



Newsletter

April 2025



**COMMUNITY
PARTNER**



On April 3, Cuyahoga Community College hosted the Maltz Museum's Stop the Hate 2025 awards ceremony. The evening showcased this year's winning essays, poems, and songs, which addressed transgender issues, gender bias, memory care challenges, and other inclusive and anti-bias topics. It was particularly impressive that these were essays, poems, and songs written and composed by junior high and high school students. Hearing from tomorrow's leaders and recognizing their commitment to equity instills hope for a brighter future.

The ceremony included the two winning songs written by students with music facilitated and performed by the students with the ROOTS Teaching Artists. "Stop the Violence," written by Mary Matisak's 3rd Period Class at Milkovich Middle School and composed by Esther Fitz kicked off the evening. "Everyone is Equal," written by Violet Taylor's 7th Period Class at Collinwood High School and composed by Charlie Mosbrook concluded the event.

Attendees also heard from Cleveland Cavaliers Executive Vice President and Chief Impact and Equity Officer Kevin Clayton and Cedric Thorbes, a school superintendent who was a finalist in the 2011 Stop the Hate essay program.

You will be inspired by the experiences and commitments of these northeast Ohio middle and high school students. You can find the essays, poems, and songs [HERE.](#)

Learn more about our community partner and the Stop the Hate program [HERE](#)

Game Night For Good At Main Event-Avon

Have Fun & Support
ROOTS

Music Programs

April 24th

6 p.m.- 9 p.m.

At >>>>>



and



Game Night For Good!

Bring your Family & Friends to the Main Event for Spring Break Fun!
Your fun generates 20% of the 6p-9p revenue to Support ROOTS' Music
Programs in this

Game Night for Good

Thursday, April 24th

6 p.m.-9 p.m.

At [Main Event-Avon](#)

**35605 Chester Rd, Avon, OH 44011
(440) 398-0611**

[RSVP HERE](#)

Main Event-Avon Is FUN!

Walking into a Main Event is like entering a new world of lights, music, entertainment, and laughter. Every Guest is greeted by the genuine, glowing faces of Main Event Team Members as they see splashes of color and new opportunities to play.

Each center is full of passionate, driven people who are serving others and making memories that bring to life our chef-inspired meals, full-service catering with private rooms, high-energy bar with the latest audio-visual technology, space for birthday parties for kids and adults, and party rooms for corporate, school, and league events.

A trip to Main Event is a chance for the whole family to reconnect, celebrate, compete, eat, and play. When you're with us, each and every moment together is the Main Event.

[Family-Friendly Fun, Great Burgers, & Watching Sports](#)

Bowling, Virtual Reality Games, Laser Tag, WORLD on Roblox, Billiards, Classic Games, Mini golf, Escape rooms, Gravity ropes, Multiball, Gel blasters

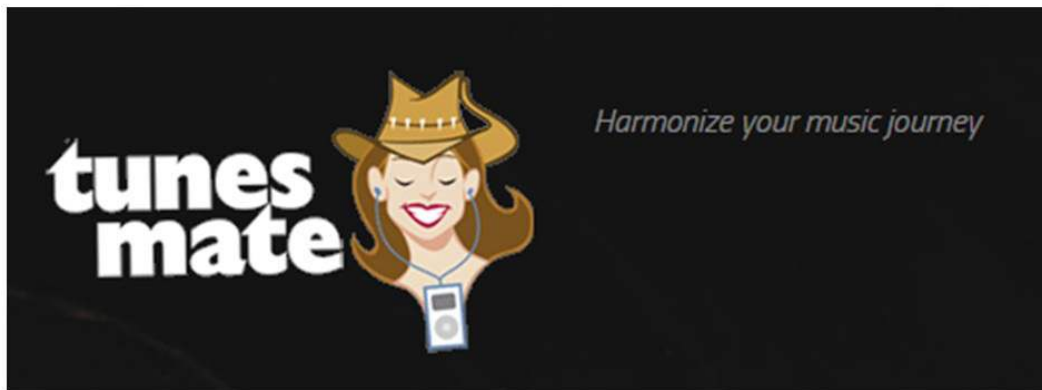
[Cafe and Bar](#)

[Learn more about Roots of American Music](#)

Show your support of ROOTS' Game Night for Good and let us know you are planning for fun April 24 from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. [RSVP HERE](#)

Guests at Main Event pay for their own games and food: 20% of total revenue for the 6p-9p timeframe, April 24th is donated to Roots of American Music by Main Event-Avon in support of ROOTS' music programs in northeast Ohio.

