

Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds Present:
Ebird & Friends

16TH ANNUAL

HOLIDAY SHOW



AT
THE ARK

DEC 7-9, 2023

ANN ARBOR, MI



Ebird & Friends

HOLIDAY SHOW

PROGRAM OF SONGS - SET 1

Every Star Shall Sing A Carol / Yule Log and Holly Berries
Featuring Erin Zindle & The Holiday Show Band
Sydney Carter, 1961 / Traditional
Musical Arrangement by Erin Zindle

Little Saint Nick - Featuring The Holiday Show Band
Wilson & Love, 1963

White Christmas - Featuring Dylan Charles
Irving Berlin, 1942, arr. Charles & Huff

Not Just Another Christmas - Featuring Dylan Charles and Erin Zindle
Charles & Zindle 2023, arr. Huff

Big Bulbs - Featuring Jess Merritt, Jen Sygit, and Erin Zindle
Sharon Jones, 2015

Holy Meeting of Souls - Featuring Grace Theisen
Theisen, 2023, arr. Phillips

Santa Baby - Featuring Grace Theisen
Javits & Springer, 1953

As Soon As Winter Comes / Featuring Aly & Brad Phillips
The Bird and the Bear, 2014

Il Est Ne (trad.)
arr. Huff
Featuring the Holiday Show Orchestra

The Man With The Bag / Featuring Jess Merritt
Taylor, Brooks & Stanley 1950

Ebird & Friends

HOLIDAY SHOW

PROGRAM OF SONGS - SET 2

Are You Having Any Fun?

Featuring Erin Zindle & The Holiday Show Band
Yellen & Fain, 1939, Arr. Huff

Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer

Featuring Jen Sygit & The Holiday Show Band
Brooks, 1979

First Holiday With You - Featuring Louie Lee

Louie Lee, 2022

Two Step Around The Christmas Tree - Featuring Louie Lee

Bogguss & Crider, 1992

March of the Toys - Featuring The Holiday Show Band

Victor Herbert, 1903

arr. Zindle / Hot Club of San Francisco

Here It Is, Christmastime

Featuring TJ Zindle & The Holiday Show Band
Old 97's, 2018

Remember Love - Featuring Thornetta Davis

Davis, 2019

Boogie Woogie Santa

Featuring Thornetta Davis & The Holiday Show Band
René, 1948, arr. Davis

It Came Upon A Midnight Clear

Featuring Erin Zindle & The Holiday Show Band
Sears & Willis, 1850, arr. Tow'rs, Zindle

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

The Holiday Show Orchestra

TJ Zindle - Guitar and Vocals

Ross Huff - Trumpet

John T Bone Paxton - Trombone

Erin Zindle - Violin and Vocals

Brad Phillips - Violin and Guitar

Aaron Jonah Lewis - Violin

Jona Vibrato - Violin, Piano, Flute, Tin Whistle
and Accordion

Loren Kranz - Piano, Drums and Vocals

Brennan Andes - Bass

Jon Brown - Drums and Percussion

Dan Piccolo - Drum Set

Shannon Wade - Bass

Tim Haldeman - Saxophone

Jess Merritt - Vocals

Jen Sygit - Vocals



THORNETTA DAVIS has opened for Blues Legends such as B.B. King, Ray Charles, Etta James, KoKo Taylor, Johnny Johnson, Bonnie Raitt, and more. An international singer, songwriter, and recording artist was awarded by the Detroit Blues Society the “Living Lifetime Achievement Award”, awarded a star on the Canada South Blues Museum “Walk of Fame”, and in 2015 was crowned “Detroit’s Queen of the Blues” in a ceremony with proclamations from the City of Detroit, Wayne County, and the State of Michigan. A seven-time Blues Foundation Blue Music Awards nominee, and a winner of over 30 Detroit Music Awards, Thornetta has garnered international attention by winning 1st place in the International Songwriting Competition (ISC), and received the prestigious French 2018 La Academie du Jazz Award for “Best Blues Album” for ‘Honest Woman’.



