



Thursday, May 13, 2004

Summer music festival tickets now on sale

By *Marcus Popiolek*, contributing writer

A country music legend, alternative rock band, Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the circus and numerous popular rock and pop bands highlight this year's **Meadow Brook Music Festival**.

Women take center stage

The summer series kicks off with a performance by Melissa Etheridge June 12 at 7:30 p.m. Etheridge's powerful, gritty vocals have earned her favorable comparisons to Rod Stewart and Janis Joplin, while her gutsy, electric blues-rock has garnered considerable praise from fans and critics alike. Etheridge's performance comes on the heels of her latest release "Lucky." The critically acclaimed album continues to rise on the billboard pop chart.

Meadow Brook veteran, Jewel, returns July 14 at 8 p.m. for a solo acoustic performance. Jewel's career began in Michigan at the Interlochen Fine Arts Academy and has taken her around the world. She appeared two years ago at Meadow Brook following the release of her album "This Way," which reached the top 10 on Billboard's 200 top-selling Album Chart. Her recent release, "0304," reached number two on that same chart and has produced several hit singles including "Intuition" and "Stand."

Following the success of her album "Whole New You," Shawn Colvin will perform with the Cowboy Junkies on July 20 at 8 p.m.

An 80's icon is once again in the limelight as Cyndi Lauper continues to redefine herself and her music. Lauper will perform Aug. 22 at 8 p.m., and while she may be known for "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," Lauper's latest album, "At Last," was released in 2003 and consists of her interpretation of class standard songs.

Emmylou Harris, Patty Griffin and Buddy Miller with special guests David Rawlings and Gillian Welch will bring the "Sweet Harmony Traveling Revue" to Meadow Brook Aug. 26 at 7:30 p.m. Welch and Harris both won a Grammy for the soundtrack album "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" on which they sang "Didn't Leave Nobody But the Baby" with Alison Krauss. Harris, Griffin, Miller, Rawlings and Welch have known each other for some time, collaborating on albums, sharing the stage and covering each other's songs. However, this tour marks the first time they will work together as a unit. The set will be varied, featuring ensemble performances, solo numbers and, at times, instrument swapping.

Detroit Symphony Orchestra returns

The **Detroit Symphony Orchestra** returns for another season at Meadow Brook in July. The symphony will perform:

- July 16 at 8 p.m. — "Symphonic Blockbusters," featuring the works of Beethoven, Ravel, Wagner and more.
- July 17 at 8 p.m. — "Great Gershwin," featuring George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" and "An American in Paris" in a tribute to the great American composer.
- July 18 at 7:30 p.m. — The movies are highlighted as the "DSO goes to the Movies." This always-popular performance features John Williams' soundtracks along with music from all-time favorite films.
- Aug. 7 at 8 p.m. — "Tchaikovsky Spectacular," including the composer's "1812 Overture" and "Variations on a Rococo Theme."
- Aug. 8 at 7:30 p.m. — The Beatles will be the highlight of the evening for the "Classical Mystery Tour: A Tribute to the Beatles." The show will feature many of the Fab Four's hit songs performed with the lush, full sound of the DSO along with members of the hit Broadway musical "Beatlemania."

Eat and drink at Wine and Food Festival

The popular wine and food festival at Meadow Brook makes its return from June 19-20. For the first time, this year's festival will feature a variety of international wines. Nearly 20 wineries from across the globe will be on hand

showcasing almost 100 varieties of wine. In addition, cooking demonstrations, wine seminars and live entertainment will take place throughout the weekend.

Family fun for everyone

Soaring acrobats, tigers, clowns and other staples of circus life will take up residence on the Meadow Brook Music Festival grounds when the Royal Hanneford Family Spectacular arrives June 24-27.

The family fun continues with performances by Detroit Public Television's Kids Club Live, featuring the Toy Castle on June 30 at 2 and 7 p.m. and a Beatles retrospective with a performance by the Get Back! Cast of Beatlemania on July 1 at 8 p.m.

The fast-paced, energetic, universally engaging and theatrically clever, Fred Garbo Inflatable Theatre Company visits July 22 with performances for children at 2 and 7 p.m.

Men not forgotten

Two popular television personalities with vastly different appeal will appear at Meadow Brook in July.

Chris Isaak, who first hit America's consciousness with the popular song and video "Wicked Game" and today is known for more than just his music including his popular Showtime show "The Chris Isaak Show," will take the stage July 23 at 8 p.m.

Lewis Black will never be mistaken for a musician, but, like Isaac, is popular to television viewers for his work on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" and "Late Show with Conan O'Brien." Following the success of his HBO special, "Lewis Black: Black on Broadway," Black and fellow comedian Dave Dyer will perform July 31 at 8 p.m.

The humorous Primus brings their "Hallucino-Genetics Tour 2004" to the stage June 18 at 8 p.m. Formed in San Francisco in 1984, Primus' offbeat musical style was an instant hit with fans around the country. Over the years, Primus has seen album sales soar and critics have warmed to their offbeat musical delivery that has the bass guitar as the central focus of their music. Primus' biggest highlight was when "Wynona's Big Brown Beaver" was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Hard Rock Performance.

Bela Fleck and the Fleckstones, Nashville Star Tour and Weird Al Yankovic provide entertainment throughout August. Fleck will take the stage Aug. 11 at 8 p.m., while the Nashville Star Tour will perform Aug. 13 at 8 p.m., and Weird Al will display his unique musical styling Aug. 19 at 8 p.m.

Classic Rock and Blues

For two weeks in July, rock legends take center stage. First Crosby, Stills and Nash visit Meadow Brook for a July 7 performance at 8 p.m. The following week George Thorogood and Jimmy Vaughn will bring their own brand of rock and blues to the area with a performance July 12 at 7:30 p.m.

The season concludes with performances by The Allman Brothers Band on Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. and blues legends Robert Cray and Buddy Guy on Sept. 4 at 8 p.m.

Tickets

For the first time, Meadow Brook Music Festival events will have a traffic control fee included in the ticket price to ease traffic ingress, as concertgoers will not have to stop to pay for parking when entering the grounds.

Tickets may be charged by phone to American Express, Discover, Visa and MasterCard by calling (248) 377-0100 or visiting the **Meadow Brook Music Festival** Web site.

For more information, including a complete schedule of events, see the **Meadow Brook Music Festival** Web site.

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