

Mike Anderson

Dulcimer, Stories, Jawharp and more
8:30-9:15PM, Lincoln Home Visitors Center

The combination of music, storytelling and humor has made Mike Anderson one of the most sought-after speakers and performers from the Atlantic coast to Canada to the Gulf and all points in between.

Under the auspices of the Illinois State Board of Education, Mike has conducted many workshops for developing literacy through the art of storytelling. His Early Childhood shows are legendary. The Mountain Dulcimer, Guitar, Banjo, Jaw Harp, and Nose Flute are his stocks in trade. His performances range from stories to children's songs and workshops to music of the Civil War. Folk Singer, Storyteller, Musician and Music Historian, Mike Anderson holds an MA in Education from Saint Xavier University, Chicago, IL. He has won numerous awards including two Parents' Choice honors, 3 Outstanding Educator Awards, and a national children's programming award for the television show he wrote and hosted. *Anna's Old Boot*, an audio collection of original short stories and songs, received a Recommended Honor from *Parents' Choice* and a Gold Honor from the Children's Music web.

www.dulcimerguy.com

Back Pack Jones

Original and Classic Blues
9:30-10:15 and 10:30-11:15, Lincoln Library (Springfield's Public Library)

Back Pack Jones was formed in 2012 and is comprised of musicians with a long musical history. The common thread of a love for the blues and a desire to share blues music with others has brought this talented group together. What started as a simple desire to play the blues and have fun has resulted in a combination of diversity, originality and passion now known as Back Pack Jones.

The band's debut album "Betsy's Kitchen" has received significant airplay both in the U.S. and abroad, and is currently nominated for Best New Artist Debut Album by Blues Blast Magazine.

Back Pack Jones is "Big Mike" Wallace on vocals, Wendell Day on keyboards, Harvey Horton on drums and vocals, and Kirk Lonbom on guitar.

www.backpackjones.com/bio/#sthash.U7L7yb9V.dpuf

Ben Bedford

Singer Songwriter
10:30-11:15PM, Lincoln Home Visitors Center

Ben Bedford delivers intriguing sketches of America, its individuals, their victories and their struggles. Poignant, but never sentimental, Bedford's portrait-like songs capture the vitality of his characters and draw the listener deep into the narratives. With three albums to his credit, Bedford's songs tackle scenarios including homelessness, the plight of a Confederate soldier's wife during the American Civil War, the aerial triumphs of Amelia Earhart, the life of Jack London, the murder of Emmett Till in 1955, John the Baptist, the poet Vachel Lindsay and even the 1973 standoff between members of The American Indian Movement and federal agents on the Pine Ridge Reservation. Often drawing upon history, Bedford's songs have a strong sense of time and place. The songs are rich in sensory detail which allows the listener to hear, see and feel each narrative.

In July of 2010, Bedford was named one of the "50 most significant Folk singer-songwriters of the past 50 years" by Rich Warren of WFMT-Chicago.

www.benbedford.com

Classical Dances of India

6:45-7:30PM, Club Room, Hoogland Center for the Arts

John T. Crisp, Jr.

Clay Sculpture

1:30-3:30PM, Springfield High School Commons Area

John T. Crisp, Jr. is an artist, teacher, musician, and historian who has been mentoring students for some 35 years. He will help children learn to make clay sculptures at First Night's afternoon children's events at Springfield High School.

JDS Dazzler Dance Company

A collection of contemporary style dance pieces

2:15-2:45PM, Springfield High School Auditorium

The Dazzler Dance Company has been wowing audiences across the country for over twenty years. The children involved in the company range in ages from seven to eighteen.

Each year the Dazzlers perform at the Illinois Building during the Illinois State Fair and this year they were honored to be the opening act of the Fair! In the past the company has performed at Walt Disney World and Disney Land. They have also performed aboard Carnival, Norwegian, Royal Caribbean, and Celebrity Cruise Lines. Locally the Company performs at several nursing homes each season, participates in parades for various holidays, and has been known to lend their dancing feet to charity events for organizations such as local food pantries.

http://www.jansdancestudioinc.com/dazzler_dance_company

DePriest Puppets

Puppet Show

1:45-2:15PM, Springfield High School Commons

DePriest Puppets specializes in quality family and children's theatre. Through the ancient art of puppetry, they take the audience on an unforgettable adventure of wonder and magic — a complete theatrical experience.

