

## **SPRING 2023 NEWSLETTER • GRAND THEATER • WAUSAU**



### FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



What a start to 2023 it has been here at The Grand! Multiple sold-out shows, Wausau debuts, recognition as one of Pollstar's Top 150 Theaters in the world, and outstanding Community Engagement Series events! We're so glad to have shared these moments with you and look forward to many more exciting shared moments to come.

The best news is that we're just getting started! There is so much to come this season—from music legends to some of the best comedians working today, incredible spectacle shows for the entire family, the return of some Wausau favorites as well as some shows that we are so happy to

bring to The Grand for the very first time! There is truly something for everyone in the months to come... plus we're hard at work on the 23/24 season and can't wait to share that with you.

Thanks for your support of The Grand! We look forward to seeing you at a show!





## **CONTACT THE** GRAND THEATER

**TICKETS & INFO ONLINE** 

www.grandtheater.org

CALL 715-842-0988 or 888-239-0421 (toll-free)

VISIT 401 N. Fourth St., downtown Wausau

**TICKET OFFICE HOURS:** 

Mon-Fri 9:00 am-5:30 pm

## The great American songbook comes to life in a concert celebrating the history of jazz... and its future



Wausau gets a big taste of New York City's famed Jazz scene, in a rare opportunity to hear historic jazz and blues performed live by world-class musicians and singers. Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents: Songs We Love, on Wednesday, Feb. 15, will delight you with the most soulful selections of America's great songbook, from Ma Rainey, Billie Holiday, Judy Garland, Frank Sinatra, and more.

The repertoire covers songs from the 1920s through the hard bop of 1950s jazz. This was one of the most significant eras in music history, when jazz artists changed the landscape of what music could be and whose work still influences performers and songwriters today. You'll hear gems such as the traditional blues "See See Rider" first recorded in 1924 by Ma Rainey. Billie Holiday's "God Bless the Child," a ballad first recorded in 1941, was celebrated in 2001 as one of the Songs of the Century by the Recording Industry Association of America and the National Endowment for the Arts. The

program also includes jewels by George Gershwin ("I Loves You Porgy"), Cole Porter ("So in Love"), and Harold Arlen ("Over the Rainbow," sung by Judy Garland in 1939).

The performers on stage – a six-piece band and three vocalists - represent the rising stars of the jazz world today. Musical director Riley Mulherkar has been recognized as a "smart young trumpet player" by The New York Times and is the recipient of the 2020 Lincoln Center Emerging Artist Award for his work as a bandleader, composer, arranger, educator, and advocate of the arts.

"We have a very close-knit group of musicians from Jazz at Lincoln Center," Mulherkar told the Calgary Herald when Songs We Love began its 2022 tour. "We've pretty much grown up together over the past 10 years, coming of age in the city playing at jam sessions at Dizzy's Club... I think the show encapsulates the best of that, of our generation and our community."











## THE PEKING ACROBATS FEATURING THE SHANGHAI CIRCUS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17

All ages will be thrilled! The Peking Acrobats perform daring maneuvers atop a precarious pagoda of chairs; they are experts at trick-cycling, precision tumbling, somersaulting, and gymnastics. It's an exuberant entertainment event, with live musicians playing traditional Chinese instruments and high-tech special effects. This new show features performers from the Shanghai Circus to create even more of the festive pageantry you'd experience with a Chinese Carnival. "From the start, your senses are full of sight and sound and color." –





FEATURED SPONSOR:



## IRELAND WITH MICHAEL LIVE FRIDAY, MARCH 3

It's a dazzling, delightful, multimedia show full of Irish spirit. This stage version of the acclaimed PBS show combines a five-piece band, champion dancers, and host Michael Londra himself. Known as the golden voice of the original Riverdance, this Emmy-nominated singer interlaces songs and stories to a backdrop of spectacular footage filmed in Ireland to create an immersive journey around the Emerald Isle. Irish fiddles and pipes add to the feast of Celtic talent onstage, drawing the audience across the Atlantic Ocean.













### CLASSIC ALBUMS LIVE: DARK SIDE OF THE MOON

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Experience a live performance of one of the most acclaimed albums of all time, released 50 years ago, on March 1, 1973. These talented musicians recreate the masterpiece album, note for note, cut for cut. There are no costumes, no computer effects, no over-dubs. Classic Albums Live honors the music by masterfully bringing it to life exactly as you remember. The unforgettable cash register and bass line in "Money," the poignant lyrics of "Brian Damage," the unmatched cool melancholy of "Breathe (In The Air)"... "It's the album that changed everything," notes Classic Albums Live founder Craig Martin:

Twenty million people bought this album first on vinyl, then cassette, then CD. Then one day it was on our phones. We've lived a life alongside this album.

