



# GRAND THEATER WAUSAU

# SPRING

2025 NEWSLETTER



Riverdance  
THE NEW GENERATION  
30



Thrilling, percussive  
song and dance:  
STEP AFRIKA!



Bagpipe rock:  
RED HOT  
CHILLI PIPERS



Jazz at Lincoln  
Center Presents:  
NEW ORLEANS  
SONGBOOK

Comedian  
MARK  
NORMAND

MARTY STUART  
and His Fabulous  
Superlatives





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
SEAN WRIGHT

## Blockbusters, legendary bands, and a London orchestra

What a start to 2025 it has been here at The Grand. Multiple sold-out shows, Wausau debuts, and incredible free events for the entire community! We're so glad to have shared these moments with you and cannot wait for the rest of the season. There is so much more excitement to come — from Tony-Award winning Broadway to incredible spectacle shows for the entire family, the return of some Wausau favorites as well as performers we are so happy to bring to The Grand for the very first time! Plus, as you'll see, we just keep adding blockbuster shows to our current 2024/25 Season. With 16 sellouts already this season, don't delay on your chance to see something amazing at The Grand.

And of course, we're hard at work on the 2025/26 Season and can't wait to share that with you in June. Watch for our announcements. Thanks for your support of The Grand. We look forward to seeing you at a show!

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.



## CONTACT US

ONLINE [www.grandtheater.org](http://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

*On the following pages find details on all upcoming shows in our 2024/25 Season, including recently announced add-ons.*

*To order online or to find information on seating availability, scan the code below to go directly to our ticketing page.*



PRESENTED BY THE  
**CHESTER L. SUSKI  
ARTS FUND**

## ACADEMY of ST MARTIN IN THE FIELDS



BRUCE  
LIU

LIMITED  
TICKETS  
REMAIN

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Don't miss this rare opportunity to experience a live performance of one of the most highly esteemed chamber orchestras in the world. Based in London, the Academy of St Martin in the Fields is renowned for fresh, brilliant interpretations of the greatest orchestral music. Its unrivalled live performances and vast recording output — including the soundtrack to the Oscar-winning film *Amadeus* — have given the orchestra an international reputation for its distinctive, polished sound. On this limited spring tour in the U.S., the orchestra is joined by the 2021 Chopin Piano Competition winner Bruce Liu, who will perform Mozart's Piano Concerto No. 9 "Jeune homme." This concert also includes Copland's *Quiet City*, Adams' *Shaker Loops*, and Haydn's *Symphony No. 29*.

FEATURED  
SPONSOR:  WISCONSIN  
PUBLIC RADIO




THE NEXT  
GENERATION  
OF DANCE

FRANCESCA  
HARPER  
ARTISTIC  
DIRECTOR

# AILEY II

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16 • 7:00 PM

The exciting world of modern dance comes to Wausau! Ailey II - The Next Generation of Dance has merged the spirit and energy of the finest early-career talent with the passion and creative vision of today's most outstanding and emerging choreographers. Founded by Alvin Ailey in 1974, this renowned company embodies his pioneering mission, and has flourished into one of the most popular modern dance companies, bringing new creative voices to audiences around the U.S.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: 



## YAMATO

THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN

"Visually STUNNING...  
POWERFUL and HUMOROUS"  
—Addicted Toronto



FRIDAY, MARCH 7

Returning to The Grand after a sold-out show in 2023, Yamato's acclaimed Japanese Taiko drumming has captivated millions across the globe with their thunderous music, incredible athleticism, and talented showmanship. Their new show "Hito no Chikara" - The Power of Human Strength, will leave you exhilarated by the spectacular, high energy performance. The Taiko drums explode with sound, but also produce delicate music. Yamato is sometimes intense, sometimes sad, sometimes comforting, and in the next moment comical. It's an amazing experience for the whole family!

