

Bright Eyes to perform at Artpark on July 27

Lettuce booked for July 14; 'FREE Family Saturdays' starts June 19

Bright Eyes will perform on the Artpark Amphitheater stage at 6 p.m. Tuesday, July 27. The concert is part of the "Coors Light Concerts" series and presented by Artpark and Funtime.

Tickets go on sale at noon Friday, June 11, and cost \$40.50 for general admission (standing-room-only). Prices include a facility fee. Additional fees apply for online orders. Prices increase by \$5 starting Tuesday, July 27. Purchase online at ticketmaster.com. The Artpark box office remains closed for in-person purchases.

Artpark & Company sent over the band's bio, which reads:

Sometimes it feels like you hear a Bright Eyes song with your whole body. From Conor Oberst's early recordings in an Omaha basement in 1995 all the way up to 2020, Bright Eyes' music tries to unravel the impossible tangles of dissent: personal and political, external and internal. It's a study of the beauty in unsteadiness in all its forms – in a voice, beliefs, love, identity, and what fills up the spaces in-between. And in so many ways, it's just about searching for a way through.

The year 2020 was full of significant anniversaries for Bright Eyes. "Fevers and Mirrors" had been released 20 years ago in May, while "Digital Ash in a Digital Urn" and "I'm Wide Awake It's Morning" both turned 15 in January 2020. The latter, a singer-songwriter tour-de-force released amidst the Bush presidency and Iraq war, wades through incisive antiwar rhetoric and micro, intimate calamities. On the title track and throughout the record, Oberst sings about body counts in the newspaper, televised wars, the bottomless pit of American greed, struggling to understand the world alongside one's own turmoil.

In its own way, "I'm Wide Awake It's Morning" carved out its place in the canon of great antiwar albums by being both present and prophetic, its urgency enduring 15-plus years later.

In 2011, the release of "The People's Key," Bright Eyes' ninth album, ushered in an unofficial hiatus for the beloved project. In the time since, the work of the band's core members – Oberst, multiinstrumentalist Mike Mogis, and multiinstrumentalist Nathaniel Walcott – has remained omnipresent, through both the members' original work and collaboration.

Bright Eyes hiatus was to end in 2020, until the pandemic forced the cancellation of their tour.

Artpark stated it "is committed to keeping all visitors, employees and artists safe and continues to work closely with New York state officials to revise and implement health and safety protocols. At this time, all activities are subject to New York state COVID-19 guidelines. For details, please visit (Artpark.net). As official local health guidelines evolve regarding COVID-19 safety protocols, Artpark may shift seating configurations and increase capacity."

Lettuce to perform at Artpark on July 14

Part of 'Coors Light Concerts' series

Lettuce will perform on the



Artpark Amphitheater stage at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 14. The concert is part of the "Coors Light Concerts" series.

Lettuce both feeds the rich history of funk and also combines it with strains of hip-hop, rock, psychedelia, jazz, soul and go-go. The Grammy Award-nominated six-piece – Adam Deitch (drums, percussion, arrangement), Adam "Shmeeans" Smirnoff (guitar), Erick "Jesus" Coomes (bass), Ryan Zoidis (alto, baritone, tenor sax, Korg X-911), Eric "Benny" Bloom (trumpet, horns) and Nigel Hall (vocals, Hammond B-3, Rhodes, clavinet, keyboards) – once again break rules, push boundaries, and uplift on their sixth full-length studio offering, "Resonate" (Round Hill Records).

To date, the group's discography comprises "Outta Here" (2002), "Rage!" (2008), "Fly" (2012), "Crush" (2015), the EP "Mt. Crushmore" (2016), the live album "Witches Stew" (2017) and "Elevate" (2019). The latter lifted Lettuce to new heights. Notably, it garnered a 2020 Grammy nomination in the category of "Best Contemporary Instrumental Album" and bowed at No. 1 on both the Billboard contemporary jazz albums chart and iTunes top R&B albums chart.

"Elevate" also soared to the Top 15 on the Billboard jazz albums, R&B album sales and "Heatseekers" charts. Not to mention, it put up 3 million streams within six months, and simultaneously received acclaim from national media outlets.

Throughout 2019, Lettuce siphoned all of this energy back into the studio. Written and recorded during the same Colorado Sound sessions that spawned "Elevate," the band brought "Resonate" to life alongside iconic producer and engineer Russ Elevado (D'Angelo, The Roots, Erykah Badu). Lettuce introduces this chapter with the first single "Checker Wrecker" featuring Washington, D.C., go-go music legends Big Tony Fisher of Trouble Funk and Tyrone

"Jungle Boogie" Williams of Rare Essence.

Tickets for Artpark go on sale at noon Friday, June 11, and cost \$30 for general admission (standing-room-only). Prices include facility fee; additional fees apply for online orders. Ticket fee increases by \$5 starting Sunday, July 11. Purchase online at ticketmaster.com only. The Artpark box office remains closed for in-person purchases.

'FREE Family Saturdays'

Beginning June 19 in Artpark Amphitheater

Artpark & Company announces "FREE Family Saturdays" as part of its summer season. Programming is offered from noon until 4 p.m. June 19 through Aug. 28 inside the Artpark Amphitheater, 450 S. Fourth St., Lewiston.

A press release stated, "Summer is for families at Artpark, where afternoons are filled with creative hands-on discovery (arts and crafts, stories and workshops) and live performances for all ages. This year, the series' popular activities of pottery and hands-on crafts will be enhanced



Bright Eyes and "FREE Family Saturdays" (Images courtesy of Artpark & Company)

with a new program curated by Artpark's Indigenous Arts Producer Michele-Elise Burnett: 'Indigenous Ways of Knowing,' a slew of educational fun activities for all ages; treaty teachings and wampum bracelets workshops, soap carvings, 'Sonic' storytelling, Haudenosaunee dance performance, cornhusk doll workshop, as well as a performance 'Branche' by an innovative circus company, Cirque Barcode."

The family stage is a place to play – and where the audience will experience "Indigenous Ways of Knowing." Expressive Native American culture will be shared through interactive, land-based workshops, storytelling and teachings by respected local knowledge keepers in their disciplines. Visitors will explore, discover and be part of the unique culture, traditions and passed-down heritage of the People of Turtle Island. "Talking Turtle Stories" will kick off the season with traditional master storyteller and Turtle Clan member of the

Onondaga Nation Perry Ground, who will share several Haudenosaunee stories that have been passed down from time immortal. Artpark said Ground's presentations are "very energetic, fun, engaging" and he makes the audience part of the story experience.

This program is sponsored in part by Perry's Ice Cream with additional support from The John R. Oishei Foundation and First Niagara Foundation in collaboration with KeyBank.

Admission and parking is free and all lots are accessible to the amphitheater. For more information or to register, visit artpark.net.

Schedule

Pottery and painting is available each week. Workshops also are offered. Preregistration is required for some activities, as participation is limited at certain sessions.

Titles and themes include: ✓ Saturday, June 19: "Art of Niagara and Onondaga"

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