GRACE THEISEN is a queer Americana/Blues artist originally from Kalamazoo. Inspired by a variety of artists from bluegrass/folk singers like Patty Griffin and Alison Krauss to pop artists like Billy Joel and The Beatles to blues artists ranging from B.B. King to Bonnie Raitt. Fairly new to the Michigan Music Scene, she has created quite the buzz and has won Cari Cole’s Best New Artist of 2021 and was named “Artist To Watch” by Michigan’s Local Spins. This past July, she was named by Revue as one of the “Top 10 Bands Heating Up The Summer.” Grace’s newest single, ‘Honey’s Dripping’, which highlights and celebrates queer love-is now out on all platforms.



LOUIE LEE breaks lyrical boundaries in country music with thought-provoking ballads and high-energy anthems infused with hip-hop flair. Raised in a Detroit trailer park, he draws from diverse influences, creating a unique “Country Hop & Roll” sound. Louie’s intimate, honest voice, and visually captivating live shows push the boundaries of country, hip-hop, and rock, attracting both new and long-time fans.



DYLAN CHARLES is a singer/songwriter/producer based in Ann Arbor. His music runs the gamut from acoustic Americana and blues to indie soul and pop/rock. While living in New York City from 2012 until 2023, Dylan's creative energy was primarily dedicated to touring, writing, and recording with his soul band 'On the Sun' before he stepped down from the group in 2020. In addition to his own projects, he frequently collaborates with other artists as a producer, co-writer and multi-instrumentalist.



JOHN TBONE PAXTON is a veteran trombonist and vocalist professionally active in Southeastern Michigan for many years. He is the featured singer and trombone soloist with the 11 time DMA award-winning jazz ensemble, the Planet D Nonet. He also co-leads the Paxton/Spangler Septet, a jazz ensemble performing primarily South African jazz, as well as an in demand quintet with Tbone as the featured artist. John is a 2nd generation musician and a son of the "Jazz Age." His soulful sense of swing, phrasing, and his ability to interpret and bring personal meaning to a lyric allows him to connect to his audience at an emotional level, both as a vocalist and as an instrumentalist. Look for his 2020 CD recording "Back in Your Own Backyard" on Detroit Music Factory records with the RJ Spangler Quartet. Tbone has a new 2023 CD release, "Joys", on Eastlawn records. Both are available on Spotify, Apple, and Bandcamp as well as eastlawnrecords.com.



JEN SYGIT is a Lansing-based Independent Music Award winning songwriter. She has released four albums, her latest "It's About Time" produced by long time friend and collaborator Dominic John Davis (bassist to Jack White, Buddy Miller, Steppin' In It) and features guest performances from Luther Dickinson, Colin Linden, The McCrary Sisters and Rachael Davis. The album's title track won "Best Americana Song" at the 2019 Independent Music Awards in NYC and Jen's music video for the tune "Love is Wild", won "Vox Pop Fan Favorite" the same year. In addition to her career as performing songwriter, Jen is a founding member of the all-female string band "Stella!" and you may have heard Jen sing on one of your other favorite artists albums- she is a veteran session vocalist appearing on over 50 albums nationwide.



AARON JONAH LEWIS Virtuoso banjo player and champion 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 in Clifftop, WV, and at the Old Fiddlers Convention in Galax, VA, the oldest and largest fiddlers convention in the US. They tour solo, with Corn Potato String Band, Lovestruck Balladeers, and other projects.



For more than 15 years, BRAD PHILLIPS has had the pleasure of serving as a sideman for some of Michigan's most prevalent singer/songwriter acts. From Jeff Daniels, to The Verve Pipe, to the Celtic-fusion super-group Millish. He has appeared with May Erlewine, Joshua Davis, Rachel Davis; and played violin for Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Pat Metheny, and Iggy Pop and the Stooges. Brad is faculty at The University of Michigan Music School as a lecturer in the department of Jazz & Contemporary Improvisation and is a resident artist at the Purple Rose Theatre Company.