PRESENTING SPONSORS:    

## MATT VEE & THE KILLER VEES CELEBRATE THE MUSIC OF NEIL DIAMOND

*I am... He said*

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

SOLD  
OUT

STARRING  
MATT VEE

PRESENTING SPONSORS:      

## THE MAGIC OF ROB LAKE

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 • 7:00 PM

FEW  
SEATS  
REMAIN

PRESENTING SPONSORS:      





# GAELIC STORM



ROLL OUT THE BARREL TOUR  
WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

REVEREND PEYTON'S  
BIG DAMN BAND

SUNDAY, MARCH 9 • 7:00 PM

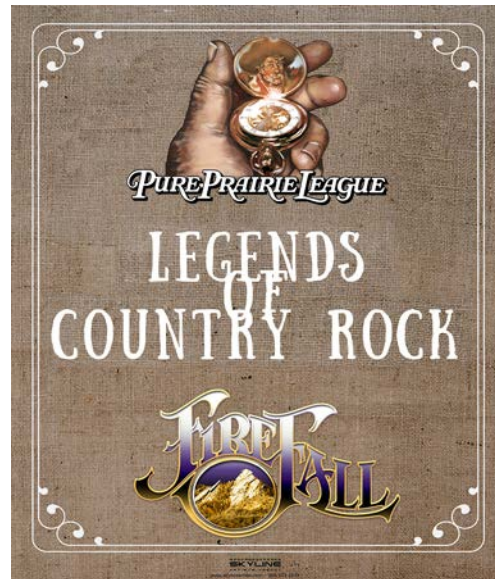
This Celtic juggernaut's "Roll Out the Barrel Tour" brings them back to Wausau with special guest Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band. Since appearing in the blockbuster film *Titanic* (performing "Irish Party in Third Class") Gaelic Storm has topped the Billboard World Chart six times and regularly headlines the largest Irish Festivals across the country. Don't miss their concert of genre-bending Irish rock mixed with Celtic traditions.

Added treat: At the concert, patrons will have the chance to sample and purchase Point Brewery's new GAELIC STORM IMPERIAL IRISH RED beer created by its Whole Hog Brewery in partnership with the band. "We're longtime fans of this extremely talented band," explains Point Beer Marketing Director Julie Birrenkott. "They've given us so much joy over the years. We are thrilled to celebrate them with a brew worthy of their name."

PRESENTING  
SPONSORS:



FEATURED  
SPONSOR:



PURE PRAIRIE LEAGUE

LEGENDS  
OF  
COUNTRY ROCK



FRIDAY, MARCH 14

It's a night of classic hits as Pure Prairie League and Firefall take the stage to perform their iconic songs. Legends of Country Rock treats you to some of the biggest hits of that golden era of 1970s music, including timeless singles "Amie" and "Let Me Love You Tonight" from Pure Prairie League, and "You Are the Woman" and "Strange Way" from Firefall. With dozens of charting songs between them, you'll be singing along all evening with these true music legends.

FEATURED  
SPONSOR:



Listen to Her Heart

The Tom Petty Experience

PART OF THE  
**COUNTY**  
MATERIALS CORPORATION  
SPOTLIGHT SERIES

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

This tribute to Tom Petty delivers spot-on renditions and passionate performances to capture the spirit of Tom Petty's sound, taking audiences on a nostalgic journey through his incredible career. Formed by the Atlanta-based group of musicians Georgia Players Guild, the band has gained a reputation for their authentic sound and high-energy live shows. Each band member brings their unique musical expertise to the stage, resulting in a powerful concert experience that leaves audiences wanting more as they showcase the breadth and depth of Petty's catalog, recreating the signature guitar riffs, harmonies, and heartfelt lyrics that made Tom Petty a rock and roll icon.

