



THE COUNTDOWN BEGINS: CLASS OF 2026 NOMINATIONS ARE IN!

The excitement is building at the North Dakota Music Hall of Fame as we officially begin the journey to crown our next class of legends. This year, the response from music lovers all across the Peace Garden State was absolutely incredible. We received a phenomenal **20 unique nominations** submitted by passionate individuals who want to see their musical heroes immortalized.

What makes this year truly special is the fantastic diversity across the board. North Dakota's musical tapestry is woven by so many different hands, and the Class of 2026 nominations reflect every piece of it. Our nominees span a great variety of vital categories, honoring:

- **The Educators who inspire the next generation in our classrooms.**
- **The Behind-the-Scenes Heroes who build the stages, run the sound, and engineer the tracks.**
- **The Songwriters who capture the spirit of the prairies in poetry and melody.**
- **The Musicians who bring those songs to life under the lights.**



CLASS OF **2026** ANNOUNCEMENT

The Selection Process Underway

Our board is officially rolling up their sleeves and starting the difficult but deeply rewarding work of reviewing these 20 incredible candidates. Whittling down such an elite group of talent is never easy, but we are dedicated to selecting a class that truly exemplifies the best of North Dakota's musical heritage.

Mark your calendars: The official announcement of the final Class of 2026 Inductees will drop at the very end of July! Keep a close eye on our website and social media pages to be the first to know who will be joining the Hall of Fame ranks this year.





Save the Date: Induction Ceremony 2026!

Once the class is revealed, the countdown moves to our biggest day of the year. The official 2026 Induction Ceremony is locked in for **Sunday, September 20th** in Bismarck on the BSC College grounds at the ATC Theater. It is going to be an unforgettable day filled with live music, great memories, and a true celebration of our state's heritage. We will have lots more information coming out very soon regarding tickets, the schedule of events, and how you can lock in your seat to be part of North Dakota music history. Thank you to everyone who took the time to submit a nomination. The future of the NDMHOF is bright, and we cannot wait to share the Class of 2026 with you soon!

But Wait... There's MORE!

The same weekend that we will be getting ready to celebrate our 2026 inductees, we are bringing our North Dakota Stage Tour to TWO different towns in North Dakota! If we are here celebrating the legends of music in ND, it only feels right to celebrate some of our incredible local talent that could one day be inducted into the NDMHOF themselves.

Join us in **Minot, ND** on Friday, September 18th for night one and then come find us in **Mandan, ND** on Saturday, September 19th while we keep the tour going! Stay tuned for more information on the venues and musicians that will be partaking in the ND Stage Tour, but for now, make sure to put it in your calendars!



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

TRACEY

Anderson

Treasurer of the ND Music Hall of Fame

In his professional life, Tracey serves as the produce manager at Marketplace Food and Drug in Minot. For fun, Tracey enjoys Djing events and supporting the local music scene by listening to bands around town.



JULY NOTABLE NATIONAL DAYS

- July 4th- National Country Music Day
- July 7th- National Day of Rock 'n' Roll
- July 13th- National Barbershop Music Appreciation Day
- July 27th- Bagpipe Appreciation Day

TUNING UP TRIVIA

What was the title of Lawrence Welk's bubbly, accordion-driven signature theme song used to open his television shows?

- Bubbles in the Soda
- Bubbles in the Wine
- Bubbles in the Water

Hint: The answer to this one also relates to his own music style that became a hit on television!

Answer to last month's trivia:
C. Strasburg

JUNE 2026 SPOTLIGHT ARCHIVE

CHRIS BASDEN

Country/Americana

Week of June 2nd

Social Links:

[Facebook Page](#)

[Official Website](#)



JOSEY AND THE WHALERS

Track-Free Rock, Pop, & Funk

Week of June 10th

Social Links:

[Facebook Page](#)

[Linktree Portal](#)

[Official Website](#)



TRIPWIRE

High-Energy Rock, Pop, & Country

Week of June 17th



Official Website & Schedule

Social Media Handles: @tripwirefargo
(Find them on Facebook, Instagram,
and all platforms using all lowercase,
one word!)



DAKOTA CHAPPY

Electronic Dance Pop

Week of June 23rd



Social Links:

Linktree Portal (Connects directly to all her
streaming platforms, boutique, and socials!)

ON THE ROAD: JULY PARADE HIGHLIGHTS & THANK YOU!

