

ERIN ZINDLE & THE RAGBIRDS PRESENT

EBIRD & FRIENDS
HOLIDAY
SNOW



AT

THE ARK

12-14 DECEMBER 2024

4 PERFORMANCES!

THURS 8PM, FRI 8PM, SAT 2PM AND 8PM

Ebird & Friends

HOLIDAY SHOW

PROGRAM OF SONGS - SET 1

Walking In The Air

Featuring Erin Zindle & The Holiday Show Band
Howard Blake

Santa Claus Is Back In Town - Featuring The Holiday Show Band
Leiber & Stoller

Everything We Need - Featuring Kait Rose
Kait Rose

Christmas Makes Me Cry - Featuring Kait Rose
Matthew West

Holly Jolly Christmas - Featuring Brad Phillips
Johnny Marks, arr. Phillips

Silver Bells - Featuring Jenny Jones, Jen Sygit & Jess Merritt
Livingston & Evans, arr. Queen Herby

Oh Holy Night - Instrumental Feature
A.C. Adam, arr Andes & Huff

Bluegrass, White Snow - Featuring Jen Sygit
Emory Gordy Jr & Patty Loveless

Cristo Redentor - Instrumental Feature
Duke Pearson, arr Byrd & Huff
Featuring the Holiday Show Orchestra

My Favorite Things / Featuring Jess Merritt
Hammerstein & Rodgers, arr A. Hettinga

Ebird & Friends

HOLIDAY SHOW

PROGRAM OF SONGS - SET 2

Wassail
Trad.

Havana Santa
Featuring Erin Zindle & The Holiday Show Band
Mike Farris

Wexford Carol/Christmas Eve - Featuring Kiana June Weber
& Martin Howley
Trad, arr We Banjo 3

Fairytale of New York - Featuring Kiana June Weber
& Martin Howley
Finer & MacGowan

Rejoice & Be Merry - Featuring The Holiday Show Horns
Rutter

Happy Xmas - Featuring Patty Pershayla
Lennon & Ono

Mistress For Christmas - Featuring Patty Pershayla
Angus & Malcom Young

I'm Not Gonna Hate Myself For Christmas
Featuring TJ Zindle
TJ Zindle

Hazy Shade of Winter
Featuring Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds
Paul Simon, Arr The Bangles

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

The Holiday Show Orchestra

TJ Zindle - Guitar and Vocals
Ross Huff - Trumpet
John TBone Paxton - Trombone
Tim Haldeman - Saxophone
Erin Zindle - Violin, Accordion and Vocals
Brad Phillips - Violin and Mandolin
Brennan Andes - Bass and Guitar

Loren Kranz - Piano, Drums, Accordion
and Vocals
Jon Brown - Drums and Percussion
Dan Piccolo - Drum Set
Shannon Wade - Bass and Vocals
Jess Merritt - Vocals
Jen Sygit - Vocals



PATTY PERSHAYLA is already a rarity as a combination singer and bassist, but has established herself as a stand-out performer by meanwhile perching on one leg or strutting the stage in platform heels. She is heard before she is seen, boasting a big voice for a relatively small vessel, and certainly has a lot to say—challenging gender norms, confronting imposter syndrome, processing trauma—and don't even think about getting on her bad side.



KAIT ROSE has been playing guitar and writing songs since the summer of 2001. Her writing is deeply personal and universal. We are extremely honored and excited to welcome Kait to her very first Ebird & Friends Holiday Show!



A once in a generation musician and public figure who combines her classical training with her love for American and Irish folk music. KIANA JUNE WEBER graduated early with a Bachelor's degree of music in violin performance from the University of Michigan School of Music, Theater, and Dance; and gave the commencement speech to her graduating class. At only 19, she was scouted by the violin troupe Barrage and toured internationally for three years. In 2012, she made a splash as the fiddler player in Celtic music's favorite band, Gaelic Storm, with whom she recorded 4 Billboard world No.1 albums. She left the band in 2017 to pursue her own career and toured as a special guest with Grammy award-winning artist, Carlos Nunez, and by 2018, she originated the role of fiddle on the First National tour of Broadway's hit *Come From Away*.



MARTIN HOWLEY is a co-founder of We Banjo 3, one of Ireland's most successful bands of the past two decades. Performing regularly to audiences of 15,000+, shows in 6 different languages, achieving multiple Billboard Chart No.1's, performing for international dignitaries (including US Presidents), he is also an entrepreneur, strategist, engineer, educator, and leader.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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. For part of 2024 and now going into 2025, Brad will be on tour around the world with Patti Lupone!



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.



TJ ZINDLE 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. 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, and long-time guitarist/vocalist for Erin Zindle & The Ragbirds.



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.



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



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



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!



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 17 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 from 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 17 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: David Reynolds
Stage Manager: Vince Russo
Video: Cory Robinson
Hospitality Manager: Jenny Jones
Publicity: Sadie Madden Music
Audio Equipment: Allen Audio Systems
Research Department: Ross Huff
Merchandise Manager: Jill Fuleky

Special Thanks:

Barry Lonik, Darrin Greenawalt, Matthew Altruda, Kay & Duane Huff, Deron & Anne Brod, Ed & Julie Zindle, Steve & Diann Meyer, Jason & Suzei Povlich, Kaeli Garcia, Tommy Vanicelli, Fred Ellert, Paula Jones, Chef Brendon Edwards, & The Ark Volunteers

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Please support the musicians you see on this stage tonight by visiting the merchandise table and frequenting their live shows all year round!

You can watch and share the livestream of the Saturday evening performance on The Ragbirds' YouTube channel

Sign up for our email newsletter at www.theragbirds.com

