

About the Entertainers

Beverage Garden

NEW THIS YEAR

NO CHARGE FOR BEVERAGE GARDEN ENTERTAINMENT

AVEY GROUWS BAND (Friday 8:30p.m.-12:00 a.m.)— Hitting hard with a soul for Blues, Rock & Americana, Avey/Grouws Band takes charge and audiences are taking note! Winners of the 2017 Iowa Blues Challenge. Semifinalists at the International Blues Challenge in Memphis. Forming in January of 2017, the Avey/Grouws Band has started a buzz with memorable performances at The Prairie Dog Blues Fest, The Mississippi Valley Blues Fest and Smokin' In Steele BBQ & Blues



MATT MAHLUM (Friday 7:00-8:00 p.m.)— Born and raised in La Crosse, Wisconsin, Matt Mahlum is an acoustic, singer/songwriter standard. Big powerful vocals with lyrics that are heartfelt and close to home, Matt plays both originals and popular covers.



JEFFERY LACKMANN (Saturday 6:00-8:00 p.m.)— Jeffrey Lackmann plays original folk tunes with made-from-scratch lyrics fit to feed the soul, or at least tide you over for a while. Ingredients include: guitar and words and notes.



YOU OUGHTA KNOW (Saturday 8:30p.m.-12:00 a.m.)— You Oughta Know is a group of 1990s enthusiasts that have sealed the best musical decade inside hand-coopered European Oak aging casks of 18 years, only now to extract the most volatile megapop ever to be unleashed in the great state of Minnesota for your pure nostalgic listening pleasure. Led by vocalist Sarah Adams who does full juicy justice to the likes of Whitney and Mariah, You Oughta Know is a danceperience you will never forget.



93RD MERIDIAN—Each standing 6' 6" tall, Kurt Bearinger and Jake Doty are 2Tall4U. They have been playing music together since meeting at Luther College in 2011. They play a wide variety of music including country, acoustic rock and your favorite hits from the 80s, 90s and early 2000s.



61 RUMORS— A little Johnny Cash... a little Tom Petty... and a whole lot of fun. 61 Rumors play rock 'n' roll the way it was meant to be. Drawing on several decades of American music, 61 Rumors ignites the party and keeps the fire burning with their blend of originals and covers. The Rumors are true...



ACE JONES—Ace Jones is a Sunnysvale, California native singer/songwriter from Marion, Iowa. He writes, records, and produces his own music out of his home studio. He performs from street corners to fairs and festivals all over the United States. His live set consists of originals and covers of pop, rock and folk, and delivers a range of songs from high energy to somber reflection.



ANNE ELISEBETH SKOGEN—Skogen is a Norwegian storyteller living in Suldal, Ryfylke, close to the city of Stavanger. She works as an artist and storyteller and has a Norwegian storyteller education from Oslo (university level). She will perform an oral story telling about the first Norwegian emigrant ship, Restauration (1825), and its passengers, the sloopers. The performance is based on both literature and original sources.



BALLOONS BY KEVIN—Kevin is the Midwest's premier balloon artist, providing twisting entertainment, balloon arches, storefront/event decor, custom photo ops, deliveries, balloon drops and releases, and much more for 100s of events. Kevin loves his job and loves helping people discover their inner child.



BUNAD SHOW—Scandinavian Folk Costume show featuring a beautiful collection of authentic Norwegian costumes located at the Hotel Winneshiek in the air conditioned Steyer Opera House.

CBB JAZZ COMBO— Members of the Chatfield Brass Band formed this group in 2011 and decided to bring some "jazzy" swing tunes to venues around the area. They do "classic big band music" which includes some blues and bebop. It's an easygoing, fun group of guys who have been playing music for many years and find jazz standards and improvising fun and challenging.



ERIK SESSIONS AND JOHN GOODIN—Erik Sessions (violin) and John Goodin (mandolin and guitar) regularly perform together in a variety of settings, most notably with the nationally known folk dance band Contratopia. Erik and John enjoy playing a mixture of fiddle music from various traditions in addition to American, Celtic and original fiddle tunes.



FOOT-NOTES—Foot-Notes celebrates Nordic Fest with a big ol' community street dance both Friday and Saturday nights, including waltz, polka, schottische and two-steps. Playing traditional dance tunes on fiddle, guitar, mandolin and bass, Foot-Notes have been entertainers at Nordic Fest for 25 years.



GRASS RUN BAND—From La Crosse, Wisconsin, and Calmar, Iowa, these four friends easily share vocals and rotate among traditional acoustic instruments, including: a couple of guitars, a resonophonic guitar or "dobro", a fiddle, a banjo, a doghouse bass, three mandolins, an autoharp and a mountain dulcimer!