Summer is flying by, and the North Dakota Music Hall of Fame team is having an absolute blast traveling the state and celebrating with all of you. We've officially wrapped up our July parade stops, and we want to share some highlights and a massive thank you to everyone who made them so special:

- **The Mandan Independence Day Parade (July 4th):** We kicked off the month with an incredible day in Mandan, and wow, what a turnout! It was so wonderful seeing all the smiling faces lining Main Street. A huge thank you to our board members and supporters who walked the route: Brianna, Mark, Dave, Marlo, and Kayla! We also want to send a massive, special shout-out to Brian, who went above and beyond by providing the truck and trailer and driving our float—all your hard work is incredibly appreciated, Brian! Finally, a big thank you to Peyton Lily for singing live on the float. She did a fantastic job, and the crowd absolutely loved her music!
- **The North Dakota State Parade in Minot (July 18th):** This past Saturday, we headed north to the Magic City for the legendary North Dakota State Parade, and we had an absolutely wonderful time! We proudly represented the NDMHOF as Float Number 125 in the lineup. A huge shout-out and thank you to our incredible board members who walked the route: Sheila, Marlo, Tracey, Brenda, and Kayla. We were also so happy to have several of our wonderful friends and family members walking right alongside us to hand out awesome items to the crowd. Finally, a very special thank you goes to Gene for driving our float and keeping us rolling safely, and to all the board members whose hard work made this fun and successful day happen!



ND COUNTRY FEST 2026

AN UNFORGETTABLE DAY IN NEW SALEM!

The North Dakota Music Hall of Fame team spent this past Friday, July 10th out under the shadow of Salem Sue, and what an incredible day of music, community, and celebration it was! We are so grateful for the opportunity to attend and truly enjoyed every single minute of our time at ND Country Fest 2026.

Our NDMHOF board members in attendance—President Marlo Anderson, Vice President Mark Wagner, Secretary Kayla Lawson, and Board Member Brenda Beran—had a packed schedule soaking up the true festival atmosphere. A major highlight of our afternoon was getting to take a full tour of the grounds and hanging out with Clay from the rising regional band Rogue Royal. It was fantastic getting to talk with him for a bit, snap some photos, and get to know the guys in the group a little better—they are a truly great band and a wonderful group of guys! Along our travels, we also ran into some other awesome folks, including Joe from the phenomenal North Dakota-rooted band Raynes, and local social media sensation Matt, the creator behind the viral 50 Dates 50 States journey!

Between sets, we spent plenty of time hitting up the buzzing vendor and food areas. You could truly find everything out there! The grounds were packed with yummy food trucks, delicious desserts, and great shopping booths loaded with hats, shirts, and plenty of awesome Country Fest merch. We even celebrated National French Fry Day with some scorching hot, delicious fries, and had a blast visiting the booths of local companies handing out fun giveaways.

Later in the evening, we were treated to an absolute luxury: getting to watch part of the show from the ultimate vantage point up in the festival suites. Hanging out in the suite with the Country Fest crew was an incredible treat. We loved getting to spend time with Luke and chat with Brandon—both founders of the festival—and catching up with Jennifer, who works so hard for Country Fest. From our seats, we got to hear some absolutely spectacular live music, catching unforgettable sets from country music royalty Suzy Bogguss, as well as hitmakers Parmalee, Josh Ross, and headliner Nate Smith.

Looking Ahead:
Celebrating 10 Years in
2027!

While 2026 is going to be tough to beat, we are already counting down the days to next summer. The NDMHOF is incredibly excited about our ongoing partnership with Country Fest and watching it grow as we head into their monumental 10-Year Anniversary!

The official dates for next year's historic celebration are set for July 7-10, 2027 back in New Salem. The festival is already rolling out a powerhouse lineup to celebrate a decade of music, having already announced Old Dominion and Hudson Westbrook, with plenty more massive announcements dropping soon.



Friday July 10

If you've never experienced the magic of ND Country Fest firsthand, take our word for it—it is the ultimate summer destination. Make plans now to check it out next summer, and let's get ready to celebrate 10 years of prairie country music together!

Visit www.ndcountryfest.com and find them on Facebook to stay up to date on tickets and upcoming lineup drops!

EVENT SPOTLIGHT



It is our honor to introduce to you our very first EVENT SPOTLIGHT: **The Jousting Lemur** in Bismarck, ND!

This wine bar not only has delicious, unique dishes to go along with their specialty wines, but they also have a variety of local, regional and national acts playing LIVE in an intimate setting!

Ryan Eckroth, one of the owner's alongside Emily Eckroth, gave us some more information on The Jousting Lemur and what to expect.

"When we designed The Jousting Lemur, one of our biggest goals was to create a space for live music. We wanted to bring something different to downtown Bismarck while also supporting one of the things we value most—local musicians."

Since opening nearly three years ago, we've had the privilege of hosting more than 30 local performers at our venue. That's something we're incredibly proud of. One thing that has always been important to us is making sure that when we bring in a larger act, we also create an opportunity for a local musician to open. We believe local talent deserves a stage, a crowd, and a chance to be discovered.



