

Dave Bennett Quartet set for St. Johns Concert in the Park Sept. 30

It's going to be an amazing evening as the St. Johns Concert in the Park music series concludes its season when the Dave Bennett Quartet takes the stage September 30 at the William E. Tennant Performance Shell in the St. Johns City Park.

Guests can expect everything from toe-tapping swing, to moody blues, to emotional ballads - to original, brand-new jazz compositions - all performed with deft touch, virtuosity, and style. The eclectic blend of musical fun begins at 7 p.m.; no admission charge.

Bringing back Dave Bennett to perform again this year was a must, says concert coordinator Bill Tennant. "Dave and his quartet made such an impression on everyone who heard them last year – there was no question that we needed to have them back. They were without doubt, one of the best groups we've ever had perform in St. Johns!"

The quartet also performed in the Wilson Center Auditorium at the Wilson Center Auditorium Renovation Committee's "Donor Appreciation Program" back on March 10, 2020. "This incredible band brought down the house again," states Tennant!

The group's namesake is looking forward to the show. "We love St. Johns," says Bennett. "This will be our third performance in the city in a little more than a year! We've connected on a deep emotional level – that's what it's all about!"

Along with Bennett, who's from the Detroit, the quartet includes local jazz greats Jeff Kressler on keyboards, Ed Fedwa on bass along with Saginaw's Doug Cobb on drums.

While Bennett primarily leads on clarinet and voice, he also performs Jerry Lee Lewis classics on piano and entertains with a dueling "drum battle." A clarinet virtuoso, Bennett began playing along with Benny Goodman records at age 10. His career spans 20 years. He has been a featured soloist at Carnegie Hall, and along with his quartet, has played music festivals throughout the U.S. He recently released "Blood Moon," an album featuring five original songs along with six standards.

Not only does the quartet feature music from the Swing era, but they also touch on country, rockabilly and pop, with original brand-new jazz compositions thrown in. Audiences will hear the influences of Benny Goodman, Pete Fountain, Jerry Lee Lewis, even Phil Collins and Peter Gabriel in this group's music.

This concert will be 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.

Wearing of Masks and Social Distancing are both required.

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.