

Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds Present:

EBIRD & Friends

14TH ANNUAL

HOLIDAY SHOW

FEATURING:

Audra Kubat,
Al Bettis,
Amy Petty,
Rollie Tussing,
Mark Lavengood,
Jen Sygit,

Aaron Jonah Lewis, Brad
Phillips, Ross Huff,
Michael Shimmin, Brennan
Andes, Tim Haldeman,
Loren Kranz, Dan Piccolo, TJ
Zindle, Shannon Wade,
Asim Khan, Jessica Ober,
Shelly Smith

2021

Ebird & Friends

HOLIDAY SHOW

PROGRAM OF SONGS

SET I

Ring Out Wild Bells - poem by Alfred, Lord Tennyson
Musical Arrangement by Gareth Davies-Jones and Brad Phillips
Featuring Erin Zindle

We Wish You A Merry Christmas (instrumental) - Warrell / Arr. Booker T & The MGs
Featuring The Holiday Show Band

Lonesome Christmas Blues - Blind Blake / Arr. Rollie Tussing
Featuring Rollie Tussing

Jingle Bells - James Pierpont / Arr. Rollie Tussing
Featuring Rollie Tussing, Aaron Jonah Lewis, Mark Lavengood, and Brad Phillips

Skating - Vince Guaraldi / Arr. Andrew Bird / Brad Phillips
Featuring The Holiday Show Strings

Sycamore Tree - Amy Petty
Featuring Amy Petty

Santa Claus Is Comin To Town - Coots & Gillespie / Arr. Amy Petty
Featuring Amy Petty

Slipping Into Christmas - Leon Russell
Featuring Jen Sygit

I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus - Tommie Connor / Arr. Ross Huff
Featuring The Holiday Show Brass

All I Want for Christmas Is You - Powers & Stone / Arr. Halbert
Featuring Jessica Ober

SET 2

Kick The Balls of Patriarchy - Trad. / Arr. Goldstein
Featuring the Holiday Show Choir

What Will Santa Claus Say (When He Finds Everybody Swingin')?
- Louis Prima and His New Orleans Gang / Arr. Huff
Featuring Loren Kranz

River - Joni Mitchell
Featuring Audra Kubat

I Want to Hear The World Sing Along - Audra Kubat
Arr. Brad Phillips
Featuring Audra Kubat

Praecambulum in F Major WV 39 - Heinrich Scheidemann
Arr. Huff
Featuring The Holiday Show Brass

All I Want For Christmas This Year - Al Bettis
Featuring Al Bettis

Joy To The World - Watts / Arr. Al Bettis / Huff
Featuring Al Bettis

Waiting For Christmas - TJ Zindle
Featuring TJ Zindle

I Believe in Father Christmass - Greg Lake, Peter Sinfield & Prokofiev
Arr. Zindle / Huff
Featuring Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds

Finale: Mary Had A Baby - Trad. / Arr. Brennan Andes / Erin Zindle

The Holiday Show Band:

TJ Zindle, Loren Kranz,
Brennan Andes, Dan Piccolo,
Mike Shimmin, & Shannon Wade

The Holiday Show Brass:

Ross Huff,
Tim Haldeman,
& Asim Khan

The Holiday Show Strings:

Brad Phillips, Aaron Jonah Lewis,
Mark Lavengood,
& Erin Zindle



Searing and haunting, Detroit Music Award winning singer/songwriter AUDRA KUBAT has released 7 albums to critical acclaim in a career that spans over 20 years. A composer, performer, and educator, Audra's work has earned her a place in the community as a resource for empowerment through songwriting and music. Her methods of composition articulate grace and uncover hidden places between our dreams and our realities. An offering of stark and beautiful reality that possesses experience yet embraces the whimsical. This is music from the hidden places between our dreams and our realities. She has shared bills with Aimee Mann, Rodriguez, Roberta Flack, Greta Van Fleet, The War and Treaty, Whit Hill, and Jolie Holland, to name a few.



AL BETTIS was inspired to start writing and singing music at age 30. He felt a spiritual calling to heal the world through music, so he picked up a guitar and a notepad and got to work. The self-trained acoustic guitarist has gained popularity for his smooth vocals and sincere lyrics. His shows are a journey through love, heartbreak, and redemption as he offers stories about the musings behind many of his songs. His soothing voice is reminiscent of legends like Al Green and Otis Redding, with musical influence from artists such as Ed Sheeran and Jason Mraz. Al is a constant fixture at festivals such as Detroit River Days, Michigan State Fair, Meridian Winter Blast, and Ford Arts, Beats and Eats. He has featured both at Sofar Sounds and Cultivate Coffee & Tap House Concert series; performing in Detroit, Ann Arbor, Cleveland and Ypsilanti.



Award winning finger-style guitarist ROLLIE TUSSING performs timeless class and country blues, dewey-eyed tunes of the 20s, as well as godforsaken songs of the nineteenth century. His own compositions are influenced by those same lonesome, haunted, and abandoned melodies that we all forgot to remember.



