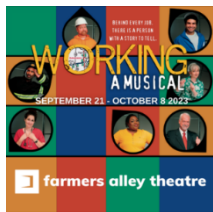


Rotary Arts Minute 9/18/2023 Information provided by the



[Community Arts Awards now accepting nominations](#)

Nominations for the Arts Council of Greater Kalamazoo (ACGK)'s 2023 Community Arts Awards are being accepted now through October 10, 2023. Nominations can be submitted online through the ACGK website at <https://www.kalamazooarts.org>. Award categories include the Community Medal of Arts, Theodore C. Cooper Award for Distinguished Volunteer Service, Adam F. Carter Young Artist Award, Business Arts Award, Epic Award, and Gayle Hoogstraten Arts Leadership Award. The Community Arts Awards will be announced on Oct. 31, 2023, and honorees will be celebrated on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 7:00 pm at the Gull Lake Center for Fine Arts.



[Working, A Musical](#)

Thursday, September 21, 2023 – Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 7:30 pm for evenings and 2:00 pm for matinees
Tickets are \$44/\$48. \$10 rush tickets are offered for all performances starting 1 hour prior to curtain (subject to availability, must be present at the box office). Student ticket pricing is \$15 for all shows. Preview performance tickets on 9/21 are \$25.

Presented by [Farmers Alley Theatre](#), 221 Farmers Alley, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Behind every job there's a story to tell, even right here in Kalamazoo! We are honored to present a new, visionary version of the beloved musical Working. Painting a vivid portrait of the men and women that the world so often takes for granted, this classic musical was nominated for six Tony Awards during its original Broadway run. Now updated for the modern age, it features new songs by Tony Award-winning composer and lyricist Lin-Manuel Miranda, as well as favorites by Stephen Schwartz, Craig Carnelia, and James Taylor. Working is enhanced with stories from workers right here in Kalamazoo! Hear the experience of ten members of our community including local builder Ben Bierlein, Kalamazoo Central Principal Valerie Boggan, OutFront Kalamazoo Director of Programs Michael Cleggs, Michigan News Agency owner Dean Hauck, Bronson Methodist Hospital nurse Eva Heldt, and more. This will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience you can only see at the intimate Farmers Alley Theatre.



["Anima and Animus" sculpture exhibit by Patti Opel](#)

Monday-Friday, September 18, 2023 – October 19, 2023 at 8:00 am

Presented by [Kellogg Community College | Davidson Visual and Performing Arts Center](#), 450 North Ave, Battle Creek, MI 49017

Opel's exhibit, titled "Anima and Animus," features 11 large-scale, wall-hung sculptures and will run from Sept. 11 through Oct. 19 in the KCC Davidson Visual and Performing Arts Center's Eleanor R. and Robert A. DeVries

Gallery, on campus at 450 North Ave. in Battle Creek. The exhibit is free and open to the public during regular gallery business hours, which are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. A gallery talk and closing reception – also free and open to the public – will be held with the artist on Thursday, Oct. 19, in the gallery. The gallery talk, part of the College’s continuing DeVries Lecture Series, will be held from 3 to 4 p.m. The closing reception will be held from 4 to 6 p.m.



Book Discussion: The Trackers

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 2:00 pm

Admission is free, but preregistration is encouraged!

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Hurling past the downtrodden communities of Depression-era America, painter Val Welch travels westward to the rural town of Dawes, Wyoming. Through a stroke of luck, he’s landed a New Deal assignment to create a mural representing the region for their new Post Office. A wealthy art lover named John Long and his wife Eve have agreed to host Val at their sprawling ranch. Rumors and intrigue surround the couple: Eve left behind an itinerant life riding the rails and singing in a western swing band. Long holds shady political aspirations, but was once a WWI sniper — and his right hand is a mysterious elder cowboy, a vestige of the violent old west. Val quickly finds himself entranced by their lives.



Gilmore Car Museum Cruise-Ins

Wednesday, September 20, 2023 at 5:00 pm – So Long Bella Donna performing!