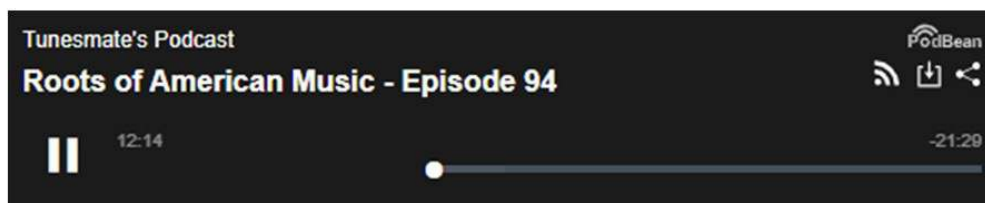
All About ROOTS: A Conversation



Roots of American Music – Episode 94

BY [MARC MAJERS](#) FEBRUARY 17, 2025

In this episode of Tunesmate's podcast, discover how Roots of American Music strengthens communities, fosters connections, and expands access to music. Join us as Executive Director, Michele Colopy shares how this nonprofit brings people together through live performances and music education.



ROOTS Live Music Around NEO



Happy Days Lodge
500 W. Streetsboro Rd.
Peninsula, OH



Join us at Happy Days Lodge to enjoy an evening with Dan Wilson, a distinguished jazz guitarist, celebrated for his soulful tone and masterful blending of jazz and blues. Performing with him that evening is Jessica Yafanaro, a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist based out of Cleveland, Ohio.

Doors open at 7:00PM | Music begins at 7:30PM

TICKETS

Conservancy Members: \$20 | General Admission: \$25

[More info and tickets go to](#)

Learn more about [Roots of American Music](#)



BV60+ Happy Hour will feature ROOTS Performing Artist, Chris Hatton, a dynamic one-man band known for his masterful use of a loop pedal to layer live recordings, creating the rich, full sound of an entire ensemble. Blending classic rock, R&B, and pop, Hatton delivers high-energy performances that span generations and genres. His versatile setlist includes everything from The Beatles to OutKast, ensuring an unforgettable musical experience for audiences of all tastes.

Chris Hatton's Website:

<https://chrishattonmusic.com/home>

<https://www.youtube.com/@HattonDoesLoops>

BV60+ Happy Hour

May 12, 2025

4-6 p.m.

Rush Inn Bar and Grille

35840 Chester Rd, Avon, OH 44011

For more information contact:

[Bay Village Senior Center](#)



***Pub Harmony: A Minor Event for a
Major Cause***

**June 1st from 4p-7p
1306 W. 65th in Cleveland**

**A fundraiser for ROOTS music
education & enrichment
programs.**



Sunday, June 1, 2025

Pub Harmony: A Minor Event for a Major Cause

[Stone Mad Pub](#)

1306 W. 65th, Cleveland, OH 44102

4-5p.m.- "Greg Plus Guitar"

5-6 p.m.- Jason Copsey

6 p.m.-7 p.m.- "Friday Night Blues Band Duo" featuring Lyle

Quimby and Ben Franks

Come for the music, enjoy the food, learn about ROOTS!



Summer Concert Series

June 25, 2025
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

2600 S. Park Blvd.,
Cleveland

Esther Fitz

NATURE CENTER
AT SHAKER LAKES
Conserve. Connect. Inspire.

ROOTS
OF AMERICAN MUSIC

Esther Fitz is an eclectic entertainer, songwriter and award-winning vocalist, born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio. She has performed on many amazing stages across the world from House of Blues to the infamous Bourbon Street in Amsterdam covering a wide genre of music from Jazz to Pop to Rock. Whether close to home or elsewhere, she is guaranteed to bring energy and passion to music wherever she graces the stage. Fitz has written and distributed several projects, with her most recent being 'Sweet Things', a five track EP released in the fall of 2022. When she is not gracing the stage, she is teaching students how to write songs or capturing the world with her portraiture and photography. With new music in the works, she is sure to grace your ears with something soulful and unique very soon. **More information go to**

<https://shakerlakes.org/>



APOSTLE JONES

7 / 16 / 25
6:30 p - 8:00 p

9550 Sperry Rd.
Kirtland, OH

Summer Concert Series

HOLDEN FORESTS & GARDENS

ROOTS
OF AMERICAN MUSIC

Apostle Jones is a dynamic soul band that bends styles and genres to create a uniquely collaborative, fresh sound. Pulling from collective influences of Rock, R'n'B, Blues, Gospel and Funk, Apostle Jones soars with original music, serves crowd pleasers and spreads a contagious joy for their hometown Cleveland, OH.