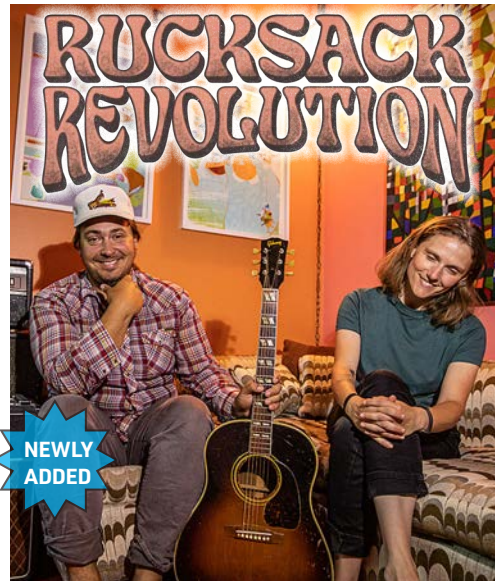
PRESENTING  
SPONSOR:



FEATURED  
SPONSORS:



97.9 WSPT  
WISCONSIN'S GREATEST HITS



RUCKSACK  
REVOLUTION

NEWLY  
ADDED

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

**CABARET-STYLE TABLE SEATING WITH THE BAND  
ON THE GRAND'S HISTORIC STAGE!**

Only 225 seats are available for this special, up-close-and-personal concert by two of Wisconsin's most recognized and beloved singer-songwriters: Adam Greuel, of the high-energy string band Horseshoes & Hand Grenades; and Sarah Vos, of the folk-inspired Dead Horses. The duo's chemistry as musical partners and dear friends is apparent as their music features tight harmonies, introspective lyricism, and soaring melodies.





# JAZZ AT LINCOLN CENTER PRESENTS

## *New Orleans Songbook*

### THE SPIRIT OF MARDI GRAS

FEATURING MILTON SUGGS, QUIANA LYNELL, & LUTHER ALLISON

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Revel in the soul of New Orleans and the spirit of Mardi Gras with this incredible touring concert that celebrates the composers and inspired songs of the Crescent City, the historic epicenter of jazz. From Jelly Roll Morton and Louis Armstrong to Ellis Marsalis and James Black, New Orleans has long been an apex of innovation and inspiration. With world-class musicians and infectious energy, New Orleans Songbook is led by acclaimed pianist Luther S. Allison, featuring the soulful vocals of Quiana Lynell and Milton Suggs, and backed by an equally brilliant band. Don't miss this evening that will immerse you in the captivating spirit of New Orleans and its historic music.







SATURDAY, APRIL 5

They've played multiple sold out shows at The Grand, and this time Classic Albums Live returns to perform U2's 1987 album *The Joshua Tree* – note for note, cut for cut. One of the most acclaimed albums of all time and containing hits such as "With Or Without You," the Grammy-winning album remains a powerful work of music to this day.

*They're not a band to be tepid about. They demand passion because they play with passion. Joshua Tree is a sonic tarp that covered a generation and made us feel united and strong. Imagine this: You've bought your tickets and you're in your seat. The lights go down and as the opening swirl of "Where the Streets Have No Name" fills the venue, you feel the shiver of excitement sweep over you. You are connected to this album. This is the stuff of life.*

–Craig Martin, Classic Albums Live founder



FRIDAY, MARCH 28

Bagpipes with attitude. Drums with a Scottish accent. A blazing hot rock band and show. It's Bagpipes. It's Rock. It's Bagrock. Where rock anthems sit alongside the great tunes from the glens and the mountains of Scotland. It's The Red Hot Chilli PIPERS – (NOT the Peppers!) – a 9-piece ensemble consisting of pipers, guitarists, keyboards, and drummers -- who have been rocking the world with a passion for pipes and high musicianship that will leave you breathless. The band has four music degrees from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama and all the pipers and drummers have played at the top level in bagpiping. This feel-good, heart-pounding concert is an experience for all ages!



THURSDAY, APRIL 10

With tunes you know from the first note, rip-roaring concerts you can count on, and a whole lot of energy you'll take home with you, BoDeans continue to contribute to the American songbook as a tried-and-true institution. Founded and led by original frontman, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and producer Kurt Neumann, the band's catalog consists of anthems such as "Good Things," "You Don't Get Much" and "Idaho," to name a few that reflect the soul and spirit of the modern American experience. Emerging out of Waukesha, Wis., in 1986 with the seminal debut album *Love & Hope & Sex & Dreams*, BoDeans songs have landed in hundreds of movies and TV shows, most famously "Closer to Free" the theme song for the smash hit series *Party of Five*. As Kurt says, "The music was always about the blue-collar dream of a better life, and it still is."