Dark Side of the Moon came out in 1973, it was everywhere.

The album cover prism was drawn on countless school binders.

We started paying attention to the sound of cash registers.

Having a good stereo system was a thing Classic Albums Live knows how to perform this album.

It's complex and full of soul.

Just getting the alarm clocks together was a feat

All the little voices.

Then you had to find someone that could sing 'great gig in the sky.'
We did, and it's joyous

The musicians care about this album. It was our flagship show in 2003. It's the album that changed everything. It's a masterpiece that will be remembered forever.

-Craia Martin











## **COLIN MOCHRIE & BRAD SHERWOOD** SUNDAY, MARCH 5

Great seats are still available, but they won't last long for these improv comedy masters, beloved by TV audiences for Whose Line Is It Anyway? Colin and Brad improvise new material at every show from audience participation. "Everything's a surprise, as much to us as to the audience, so it's always fresh and fun," Mochrie told Northshore Magazine. Their current tour, Scared Scriptless, includes improv games that Whose Line fans will know, such as Sound Effects and Moving Bodies, along with new games you're sure to love. The show is built with audience participation, often pulling from people's real life stories and occupations. Get ready for nonstop laughs!

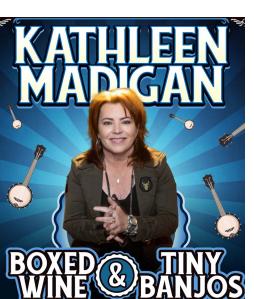




FEATURED







## ATLANTA RHYTHM SECTION and PURE PRAIRIE LEAGUE

50 YEARS TOGETHER

FRIDAY, MARCH 17

Songs, stories, and American rock by two legendary bands. Hear hits like "Aime," "Two Lane Highway," "Imaginary Lover" and more from these great performers. Their beloved best-selling albums and Top 40 singles have made PPL and ARS living legends of country and Southern rock.







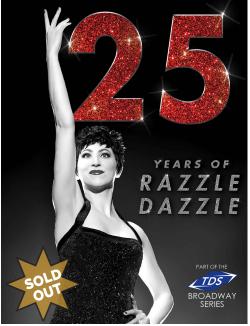




## SATURDAY, MARCH 25

This comedian's 32-year career is showing no signs of slowing down. Madigan has three stand-up specials on Netflix and the highest selling and most played comedy album, Botherina Jesus, on streamina services since 2014. "So irreplaceable on the stage... she's one of the funniest stand-up comedians of her generation," says the Detroit Free Press.







### SUNDAY, MARCH 12

After 25 years, Chicago is still the one musical with everything that makes Broadway shimmy-shake: a tale of fame, fortune and all that jazz, show-stopping songs, and astonishing dance.















### TUESDAY, MARCH 28

Using projection photos and original film footage, this concert-style show features a full band performing hits including "Mrs. Robinson," "Cecilia" and "Bridge Over Troubled Water." The story chronicles the journey of the folk-rock duo from their humble beginnings, to incredible success and dramatic split, culminating with the Concert in Central Park reunion in 1981.











A NETFLIX ORIGINAL DOCUMENTARY SERIES PLANET LIVE IN CONCERT THURSDAY, MARCH 16 A spectacular tribute to life on our planet Music by Academy Award®-Winning composer STEVEN PRICE Co-Narrated On Screen by

> DAVID ATTENBOROUGH and WILLIAM SHATNER

"A journey showcasing our world with spectacular visuals. narration and music.... to celebrate our planet together, the home we all share, and its wonders.

Some of most magnificent film footage of the natural world ever captured has become a stunning new stage production. The eight-part Our Planet documentary series took the world by storm when it debuted on Netflix in 2019. The best clips have been reimagined as a two-hour live show with beautiful special effects, and an 18-piece orchestra on stage performing the powerful, Emmy-nomiated score by acclaimed composer Steven Price.

Our Planet Live in Concert brings the incredible cinematography of the series to the big screen in full HD quality, as dazzling lighting effects create an epic concert event unlike any other. Your journey across Earth is guided by the voices of legendary broadcaster David Attenborough and Emmy-award winning actor Williams Shatner. Shatner signed on to co-narrate the project as a result of experiencing a "profound appreciation" of Earth after he traveled to space on Jeff Bezos' space shuttle in 2021.

A portion of the show's proceeds will benefit World Wildlife Fund, a producing partner of the documentary series.