Learn more about the Artist at

<https://apostlejones.com/>; **YouTube:**

<https://www.youtube.com/@apostlejonesing/playlists>
[Dead and Gone Music Video](#);

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/mikey.silas/>

Contact Holden Forest and Gardens for more information about their live music and to order your tickets at <https://holdenfg.org/tickets/>



Sam Hooper Group
8 / 6 / 25 -- 6:30 p -8:00 p
Summer Concert Series

 **HOLDEN FORESTS & GARDENS** 9550 Sperry Rd. Kirtland, OH  **ROOTS OF AMERICAN MUSIC**

Enjoy live music in the Forest, August 6 from 6:30 p.m.- 8 p.m., 9550 Sperry Rd., Kirtland, OH with the Sam Hooper Group. Sam Hooper is a Band Leader, Singer/Songwriter and Guitarist, whose alluring blend of blues, rock, jazz and funk has thrilled audiences in China, Finland, Japan and around the USA. 2018 WINNERS of Northeast Ohio Blues Association's Blues Challenge, Sam Hooper Group were Semifinalists in the 2019 International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN! They've also performed at Tri-C JazzFest, Kent Blues Fest, Canton Blues Fest. A headlining band, they've also opened for international artists Shemekia Copeland and Walter Trout, among others. Hooper's original songs have been heard by millions on TV's "All My Children" and "The Young & the Restless." Contact Holden Forest and Gardens for more information about their live music and to order your tickets at <https://holdenfg.org/tickets/>

Summer Concert Series

August 27, 2025
 6:30 pm -8:00 pm

2600 S. Park Blvd.,
 Cleveland



Mr. Jeff

 **NATURE CENTER AT SHAKER LAKES**
 Conserve. Connect. Inspire.

 **ROOTS OF AMERICAN MUSIC**

"Award Winning, Silly, Fun and Original Children's Music for Kids, Created by a Teacher!" **Bring the kids as Mr. Jeff returns to the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes, 2600 S. Park Blvd., Cleveland, August 27, 2025 from 6:30- 8 p.m.** His high-energy, interactive live shows combine gross motor movement, social-emotional learning, and a healthy dose of silliness, leaving kids ready for a nap—and parents asking for more! Perfect for libraries, schools, festivals, museums, and family-friendly events, Mr. Jeff's performances are designed to captivate and engage audiences of all ages. **More information go to** <https://shakerlakes.org/>

Mr. Jeff's debut album has earned widespread acclaim, winning multiple awards:

[2024 Mom's Choice Awards Gold Recipient](#)

[2024 Creative Child CD of the Year](#)

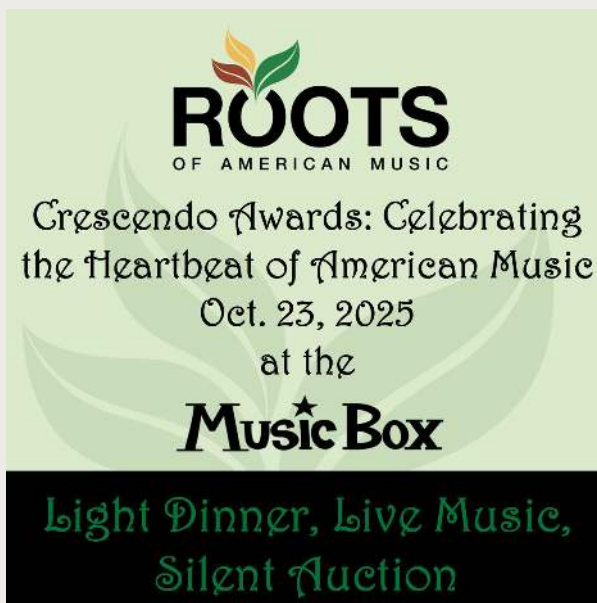
[2024 Best Music Video at the Daddying Film Festival](#)

[2025 National Parenting Product Awards \(NAPPA\) Winner](#)

[2025 Family Choice Award Winner](#)

[Learn more about Mr. Jeff](#)

More information go [HERE](#)



Please join us in celebrating the transformative work of Roots of American Music across Northeast Ohio at our ***Crescendo Awards: Celebrating the Heartbeat of American Music.***

ROOTS' Awards and Benefit event supports our work and recognition of:

- * The William Woods Excellence in Teaching Award to a NE Ohio Educator*
- * Stop the Hate Youth Sing Out-2025 Composer Teaching Artists Award*
- * Teaching & Performing Artist Recognition*
- * Partner Recognition*
- * Silent Auction and Live Music*

October 23, 2025 * 5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. * Light Dinner * Music Box Supper Club

1148 Main Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44113 * Club Lower Level & Riverside Deck

Become a Crescendo Awards Sponsor

Your business can join these Silent Auction Donors:

Lizzie's Bakery
Trust Coffee
Cleveland Museum of Natural History
Main Event-Avon
Great Lakes Science Center
Music Box Supper Club
Maltz Museum
Akron Civic
Top Tier Cakes- Westlake
Goodtime III

You can join these Crescendo Sponsors:

Gotta Groove Records

School of Rock

To contribute to the Silent Auction or become a Sponsor Contact Michele Colopy, Executive Director at ed@rootsofamericanmusic.org

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



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"

So, You Asked: Just What Is ROOTS?

