



## Newsletter

**February 2025**



### **Building a life and career in music: Charlie Mosbrook**

Music has been a part of Charlie Mosbrook's life as far back as he can remember. His household was a musical one — his father a jazz historian. He started playing drums in elementary school and discovered rock and roll in middle school. "I used to go to this deli on Lee Road and load all of my quarters into the video games they had there," he recalls. "One day, I decided, instead, to go into the record store next door and pretty soon, my saved quarters were buying records rather than going toward video games."

First it was the Rolling Stones but soon enough, he was listening to Bob Dylan, The Band, and Woody Guthrie. "I was probably around 15 when I realized I wanted to have a career in music." He began playing guitar and practiced playing and singing along to his records. "Woodie Guthrie, especially, taught me about using my voice to effect change. I was always a kid who stood up for what was right but finding that outlet in music was incredible." He became more focused on folk music, playing in a band and writing original songs.

Mosbrook became involved with Roots of American Music in 2018, initially teaching guitar at the Cleveland Montessori School. In the pandemic, he began working with students in the Stop the Hate program and really found something special to him. "Stop the Hate aligns perfectly with my approach to songwriting," he says. "It speaks to my perspective on the work and of music's place in it. Working with students as they work through their thoughts and feelings is incredible."

Mosbrook's Stop the Hate classes have written contest-winning songs multiple times but the process itself is rewarding, win or lose. "I become a regular part of the classroom," he continues. "By the end of the process — after we've written and recorded our song — we've really accomplished something meaningful."

In addition to Stop the Hate, Mosbrook teaches Blues is the Backbone — enjoying working with younger children on the historical and rhythmical roots of the music in the air all around us. He also leads other special programs as they arise.

"Around the time of the George Floyd protests I was doing Songs for Seniors in the Huff Neighborhood," he remembers. "Hearing how the community has changed since the riots in the 1960s was special. I was able to have conversations and learn about things I wouldn't have otherwise had a chance to hear. I am so grateful to have been able to write songs based on those conversations."

Beyond his work with ROOTS, Mosbrook keeps busy performing locally and regionally — festivals, farmers markets, concert venues, and the like. He is the incoming VP of Folk Alliance International and serves as the chair of the Folk Alliance Midwest Region Virtual Connections Community.

With all of this, he has made good on his teenage goal of building a life and career in music. Performing for folk audiences, working with kids, writing songs based on tough conversations — it all fits together for a musical life. "There's a song within each of us," he says. "The only difference between a professional songwriter and anyone else is that the pros write them down."

Learn more about Charlie Mosbrook at [www.CharlieMosbrook.com](http://www.CharlieMosbrook.com).

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Mark Your Calendar to Attend  
**Oct. 23, 2025**  
at the

**Music Box**

**Crescendo Awards**  
**Celebrating the Heartbeat**  
**of American Music**

Mark your calendar today to attend the ROOTS Crescendo Awards featuring the William Woods Excellence in Teaching Award to a K-12 educator; Recognition Award to the Stop the Hate ROOTS Teaching Artist Composer(s); Partner Agency Recognition, ROOTS Teaching and Performing Artist Recognition, live music, and a Silent Auction!

**[Become a Sponsor of the Crescendo Awards](#)**

[Learn about the 2024 Awards](#)

Watch this space, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn for updates.

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 **SUN**  
**3.23**  
**5PM**

**ROOTS**  
OF AMERICAN MUSIC

**Discover Weekly**

Music with a Mission

**Erin Nicole Neal & The Chill Factors**  
**Esther Fitz**



Join NE Ohio musicians at the [B Side Lounge](#) for a brand-new series. Every Sunday evening from 5 to 8 p.m. B Side Lounge is bringing you a new artist to enjoy and a cause you can get behind! We NEED community and this is a great way to support Greater Cleveland musicians and non-profits who need your ears NOW more than ever.

Sunday, March 23, B Side Lounge is partnering with **Roots of American Music** whose mission is to nourish our neighborhoods with the transformative power of music through education and performance. ROOTS uses live music to educate, inspire, and comfort people in settings where exposure to music performance is limited or non-existent (music deserts). ROOTS serves Northeast Ohio citizens in K-12 schools, residential communities serving seniors, and adult day communities serving the physically and developmentally challenged.