DePriest Puppets design and hand-craft all their own puppets, props and scenery. They write their own scripts and record all their shows as well.

Performances are done with hand puppets, rod puppets and marionettes. With a new production created each year, audiences are always guaranteed a fresh new theatre experience.

<http://www.depriestpuppets.com/>

Dual Pianos

8:30-9:15PM, Theater 3, Hoogland Center for the Arts

Mark Gifford and Damian Kaplan perform a variety of music on two pianos.

Brian "Fox" Ellis

6:00-6:45PM and 9:30-10:15PM, Lincoln Home Visitors Center

Brian "Fox" Ellis is an internationally acclaimed author, storyteller, historian, and naturalist. He has worked with The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, The Field Museum and dozens of other museums across the country. Fox has been a featured speaker at regional and international conferences including the International Wetlands Conservation Conference, National Science Teachers Association Conference and the North American Prairie Conservation Conference, et al. Fox is also the Artistic Director for Prairie Folklore Theatre a unique theatre company that celebrates ecology and history through original musical theatre productions. He is the author of 16 books including the critically acclaimed [Learning From the Land: Teaching Ecology Through Stories and Activities](#), (Libraries Unlimited, 2011), the award winning children's picture book *The Web at Dragonfly Pond*, (DAWN Publications, 2006) and [Content Area Reading, Writing and Storytelling](#) (Teacher Ideas Press 2010). Many of his stories are also available on one of 12 CDs.

foxtailsint.com

Frank's Funky Film Strips

Old school A/V multimedia variety show
8:45-9:30PM, Club Room, Hoogland Center for the Arts

A fresh and fun look at Old School educational materials.

Mark Gifford—Organ Concert

4:15-5:45PM, Springfield High School Auditorium

For over 20 years, Mark Gifford has been presenting concerts on the Barton Theatre Organ, which was originally installed in the Orpheum Theater in downtown Springfield.

You never know what Mark has up his sleeve when he sits down at the console. What you do know is that he will delight you with songs of yesteryear played in the theatre organ style. You'll smile with memories and tap your toes to the swing beat of Mark's unique style.

<http://www.markgiffordconcerts.com/biography.html>

Hoogland Center for the Arts performance groups

8:30-9:15PM, LRS Theater, Hoogland Center for the Arts

Illinois Symphony String Trio

Celebrate New Year's Eve with timeless classics
RESERVATION REQUIRED. 5:00-7:00PM, Dining Room, Hoogland Center for the Arts

The Illinois Symphony String Trio will perform in the Dining Room of the Hoogland Center for the Arts, providing a classical flavor to the buffet dinner offered there. Reservations are required; please call the Springfield Area Arts Council office at 217-753-3519 by December 24 to confirm your place at this festive feast.

www.ilsymphony.org

Jesse W. Johnson

Hooky-yet-dark Rock n Roll
8:30-9:15PM, First Presbyterian Church

Guitarist Jesse W. Johnson was a member of The Time, and has worked closely with artists including Prince, Paula Abdul, Sly Stone, Janet Jackson, and Booker T. Jones. He contributed to the soundtracks of films from *The Breakfast Club* to *White Men*

Can't Jump. Now the guitarist for the band Jet W. Lee, Johnson has solo projects going on as well. He recently released a CD titled *Cannon Rows*.

www.jessewjohanson.com

Juke House

Swing and Jump Blues

9:30-10:15 and 10:30-11:15PM, Theater 3, Hoogland Center for the Arts

Juke House is a band of 5 musicians from Springfield, IL. It was formed when Brian and Mike were discussing their love of a style of music known as jump blues. They reached out to other local musicians who they thought would also share their interest in jump blues.