"DAZZLING! The music, of course, is divine, but you'll love the way they move in hypnotically synchronized union, this quintet of men who made up the mightiest of Motown groups." - Washington Post

# ain't too proud

THE LIFE AND TIMES OF  
THE TEMPTATIONS

TUESDAY, APRIL 15 • 7:30 PM  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 • 7:00 PM

This electrifying smash-hit Broadway musical follows The Temptations' extraordinary journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Nominated for 12 Tony Awards and the winner for Best Choreography, it's a thrilling story of brotherhood, family, loyalty, and betrayal during a decade of civil unrest in America. Set to the beat of the group's treasured hits, including "My Girl," "Just My Imagination," "Get Ready," and "Papa Was a Rolling Stone," AIN'T TOO PROUD tells the unforgettable story of the legendary quintet that Billboard Magazine named the greatest R&B group of all time.

PRESENTING  
SPONSOR:



FEATURED  
SPONSORS:



PART OF THE  
incrediblebank  
FOUNDATION  
BROADWAY  
SERIES

# TRAMPLED BY TURTLES

LIMITED  
TICKETS  
REMAIN

FRIDAY, APRIL 18

The folk bluegrass sensation from Duluth, Minn., returns to The Grand with their signature fast, frenetic sound that owes as much to rock & roll as to bluegrass. It all began with TBT's first record, *Songs from a Ghost Town*, in 2004. In a genre steeped in tradition, the album stood out for its contemporary sound, essentially bridging the gap between the bandmates' background in rock music and their new acoustic leanings. Nine albums and scores of festivals later, TBT fills venues across the U.S. Tickets are selling fast, don't wait to reserve your seat!

PRESENTING  
SPONSOR:



FEATURED  
SPONSOR:







# STEP AFRiKA!

PART OF THE  
Behavioral Health Clinic  
FAMILY SERIES

TUESDAY, APRIL 22

This incredible show will stay in your hearts forever. Step Afrika! performances are much more than dance shows. They integrate songs, storytelling, humor and audience participation. The blend of technique, agility, and pure energy leaves the audience with their hearts pounding. Step Afrika! blends percussive dance styles practiced by historically African American fraternities and sororities; traditional West and Southern African dances; and an array of contemporary dance and art forms into a compelling artistic experience. Founded in 1994 by C. Brian Williams, Step Afrika! is the first professional company dedicated to the tradition of stepping, which has evolved into one of America's cultural exports being performed across the globe.

PRESENTING  
SPONSORS:



FEATURED  
SPONSOR:



## MARTY STUART

AND HIS FABULOUS SUPERLATIVES

"One of the last remaining links to traditional country roots music and the generation of greats like George Jones and Hank Williams"

**Rolling Stone**

FRIDAY, MAY 2

Take a deep dive into Americana with this five-time Grammy winner and Country Music Hall of Famer performing with his revered, long-time band. With a crossover sound of rockabilly, honky tonk, bluegrass and traditional, Stuart continues to advance the legacy of country music.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: **7** WBAW-TV

FEATURED SPONSOR: **B-104.9 FM** REAL COUNTRY

LIMITED TICKETS REMAIN

PART OF THE  
**5 COUNTY**  
MATERIALS CORPORATION  
SPOTLIGHT SERIES

## INVINCIBLE: A Glorious Tribute to MICHAEL JACKSON

SATURDAY, MAY 3

Enter the electrifying world of Michael Jackson's artistry, where every step, every beat, and every note resonates with his iconic presence. This extraordinary production captures the heart and soul of Michael's greatest hits and dance moves, meticulously crafted under the masterful choreography of Jackson's longtime collaborator, Lavelle Smith Jr. With state-of-the-art visuals and a powerhouse cast, INVINCIBLE promises an evening of pure entertainment!