Featured March 23 are **Roots of American Music** performing artists **Esther Fitz** and **Erin Nicole Neal and The Chill Factors**. Esther Fitz is an eclectic entertainer, songwriter, and award-winning vocalist, born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. She has performed on stages across the world. Whether close to home or elsewhere, she is guaranteed to bring energy and passion to any stage. Her most recent recording called *Sweet Things*, is a five-track EP released in the Fall of 2022. When she is not performing, she teaches songwriting and photography.

Multi-instrumentalist Erin Nicole Neal has been performing with her bands all over Ohio and beyond since 2015. In The Chill Factors, Erin leads with vocals, bass, and keys. Praised for unique vocal phrasing and bass technique, she weaves through blues, rock, pop, soul, funk, R&B, and jazz.

**Sun. Mar 23, 2025**

5:30 PM (Doors 5:00 PM)

[B Side Lounge](#)

2785 Euclid Heights Blvd, Cleveland Heights, OH 44106

**The Discover Weekly Series:** Erin Nicole Neal & The Chill Factors and Esther Fitz

Presented with Roots of American Music

FREE - [RSVP for entry HERE](#)

ALL AGES ARE WELCOME

*This weekly series is made possible by a generous grant from the Live Music Society. Their mission is to recognize and protect small venues and listening rooms across the United States so that live music can remain accessible to all.*

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## Give the Gift of Music by Honoring and Celebrating Special People and Events in Your Life

Honor A Special Person  
with a gift to

**ROOTS**  
OF AMERICAN MUSIC



Celebrate A Special Event  
with a gift to

**ROOTS**  
OF AMERICAN MUSIC



Donate in  
Memory of a Loved One  
with a gift to

**ROOTS**  
OF AMERICAN MUSIC



Your special person will receive an acknowledgment by ROOTS of your recognition and how they impacted your life. Memorials will be listed on the ROOTS website, if you choose. (The acknowledgement will not include your donation amount.)

Consider this gift for the special person or event in your life!

Thank you for your support! It makes a difference in the lives of others. Last year ROOTS served over 18,000 Northeast Ohioans due to donors like you!

**Click [HERE](#), select a gift value then check the box-  
"Dedicate this Gift"**

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### Impact of Music Enriches Lives



Performing Artist, Kristine Jackson shared a story that will stay with her from performing music enrichment in senior residential venues.

*"One sweet lady in memory care was having a hard time saying goodbye from a visit with her daughter. The daughter brought her over to me while I played and we got the mother dancing, I kept her engaged and dancing and her daughter gave me a wink as she exited the room. It felt good to help with music even for that one moment."*

*Photo: [baringfoundation.org.uk](http://baringfoundation.org.uk)*

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## Why I support Roots of American Music

I made my first donation to Roots of American Music for their Black History Month Celebration in Feb. 2024. I was inspired by their "Songs of Freedom, Hope, and Peace" concert at Trinity Cathedral and a performance at Marion-Sterling Elementary School in the Central neighborhood of Cleveland.

Music has always been an integral part of my life, sustaining me through tough emotional times, and even financially. Being a piano teacher for 45 years, I have witnessed first-hand the impact of music on children.

I support this nonprofit because they are making a difference in the lives of children through their music education programs. Connecting young ones to music before age ten I feel is vital to their mental and emotional health for their entire lives. My donation makes an impact on the music programs of Roots of American Music who then make an impact on the lives of children. Please join me in making a contribution to ROOTS. Let's continue to support music education in northeast Ohio.

*Diane W.*

*Piano Teacher, ROOTS donor*

## YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS ROOTS PROGRAMS

**ROOTS programs receive just 60% of funding from  
public and private foundations.**

***Consider a recurring monthly donation today so we  
can bring music that changes lives, touches the heart,  
and restores memories and human connection to  
residents of Northeast Ohio.***

**General Donation**

**Impact A Specific Program**

**Crescendo Awards Sponsorships**



*We nourish our neighborhoods with the transformative power of music through education and performance. Your support makes a difference in the lives of kindergarten through 12th grade students as well as families in music deserts, senior communities and adult day centers. The ROOTS Newsletter shares stories of how ROOTS' music changes lives, touches the heart, and restores memories and human connection to residents of Northeast Ohio.*

#### **ROOTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**Joe LaGuardia, Treasurer**

**Rachel Diroll-Zack , Secretary**



*Newsletter*

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A FRIEND OR SEND THEM  
THE LINK TO SIGN UP TO  
RECEIVE IT DIRECTLY

<https://www.rootsofamericanmusic.org/news/>

**We are grateful to our  
Foundation Partners**



## ***Thank You to Our Funders!***

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