

8 bands scheduled in Friday night concert series



Courtesy photo The Accidentals

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GAYLORD —

The Gaylord Downtown Development Authority and presenting sponsors Sidock Group and Gaylord Walmart are hosting a series of eight concerts at the Pavilion on Court throughout this summer.

“We’re very excited about this new season,” said Justin Burchett, DDA director. “Most groups are original acts, not cover groups. They represent a wide range of music. All of the groups are from Michigan.”

This year’s concert series will run from 6 to 9 p.m. The first hour will feature some local acts — soloists and duets. Burchett said the DDA is still looking for a few musical acts to fill in these opening spots.

Also sought by organizers are some fine artists who would be willing to display their work during the concert evenings.

Musicians and artists who are interested in participating in the Friday Night Concert Series can contact Burchett at (989) 732-4060 or dda@cityofgaylord.org.

According to information provided by ShopGaylordDowntown.com, the following bands will be featured on Friday nights:

June 20 — The Accidentals

Blair Hornbeck, of the Ann Arbor Indie Music Examiner, has said, “The entire package of The Accidentals could never be mistaken for anything other than The Accidentals, and this is what makes them future folk darlings. The musicianship and delicate preciseness to their music is unparalleled to anything else we’ve heard from talents of this age. Some of the harmonies these two produce, with two very distinct voices, are matured well beyond their years. Combine that with their vast instrumental depth, and these two ladies already have a crowning achievement that will impress even the biggest names in music. It may be difficult to label artists so young as captivating, but really, The Accidentals are just that.”

June 27 — Graham Parsons & the Go Rounds

This act has been described as high-energy twang-rock and jelly-roll. Led by singer/songwriter Graham Parsons, The Go Rounds are a furious live act and progressive recording unit, fueled by the history of its diverse lineup and a collaborative spirit injected into everything from songwriting to arranging. Equally inspired by their record collections as the beauty of the Great Lakes State, the band explores soul music, baroque folk, art rock, country and classic rock ‘n’ roll.

July 11 — Dragon Wagon

Formed in Ann Arbor in 2008, Dragon Wagon is roots music at its finest. Their high-energy mix of bluegrass, rock and folk with just a shot of Irish whiskey is guaranteed to get any crowd dancing, laughing and singing along. Guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo, bass, drums and harmony vocals bring honest original music and tasty covers to life with expert musicianship and a genuine crowd connection. Dragon Wagon has earned the respect of its peers and the love of fans across the country with their Fine Mitten Spirits. July 25 — Scott Pellegrom and SNB

Scott Pellegrom and Super Natural Bang has been rising up the ranks of the music scene in Michigan over the past couple of years. Led by Pellegrom, a world-renowned rhythmist, clinician and teacher, the group is a unique blend of funk, soul, jazz and electronic music featuring original compositions, covers and remakes of popular tunes.

Aug. 1 — The Cookies

The Cookies are pure, toe-tapping, hip swinging, dance-pop gold. At one of their live shows, you’ll hear hits from the ‘60s Motown era, ‘70s gems like “Funky Town,” ‘80s classics like Michael Jackson’s “Billie Jean” or the B-52’s “Love Shack,” and even a few modern hits like MGMT’s “Electric Feel” or Bruno Mars’ “Treasure” thrown in to round things out. Each of these songs are played with obvious love and devotion to the original material but with the fresh energy that only a bunch of young folks from Northern Michigan can add to songs that we all know and love.

Aug. 8 — Kellerville

Kellerville is both real and imagined. On the edge of Lake Michigan, nestled in the crook of willow trees in Cross Village is a tiny part of town where Lee Dyer and Holly Keller both grew up playing music. After many years of separate creation they formed an original acoustic duo to bring them back to the town that wrought them, and bring a new age to the folks who came before. With songs of storytelling and personal experience, let Lee and Holly paint you a picture of home with a song. Welcome to Kellerville.

Aug. 15 — E Minor

Originally from the Mackinaw City/Cheboygan area, E Minor is now based in Traverse City. Elizabeth Minor has been a singer/songwriter practically from birth. She started out playing with her father and sisters as a child, and by the age of 11, she grew into her own in music.

E Minor has played all over Northern and some lower parts of Michigan, as well as Southern Oregon and Ireland. Catch her playing as a duo, with bass player Caul Bluhm who is famous for the “Cauldron” upright bass, handcrafted out of an oil drum, and occasionally with a classic array of instruments including guitar, drums and trumpet. Either way, you are in for a show full of originality and style.

Aug. 22 — Fauxgrass

The Fauxgrass approach to music, original and traditional, has quickly landed them a place in the progressive bluegrass community since their 2011 inception. With a fresh, playful and heartfelt approach to structure, Fauxgrass performances flow between genres with unique instrumental communication.

They have toured extensively through the Midwest, Colorado and northeast coast, as well as establishing themselves as a regular presence in the Michigan music scene. They are continuing to build momentum as their unique songwriting and fun performances find enthusiastic reception around the region. Their creative approach to a familiar musical style is a breath of fresh air and something worth experiencing for the acoustic music lover.