Presented by Gilmore Car Museum at [Gilmore Car Museum](#), 6865 Hickory Road, Hickory Corners, MI 49060

Wednesday Night Cruise-Ins at the Gilmore Car Museum have become an annual summer tradition from May through September! On good weather nights, the fun starts at 5 pm and runs until 8 pm, with both George & Sally’s authentic 1941 Blue Moon Diner and The Grill serving hot dogs, hamburgers, and creamy old-fashioned custard throughout the evening. With live music providing the soundtrack, these are evenings you and your family won’t forget!



Exploring Popular Culture in Japan

Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Admission is \$5 for KIA members and \$10 for nonmembers. Purchase online or at the door.

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

An Assistant Professor of Japanese at Kalamazoo College, Dr. Brian White teaches courses on Japanese language, literature, and popular culture. In his research, he has examined the history of science fiction in Japan, asking how authors in the 1960s used the fledgling genre as a tool to navigate the complicated political conditions of the Cold War. His current research on Japanese analog games examines how board games and tabletop role-playing games have shaped the genre of high fantasy in Japan and thus have served as a crucial, but often overlooked, influence on the much larger industries of video games and anime, from Final Fantasy to isekai. Admission to the KIA's September 23 screening of Mirai is free for all who attend this talk! For details, check-in at the front desk when you arrive for the talk.



[City of Portage-Friday at the Flats](#)

Friday, September 22, 2023 at 4:30 pm

Presented at [Celery Flats - Historical Area](#), 7335 Garden Lane, Portage, MI 49002

Friday at the Flats returns to the Celery Flats Pavilion in 2023. Join us on the fourth Friday of every month, May through September, for dinner and experience a range of food trucks and live, local musicians. Seating is limited, but lawn space is plentiful, so bring a blanket or chair. Connect with your family and friends at Celery Flats through food, live music, and fun.



[Anime at the KIA: Film Screening of Mirai](#)

Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Admission is \$5 for KIA members and \$10 for nonmembers. Purchase online or at the door.

Presented by [Kalamazoo Institute of Arts](#), 314 S. Park Street, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

In conjunction with the exhibition Sugoi! 200 Years of Japanese Art, the KIA presents a screening of Mamoru Hosada's critically-acclaimed film Mirai. Nominated for both an Academy Award and a Golden Globe, and an official selection at Cannes Directors' Fortnight, Mirai tells the story of love passed down through generations. Four-year-old Kun battles feelings of jealousy towards his baby sister, Mirai, until an unexpected visitor from the future leads him on a wild journey through time and space.

Want to get cozy as you watch the film? In addition to our regular seating, we'll leave room for guests to spread out. Feel free to bring a blanket and pillow and settle in to join Kun on his magical adventures! Popcorn and other refreshments will be provided. This screening of Mirai will be introduced by Dr. Brian White, Assistant Professor of Japanese at Kalamazoo College, who will lead a short discussion following the film. Admission to this film screening is free for all who attend Dr. White's talk on September 21! Please check in at the front desk when you arrive. Mirai is rated PG for thematic elements and some scary images.



[Joel Mabus in Concert](#)

Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 7:30 pm

\$19 with limited VIP seating options for an added fee.

<https://www.thecloverroomkalamazoo.com/tickets-and-events>

a singer-songwriter, Mabus remains a one-off, walking that lonesome valley, making and marking his way as a working artist outside the confines of the usual music business

Presented by [The Clover Room](#), 1501 Fulford St, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Joel Mabus is a longtime fixture in the American folk music scene. He's a songwriter with roots deep in tradition, and a risk-taking multi-instrumentalist with a well-travelled voice. Joel started playing melodies on the family mandolin at age 9 and played bluegrass and sang harmonies with his older brother at home; he learned his gospel by singing in a store-front Pentecostal church. Guitar, banjo & fiddle were soon in Joel's mix. There was no money from home for college, but he earned a National Merit Scholarship and attended Michigan State University. Studying cultural anthropology and English Lit by day, he made his spending money at night as a folk & blues performer in local bars. Making Michigan his home after college, Mabus traveled the folk & bluegrass circuit, playing festivals and small concert venues. Beginning his recording career in 1978, Joel has since traveled all over America (and parts of Texas, he adds) performing at the fabled folk clubs and festivals of the day. Joel has 27 solo albums to his credit (some featuring songwriting, others focusing on traditional guitar or banjo, and some very eclectic), along with studio work as side musician. His latest album is **Time & Truth** in 2019.