PRESENTING  
SPONSORS:



FEATURED  
SPONSOR:



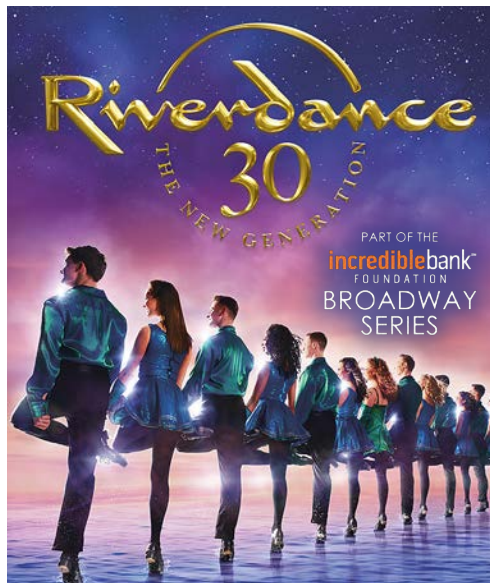




SUNDAY, MAY 4

One of the major music influencers of our time, this singer-songwriter-composer has created an enormous body of genre-bending music that includes his early success with Ben Folds Five, whose acerbic take on piano pop helped define an entire era of alternative rock. For the past three decades, he's toured as a pop artist while also performing with some of the world's greatest symphony orchestras. Known for comedic and bittersweet tunes, engaging anecdotes, and dexterous improvisation, Ben will take song requests from the audience via paper airplanes!

PRESENTING SPONSORS: Rocket Industrial WBS Business Show 7 WSAW-TV  
FEATURED SPONSORS: CITY pages



WEDNESDAY, MAY 14  
THURSDAY, MAY 15

This fusion of Irish and international dance and Grammy-winning music has captured the hearts of millions worldwide. Now celebrating its 30th year, Riverdance's special anniversary production rejuvenates the original show with innovative new choreography and costumes, lighting, motion graphics and projection.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: NEWS 9  
FEATURED SPONSORS: Greenheck Group Jefferson Street Inn



SATURDAY, MAY 17

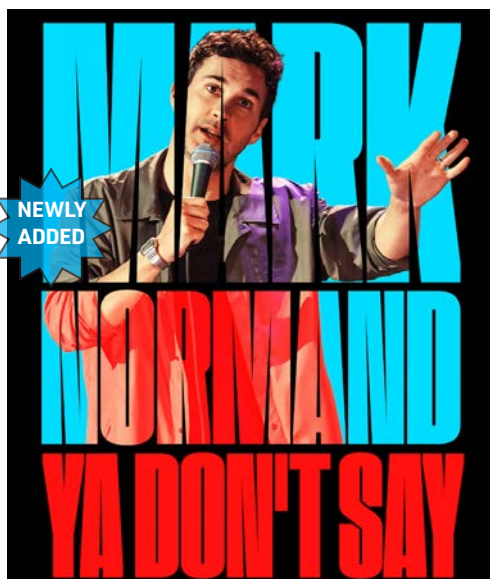
Experience one of the most authentic tribute acts to hit the music scene as DAYBREAK takes you on a musical journey back to the 70s to hear Barry Manilow's greatest hits the way you remember them. Led by veteran performer and accomplished pianist Joe Hite, DAYBREAK brings to life classics like "Mandy," "Can't Smile Without You" and the infectious rhythm of "Copacabana." This 8-piece ensemble presents the Music and Passion of Barry Manilow to perfection, keeping these songs alive for generations to enjoy.