Anyone that has witnessed MARK LAVENGOOD perform will attest to these three key attributes: his big heart, wild energy on stage, and the aptitude on the many instruments that he plays. Having released 3 LPs and a 7 inch vinyl under his own name in conjunction with 3 LPs, and more with International touring act, Lindsay Lou (formerly, & the Flatbellys), Mark Lavengood is no stranger to the hustle of the music industry. On top of building out his music agency, Bear Mark Productions, Lavengood is creating music, videos, blogs, and more.



AMY PETTY is an incredibly versatile performer, writer, arranger and instrumentalist, equally at home in front of an orchestra or behind a guitar and microphone. A classically trained vocalist, her voice is at the same time overwhelmingly powerful and impossibly delicate. She has released four critically acclaimed albums with the latest, "The Darkness of Birds", winning the Review Music Award's "Album of the Year 2020". Amy has appeared on stages across the country including Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center and has shared the stage with artists like Sarah McLachlan, Darlene Love, Jewel and Suzanne Vega.



Lansing, MI based singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist JEN SYGIT has released four solo albums with her latest record "It's About Time" newly released in Oct. 2018. Sometimes traditional, sometimes contemporary, always with a raw honesty "It's About Time" is a sonic journey through the landscape of Americana music. Produced by Sygit's long time friend and collaborator Dominic John Davis (bassist to Jack White, Buddy Miller, and Joshua Davis) and featuring guest appearances from Luther Dickinson, Colin Linden and The McCrary Sisters, "It's About Time" reveals a depth and maturity to Sygit's ability as both songwriter and performer.



Virtuoso banjo player and fiddler AARON JONAH LEWIS has been elbow-deep in traditional American music since their first lessons at the age of five with Kentucky native Robert Oppelt. Their concerts take audiences on a journey through the back roads of American old time and folk music, with detours through ragtime and early jazz. Lewis has taken blue ribbons at the Appalachian String Band Festival, and at the Old Fiddlers Convention; the oldest and largest fiddlers convention in the country. They spend time teaching, touring as a solo performer, with the Corn Potato String Band, and the Lovestruck Balladeers. Lewis has appeared on dozens of recordings from bluegrass and old time to traditional jazz, contemporary experimental and Turkish classical music projects. They also play and teach banjo, mandolin, and guitar and are currently based in Detroit.



For more than 16 years, BRAD PHILLIPS has served as a sideman for some of Michigan's most prevalent singer/songwriter acts. He is most known for his appearances with Jeff Daniels, The Verve Pipe, and the Celtic-fusion super-group Millish. He has also appeared with May Erlewine, Joshua Davis and played violin for Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Pat Metheny, and Iggy Pop and the Stooges. Brad earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in music from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance, where he now serves as a resident artist in the Chamber Music department. Brad is also a resident artist at the Purple Rose Theatre Company, where he has worked as a composer, sound designer, and actor.



Trumpeter and flugelhornist ROSS HUFF performs with a half-dozen different ensembles based in Ann Arbor, MI, and maintains a docket of horn section engagements in every style of contemporary music, as well as several antiquated ones. Ross is a recording artist, arranger, and music instructor as well as an experienced composer, producer and bandleader. He has previously worked as an essayist and editor. In his free time, Huff is an avid baseball fan who brings his own pencil and scorecard to keep score at games.



MICHAEL SHIMMIN is a versatile drummer/percussionist who plays many different styles of music. He works regularly in the folk, jazz, and world music genres, as well as blues and rock. He is a founding member of the internationally touring Irish/American group "the ollam", and also plays regularly with artists such as May Erlewine, Joshua Davis (The Voice), Dave Bruzza (Greensky Bluegrass), and Grammy Award winner Peter Dinklage. Michael is also a sought after recording artist who has recorded on over 60 albums. In the past, Michael has performed with Aretha Franklin, and Don Rickles. In 2022, his group "the ollam" will be releasing their second album, which has been much anticipated by their fans throughout the world.



BRENNAN DUNCAN ANDES graduated at seventeen, rented an apartment, and began booking gigs. He earned a modest income playing for private events or on the small stage at the Earle, supplemented by teaching bass lessons for beginners. Then in 2005, he and a few friends formed a band originally dubbed Duncan and the Macpodz. While his artistry rests on a firm jazz foundation, Andes says you'll also hear strains of world rhythms, big band sounds, funky dance beats, and something they call "disco bebop."



TIM HALDEMAN grew up in Ann Arbor and received his early musical training at Community High, learning jazz from Mike Grace. He then moved to Chicago, where he graduated from the Chicago College of Performing Arts and was involved with some of the more adventurous members of the local jazz scene there. His ability to play in any context while retaining an indefinable personal style has served him well. Haldeman has developed a strong style all his own, informed by a prodigious instrumental technique, a rich sense of melodic development, and a deep knowledge of modern harmony. He also seems to have a seemingly endless knowledge of modern jazz repertoire, moving from one tune to another without hesitation.