Jump blues is an up-tempo swinging music that is considered the precursor to Rhythm & Blues and Rock 'n' Roll. It was very popular in the 1940's and early 1950's, made popular by artists such as: Louis Jordan, Louis Prima, Nat King Cole, Big Joe Turner, & others. There was a revival of this style of music in the 1990's by artists like Brian Setzer and Joe Jackson and it is still very popular today.

Juke House musicians are Brian Moore - Lead Vocal, Sax; Tim Bahn - Piano, Vocal; Mark Sanders – Drums; Mike Lang – Bass; and Manley Mallard – Guitar

www.facebook.com/pages/Juke-House/519858534756727

Lowder & Manning

Dynamic Acoustic

9:30-10:15PM, First Presbyterian Church

If there was ever a dynamic duo in the performing singer-songwriter world, these two seasoned performers and musicians could most certainly fit the bill. The combination of Jill Manning's rough and ready, lovely and literate voice backed by the superb and sublime, intense and intentional guitar playing of Jaigh Lowder is a delight to hear, see and experience in any way possible. On Oct. 21, they released their first collaborative record, *Next Time Around*, a collection of 11 self-penned tunes, recorded by Lowder and performed as a duo. They were chosen from many, as one of the few artists featured as Official Showcase performers at FARM, the annual Midwest region gathering of the Folk Alliance International held in St. Louis in 2013. They characterize their performances as "fun and entertaining" and claim the "goal of the artist is to connect, inspire and entertain." Anyone who has experienced these two incredible, and very real musicians during a performance, know they certainly achieve those qualifications, often moving above and beyond, to flashes of transcendence and illumination.

www.lowderandmanning.com

Magic Show

International Brotherhood of Magicians Ring 239's Evening of Magic!

6:00-6:45PM, Theater 3, Hoogland Center for the Arts

Phil Martin

Face painting

1:00-4:00PM, Springfield High School Commons Area

Mark McKnight Quartet

All That Jazz!

6:00-6:45PM, Lincoln Library (Springfield's Public Library)

Mr. Lincoln, performed by John O'Connor

Scenes from Herbert Mitgang's one-man play about Lincoln
7:00-7:45, Lincoln Home Visitors Center

John O'Connor gives us an intimate look into Abraham Lincoln's life, illuminating his personal thoughts and the many roles he played—President, commander-in-chief, husband, father—as he struggled to keep the country together. In this performance, part of a play by Herbert Mitgang, O'Connor shows the humor and the anguish of our 16th President.

<https://www.facebook.com/Four7Score>

Murder of Crowes

Old School Country, Folk, Rock, & Blues
8:30-9:15PM, Lincoln Library (Springfield's Public Library)

Murder of Crowes first started performing together in the fall of 2011 as an acoustic trio. The group has evolved over time and most shows feature a five or six piece band with special guests adding to the sound nightly. Over the years they have played a variety of local events including First Night Springfield, Downhome Music Fest, The Old Capitol Blues & BBQ and many other bars, private parties, benefits and festivals.

The band brings a new spin on classic songs by the likes of Taj Mahal, Johnny Cash, Stevie Ray Vaughn, Elvis, The Doors, Merle Haggard, Steve Earl and more!

www.facebook.com/mocbandmusic

Kristen Nelson

Original songs for folk and lyric lovers
7:00-7:45, First Presbyterian Church

Kristen Nelson is a singer songwriter originally based out of Spokane, WA. In high school she won a radio songwriting contest and met Jewel in person, cementing her decision to pursue music.

In May, 2012 she released her first collection of work, *Out of my Hands*. The seven track EP reveals the expressive and often philosophical side of a musicians mind. Crossing genres of folk, pop and R&B, the record is slightly experimental. Since her CD release she has begun work on a full-length album featuring new original material.

