



VINTAGE BAND FESTIVAL

Official Program



AUGUST 2, 2025

**Bridge Square
Downtown Northfield**



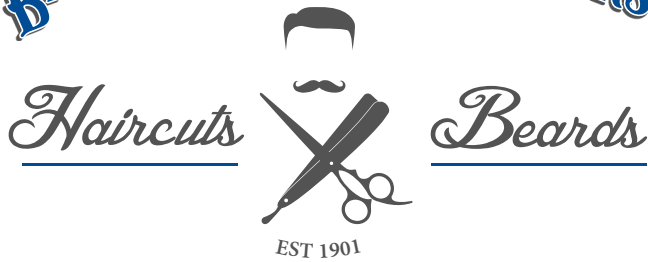
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Festival Schedule

9am

New Prague Community Band

10am

Sheldon Theatre Brass Band

11am

Jack Brass Band

12pm

Bavarian Musikmeisters

1pm

The Freier Department

2pm

Brio Brass

3pm

Lake Wobegon® Brass Band

4pm

Southside Aces

5:15pm

La Clave Orchestra

6:45pm

Selby Avenue Brass Band
featuring Thomasina Petrus

8:30pm

RLC Jazz

Schedule subject to change as needed.

Welcome to the 2025 Vintage Band Festival!

Greetings! Once again we gather in Bridge Square along the banks of the Cannon River to hear wind band music from across the region. We welcome back Southside Aces and Brio Brass, whom we haven't seen for several years, and give a shout out to RLC Jazz, a big band from Roseville, MN, that is appearing at Vintage Band Festival for the first time.

What's new at Vintage Band Festival? We recently established an investment fund for those who may be interested in a legacy gift to the festival. We want to ensure that keeping this musical tradition alive for future generations requires a financial strategy that looks beyond the next 12 months. More information about the Vintage Band Festival Fund can be found on our website, www.vintagebandfestival.org.

This is Vintage Band Festival's 19th season and we continue to be profoundly grateful to our loyal donors, volunteers, musicians, and audiences who have supported us through the years. 2026 will be our 20th Anniversary year and we will present a multi-day festival to celebrate that milestone: July 30-August 2, 2026. Save the date!

I hope that you will do a little exploring of beautiful downtown Northfield while you're here and that you will return in the future to explore further. Enjoy the music!

— Dan Bergeson
Festival President

A Message from the Artistic Director



Paul Niemisto

The Vintage Band Festival Board of Directors and I are delighted to welcome you to Vintage Band Festival 2025. A special welcome to those of you who are here for the first time. When you get back home, tell your friends about your experience.

Vintage Band Festival has become a cherished tradition in the region by featuring compelling history, interesting music and diverse culture to make a magical experience. The many bands traveling here from all over the state continue to see Vintage Band Festival as a special destination. Vintage Band Festival has trod a large footprint for Minnesota tourism and regional culture. The dream that was in my head in 2006 has certainly exceeded all expectations.

We hope the combination of a beautiful town sensitive to its history, with an audience looking for something special and bands who are dedicated to quality and authenticity, all come together to create wonderful experiences and lasting memories.

Remember that your generous financial support enables our festival to succeed, now and in the future. Please stop by the Vintage Band Festival Information Tent and make a donation if you can!

— Paul Niemisto
Festival Founder & Artistic Director

Save the Dates!

December 6, 2025: Tuba Christmas in Northfield
July 30-August 2, 2026: Vintage Band Festival 2026

Land Acknowledgment Statement:

We stand on the homelands of the Wahpekute and other Bands of the Dakota Nation. We honor with gratitude the people who have stewarded the land throughout the generations and their ongoing contributions to this region. We acknowledge the ongoing injustices that we have committed against the Dakota Nation, and we wish to interrupt this legacy, beginning with acts of healing and honest storytelling about this place.

Adopted by the Northfield City Council, November 17, 2020

SATURDAY, AUGUST 2



New Prague Area Community Band

Website: npacb.com

The New Prague Area Community Band is a dynamic, non-profit organization of volunteer musicians who share a love for playing music that entertains diverse audiences. Our members range from high school students to grandparents, united in their passion for making music that's enjoyable for all.

