

'Rock titans' Gov't Mule return to Artpark;

Warren Haynes previews show

BY JOSHUA MALONI
GM/Managing Editor

If you think a jukebox holds a lot of songs, wait 'til you get a load of Warren Haynes.

Of late, the Gov't Mule frontman and former Allman Brothers Band player issued his fourth studio album, "Million Voices Whisper"; he followed that up with "The Whisper Session"; he's about to release the expanded, remixed and remastered version of "Tales of Ordinary Madness," as well as the "Dreams & Songs" symphonic album. ... And when he and his band return to Lewiston on an Aug. 6 headline appearance at Artpark, they'll be playing behind "Peace...Like A River."

"Most tours that we do, we probably play over 100 songs" across the full run, Haynes said in a recent phone interview. "I don't know how many are in our catalog, as far as if you count songs we played once or twice, but it's well over 1,000, I would think."

On any given night, fans might hear songs including "Banks of the Deep End," "Wake Up Dead," "Soulshine" or "Beautifully Broken." With 20-plus albums to date, there's no shortage of material.

Haynes explained, "When we come back to any area, we consult the log of setlists and see what we played the last time and the time before that, and make sure that it's completely different. Also, tonight will be different from last night and the night before. We also try to just take into consideration the energy of the audience, what kind of audience it is, and what kind of songs seem to connect. If it's an outdoor show, it's different. If it's indoor, it's



Warren Haynes, second from right, and Gov't Mule. (Photo credit: Emily Butler // courtesy of PRESS HERE)

different. And, of course, a lot of it's just based on what we feel like playing. We want to do a different show every night for ourselves, first and foremost, to keep ourselves fresh and happy; but the audience embraces that, as well.

"A lot of our audience keeps coming back to multiple shows, and I meet people all the time that say, 'Oh, tonight's my 50th show,' or 'Tonight's my 100th show,' or whatever the case is, and I'm extremely grateful for that. Still a little mind-boggling."

"I think if we were one of those bands that played the same 15

songs, the same way, night after night, that wouldn't be the case."

For "Peace...Like A River," Gov't Mule was forced to go backward – not musically, but in terms of recording. Normally, the band would play new songs live – take them out and give them some air and room to grow – before getting into the studio and making them permanent.

"The COVID lockdown forced all of us into rethinking our strategies, especially people in the music business," Haynes said. "And for me, that translated to writing as much music as I could. That was my way

of dealing or coping, and I wound up writing more music than I've written in decades.

"We felt like, since we had all this time on our hands, we should just go into the studio and make two records at the same time, which we did. But we weren't able to test drive any of it in front of an audience; and we weren't able to really go into rehearsal mode, other than going straight into the studio and rehearsing there. So, it forced us to take a different approach to the recording, which wound up being not only fun but very rewarding."

He added, "A lot of bands work that way and really enjoy it. I think the Rolling Stones worked that way a lot. But it was just a different way to make a record – but a necessary method, I think – and I'm really happy with the way it turned out."

Now that the new Gov't Mule songs have been shared, "some of them have changed quite drastically – but that's always the case," Haynes said. "When you play a song the 50th time or the 100th time ... sometimes they grow in ways that you wouldn't have expected or predicted."

"There are songs like 'The River Only Flows One Way' – that song is different every time we play it, and that's the way it should be. What we captured on the studio recording is where it was at that moment, which we're really proud of. But we're not looking to recreate that, because it was so improvisational in nature, that we want to take that same spirit on a nightly basis. There are other ones, like 'Gone Too Long,' that's changed a little bit. It's become a little more of a rock song. 'Same As It Ever Was,' we're play-

ing with a similar arrangement, but it's grown in some interesting ways, as well. Some of the more song-oriented ones don't change as much through the years."

JJ Grey & Mofro will provide support for the "Kicking in your Stall" show at Artpark.

"We love those guys," Haynes said. "We've done shows together in the past, and they're fantastic. It'll be a wonderful evening of music."

"Of course, we love Artpark. We've played there many times. We're just looking forward to a great night."

He added, "That area has always been really good to Gov't Mule ever since we started in 1994. I guess it's that area just has a lot of serious music fans – you know, people that take music as a big, important part of their life. So many of our fans are really fanatical about music, and I love that. And the Buffalo area seems to have an abundance of those kind of folks."

Later this year, Gov't Mule will hit the road with another Artpark regular: Ziggy Marley.

"We've been friends for a long time," Haynes said. "We've shared the stage together a few times. He sat in with The Allman Brothers going back over 10 years ago. He and I wrote a couple of songs together – one of which is called 'Dreaming The Same Dream,' which is the title of our tour. That song appeared on my live album, 'Live at Moody Theater.' The other song we wrote together has never been recorded, so I'm hoping to brush that one off, too, and see where it goes."

Tickets for Gov't Mule are on sale now. Visit www.artpark.net.

BEST OF

Savory Summer EATS & TREATS

Voting Has Begun...

ENTER TO WIN A GIFT CERTIFICATE FROM AN AREA BUSINESS

From June 12 through August 28, vote for your favorite Summer Eats & Treats by filling out the entry blank below or visiting www.wnypapers.com. The winner of each category will be featured in the Niagara County Tribune/Sentinel - Island Dispatch.

When you cast a vote, you'll be entered to win a monthly prize.

Winners will be selected by random draw and notified by phone or email.

Visit www.wnypapers.com/2026-Savory-Summer-rules for a complete set of rules & to enter online.

NO PHOTOCOPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED

CATEGORIES

1. Best Summer Dining Spot

2. Best Custard or Ice Cream

3. Best Milkshake

4. Best Hot Dog

5. Best Hamburger

6. Best BBQ (Ribs, Chicken, Pork)

7. Best Fries

Name (Full):

Phone Number:

Email:

nfp

Since 1944

DROP OFF OR MAIL TO:

Niagara Frontier Publications

1859 Whitehaven Rd., Grand Island, NY, 14072

or visit www.wnypapers.com/savorysummer26

186th

ERIE COUNTY

FAIR

August 12-23, 2026

THE BUFFALO NEWS

GRANDSTAND

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

BUY ONLINE AT ECFAIR.ORG

Channel 4 Concert Series

FREE SHOW! August 12 Marshall Charloff & Purple Xperience	FREE SHOW! August 13 The Marshall Tucker Band	AN OUTRAGEOUS CONCERT HAPPY TOGETHER TOUR 2026	August 15 Joe Nichols, Phil Vassar & Mark Wills
August 16 Max McNow with special guest Waylon Wyatt	FREE SHOW! August 17 That Arena Rock Show	August 18 Blues Traveler, Gin Blossoms & Spin Doctors	August 19 Jeff Foxworthy
FREE SHOW! August 20 Gary Lewis & The Playboys	August 21 Monster Truck Smash	August 22 Ultimate Night of Destruction	2 SHOWS! August 23 Demolition Derby

Grandstand tickets purchased in advance include admission to the Fair on the day of the show. Purchase online at ECFair.org. Free shows included in Fair gate admission.