Trumpeter and flugelhornist ROSS HUFF performs with a half-dozen different ensembles and maintains a docket of engagements playing most styles of contemporary music, as well as some futuristic and antiquated ones. Ross is active as a recording artist, arranger, composer, producer, music instructor, bandleader and sideman. His primary influences can be found in this concert program (see: B. Andes, E. Zindle, T. Haldeman) and he moonlights as a writer and editor.



JONATHAN BROWN Jonathan is a drummer, percussionist, educator, composer, chess player, twitch streamer, trekkie, and traveler.



BRENNAN ANDES has been a bon vivant of Ann Arbor's scene for the last two decades. He has had the pleasure of creating music for a plethora of artists as well as being the founding member of The Macpodz. Years of touring nationally and internationally has made him aware of the importance of the community around him. You can catch Brennan with his crew 'The Pherotones' at The Last Word each Thursday night.



Saxophonist TIM HALDEMAN resides in Ann Arbor where he leads several groups of his own, and performs and records with a wide variety of musicians. He is also a member of Mike Reed's People Places and Things and other Chicago projects.



Keyboardist and drummer LOREN KRANZ stays busy making music year round - but especially so during the holiday show, where he plays keys in the house band! A part of the Ebird & Friends crew since 2010, he works with several projects, including Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds and Mark Lavengood Band. Loren will also recently began putting out music under his own name, with plans to release an EP in 2023. A native of Saginaw, Loren can be found serving his community through teaching at Major Chords for Minors, a nonprofit organization offering weekly 30-minute music lessons at no cost to underprivileged kids.



Percussionist DAN PICCOLO regularly performs and teaches in a wide range of musical settings. He has recorded and toured internationally as a concert percussionist, jazz drummer, and world percussion specialist. Dr. Piccolo frequently appears as a clinician at universities throughout the United States. He is currently Associate Professor of Percussion in the College of Musical Arts at Bowling Green State University in Bowling Green, Ohio. Please visit www.danpiccolo.com for more information.



TJ ZINDLE ignites a fearless spark of mighty alt rock. A sonic explosion of spirited vocals, fiery electric guitars, and charged lyrics instantly propels listeners into the Ann Arbor, Michigan singer-songwriter's realm. Zindle captures a similar feeling on his latest self-produced album, Now Let Go, which he recorded primarily through GarageBand on his iPad. The insightful album chronicles his personal and societal reflections on life. A kinetic live performer, Zindle fronts The Powerlines and shares his sweaty, rambunctious energy with growing audiences nationwide. He's also the singer/songwriter from Buffalo, NY rock band, Last Conservative, long-time guitarist/vocalist for Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds and is launching a new side project called Starts With A Con.



SHANNON WADE has blessed us with his presence as Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds' bassist for over six years now. He studied music at Vanderbilt University under Edgar Meyer and at Michigan State University under Peter Dominguez. Shannon has performed with the Nashville Symphony, Matt Combs, Gene Wooten, Chris Jones, Craig Havighurst, Marcus Belgrave, Delfeayo Marsalis, Imbroglia, Planet D Nonet, the Theatre Bizarre Orchestra, and many others



JESS MERRITT is a singer-songwriter whose rich, soulful vocals bring listeners on a spirited journey through life's truths – the joys, the trials and the "what is yet to be." Refusing to submit to a single genre, she pulls sounds from jazz, soul, classical, pop and R&B styles while cutting new paths with infusions of electronic beats and elevated harmonies. She finds inspiration in the natural world and the unapologetic roots which she has grown from. These influences blossom in expressions of self-discovery through her music and her many creative pursuits, from weaving fallen saplings into expansive land sculptures, to fiber art and furniture restoration. Over the past decade, Jess has performed at intimate venues and festivals across Michigan and has joined some of the state's greatest grassroots artists.



JONA VIBRATO is a multi-instrumentalist and polymath. They have been playing music professionally since the age of 16, touring nationally and internationally for over 20 years with various artists. Jona is a talented chef, tailor, hair stylist, and gardener.