GULLGUTANE—The male voice choir Gullgutane from Suldal, Norway, performs their musical *Farvel du Moder Norge* (Farewell to Mother Norway). Sixty actors, singers and musicians (ranging in age from 11 to 75) tell the story of emigration from Suldal, Norway, to America in the mid 19th century through the use of storytelling, shanties, traditional Norwegian folk songs, and even a few American songs. The musical will appeal to anyone who has felt a longing for home or the call to greener pastures. Tickets: free-will donation at the door.



HELEN JOHNSON—Helen Johnson is a singer/songwriter from Decorah, who has been performing her original music, as well as covers, for more than six years. She covers a wide variety of genres and artists, and her originals feature piano and guitar with carefully crafted lyrics. Helen is currently studying political science, music and Spanish at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, New York, where she is beginning her second year this fall.



JACOB HRDLICKA— He's back and better than ever... Hopefully! Jacob is 22 year old Decorah native. After a hiatus from playing, he will be performing with his acoustic guitar and loop pedal. Come have a blast and listen to a variety of songs!



JIM BUSTA BAND WITH MOLLIE B—The Jim Busta Band has been performing for more than 35 years. Their music is a mix of polkas, waltzes and other two-step numbers featuring many vocals with lead singers Mollie B and Chad Busta. Mollie B, Jim's daughter, is nationally known in the polka world and has her own television show on RFD-TV: "The Mollie B Polka Party." She also performs in "The Mollie B Christmas Special" in Branson, Missouri.

About the Entertainers

JOSHUA VORVICK—Singer/Songwriter Joshua Vorvick is a classically trained vocalist who lost his way. Led astray by the trappings of pop, jazz, roots and rock he was banished by the village elders and left with no alternative but to write his own dang songs. This is Joshua's second appearance at Nordic Fest, which continues to fulfill a decades-old request by his sister that he "go play in traffic."



KYLE AND DAVE—Kyle and Dave have been performing an eclectic blend of traditional and modern Norwegian folk music, making them Nordic Fest favorites for nearly two decades.

LEWIS KNUDSEN BAND—Lewis Knudsen is a multi-instrumentalist songwriter based in the Quad Cities. In the past few years Lewis has toured coast to coast in the US, as well as South Korea, Germany, Holland, Denmark and the U.K. Influences include James Taylor, Randy Newman, Ben Folds, Hozier and Rufus Wainwright. Lewis' most recent album "Philip" is enjoying airplay on Iowa Public Radio. Plans for 2018 include a tour of the East Coast, as well as a project to write, record and release a new song each week for the entire year.



LUREN SINGERS—The oldest Norwegian-American male chorus in continuous existence in the U.S. The Luren Singers perform Norwegian national songs and popular American repertoire.



MEADOWLARK VALLEY—Meadowlark Valley is the music of J.J. Schrick including influences from folk rockers such as Fleet Foxes, Mumford and Sons, and Father John Misty. Playing all the instruments himself, J.J. recorded an album over the course of a summer in the studio connected to his college's radio station. Deeply rooted in nature and metaphor, Meadowlark Valley's raw sound tells of friendships and relationships.



MICHELLE LYNN—Michelle Lynn specializes in taking true tales from history - full of depravity, folly and vice—and presenting them as melodies for inspiration, amusement and reflection.



NICK VANDE KROL AND FRIENDS—Nick is a Decorah native that has played with many other local artists. As a former member of the Bread and Butter String band, he plays folksy bluegrass music. A frequent performer at Nordic Fest, this year he has pulled together some of his friends to help him out.

NAMOLI BRENNET—Dubbed, "Among the best folk-rock artists in the US", songwriter Namoli Brennet has been touring with her own brand of moody and inspiring music since 2002. A recent Iowa transplant, Brennet was based out of Tucson, Arizona for over a decade and her music still carries some of the stark, persistent beauty of the desert. She's a breathtaking and moving performer, and her sweet, road-weary voice is as quick to deliver her wit and humor. She's been described as a cross between Patty Griffin, Lori McKenna and Amy Ray, and Zocalo magazine calls her music, "Gorgeous and introspective."



NORDIC DANCERS—A unique group of folk dancers that help us remember the traditional folk dances of Scandinavia. The Nordic Dancers consist of two groups of area students; the Junior Nordic Dancers and the Senior Nordic Dancers. They are accompanied by the Nordic Dancers Orchestra.



ROCHESTER AREA ACCORDION BAND—The Rochester Area Accordion Band brings "Freshly Squeezed Music" to Nordic Fest! The band has been active since 1998 with the 14 accordionists playing a variety of music from old popular songs, classical, sing-along, the usually expected polkas, and many Scandinavian favorites.



SQUARE DANCERS WITH LES LALONE, CALLER—Dancers from Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota will be doing modern western square dancing as well as some line and round dancing.