SUNDAY, MAY 18 • 7:00 PM

With skilled musicianship and commanding, charismatic performances, The Rush Tribute Project (RTP to its fanbase) delivers the magic of Rush's famous live concerts, and they return after a sold-out show in 2023! Covering all 40-plus years of Rush's amazing career, RTP painstakingly recreates the sound and energy that made Rush one of the top-selling rock bands of all time.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: Jefferson Street Inn & Event Center  
FEATURED SPONSORS: 2 WGLX Classic Rock



FRIDAY, JUNE 20 • 7:00 PM

Jerry Seinfeld has dubbed him the "best young up-and-coming comic," and Mark Normand indeed has become one of the most talked-about touring comedians on the scene. His 2023 Netflix special *Soup to Nuts* was on the streamer's Top Ten for several weeks, and his popularity has translated into tours around the world plus a multitude of appearances on late night TV shows. A frequent guest on *The Joe Rogan Experience*, Mark hosts his own podcasts *Tuesdays with Stories* and *We Might Be Drunk*.



THURSDAY, JULY 31

If the phrase "male a cappella group" conjures up images of students in blue blazers and khakis singing traditional songs on campus... think again. Straight No Chaser (SNC) are neither strait-laced nor straight-faced, nor vaudeville-style kitsch. They're a modern phenomenon with a massive fanbase and long list of accomplishments including over 1.5 million concert tickets sold, over 1 billion streams on Pandora, and over 2 million albums sold worldwide.

PRESENTING SPONSOR: 7 WSAW-TV  
FEATURED SPONSOR: 350 WFLA



DIRECT FROM LAS VEGAS!



# Ladies of Country

A TRIBUTE TO  
DOLLY, SHANIA, REBA & MARTINA

THURSDAY, MARCH 20 | 7:30 PM  
GRAND THEATER WAUSAU

All your favorite country hits performed by  
the world's best celebrity impersonators!

TICKETS AT [GRANDTHEATER.ORG](http://GRANDTHEATER.ORG)



**SATURDAY, MARCH 29**  
7:30 PM | GRAND THEATER WAUSAU  
TICKETS AT [GRANDTHEATER.ORG](http://GRANDTHEATER.ORG)



**B-104.9 FM**  
REAL COUNTRY



**GRAND**  
THEATER  
WAUSAU

# A NIGHT OF KISS

TICKETS AT [GRANDTHEATER.ORG](http://GRANDTHEATER.ORG)



**97.9 WSPT**  
WISCONSIN'S GREATEST HITS

FRIDAY,  
APRIL 4

Compassion Presents

WE ARE ||| **MESSENGERS**  
**WHERE THE JOY IS**  
USA TOUR 2025



With special guests  
**AUSTIN FRENCH**

**LEANNA CRAWFORD**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 27**

HOPE IS HERE™  
89.5 FM 89.9

**echo**  
CONCERTS



## FEBRUARY

- 13-14 *IncredibleBank Foundation Broadway Series:*  
Pretty Woman: The Musical (**LOW TICKETS**)
- 16 Alley II
- 18 *Hougum Law Firm 10x10 Series:*  
Natalie Tenenbaum
- 19 *Community Engagement Series:*  
'Out of the Picture' Documentary
- 20 I Am... He Said: A Celebration of the  
Music of Neil Diamond (**SOLD OUT**)
- 23 *Behavioral Health Clinic Family Series:*  
The Magic of Rob Lake (**LOW TICKETS**)
- 25 *Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series:*  
Goodnight Moon & The Runaway Bunny
- 25 *Community Engagement Series:*  
Classical Music Bingo with WPR
- 28 *Wausau Dance Theater's*  
Carnival of the Animals

## MARCH

- 1 *Chester L. Suski Art Fund Presents:*  
Academy of St Martin in the Fields  
(**LOW TICKETS**)
- 7 *Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series:*  
Yamato: The Drummers of Japan  
(**SOLD OUT**)
- 7 *Behavioral Health Clinic Family Series:*  
Yamato: The Drummers of Japan
- 9 Gaelic Storm
- 13 *Hougum Law Firm 10x10 Series:*  
Marielle Kraft (**SOLD OUT**)
- 14 Legends of Country Rock: Pure Prairie  
League & Firefall