Band Sponsor
Dan Bergeson
& **Tripp Ryder**



Sheldon Theatre Brass Band

Website: sheldonthatrebrassband.org

The Sheldon Theatre Brass Band was founded in 1989 as the resident performing ensemble at the newly-restored, turn-of-the-century T. B. Sheldon Theatre in Red Wing. The band is made up of cornets, trombones, tenor horns, euphoniums, tubas and percussion. They use the instrumentation of the traditional British Brass Band and play a broad variety of musical styles including original pieces for brass and percussion, marches, orchestral transcriptions, and unique arrangements for brass. In addition to regular performances at the Sheldon Theatre, the band performs at a variety of venues throughout Minnesota and western Wisconsin and has performed at many brass band festivals throughout the United States, including NABBA Great American Brass Band Festival. Jim Kurschner is the Director of the band.

Band Sponsor
Jayne Hager Dee

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PLEASE TAKE OUR SURVEY!!

In order to gather feedback on how effective our communication is, who our audience is, and what future improvements could be made to Vintage Band Festival, we have created a short survey for you to take.

The survey has 10 questions and will take only 2 minutes to complete. Please scan the QR code on this page to access the survey. The survey will be open from August 2-4, 2025. Thanks for your help!!





Jack Brass Band

Website: jackbrassband.com

Based on the traditions of New Orleans brass bands, the Jack Brass Band is an ambassador of the Crescent City's rich musical history. The eight-piece band plays "Feel-Good Music" for audiences of any age and any occasion. JBB has the ability and repertoire to play everything from old New Orleans jazz from Louis Armstrong's era, to the modern street Mardi-Gras anthems with the instrumentation, feel and energy they have mastered through countless gigs, parades, festival appearances and trips to New Orleans to listen, learn and play alongside the masters.

Band Sponsor

Ronald Linde

11:00am



Bavarian Musikmeisters

Website: musikmeisters.com

The Bavarian Musikmeisters are a 35-member wind instrument band from the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota that have been sharing the beauty, enjoyment, and history of traditional Germanic band music and culture with people of all ages at festivals, park concerts, senior residences and private parties since 1985.

The Musikmeisters are modeled after the traditional village bands found in the German-speaking areas of Europe. Their attire, instrumentation, and musical arrangements of marches, polkas, waltzes, folk dances, and ballads are all authentic.

Band Sponsor

Gerry & Carol Gengenbach

12:00pm



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August 2



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Vintage etc.

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The Freier Department

Website: ethanfreiermusic.com

The Freier Department is a seven-piece band that effortlessly plays nasty funk, swingin' jazz, and driving Latin music. Ethan Freier, leader and trombonist, has been a band director in Northfield for 25 years while continuing a busy freelance schedule in the Twin Cities. In The Freier Department, Ethan is joined in the horn section by Rich Manik on saxophone and Bob Case on trumpet. These are horn players that can blow!

The amazing rhythm section of Bill Chouinard on bass, Northfield resident Steve Jennings on drums, Chris Olson on guitar, and Ted Godbout on keys will keep the grooves deep and the jazz smokin'. Freier's arrangements of classic funk and jazz tunes are fresh and exciting. The Freier Department will also be performing some of Freier's original compositions, which can be heard on their 2021 album "Dysfunktion." When you hear this band, you'll know why these are some of the most sought-after musicians in the Twin Cities.

Band Sponsor
Bonnie Jean Flom
& Greg Norman

1:00pm



Brio Brass

Website: briobrass.com

Brio Brass has delighted and entertained audiences throughout Minnesota's Twin Cities Metro area since 1999. Composed of more than 50 adult musicians, the group performs its own unique arrangements written specifically for its members. The ensemble's large repertoire features a broad spectrum of musical styles. Audiences are entertained with fluid ballads, pop of all eras, show tunes, funky rock and lots of jazz. All of the music that Brio Brass plays has been composed or arranged by the director, Rick Rueckert. He has written more than 200 arrangements and compositions. Expect lots of humming, toe tapping and even dancing in the aisles!

Band Sponsor

Joanne Stohl

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2:00pm

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Lake Wobegon® Brass Band

Website: lwbb.org

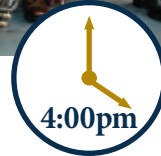
The Lake Wobegon® Brass Band is a British-style Brass Band from Anoka. The British style is a tradition noted for its characteristic dark, mellow tone. The name Lake Wobegon® does come from Garrison Keillor's radio show, A Prairie Home Companion, and was allowed on the stipulation that the band perform at a picnic sometime for Keillor. The ensemble gives concerts throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa and the Dakotas and has toured twice in Great Britain. The band is led by Dr. Matthew George. Lake Wobegon® Brass Band is a Vintage Band Festival veteran performer.



