



Lincoln Association For Traditional Arts

Since 1982. News To Put A Little LAFTA In Your Life !

Will this be LAFTA's last season?

The LAFTA board has been reviewing the LAFTA budget and are facing grim news. Attendance for our concerts has been decreasing over the past few years. The cost for performers has been increasing and fixed costs are rising. Ticket sales and memberships along with a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council and the Give To Lincoln Day proceeds are our main source of funding.

Unfortunately the costs are exceeding the income. LAFTA is an all volunteer organization and no funding is spent on board members or volunteers. We do pay for the professional sound technician but at an almost volunteer rate. A substantial donation this month from a member has allowed us the income to finish this season with a small residual to start next season, but it will be close.

In reviewing the budget, the board has determined that in order to keep the program going, we need to increase audience. We need to increase our membership. We need to ask more folks to purchase the next level or two of membership up from the basic (\$20) If we can increase the audience size by 30 people per concert or increase our membership by only 15, we can continue this season and work towards next season. That's how close our budget is. We are cutting costs anywhere we can, but we run a tight ship and there's no fat to cut. So, we need your help.

We need board members. We should have 9 members on the board. We are down 4. These are the people that make sure the performers are lined up and paid, that get the stage and chairs set up, that buy and sell the concessions, that put out the news letter and emails and do the advertising and website. Thirty eight years ago, we were in our 30's and full of vim and vigor. It's now grandmas and grandpas running the organization with plenty of vim but not as much vigor. And we're running with half as many people as we need. It's a volunteer job, but you get to meet the performers and attend the concert free. And it's been some fantastic music over the years! Your service as a board member can help us continue to provide this music.

This is the time of year when we line up next year's performance schedule. We want to make sure we can afford to do this and we need your help to do so. This has been a fantastic organization for the past 38 years, bringing in music that you just don't hear in Lincoln in an excellent venue that puts you within feet of the performers, with excellent sound and comfortable seating, free parking and affordable tickets. Plus you get discounted tickets with a paid membership.

We've worked hard to accomplish this and are willing to continue working hard with your help. Bring a friend and introduce them to LAFTA and the wonderful music we provide. Buy a membership. We'll take donations if you so desire. Volunteer for the board and help us find ways to move forward. We're open to suggestions to increase the audience or improve the program. And with your help, we'll continue to proceed forward and bring more wonderful music. Memberships and tickets are available online. Ask any board member how you can help. It's been an awesome 38 years and we hope it continues.

Andrea von Kampen on main stage, January 11, 2020.



Lincoln's own Andrea von Kampen has been looming larger and larger on the regional and national musical radar, so we felt it would be a good time to bring her to the main stage. If you haven't caught one of Andrea's shows in the area, you're in for a treat. Her vocal range and guitar accompaniment complement her songwriting perfectly. She has recorded three albums (EPs Desdemona and Another Day, and full-length CD Old Country). Andrea will be joined by Jessica Hanson on violin and Stephen Cantarero on bass.

Show starts at 7:30 pm. LAFTA Main Stage events take place at the The 7th Street Loft, 504 South 7th Street, on the 3rd floor of The Bridge. Free parking.

UPCOMING EVENTS TO LAFTA MAIN STAGE

LAFTA Main Stage events take place at the The 7th Street Loft, 504 South 7th Street, on the 3rd floor of The Bridge. All concerts start at 7:30 pm.



Saturday, February 15, 2020 - FY5 (formerly Finnders & Youngberg)

FY5 are pioneering a new American roots music based in the fertile ground of Colorado. Bluegrass harmonies, crisp as a mountain stream, meld with virtuosic picking and fiddling and the kind of honest acknowledgment of the tough realities of life that's best found in traditional honky-tonk. "We're proud to have come from the traditional folk and bluegrass school," says bandleader Mike Finders, "yet we put all that aside and do our best to build the songs honestly, creatively, with no predetermined agenda to play this or that kind of music." Aaron Youngberg (banjo and pedal steel), Erin Youngberg (vocals and bass), Rich Zimmerman (mandolin), and Ryan Drickey (fiddle) round out this exciting quintet.



Saturday, March 28, 2020 - Moors & McCumber

James Moors and Kort McCumber are a duo that synthesizes a wide palette of musical styles and genres--70s pop, bluegrass, country, Irish, and American folk, among others--into a coherent and unique sound. Likewise, they utilize several different instruments to add to the variety in their songs. These include guitar, banjo, mandolin, cello, fiddle, and bouzouki. On top of all this are layered solid songwriting and excellent vocal harmonies. This level of instrumental ability and singing/songwriting together is a rare find! They have seven albums to date so have a large body of original material to draw from for their shows.



Saturday, April 18, 2020 - Matt & Shannon Heaton

Matt and Shannon Heaton have become a mainstay of the LAFTA stage due to their warmth and virtuosity. Although they hail from a Celtic background, they have each spent considerable amounts of time steeping themselves in a very diverse mix of other musical traditions. They have a fine repertoire of original songs in addition to a solid command of Celtic traditional tunes. They seamlessly blend a variety of different instruments (guitar, accordion, Irish flute, bouzouki) into their musical presentations.



Saturday, May 16, 2020 - Joe Crookston

LAFTA favorite Joe Crookston is a songwriter, singer, guitarist, painter, fiddler, banjo player, eco-village member and believer in all things possible. Joe lives in Ithaca NY and tours regularly in the US, Ireland, and Canada. In his songs he is plumbing for lyrical gold, like some kind of social archeologist. His story songs are universal, his rhythm infectious, and in concert he is funny one moment and transcendent the next. Whether he's picking his 48 Gibson, weaving through lap slide tunes or looping his fiddle, he will draw you in.

FIRST SATURDAY CONTRA DANCES

An evening of dancing, fun, friends, and great snacks! Come join us! Every first Saturday at 7th Street Loft, 504 South 7th Street, 3rd floor, Lincoln, NE 68508.. Live music, calling, good food and good fun! No partner necessary - just wear comfortable shoes and a smile! Bring your friends! Suggested donations are: Students \$5.00 Adults \$8.00 and 12 and under are Free. Maximum \$20 per family.



A great big LAFTA Thank You goes to THE MILL Coffee Shop for their kind coffee donation for our concerts. Stop by at 800 P St in Lincoln NE for a cup of the finest!

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The LAFTA newsletter is published several times annually by the Lincoln Association for Traditional Arts. P O Box 30561, Lincoln NE 68503. LAFTA is a non profit organization committed to the promotion of folk music and folk arts in the Lincoln Area. For membership or other information, please call (402)580-8656 or check the website at www.lafta.net.
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2020 PLAINSONG FOLK FESTIVAL

Keep an eye on their website for information.
www.Plainsongfestival.com

