

Roaring Twenties Party Band performs in St Johns on September 16th

The “Roaring Twenties Party Band” returns to the “Concert in the Park” series on Wednesday, September 16th after a 3-year hiatus. Their 7:00 p.m. performance at the William E. Tennant Performance Shell in the St. Johns City Park will feature the lively music of the 1920’s celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Jazz Age performed by 6 premier jazz musicians who have performed with some of the nation’s top entertainers.

“This all-star band is sure to inspire dancing in your seats as they bring back the amazing music from the Roaring 20’s,” states Bill Tennant, concert coordinator. “You will be transported back in time to a decade of economic prosperity and carefree living that is still fondly remembered today, a 100 years later. Musical selections will include recognizable songs from this great era presented with a fresh new jazz approach using authentic instruments including ukulele, banjo, archtop guitar, vocal schnozzle, raspy kazoo, wide vibrato sax, with strong jazz vocals.”

To help you get into the spirit, you are invited to search your closet for your best twenties attire. If you are the owner of a period auto, you are encouraged to drive it to the event in style!

The “Roaring Twenties Party Band” was organized by Charlotte’s Don Sovey in January of 2016. Musicians recruited for the band include:

Bronnie Brown - he began his career as a member of the U.S. Air Force Band in 1974. After leaving the Air Force he toured the United States with the Walter Scott show for 2-years, then performing with many top bands in Florida and Michigan. He is currently a freelance musician.

Danielle Blanchard – she is a professional vocal musician with over 2,200 commercial jingles and other recordings to her credit. She’s performed on over 12 recordings nominated for Grammy Awards, having performed everything from opera to rock. She taught voice at Oakland University.

Austin Muthyala – he is a young and upcoming jazz trumpet player from Byron Center. He is currently in his senior year at MSU performing in the MSU Jazz Orchestra along with the Gathering Orchestra. In his short career, he has performed with many of the area’s top professional musical organizations.

Don Sare – he has been playing professionally for 45 years. As a freelance musician, he has worked with some of the best such as Chuck Berry, Debbie Reynolds, The Temptations, Lee Greenwood, and Stevie Nicks, just to name a few.

Ian Levine – he is a product of the Detroit jazz scene. He is now very active in our mid-Michigan area after having graduated from MSU. He has subbed with the Jimmy Dorsey and Legends of Swing big bands over the years.

Don Sovey – he is a versatile musician, having served as a guitarist for several Midwest symphony orchestras, also having played guitar, banjo, ukulele and mandolin with 23 National Touring Broadway Musicals at the Wharton Center and other halls. He has also performed with the national touring companies of several Broadway shows.

The weekly concerts are being presented under strict safety guidelines that have been established by the State of Michigan, the City of St. Johns and the “Concert in the Park” Committee. During these unprecedented times, the guidelines must be followed if the series is to be continued each week.

Wearing of Masks and Social Distancing are both required this year.

A decision will be made each week on whether the next concert can take place. Please check the Performance Shell Facebook Page or the Clinton Count Arts Council’s Website at www.clintoncountyarts.org before coming each week. Also, please note that the Lions Club Food Trailer will not be at the concerts this fall. Concerts are held each Wednesday evening, rain or shine, through the end of September.

“Concert in the Park” is sponsored by the Clinton County Arts Council and the City of St. Johns. The Clinton County Arts Council receives support from the Michigan Council for the Arts and Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment for the Arts