## YAMATO THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

Bring the whole family to experience the thunderous music, astounding athleticism, and infectious showmanship that has mesmerized audiences across the globe. Some of these traditional instruments are huge! It's no wonder this production is known as phyiscal music. "Simply captivating!" says the Evening Post.

















## CHAPEL HART

WITH SPECIAL GUEST LUCAS HOGE

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

This hot new country group wraps their Mississippi roots with Louisiana spice! Sisters Danica and Devynn Hart and cousin Trea Swindle went from singing together as children in Hart's Chapel, to becoming a world class group with a colorful, contagious energy. Chapel Hart can tug on your heartstrings with a tender yet powerful ballad, then have you pumping your fist to a hard-hitting anthem. In summer 2022 they gained fame on TV's America's Got Talent, earning props from country legends like Dolly Parton. Billboard-charting artist Lucas Hoge can craft a song, cast a line, call in a turkey in front of a film crew, and perform like a rock star on stage. TV fans know him as the engaging host on "Hoge Wild," his own weekly series on Sportsman Channel. With a guitar in one hand and a bow in the other, Lucas treks the world to amplify his passion for the outdoors and conservation.







## THE RUSH TRIBUTE PROJECT

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

The magic of Rush's famous live concerts comes alive! The Rush Tribute Project is an homage to one of the most enduring and influential bands in rock music. Combining skilled musicianship with exciting performances, RTP (as it's known to its dedicated fanbase) delivers the magic of Rush's famous live concerts, covering all 40-plus years of the band's amazing career. RTP painstakingly recreates the sound and energy that made Rush one of the top-selling rock bands of all time. Using vintage instruments, multi-camera projections, state-of-the-art lighting, and signature virtuosity, RTP delivers an unparalleled concert experience to thrill the casual fan as well as the most discerning Rush loyalist.

PRESENTING SPONSOR:











GINA CHAVEZ WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Blending the sounds of the Americas with tension and grace, this Austin Music Award winner explores the true meaning of "Americana" as she and her five-piece band take you on a high-energy journey through Latin America and beyond.

This FREE concert is part of the Lift Every Voice series, and supported by the Arts Midwest GIG Fund, a program of Arts Midwest that is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, with additional contributions from the Wisconsin Arts Board.



ART GARFUNKEL THURSDAY, APRIL 20

Blessed with a beautiful countertenor, singer Art Garfunkel has made an indelible mark on the world as both a solo artist and with the unrivaled Simon & Garfunkel. He has enjoyed a successful film career, published a book of poetry and released 12 solo albums. This is a rescheduled concert from the original date in 2020.









LORRIE MORGAN

FRIDAY, APRIL 21

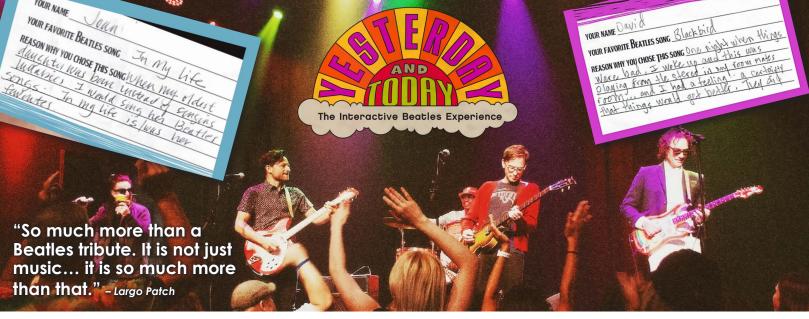


COUNTY SPOTLIGHT SERIES









## YESTERDAY AND TODAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

In this Interactive Beatles Experience, the audience chooses the evening's songlist with request cards naming their favorite Beatles song and why. These notes create a narrative for the evening, turning each concert into a beautiful story of people's lives told through the songs performed on stage. Band leaders Billy and Matthew McGuigan were just 21 and 15 years old in 1996 when their father, William, passed away after a difficult battle with leukemia. He had owned every Beatles album there was...even the obscure ones. To entertain the vouna ones, Bill shared his love of the Beatles catalogue with his boys. Little did any of them know, it would turn out to be one of the greatest gifts a father could pass on to his children. Today, the brothers' innovative show proves why the music of the Beatles remains the soundtrack of so many of our lives, too.

