breathtaking originals, there's not a style she can't master. Claudia's incredible voice and charismatic stage presence makes her a marvel in concert.

August 6, 2021 Rod & Annie Capps & Friends

On a musical journey that began in 1982, Annie and Rod Capps have established themselves as well-respected songwriters, musicians and performers, with three albums topping the Folk-DJ charts and as **2-time Kerrville New Folk Finalists**. The Capps' sound meets at the intersection of Americana & Folk citing rock, jazz and bluegrass influences. With their 8th studio recording "*When They Fall*", Annie & Rod continue to explore their love of blending diverse styles to create a fresh and unique amalgamation all while sticking to their narrative "songs about broken things and poignant little ponderings delivered with a rootsy vibe, a touch of twang and soulful groove".

August 13, 2021 Dan Hazlett

Dan Hazlett (pronounced HAZE-let) is an accomplished, polished performer who entertains and uplifts his audiences with a blend of his smooth, soulful voice, his finely honed acoustic guitar work, and his arsenal of well crafted and thoughtfully presented songs. Weaving in and out of folk, jazz and a Will Rogers style of down-home humor, Dan captivates his listeners with subject matter ranging from the ordinary silliness of everyday life to the unexpected intensity of dramatic interludes— and always while wearing his signature red high-top sneakers! A multi instrumentalist, Dan's live shows are punctuated with acoustic guitar, harmonica and trumpet. "*Dan writes his heart's stories, weaving them into a lyrical web of beauty, courage, childhood memories, old automobiles and family trees.*" (Maggie Ferguson, *The Old Front Porch Radio Show / Concert Series Presenter*)

August 20, 2021 Michael Crittenden

Michael "Colonel" Crittenden has enjoyed separate careers as a successful musician and as a studio owner/engineer. If you break it down further, he's even had two separate careers as a touring artist, first as a young player with the Boston rock band **The Westmorelands** and later as frontman for the popular Grand Rapids-based folk-rock band **Troll for Trout**, which perfected its distinctive brand of Michigan's-great-up-north music. As owner of [Mackinaw Harvest Studios](#) in Grand

Rapids, he's overseen projects by some of the region's most notable names – from Drew Nelson to Pop Evil to The Accidentals to Mid-Life Crisis to Josh Rose and many more – and developed young recording talent via the Youth Recording Arts Academy. Now, the multi-instrumentalist with a degree from the prestigious Berklee College of Music is splitting his time between Grand Rapids and Traverse City, with plans to eventually open a recording studio in northern Michigan. As a solo performer The Colonel performs finely crafted original songs, both poignant and humorous that touch the heart and tell of his love for fishing, the great outdoors and Northern Michigan.

August 27, 2021 Andy Baker

Michigan singer/songwriter Andy Baker has spent a lifetime peering through microscopes. As a veterinarian, it's a necessary skill...searching for small clues in order to grasp the bigger picture. Pretty handy tool for a songwriter too. In fact, Andy has spent a great deal of his life with his own lens turned inward...and outward...resulting in a pondering writing style that moves with a purposeful stride, a playful heart, and a hopeful eye to the horizon. Three decades of crafting songs have resulted in four studio albums, with nods to his many influences including Counting Crows, James Taylor, Ryan Adams, and the Indigo Girls. His 2010 release "Down" garnered multiple awards from the Great Lakes Songwriting Competition, and songs from his 2017 album "One Fine Day" landed him a coveted finalist spot at the Kerrville Newfolk Songwriting Competition. On the heels of his 2020 release "North Country Sky", Andy came back to win the Kerrville Newfolk Songwriting Competition, and was also featured as an Emerging Artist at the Falcon Ridge Folk Festival in New York. The album spent a number of weeks on the national Folk DJ Chart, and the opening song "Second Wind" hit #18 in July. Jon Stein of Hootenanny Cafe writes "From the first note of the first song to the last note of the last song, North Country Sky is nothing less than brilliant. His tunes will compel the listener to keep listening...and then after the last note of the last song, wanting more! I can't wait for Andy Baker's next album." Andy's love for his day job and family life keep him deeply rooted in his tiny rural town of Gobles, Mi...but when he gets to hit the road he does so with a glint in his eye, a tap in his step, and a trunk full of instruments. A long time multi instrumentalist, Andy's live shows feature a mesmerizing rotation of songs played on guitar, bouzouki, dobro, and even bass.

Sept 3, 2021 Local Singer/Songwriter Round Robin

TBA

Sept 10, 2021 Local Singer/Songwriter Round Robin

TBA

Sept 17, 2021: Bob Hausler

Singer, songwriter, guitarist, and entertainer Bob Hausler has entertained thousands of people in his career. Shared the stage with some of the great artists of our time. Richie Havens, Mark Stuart, Stacy Earle, M. Haggard, W. Nelson, Eric Church, and many more. His songs have played on radio stations around the world. Winning numerous songwriting awards from Review Magazine, BMI, and more. Bob Hausler is a great story teller, collaborator, instigator as well as a promoter of other fine independent songwriters. Friend to all he meets, there isn't a good song that escapes his fine ear. Humor is his forte, but tearjerkers follow close behind. He always offers a heartfelt performance of his own fine songs or covers."