Southside Aces

Website: southsideaces.com

The Southside Aces perform traditional New Orleans jazz. The six-member band began as the brainchild of clarinetist Tony Balluff and sousaphone player Erik Jacobson. The Aces possess a diverse repertoire, with a roll call that includes the names of Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, Hoagy Carmichael, Duke Ellington and Bix Beiderbecke. The Southside Aces have performed at the Vieux Carré and Dakota jazz clubs, Crooners Supper Club, Twin Cities Jazz Fest, and the Minnesota Orchestra Sommerfest. The band has also played events in Chicago, Denver, and Des Moines. The Southside Aces are appearing for the third time at Vintage Band Festival.



Band Sponsor

**Peter Webb
& Karen Saxe**

Bridge Chamber Music Festival

2025 • NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA

Festival Concert I • Tues., August 19 • 7:30 p.m.

Carleton College, Kracum Performance Hall

The Artaria String Quartet performs works by Mozart, the Sri Lanka native Dinuk Wijeratne, and Felix Mendelssohn

Young Artist Recital • Thurs., August 21 • 7:30 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran Church

Young Artist Recital with collaborative pianist Alex Woods

Festival Concert II • Fri., August 22 • 7:30 p.m.

The Grand Event Center, Northfield

An evening of Tango music featuring the Charles Gorchynski Tango Quartet

Festival Concert III

Sun., August 24 • 3:00 p.m.

St. Olaf College, Urness Recital Hall

The Artaria String Quartet, with guest clarinetist Aileen Razey, performs works by Mozart and the American jazz pianist Billy Childs



This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a grant from the Southeastern Minnesota Arts Council thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts & cultural heritage fund.

For more information, visit
www.bridgechambermusicfestival.com



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5:15pm

La Clave Orchestra

Website: facebook.com/laclaveorchestra

La Clave Orchestra is a Twin Cities-based, 12-piece band depending on your needs and budgets, bringing music from the Latin-American/Spanish-speaking regions. Established with the drive to provide great music for the Twin Cities salsa fans, the musicians of La Clave Orchestra represent some of the finest among the Twin Cities. They perform many styles of music including salsa, montuno, guaguanco, cumbia, to name a few.

La Clave Orchestra performs locally at several venues, Latin festivals, private events and other locations. If you are looking for the best salsa music entertainment available in the Twin Cities, be sure to follow them on social media. This is La Clave Orchestra's first appearance at Vintage Band Festival.

Band Sponsor

Brian & Pam Hutton



6:45pm

Selby Avenue Brass Band featuring Thomasina Petrus

Website: selbyavebrassband.com

The Selby Avenue Brass Band is a relatively new voice in the Minneapolis/St. Paul music scene. The group is led by Tom Wells, tubist, arranger and composer and music educator in the Twin Cities area. Tom's compositions and arrangements fuel a band comprised of enthusiastic and experienced musicians (including a couple of Grammy winners). While their musical roots come from the streets of New Orleans, they expand from that genre into many others. Thomasina Petrus is a Minneapolis actor and jazz vocalist, known for her signature role as jazz icon Billie Holiday. Selby Avenue Brass Band is a veteran Vintage Band Festival ensemble.

Band Sponsor

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- 7a. Measuring Cup
- 7b. Monarch
8. Riverwalk Market Fair
9. Verbena Vinyl
10. Vintage etc.

Business

11. Aldrich Technology
12. Bridge Square Barbers
13. C21/Professional Pride Realty



RLC Jazz

Website: rlcjazz.org

RLC Jazz, an 18-piece big band, was formed in 2005 by members and friends of Roseville Lutheran Church (RLC) and is led by John Helgen on keyboard. The band's first event was the Roseville Lutheran New Year's Eve service on December 31, 2005. They now play a free concert every New Year's Eve, and it has become a very popular event. Listeners and dancers are both welcome!

The band also plays for Sunday morning worship, concerts, and other events throughout the year, utilizing a wide variety of repertoire ranging from big band standards to contemporary jazz to arrangements of hymns. They have played numerous venues including riverboat cruises, weddings, ballroom dances, community events (Taste of Rosefest) and even went on tour in 2016!

Band Sponsor

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In Memoriam

John Ferguson, musician friend and military vehicle enthusiast

Anne Falvey Riggs, beloved teacher, loyal donor and mother of Vintage Band Festival board secretary Joy Riggs

Clark Ohnesorge, Vintage Band Festival volunteer, member of Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra and great friend

Gary Meidt, former member of Northfield Community Band, Bridge Square Band, FiftyNorth Band and Cannon Valley Regional Orchestra

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