Find her music at <http://kristenelson.bandcamp.com/>

Theresa O'Hare & Tom Irwin

Celtic Folk and More
9:30-10:15PM, Grace Lutheran Church

Tom Irwin has been making music in the Springfield area for about 30 years, writing songs about almost everything. Over the past few years, his interests have taken a Celtic turn; with Theresa O'Hare adding her flute (or piccolo) to the mix, the show could go in almost any direction!

www.tomirwinmusic.com

Ocean State

Jazz, Brazilian & Blues Music
10:30-11:15PM, Grace Lutheran Church

Ocean State = Gordon Carvalho (percussion), Michael Taylor (guitar/vocals) & Mark Russillo (harmonica/vocals) uniquely performing Jazz, Brazilian & Blues

www.facebook.com/OceanStateTheBand

Brian Pankey, Professional Juggler

3:00-3:45PM, Springfield High School Auditorium
7:00-7:45PM, Theater 3, Hoogland Center for the Arts

Brian Pankey has over 20 years of juggling performance experience. He has been seen on Season 9 of America's Got Talent, The Tonight Show with Jay Leno, The Late Show with David Letterman, Americas Funniest Videos, Comedy Central's Tosh.O, Business Week Magazine, Guinness World Records Unleashed On TruTv & Ripley's Believe It Or Not! He currently holds 2,400 world records.

brianthejuggler.com

Debbie Ross Band

Old School Top 40
7:00-7:45PM, Lincoln Library (Springfield's Public Library)

Debbie and her band are well known in Springfield, putting their own stamp on mostly-familiar tunes. When you have a voice like Debbie's, and a band like the one she sings with, you get some great results.

Mark Russillo--Harmonicas

Harmonica Workshop & Demonstration
3:00-4:00PM, Springfield High School Commons Area

Kids can learn to play the harmonica! Mark Russillo, harmonica player with the band Ocean State, returns to First Night to lead afternoon harmonica workshops at Springfield High School.

Springfield Ballet Company

Excerpts from The Nutcracker, Swan Lake, and Rockballet
7:00-7:45PM, LRS Theater, Hoogland Center for the Arts

Springfield Ballet Company performances feature classical ballet, contemporary ballet, jazz, modern, tap, theatre, and character dance. Committed to community education as well as entertainment, the Springfield Ballet Company produces a biennial educational program, Leap into Lincoln, to which the SBC extends invitations to more than 2,000 4th- and 5th-grade students from eight central Illinois counties.

springfieldballetco.org

Springfield Muni Opera

Show tunes from popular musicals and upcoming season
10:30-11:45PM, LRS Theater, Hoogland Center for the Arts

The Muni performers will present a selection of songs from the upcoming Muni season as well as from other popular musicals.

Springfield Theatre Center

Broadway Revue of Musical Performances
9:30-10:15PM, LRS Theater, Hoogland Center for the Arts

Musical theater and a preview of next season's productions.

Springfield Youth Performance Group

An energetic performance for children of all ages
6:00-6:45PM, LRS Theater, Hoogland Center for the Arts

Founded in 2005, the Springfield Youth Performance Group is committed to nurturing the artistic spirit in each child. It offers youth from the ages of eight and up in Central Illinois the chance to explore and enhance their own artistic talents.

www.sypg.org

Sound Celebration Chorus

"This Joint is Jumpin'!"

7:00-7:45PM, Grace Lutheran Church

Sound Celebration Chorus is a proud member of Sweet Adelines International, the largest women's singing organization in the world. They have been entertaining audiences and sharing the art form of 4-part a cappella harmony, Barbershop style, since chartering in August 1953.

www.soundcelebrationchorus.org

Sugar & Spice

Original, Jazz, Pop

6:00-6:45PM, First Presbyterian Church

Sugar and Spice collaborates the musical stylings of Brooke Thomas and Shayla Logan on vocals, saxophone, and keyboard.

www.facebook.com/SugarandSpiceBrookeandShay

David Tell

Native American Flute Sounds

8:30-9:15PM, Grace Lutheran Church

Tebe Zalango

HipHop

9:45-10:30PM, Club Room, Hoogland Center for the Arts