- 15 Rucksack Revolution
- 19 *Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series:*  
Don't Let The Pigeon Drive The Bus! The  
Musical! (**SOLD OUT**)
- 20 Ladies of Country
- 21 Jazz at Lincoln Center Presents:  
New Orleans Songbook
- 22 *County Materials Spotlight Series:*  
Listen to Her Heart: The Tom Petty  
Experience
- 27 We Are Messengers
- 28 Red Hot Chilli Pipers
- 29 Exile

## APRIL

- 4 MR. SPEED - A Night of KISS
- 5 *County Materials Spotlight Series:*  
Classic Albums Live: U2's The Joshua Tree
- 8 *Hougum Law Firm 10x10 Series:*  
Bermuda Search Party
- 10 BoDeans
- 11 *Hougum Law Firm 10x10 Series:*  
Jenna Marie (**SOLD OUT**)
- 15-16 *IncredibleBank Foundation Broadway Series:*  
Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of  
The Temptations
- 18 Trampled by Turtles
- 19 Wausau Lyric Choir: 'Lamb of God'

- 22 *Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series:*  
Step Afrika! (**SOLD OUT**)
- 22 *Behavioral Health Clinic Family Series:*  
Step Afrika!

## MAY

- 2 Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives
- 3 *County Materials Spotlight Series:*  
Invincible: A Glorious Tribute to Michael  
Jackson (**LOW TICKETS**)
- 4 Ben Folds: Paper Airplane Request Tour
- 5 Jerry Ensemble Cabaret
- 6 *Aspirus Health Arts In Education Series:*  
Charlotte's Web (**SOLD OUT**)
- 10 *Central Wisconsin School of Ballet's*  
Student Showcase
- 14-15 *IncredibleBank Foundation Broadway Series:*  
Riverdance
- 17 DAYBREAK: Barry Manilow Tribute
- 18 The Rush Tribute Project
- 28 One Night in Memphis

## JUNE

- 2 **2025/26 SEASON ANNOUNCE!**
- 20 Mark Normand - Ya Don't Say

## JULY

- 31 Straight No Chaser

*Calendar is subject to change.  
Watch for updates on our website,  
Facebook page, and in email alerts.*



# 10x10 SERIES

Discover today's nationally touring  
SINGER-SONGWRITERS and exciting emerging  
artists in an intimate cabaret-style setting on the  
stage of the historic Grand Theater.

General admission, ALL WITH TABLE SEATING,  
is just \$10 in advance. Seats are limited. Order at  
the Ticket Office, call 715-842-0988,  
or at [www.grandtheater.org](http://www.grandtheater.org).

Tickets \$15 at the door if available.



### NATALIE TENENBAUM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 • CLASSICAL FUSION

The critically-acclaimed composer, producer, and  
performing pianist is renowned for her "consistently  
invigorating" shows.



### MARIELE KRAFT

THURSDAY, MARCH 13 • INDIE/POP

This self-taught singer-songwriter displays craftsmanship  
beyond her years with salient detail, raw emotion, and  
poignant lyrics.



### BERMUDA SEARCH PARTY

TUESDAY, APRIL 8 • INDIE/POP

Their heart-touching, vibrant songs with fresh musical  
stylings, punctuated by smooth trombone and soaring  
trumpet, have made them a regular at music festivals  
around the U.S.



### JENNA MARIE

FRIDAY, APRIL 11 • COUNTRY SINGER-SONGWRITER

Wausau born and raised, this Nashville independent  
country music artist blends the sounds of contemporary  
and traditional country.





Performing Arts Foundation, Inc.  
401 N. Fourth Street  
Wausau, WI | 54403-5420  
715-842-0988 | 888-239-0421  
[www.grandtheater.org](http://www.grandtheater.org)

# YAMATO

THE DRUMMERS OF JAPAN

FRIDAY, MARCH 7



Look inside for details on 25+ other great shows  
coming to The Grand now through July 2025



**STRAIGHT NO CHASER**  
**SUMMER: THE 90s**  
**PART 2**

**New Show, New Music, Same Vibes**

**THURSDAY, JULY 31 • GRAND THEATER, WAUSAU**