

As seen in the Vermont Standard – Sept. 1, 2022

# Music By the River Concert Series Winds Down

The waning days of summer are upon us. By some miracle probably known as a drought we've only rescheduled one concert due to rain and last Friday the amazing Freese Brothers with Sabrina Brown moved inside due to storms in the area. This Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup> we welcome our very own local talent The Slim Chicken Band to the East End Park. Weather looks promising so come on out and enjoy great music!

The band is fronted by Jack and John Snyder, of Snyder Donegan Real Estate Group. They have been playing music in the Woodstock area for more than 15 years and have played at the Zack's Place Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving morning every year for the last 10 years. They both play guitar and sing in the band. Jack is a singer and multi-instrumentalist who grew up in the Woodstock area, attended the Berklee College of Music in Boston, and completed his bachelor's degree in music from the University of Vermont. Jack also writes, records and performs music using the artist name, Leyeux. They are joined by Rory Laughran, who sings, plays drums and guitar. Rory met the Snyders when he was Jack's drum teacher in 2005. Leo Roy – from South Royalton – is the band's lead guitarist who has played in bands with John for over 15 years. Jeffrey Stedman is the band's bass player. He moved to Vermont from California several years ago and immediately immersed himself in the local live music scene.

Our last concert in the season (rescheduled from August 5<sup>th</sup>) features singer songwriter Ali McGuirk Friday, September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. She is a soul and blues singer-songwriter originally from Boston who now lives in Burlington, VT. Her latest album, *Til It's Gone* will be released in September by Signature Sound Records. For the recording her producer, Jonah Tolchin, (a star singer-songwriter in his own right), brought in legendary Little Feat guitarist/mandolinist Fred Tackett, organist Larry Goldings (James Taylor, Norah Jones), singer Valerie Pinkston (Ray Charles, Luther Vandross), percussionist Lenny Castro (Stevie Nicks, Stevie Wonder).

Reviews of the recording note that while the team provided "astounding chops", the true magic of *Til It's Gone* comes from McGuirk's singular voice as both singer and songwriter. The nine tracks – songs that run from intimate introspection to wider meditations on oppression and justice – succeed because McGuirk has composed dynamic, hypnotic frames for her vocals."

Bring a picnic, a lawn chair, and donations of non-perishable goods for the Woodstock Community Food Shelf and enjoy a wonderful evening of music and camaraderie in the sublime park setting.

## Out and About and On the Big Stage

**Brother Speech Engagement at Woodstock Union High School and Evening Performance September 15**

Speech is the leader of the 2x Grammy Award winning

hip-hop collective, Arrested Development.

He and the group have been a ground-breaking force in Hip-hop culture since 91. Speech has continued to be a trailblazer with the group and as a solo artist sharing stages with Nelson Mandela, Minister Louis Farrakhan, Hilary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama.

Speech will both speak and perform about the black experience. He will discuss and answer questions about his documentary 16 Bars about his experience going into a jail in Charlotte, Virginia to write music with inmates. As creativity unfurls, the men unearth painful elements of their pasts, which hold the key to a new chapter in their lives. The evening performance is free of charge for all students in Windsor Central Supervisory district. **To learn more and to purchase tickets go to <https://pentanglearts.org/event/brother-speech/#content>.**

Accommodations for Speech courtesy of the Blue Horse Inn.

## Charlotte Blake Alston

On September 29<sup>th</sup> Charlotte Blake Alston visits Woodstock Elementary School and Prosper Valley School. Though music and storytelling she will engage student's imagination, underscore human commonalities, and reiterate life lessons gained from centuries of human experience. Her program will draw on the rich source of stories, songs, games, and rhythmic elements that are hallmarks of the African and African American oral traditions.

For over 30 years, Charlotte Blake Alston has graced stages in venues throughout North America and abroad. Venues are wide and include the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, the Smithsonian Institution, the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts, Symphony Orchestra Narrations and at regional, national and international Storytelling Festivals.

Her storytelling skills were honed in childhood when her father introduced her to the work of African American poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar. Her solo performances are often enhanced with traditional instruments such as djembe, mbira, or the 21-stringed kora.

Accommodations courtesy of the Woodstock Inn and Resort.

## On the Big Screen

Love Song

Faye (Dale Dicky) is a lone traveler who bides her time fishing, birding and stargazing at a rural Colorado campground as she awaits the arrival of Lito, (Wes Studi) a figure from her past who is navigating his own tentative and nomadic journey across the rugged West.

The filmed opened to rave reviews at the Sundance Film Festival and has a 96% on Rotten Tomatoes.

Showtimes:

Saturday, September 3 at 7:30 pm

Sunday, September 4 at 7:30 pm

Monday, September 5 at 7:30 pm