Roots of American Music does not and has never taught individual music lessons.

ROOTS Music Education Programs reinforce social emotional learning standards in K-12 schools.

ROOTS Music Education program, "Blues is the Backbone" is an age-appropriate, cross curricular education program offered for kindergarten and 2nd grade students reinforcing language arts, music, and social emotional learning standards. Through the exploration of blues musicians, history, and culture, the students will improve literacy skills, enhance music skills, and gain confidence through social emotional learning. Blues is the Backbone culminates with students writing lyrics to their own class song.

The Youth Sing Out Songwriting Contest, in collaboration with the Maltz Museum's Stop the Hate program is a classroom-based group competition for 6th-12th grade students. To enter, classrooms must participate in a free workshop with ROOTS of American Music. Working with a teaching artist, across five weekly in-class lessons during the classroom teacher's specified time, the class will pen an original song. This song becomes the class submission to the contest and is judged by a panel of music, theatre, and writing experts selected in partnership with the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. The winning classrooms receive anti-bias education grants for their schools.

ROOTS provides Teaching Artists in Montessori Schools for General Music Classes for 1st-3rd grade; Folk Song/Dance class for 4th-5th grade; and group guitar and ukulele classes for 4th 5th grade students. Engaging class lessons expand knowledge of basic notation, listening, matching pitch, singing, movement, use of pitched and unpitched percussion instruments, folk-dance and rhythm games to enhance social-emotional learning while guided by state music standards.



The Musical Diversity of ROOTS Artists

Soul	Alt. Rock	Acoustic Original Fingerstyle
Americana	Bluegrass	Acoustic Rock
Classic Rock	Classical	Afrobeat
Early Jazz	Funk	Alternative Rock
Motown	New Orleans Style	American Songbook
Old-time	R & B	Blues
Rock	Rockabilly	Contemporary Jazz
Country	Folk	Jazz
Neo-Soul	Oldies	Pop
Ragtime Guitar	Rock & Roll	Yogic chanting
World Music/Children's Songs/Experimental Music		

American roots music represents a genre of music. It also encompasses the “roots” of community; the “roots” of music in our communities and in our shared culture. Together we are ‘ROOTS!’ We use live music to educate, inspire, and comfort people in settings where exposure to music performance is limited or non-existent (music deserts). We serve Northeast Ohio citizens in K-12 schools, residential communities serving seniors, and adult day communities serving the physically and developmentally challenged.

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

**ROOTS BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

**Greg Thompson,
President**

**Joe LaGuardia,
Treasurer**

**Rachel Diroll-
Zack, Secretary**

**Board members
at large**

**Vince Slusarz
Prakash Ganesh
Katie VanDusen
Robert Saada
Josh Walsh
Antoinette**



**EMAIL THIS NEWSLETTER TO A FRIEND
OR SEND THEM THE LINK TO SIGN UP TO
RECEIVE IT DIRECTLY**

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

Brown
Anthony Parker
Vilmarie Perez

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. ROOTS' music changes lives, touches the heart, and restores memories and human connection to residents of Northeast Ohio.

**We are grateful to our
Foundation Partners**



Thank You to Our Funders!

The Kulas Foundation

John P. Murphy Foundation

Martha Holden Jennings Foundation

Fidelity Charitable DAF's

Funny Times Peace Fund

Louis & Sylvia Rosenblum Memorial
Philanthropic Fund

Joshua R. Weil Search for Meaning Fund

Lillian C. Wilson, Trust

Eva L. & Joseph M. Bruening Foundation

Envantage

The Abington Foundation

Thomas H. White Foundation

Ohio Tech Cred Program

Maltz Museum funders of Stop the Hate
Youth Sing Out

And individual donors like you!

Our Contact Information

Roots of American Music

P.O. Box 24487

Cleveland, OH 44124

216-978-0363

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



You are being sent this email because you are a subscriber.
If you wish to update your Email Preferences or Unsubscribe, click [Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage email preferences](#)