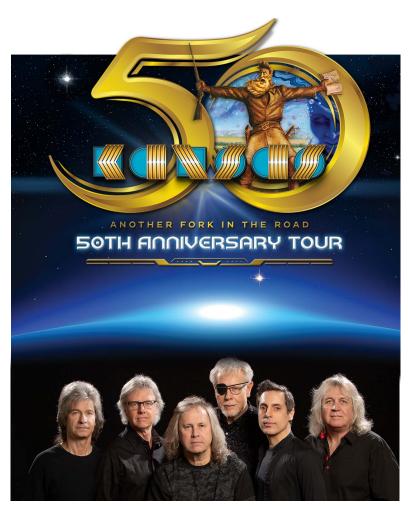




FEATURED









## **KANSAS** FRIDAY, JULY 21

America's preeminent progressive rock band, KANSAS, will be touring 50 select North American cities to celebrate the band's 50th Anniversary. KANSAS 50th Anniversary Tour Another Fork in the Road will showcase music spanning all 50 years of the band's illustrious history. The tour will showcase two hours of hits, fan favorites, and deep cuts rarely performed live. The "garage band" from Topeka released their debut album in 1974, and went on to compile a catalogue that includes sixteen studio and five live albums. Beloved for their deeply powerful yet poetic sonas such as the meaa-hits "Carry On Wayward Son" and "Dust in the Wind," Kansas continue to strike a chord with new audiences. The band is currently comprised of original drummer Phil Ehart, bassist/vocalist Billy Greer, vocalist/ keyboardist Ronnie Platt, violinist/guitarist David Ragsdale, keyboardist/vocalist Tom Brislin, and original guitarist Richard Williams.







## **RUBEN & CLAY**

TUESDAY, MAY 16

Ruben Studdard and Clay Aiken are thrilled to reunite twenty years after captivating audiences during their historic run on the second season of Fox's American Idol in 2003. Both plucked from the relative obscurity of their hometowns in the South, the unlikely pair quickly became audience favorites instrumental in helping propel Idol's place as one of the most consequential TV series in American history. Combined they have recorded twelve albums, sold more than eight million albums worldwide, toured the country 14 times, starred together on Broadway, won four Billboard Music Awards, an American Music Award, and have been nominated for two Grammys. Twenty | The Tour will highlight the music that made Ruben & Clay American Idol favorites and household names. From Clay's iconic rendition of "Bridge Over Troubled Water" to Ruben's soulful single "Sorry," join America's favorite odd couple for an unforgettable evening of music and memories, spanning two decades, delivered as only these true superstars can.

PRESENTING SPONSOR:



**FEATURED** SPONSORS:



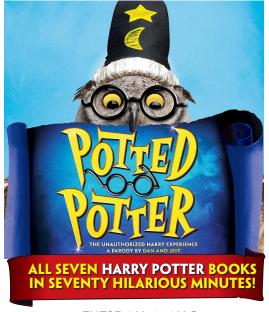












### TUESDAY, MAY 2

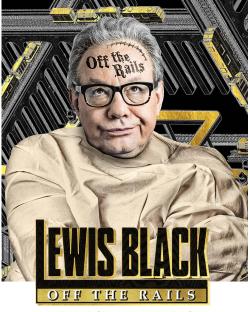
This "Unauthorized Harry Experience - A Parody" will make you roar with laughter, even if you don't know the difference between a horcrux and a Hufflepuff. It's a theatrical comedy for all ages, as creators Dan and Jeff perform all seven books into one hilarious show. "An ebullient joyride with just the right amount of snark," says Chicago Theater Beat.











### THURSDAY, MAY 18

The King of Rant returns to Wausau! This award-winning comedian performs his critically acclaimed shows to sold-out audiences around the world, and is one of a few performers to sell out multiple renowned theaters, including Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, and the Mirage in Las Vegas. You won't stop laughing at his brilliant riffs on the absurdities of life.













Broadway's original Aladdin performs from the prolific songbook of Alan Menken, featuring songs from stage and film hits such as Newsies, The Little Mermaid, and Aladdin in this inspiring, family-friendly show. "Adam Jacobs and I have shared the most incredible journey," Menken says, "brought fully to life by this amazing and talented young man."







10×10 SERIES

Behavioral Health Clinic Discover new artists in an intimate setting on the stage of the historic Grand Theater! General admission tickets are available for just \$10 in advance.

Seats are limited. Contact the Ticket Office at 715-842-0988 or www. grandtheater.org for more information.

ALL 10X10 SERIES SHOWS 8:00 PM



KING MARGO THURS MAR 2 High-energy, fun, and musically adept Americana.



EMPIRE WILD
SAT APR 1
A signature mix of original music, covers, and twists on classical canon.



BEN MULWANA TUES APR 25 Afro-soul rock with a unique storytelling quality.