Where is he from? Smalltown Illinois & Mississippi River: 105 miles southeast of Mark Twain, 190 miles northwest of Bill Monroe, 110 miles southwest of Burl Ives, and just over the river and up the hill from Scott Joplin. That's where Joel Mabus is from. He lives in Portage, Michigan now.

"The dean of singer-songwriters"

*Rich Warren, host of Chicago's
Midnight Special on WFMT-FM*

"Joel Mabus is the Joe DiMaggio of the folk music world – a virtuoso who can make the toughest plays appear effortless."

*Ron Olesko of WFDU-FM
(Fordham University, New York)*



[A Night on Swan Lake](#)

Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 7:30 pm

Presented by [Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra](#) at [Western Michigan University - Miller Auditorium](#), 2200 Auditorium Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Tickets:

Regular-priced tickets start at \$25. We offer a variety of ticket discounts for Teachers, Active/Retired Military, Government Aid Recipients, and Under 18. *All pricing is subject to change.*

Julian Kuerti, Conductor

[Awadagin Pratt](#), Piano

Experience the triumphant return of the Kalamazoo Symphony as the orchestra opens with the thrilling story of scandal and seduction in Richard Strauss' *Don Juan*. Jessie Montgomery's rhythmic piano concerto *Rounds* follows, performed by the award-winning pianist it was written for, Awadagin Pratt. Full of rich harmonies and breathtaking melodies, Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* completes the evening with a timeless tale of young love, evil sorcery, and moonlit magic.

PROGRAM

Richard **STRAUSS** | Don Juan

Jessie **MONTGOMERY** | *Rounds*

~ Intermission ~

Piotr Ilyich **TCHAIKOVSKY** | Suite from *Swan Lake*



[Drew Holcomb & The Neighbors – Find Your People Tour](#)

Sunday, Sep 24, 2023 at 7:00 pm

Limited VIP available/Early entry into the venue

Join Drew for a 20-minute intimate solo acoustic set performance before the main show!

All seating is reserved for this all-ages event. There's an 8-ticket limit. \$25-\$114.50

Presented by [Kalamazoo State Theatre](#), 404 S. Burdick, Kalamazoo, MI 49007

Doors: 6PM | Show: 7PM

There are no strangers at a Drew Holcomb show. For the better part of two decades, the award-winning songwriter has brought his audience together night after night, turning his shows into celebrations of community, collaboration, and contemporary American roots music. *Strangers No More*, the ninth album from Drew Holcomb & The Neighbors, celebrates that sense of togetherness. Produced by Cason Cooley, it expands the band's mix of timeless songwriting, modern-day Laurel Canyon folk, amplified Americana, and heartland rock & roll. "All The Money in the World," with its deep-pocketed groove that showcases The Neighbors' musicality, is punctuated by blasts of brass, marking the band's first song to feature horns. "That's On You, That's On Me" makes room for barrelhouse piano, slide guitar, and the greasy grit of a juke joint rock band. "On a Roll" and "Possibility" are Springsteen-sized rock & roll melodramas that wail and exalt, their cinematic arrangements built for the large rooms that Holcomb regularly plays these days. "Fly" is a reflective, finger-plucked folksong. Finally, there's "Dance With Everybody," a lively tribute to the live show that brims with a joyful optimism — a feeling that was often missing during the band's earlier years, when their shows weren't nearly as packed. Song by song, *Strangers No More* offers an all-encompassing view not only of the places Drew Holcomb & The Neighbors have been, but where they're headed next, too. It's an invitation into the band's world. Strangers no more, indeed.