SQUIRREL TAIL—A Bluegrass and old classic country band formed several years ago by Joe Helgeson and Pat Carey. They enjoy playing at festivals, city celebrations, home parties barn dances, etc. Members include: Pat Carey-banjo, guitar, stand up bass; Hannah Brechbill-stand up bass, mandolin; Sandy Christopher-guitar, stand up bass; Joe Helgeson-fiddle, mandolin, guitar.



STIX OF FURY—Stix of Fury is a private drumline and color guard made up of students in 6th through 12th grade within the Blooming Prairie School District. The drumline and color guard perform at many events throughout the summer.



THE OK FACTOR—The OK Factor is a progressive folk duo comprised of Olivia Diercks on cello and Karla Dietmeyer on violin. Based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, The OK Factor writes original music influenced by various genres and styles, and performs and conducts educational workshops primarily across the Midwest. Though they are both classically trained musicians, their passion lies in stretching the limits of their instruments, and encouraging others to do so, as well. Both are Luther graduates.



THOR—Haakon & Thor Anderson are a father and son fiddle/accordion duo from Minneapolis, Minnesota. Previously, Haakon has played at Nordic Fest on several occasions with the youth ensemble "Fiddlers on Fire." This year Haakon and Thor will share a lively set of traditional Norwegian and Swedish folk tunes.



Entertainers at Vesterheim

THE FILM ALBUM—An introduction to Norwegian photographer Knud Knudsen's world of images, produced by the Norwegian Film Institute. Knudsen (1832-1915) is considered one of Norway's most important photographers.

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF UPPER MIDWEST CULTURES—Anna Rue, Marcus Cederstrom, and Nate Gibson from this center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, tell us all about the history of the Folk Music Festival, held during Nordic Fest starting in 1968. They'll highlight some of the archived festival recordings and talk about their project at the university.

OLE OLESON—Portrayed by living history presenter Roger Hellesvig from Minneapolis. The performance will be in Vesterheim's Haugan House, where Roger will bring the story of Norwegian immigration to life with storytelling and conversation.

ARNA RENNAN—Arna grew up hearing Norwegian songs in her home and later moved to Norway, immersing herself in folk music traditions. Her performances give audiences a glimpse of the magical real world of folklore and traditional folk music with ballads from the middle ages, *stev*, overtone flute and *langeleik*.

SKJALDBORG—This group from Elk Horn, Iowa, will present their Viking encampment and will entertain throughout the day with full Viking combat demonstrations. Skjaldborg means "fortress of shields."



Official Nordic Fest Lefse

Support Nordic Fest with this delicious Norwegian treat and bottled water sold in front of the Oneota Community Co-op Kitchen Classroom



Entertainment

All performances are at no charge unless otherwise noted.
Entertainment is subject to change. Main Information Center at the Decorah Area Chamber of Commerce will post any changes.

Thursday, July 26, Opening Ceremonies:


Time	Canopy 2 Water & Washington St	Canopy 3 Water & Court St	Canopy 4 Water & Mechanic St	Beverage Garden River and Day Spring Lane	Other Locations	Courthouse Square Main St
6:30 p.m.					Balloons by Kevin 5:00 - 9:00 p.m. Corner of Water and Washington	Opening Ceremonies 6:45 p.m. including performances by Luren Singers and Nordic Dancers along with introductions of Board of Directors, Grand Marshal and Flag Recipient as well as Flag and Bunad presentations
7:00 p.m.						
7:30 p.m.						
8:00 p.m.	Nick Vande Krol and Friends	Jim Busta Band with Molly B	Lewis Knudson Band			
8:30 p.m.						
9:00 p.m.						
9:30 p.m.						
10:00 p.m.						
10:30 p.m.						



Friday, July 27:

Time	Canopy 2 Water & Washington St	Canopy 3 Water & Court St	Canopy 4 Water & Mechanic St	Beverage Garden River and Day Spring Lane	Other Locations	Courthouse Square Main St	Vesterheim	
10:00 a.m.		Jim Busta Band with Mollie B			Arts & Crafts Center 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Decorah Middle School	Nordic Dancers	9:00 - 5:00 p.m. Activities in Vesterheim's Open Air Division Skjaldborg Viking Encampment	
10:30 a.m.			Helen Johnson					
11:00 a.m.								
11:30 a.m.	Kyle & Dave				Family <i>Fornoyse</i> (FUN) Event 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Decorah Covenant Church			
12:00 p.m.			Ace Jones			NEIA Montessori Water Play Area 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Water St. between River and Mechanic		12:00-4:00 p.m. <i>Ole Oleson</i> Haugan House Open Air Division
12:30 p.m.								
1:00 p.m.				Open Bags Play See details on page 10.				
1:30 p.m.								
2:00 p.m.	Helen Johnson	CBB Jazz Combo			ArtHaus Kids Arts and Crafts 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.		1:30 p.m. Center for the Study of Upper Midwest Cultures 50 Years of Folk Music at Nordic Fest Bethania Church	
2:30 p.m.								
3:00 p.m.			Jacob Hrdlicka		Quilts of Valor Presentation 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Decorah Middle School Gym		3:00 p.m. Arna Rennan Bethania Church	
3:30 p.m.								
4:00 p.m.	Meadowlark Valley		Gullgutane Accordion Band		Anne Elisebeth Skogen 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. Ballroom A Hotel Winneshiek		Luren Singers with Gullgutane	
4:30 p.m.								
5:00 p.m.		The OK Factor			Balloons by Kevin 1:00 - 7:00 p.m. Corner of Water and Washington		Nordic Dancers	
5:30 p.m.								
6:00 p.m.	Ace Jones		Grass Run Band					
6:30 p.m.								
7:00 p.m.	93rd Meridian	Les Lalone Square Dancers		Matt Muhlum	Gullgutane Accordion Band 8:30-9:15		Foot-Notes	
7:30 p.m.								
8:00 p.m.			Lewis Knudsen Band					
8:30 p.m.								
9:00 p.m.								
9:30 p.m.				Avey Grouws Band				
10:00 p.m.								
10:30 p.m.								
11:00 p.m.								
11:30 p.m.								
12:00 a.m.								

Saturday, July 28:

Time	Canopy 2 Water & Washington St	Canopy 3 Water & Court St	Canopy 4 Water & Mehanic St	Beverage Garden River and Day Spring Lane	Other Locations	Courthouse Square Main St	Vesterheim
10:00 a.m.	<h1>GRAND PARADE</h1>						
10:30 a.m.							
11:00 a.m.							
11:30 a.m.							
12:00 p.m.							
12:30 p.m.							
1:00 p.m.	Kyle & Dave	Namoli Brennet	Rochester Accordion Band	Bags Tournament Play See details on page 10.	Arts & Crafts Center 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Decorah Middle School Family Fornoyelse (FUN) Event 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Decorah Covenant Church NEIA Montessori Water Play Area 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Water St between River and Mechanic ArtHaus Kids Arts and Crafts 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Bunad Show 2:00 p.m. Steyer Opera House at Hotel Winneshiek Anne Elisebeth Skogen 3:30 p.m. Steyer Opera House at Hotel Winneshiek Quilts of Valor Presentation 2:00 p.m. Decorah Middle School Gym Gullgutane 2:00 p.m. Decorah High School Auditorium Balloons by Kevin 3:00 - 7:00 p.m. Corner of Water and Washington	Stix of Fury	9:00 - 5:00 p.m. Activities in Vesterheim's Open Air Division Skjaldborg Viking Encampment 12:00-4:00 p.m. <i>Ole Oleson</i> Haugan House Open Air Division 1:00 p.m. <i>Center for the Study of Upper Midwest Cultures</i> 50 Years of Folk Music at <i>Nordic Fest</i> Bethania Church 3:00 p.m. Arna Rennan Bethania Church 3:00 p.m. Film Screening: <i>Album</i> Viking Theater
1:30 p.m.						Decorah High School Drum Line 2:00-2:45	
2:00 p.m.						Lutefisk Contest	
2:30 p.m.							
3:00 p.m.		Joshua Vorvick	Nick Vande Krol and Friends				
3:30 p.m.	Squirrel Tail						
4:00 p.m.							
4:30 p.m.							
5:00 p.m.	Erik Sessions & John Goodin	Thor	Squirrel Tail		Jeffery Lackmann		
5:30 p.m.							
6:00 p.m.							
6:30 p.m.							
7:00 p.m.	Foot-Notes	Michelle Lynn	61 Rumors				Nordic Dancers *Rain location: Decorah Middle School Gym
7:30 p.m.							
8:00 p.m.							
8:30 p.m.							
9:00 p.m.							
9:30 p.m.							
10:00 p.m.	FIREWORKS			You Oughta Know	FIREWORKS		
10:30 p.m.							
11:00 p.m.							
11:30 p.m.							
12:00 a.m.							

NORDIC FEST ARTS & CRAFTS CENTER

FRIDAY 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

SATURDAY 9:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Many exhibitors of arts and crafts.

Decorah Middle School, 405 Winnebago St. No charge.

Saturday, July 28 Fireworks 10:00 p.m.

Fireworks — Amazing fireworks display along the Upper Iowa River. Seating at athletic fields near city hall. Buy chair raffle tickets at the Chamber to support the fireworks show.

FUTURE NORDIC FEST DATES

JULY 25-27, 2019 JULY 23-25, 2020 JULY 29-31, 2021