The entire season at The Grand is supported by the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts. These performances are also supported by the Community Arts Grant program of the Community Foundation of North Central Wisconsin, the B.A. & Esther Greenheck Foundation, and the City of Wausau's Room Tax Funding.





**LORRIE MORGAN** 









THE BOOK OF MORMON
October 18 & 19

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET CHRISTMAS November 18

MIDTOWN MEN: HOLIDAY HITS
December 7

HAIRSPRAY January 16

CHICAGO March 12

**ADAM JACOBS: RIGHT WHERE** 

I BELONG June 2





2022/23
ARTS IN
EDUCATION
SERIES

Dedicated to serving schools, teachers, and students through educational and cultural experiences, the Arts In Education Series brings in over 17,000 students year after year to experience the transformative power of the arts.













# HADLEY 2022/23 ACCESS FOR ALL SERIES

Everyone deserves the opportunity to experience the power and wonder of the arts.

This outreach program engages families and individuals, enabling them to experience the performing arts at The Grand regardless of economic status. By partnering with community groups to distribute tickets to individuals and families facing challenging circumstances, we hope to make the performing arts truly accessible for all.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Hadley Family Trust in presenting this season's Access For All series.



## 2022-23 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SERIES

The Grand Theater's mission to ENTERTAIN, EDUCATE, and ENRICH North Central Wisconsin pushes the performing arts from the stage into our community.

Through workshops, pre-show activities, free cultural events, and online activities, the Bridge Clinic Community Engagement Series connects our community to the performing arts and to each other.

### **GRAND THEATER CALENDAR**

### **FEBRUARY**

- 9 Boy Band Review
- 10 Steely Dane
- Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents: Songs We Love
- 17 Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series: The Peking Acrobats, featuring the Shanghai Circus
- The Peking Acrobats, featuring the Shanghai Circus
- 23 Bridge Clinic Community Engagement Series: Broadway Karaoke
- 24 County Materials Spotlight Series: Classic Albums Live: Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon
- 25 Broadway Rock of Ages Band
- 26 Newsboys (LOW TICKETS)
- 27 Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series: The Magic School Bus

#### **MARCH**

- 2 Behavioral Health Clinic 10x10 Series: King Margo
- 3 Ireland with Michael LIVE
- 5 County Materials Spotlight Series: Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood: The Scared Scriptless Tour
- 9-11 Wausau Community Theatre: Spongebob Squarepants
- 12 TDS Broadway Series: Chicago (SOLD OUT)

- 16 Our Planet Live In Concert
- 17 Atlanta Rhythm Section & Pure Prairie League - 50 Years Together
- 25 Kathleen Madigan
- 28 The Simon & Garfunkel Story
- 31 Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series: Yamato: The Drummers of Japan
- 31 Yamato: The Drummers of Japan

#### **APRIL**

- Behavioral Health Clinic 10x10 Series: Empire Wild
- 2 Mozart's Requiem: A Community Easter Oratorio
- 6 Chapel Hart: Glory Days Tour
- 12 Lift Every Voice Series: Gina Chavez
- 13 Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series: The Lightning Thief
- 14 The Rush Tribute Project
- 17 An Evening with Michael J. Fox: "No Time Like the Future" (LOW TICKETS)
- 20 Art Garfunkel (LOW TICKETS)
- 21 County Materials Spotlight Series: Lorrie Morgan
- 25 Behavioral Health Clinic 10x10 Series: Ben Mulwana
- 28 Yesterday & Today: The Interactive Beatles Experience

#### MAY

- 2 Potted Potter The Unauthorized Harry Experience
- 16 Ruben & Clay: Twenty | The Tour
- 18 Lewis Black: Off The Rails

#### JUNE

- TDS Broadway Series: Adam Jacobs: Right Where I Belong -Songs of Alan Menken
- 6 2023/24 Season SAVETHE Preview Party DATE!
- 22-24 Wausau Community Theatre: Heathers

#### **JULY**

21 KANSAS: Another Fork in the Road - 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour

> Schedules may change. Check grandtheater.org for updates.





Keep the magic of the performing arts alive.

## **DONATE TODAY!**

The Grand relies on your support to ENRICH, EDUCATE, and ENTERTAIN all ages, even beyond our season shows:

- More than 10,000 students from 102 schools attended Arts In Education matinee performances in 2022.
- Our Community Engagement Series provides hundreds of adults and kids with FUN and FREE events, such as Insta-Choir, dance classes and Broadway Karaoke.
- Allows The Grand to host free, major community events such as the Messiah Easter choral concert, and the Marathon County Historical Society's historic film show.

Please visit grandtheater.org/support to make your donation, or call us at 715-842-0988





