

METROjam



The Chris Hanson Band To Headline Friday Evening of Metro Jam!

Friday evenings at Metro Jam have always been kind of a sweet spot for the festival. In the past we have brought you everything from retro soul...to gumbo driven blues...to honky tonkin' country and western. Last year we proved to you that a string quartet could rock...this year we are out to show you that strings can swing, bop and take you half way around the world and back again! Metro Jam is excited to announce Friday evening's headline act for this year's 2017 festival, **The Chris Hanson Band**.

If you've ever watched TV you've heard Chris Hanson's music. Chris's compositions have been on 20/20, The Super Bowl, Sex and the City, The Sopranos and countless other shows. Growing up in Waukesha and carrying on in the tradition of Les Paul, Chris loves the guitar and has produced albums for Greg Koch, John Sieger, Pat McCurdy and has led several bands of his own -The Agents, Nine Volt Jubilee and The Chris Hanson Band.

For his namesake band Chris has surrounded himself with the *crème de la crème* of the Milwaukee music scene. Featured on vocals is the legendary Milwaukee chanteuse **Robin Puer**. Robin is a perennial WAMI Award winner for best female vocalist and has been a top draw at Milwaukee's Bastille Days for years. She was an original member of the R&B Cadets with Paul Cebar and John Sieger, and has performed with Milwaukee's own Mrs. Fun and numerous others. Robin is able to deftly switch between French chansons, jazz standards and contemporary songs as only a true pro can do.

And now to the band...featured on violin is **Glenn Ashe**. Glenn has been a violinist for the Milwaukee Symphony for over 30 years, but his talents go deep into all music genres, straddling jazz, bluegrass, rock and the deepest ethnic roots found in Indian, Irish and Eastern music. Glenn has beaten the devil and challenges anyone to raise a bow against him...there will be no survivors! **John Parrott** is the rock of the band and the very definition of rhythm guitar. Playing an 18" arch top, John is a drum set that plays chords. Having played for years with Jethro Burns, Chet Atkins and Chuck Hedges, John brings the authority of a player who has gigged with the best. One of Milwaukee's most active double bass performers, bassist **John Babbitt**, has worked with the best including Manty Ellis, Chuck Hedges and David Hazeltine, along with numerous Midwest Symphonic Orchestras including Milwaukee's own MSO.

The Chris Hanson Band and their classic American Songbook repertoire, plus a dash of rock and country swing, seem to fit the Friday evening bill to a tee. Be ready to enjoy an evening of great music under the stars when Chris and the band take the stage at 7:00 at this year's Metro Jam.

Kicking off this year's festival at 5:30, opening for the The Chris Hansen Band, will be **LaForce/Ghost Acoustic**. No strangers to the Northeastern Wisconsin music scene, Joe LaForce and Gary Koepke are distant brothers of the same classic acoustic heritage. We can't think of anyone better to set the pace for this year's Metro Jam.

Headlining on Saturday will be the New York City legend, **Garland Jeffreys**. This American, singer and songwriter, traverses the musical genres of rock and roll, reggae, blues and soul playing his classics **Wild in the Streets**, **96 Tears** and **Hail, Hail Rock and Roll**; Metro Jam organizers are excited to have the legendary Garland Jeffreys headlining this year's festival on Saturday evening at 8:30 pm! More acts will be coming at you soon!

Metro Jam, now in its 39th year, will be held on the MetroStage in downtown **Manitowoc's Washington Park**, on **June 16 and 17th, 2017**. As always, this **FREE** two day event features an array of national, regional and local acts covering a full spectrum of musical styles including jazz, blues, folk, alt-country, Americana, classic rock and original rock. The festival is a partnership with The Manitowoc Jaycees. This **free concert** is made possible due to support from our presenting sponsors Baileigh Industrial, Cher-Make Sausage and media partners WOMT/WQTC Q-102/ Lake 98.1 and Weekend: The Herald Times Reporter.

Watch for festival updates at www.metrojam.org and visit us for up to the moment news on Facebook!