Coming from a musical family, LOREN KRANZ had the opportunity to try out several instruments before he narrowed his focus to drums and keys. In 2010, while pursuing a Jazz Studies degree from Wayne State University, he auditioned for and won the drum chair with The Ragbirds. Most recently, Loren has returned to Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds (happy to have him back!). For the past five years, he has kept busy teaching music at a non-profit organization in Saginaw, Major Chords for Minors, as well as touring with his band, Barbarossa Brothers.



Percussionist DAN PICCOLO regularly performs and teaches in a wide range of musical settings. He is currently active as a member of the X4 Percussion Quartet, Ensemble Duniya, mirabai Women's Choir, Big Fun, and others. Previously, Dan recorded and toured internationally as the drummer with groups including Nomo and Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds. In addition to holding degrees in the Western concert percussion and jazz traditions, Dan has also studied with master musicians in Ghana and India. He has appeared as a clinician at universities throughout the United States, and has earned invitations to present both performances and educational workshops at the annual Percussive Arts Society International Convention.



TJ ZINDLE is a dynamic singer/songwriter from Ann Arbor. An energetic performer from his early years with his critically acclaimed band, Last Conservative, Zindle has been wowing crowds from a young age (releasing his first 3 records before he was 23 and touring with bands like the Goo Goo Dolls, Counting Crows, All American Rejects and even opening for Bon Jovi). TJ also plays guitar and sings in the ever evolving Folk/Rock-World beat band, Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds.



Bassist SHANNON WADE studied music at Vanderbilt University under Edgar Meyer and Michigan State University under Peter Dominguez. He has performed with Nashville Symphony, Matt Combs, Gene Wooten, Chris Jones, Craig Havighurst, Marcus Belgrave, Delfeayo Marsalis, Imbroglia, Planet D Nonet and the Theatre Bizarre Orchestra and many many others.



ASIM KHAN is a self-described “late bloomer” who started on baritone horn and euphonium before switching to Superbone, which he’s been playing on the Detroit music scene since the late 1990’s. Asim has performed with chart-topping artists in multiple genres (Percy Sledge, Calypso Rose), gained seasoning in local bands as a bandleader (Jive Colossus, The Saints of Soul), and performer (Universal Xpression, YOU, Flying Latini Brothers), and is an alumnus of the Michigan Marching Band.



Through her rich, soulful vocals, JESSICA OBER unravels hidden emotions and weaves them into heartfelt songs filled with poignant tales of life, love, and growth. “I speak to help me and others recognize things inside of us that we have not seen in a while or have pushed down. It’s my way of naming and reclaiming the broken pieces in an effort to heal.”



SHELLY SMITH is an original model funmaker built in 1971, southern by birth and in the Michigan music and comedy scene by the grace of God. When she is not serving the publishing world at Above the Treeline, she is wrapped up in some creative frenzy like producing comedy shows at OM of Medicine or working with artists to make a ridiculous calendar. She can't think of a luckier break than being part of this show since the beginning and loves every artist she has had the honor of sharing the stage with.

Executive Producer: **Erin Zindle**

Musical Director: **Brad Phillips**

Master of Ceremonies: **Shelly Smith**

Audio Engineer: **Mark Allen**

Lighting Designer: **Buddy Paul**

Stage Manager: **Vince Russo**

Video: **Cory Robinson, Charlie Steen & DeJuan Jordan**

Manager of too many things to name: **Jenny Jones**

Publicity: **Sadie Madden Music**

& Bear Mark Productions

Audio Equipment: **Allen Audio Systems**

Research Department: **Ross Huff**

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For the last 13 years I've been gathering my friends together to creatively collaborate around one central theme: holiday music. Through this ongoing experiment we have forged our very own annual tradition and it has grown year after year.

People rarely appreciate the fact that there exists a giant book of songs from which so many of us can sing. And that catalog is deep - it covers everything from doubt, loss, war and pain to sugarplums, magic animals and chilly noses. There are many songs to tell the story of a baby born to save all of humanity and just as many to tell about a jolly fat man who brings us the desires of our heart. The songs share a common thread of hope as we prepare for the long winter ahead.

This tradition of gathering with those I love to sing from this collective songbook has been with me my whole life. In Buffalo, New York where I grew up my large family gathered together on every snowy Christmas Eve and sang in harmony. Christmas was the only time this ever happened and these were my favorite childhood memories. I would learn all seven verses of each song so that I could keep the music going as long as possible. Over the years the Zindle family tradition slowly came to an end but I kept the embers of that experience and created something new, right here, with my musical Michigan family.

My friends are all so different from me and I love that! We have different styles, tastes, ideas, and traditions. But we all have something to celebrate at this time of year, even if it's just the simple act of coming together. And when we celebrate honestly and respectfully together, encouraging each other to shine in our own unique and beautiful ways there is JOY.

We are being pulled apart and divided every day. This entire "holiday season" is often just one more ugly example of our disagreements. But in the last 14 years I have discovered something that I hope you will experience at our show. I hope you will feel it on stage and all around the room.

It's our common desire for "Peace on earth - good will to men". It's the suspension of disbelief. It's the 'agree to disagree', the mingling of ideas old and new to the sound of a familiar tune. It's the open ear, the armistice.