SHELLY SMITH is a spiritual being having a human experience and this show is one of her favorite parts of that! She has been entertaining southeast Michigan audiences for years. She is the host and producer of the Reads and Weeds podcast and co-producer and host of Ear Candy piano karaoke. She'll be back at the Ark Jan 2nd, 2024 for 50 First Jokes!



ALYSON PHILLIPS has been an artist at heart her whole life. Having been surrounded by music since birth, she has been singing with her dad since she was able to speak. Alyson is particularly inspired by the music of Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra, Sam Cooke, Stevie Wonder, Michael Jackson, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Fleetwood Mac, amongst others. She is a filmmaker, director, writer, actor and had her work screened at the largest student film festival in the world in New York City this fall as part of the Downriver Detroit Student Film Consortium. Alyson is also a competitive dancer in modern styles, ballet and tap, and is a senior at Dexter High School. Alyson has grown up with the Ebird & Friends Holiday Show and is extremely grateful to have a chance to be a part of it herself before moving on to the next chapter of her life in college and beyond.



JENNY JONES has been friends with Ebird for over 23 years and is a classically trained pianist, self-taught guitarist, and school-taught cellist. She is a singer-songwriter based in Ann Arbor and has shared the stage with The War & Treaty, Michael Franti, Abigail Stauffer & The Wisdom, Kate Peterson, Nickie Price, Joe Reilly, Antwaun Stanley, Tunde Olaniran, and many others. Jenny is Co-Executive Director of Michigan nonprofit 'Title Track' alongside founder Seth Bernard and Holly T. Bird; contributes to the local music community holding positions as a board member of The Ark and The Amplify Project; as well as committee positions with the Ann Arbor Area Community Foundation, the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, and the Alluvion Artist Council.



ERIN ZINDLE is the songwriter, lead singer, and fiddler of the nationally-touring folk-rock band Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds. The four-piece project is clearly built around the multi-talented front woman who is proficient in a variety of stringed instruments, skillfully switching between violin, accordion, kalimba and piano, all while dancing. Erin has been performing and teaching violin and piano for many years, but spends most of her time touring and playing her original music. She was classically trained in her hometown of Buffalo, NY and has been performing with bands of many styles and sizes all across the US for over 17 years and is an accomplished songwriter (with a song reaching the Top Pop 100 in Japan).

For the last 16 years I've been gathering my friends together to creatively collaborate around the theme of 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 . It's a book of songs which share a common thread of hope as we prepare for the long winter ahead, covering a wide range of subjects and styles. Songs of a baby born to save all of humanity and a jolly old fat man who brings us the desires of our heart. Songs of feasting, fasting, candles, and dancing. Songs of belief and doubt, loss and war, sugarplums, magic animals and chilly noses.

This tradition of gathering with those I love to sing from this collective songbook has been with me my whole life. In Buffalo, NY where I grew up my large family gathered together 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 every verse 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.

It is a gift and an honor that I have drawn into my life many widely diverse and especially talented friends. We have different styles, tastes, ideas, beliefs, 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. We share the love of music, and we truly enjoy each other's company. encouraging each other to shine in our own unique and beautiful ways.

With so much dividing us more and more every day, this entire "holiday season" can sometimes feel like one more ugly example of our disagreements. But in the last 16 years I have discovered something that I hope you will experience at this show, 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, the 'agree to disagree', the open ear, the armistice, the mingling of ideas old and new to the sound of a familiar tune. May this music fill you with joy.

- GRIN.





Executive Producer: **Erin Zindle**
 Musical Director: **Brad Phillips**
 Master of Ceremonies: **Shelly Smith**
 Audio Engineer: **Mark Allen**
 Lighting Designer: **Don Koleber**
 Stage Manager: **Vince Russo**
 Video: **Cory Robinson**
 Hospitality Manager: **Jenny Jones**
 Publicity: **Sadie Madden Music**
 Audio Equipment: **Allen Audio Systems**
 Research Department: **Ross Huff**



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