Growing up in North Dakota, we know it can take a lot of time, effort, and opportunity to break into any industry—especially music. Our hope has always been to give local artists a place to play, build their confidence, grow their audience, and maybe even take that next big step.

That's also why we created our music wall—to showcase the artists who have played at The Jousting Lemur and celebrate the talent that has filled our space over the years. It's become one of our favorite features in the restaurant and something many of our guests love checking out. As we continue to grow, one thing will stay the same: we want The Jousting Lemur to be a place where local musicians feel welcome, supported, and seen. We'll keep looking for new talent, creating opportunities, and doing our part to help keep live local music thriving in our community."

—Ryan Eckroth, The Jousting Lemur

The SOUND of North Dakota

— Your Ultimate Guide To Live Music in the 701 This Summer —



July 13 – July 19

Wednesday, July 15

Chloe Raye | West Fargo, ND | Sheyenne Crossings

Gina Powers (Full Band w/ Special Guests) | Fargo, ND | First Lutheran Fargo Concert Series

Thursday, July 16

Savanah Benz | Bismarck, ND | Laughing Sun Brewing (7:00 PM – 9:00 PM)

Morgan Wade Harr | Bismarck, ND | Food on Fourth

Chloe Raye | Minot, ND | Maverick Law Group

Blue House | Minot, ND | Citizens Alley (Levitt AMP) (6:15 PM)

Cecilia | Minot, ND | Citizens Alley (Levitt AMP) (7:30 PM)

Minot City Band (Sousa Concert) | Minot, ND | Oak Park (MACA Arts in the City – 7:00 PM)

Dakotah Faye | Bismarck, ND | Urban Harvest

Jessie Veeder (Opening for Phil Vassar) | Dickinson, ND | Legacy Square

Van Haren | Williston, ND | Summer Nights Concert Series

Aventide | Bismarck, ND | General Sibley Park (Summer Songs)

Friday, July 17

Savanah Benz | Dickinson, ND | Phat Fish Brewing (6:30 PM – 9:00 PM)

Chloe Raye | Fargo, ND | Downtown Fargo Street Fair

Aaron Niehaus | Fargo, ND | The Troll Lounge

Dakota Talent | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)

Missing Lynx | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (Flickertail Garden)

Gina Powers | Fargo, ND | North Dakota Horse Park

Saturday, July 18

Penumbra (w/ Green Boots) | Minot, ND | Atypical Brewing and Barrelworks

Morgan Wade Harr | Jamestown, ND | Lazy Fish at Pelicans Point

Kohlrabi Soup Bluegrass Band | Fargo, ND | Fargo Street Fair

Dakotah Faye | Lincoln, ND | 701 Grill

Dakota Talent | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)

Missing Lynx | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (Flickertail Garden)

Sunday, July 19

Jerry Schlag & Friends / Minot Swing Band | Minot, ND | Oak Park (MACA Arts in the City – 4:00 PM & 7:00 PM)

Dakota Talent | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)

Missing Lynx | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (Flickertail Garden)



July 20 – July 26

Monday, July 20

Dakota Talent | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)
Doo-Wah Riders | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)
Missing Lynx | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (Flickertail Garden)

Tuesday, July 21

That 60's Band | Tioga, ND | Weekends on Tuesday
Dakota Talent | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)
Doo-Wah Riders | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)
Missing Lynx | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (Flickertail Garden)

Wednesday, July 22

Savanah Benz | Minot, ND | Rockin' Horse Saloon (9:00 PM - 12:00 AM)
Kohlrabi Soup Bluegrass Band | Harwood, ND | Maple Sheyenne Lutheran Church
Dakota Talent | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)
Donny Dahl Band | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)
Rock Creek Revival | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (Flickertail Garden)

Thursday, July 23

Savanah Benz | Minot, ND | Rockin' Horse Saloon (9:00 PM - 12:00 AM)
Ted & Kari | Williston, ND | Cattails (9:00 PM - 1:00 AM)
Dakota Talent | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)
Donny Dahl Band | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)
Rock Creek Revival | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (Flickertail Garden)
Dan Brekke Band | Williston, ND | Summer Nights Concert Series

Friday, July 24

Savanah Benz | Medora, ND | Boots Bar & Grill (8:00 PM - 11:00 PM)
Brandon Foster (w/ Moments Notice) | Burlington, ND | Country Mouse Bar
Brianna Helbling | Bismarck, ND | The Jousting Lemur
Elijah O'Sullivan | Oxbow, ND | Oxbow Country Club
Dakota Talent | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)
Donny Dahl Band | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)
Rock Creek Revival | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (Flickertail Garden)

Saturday, July 25

Brandon Foster (w/ Moments Notice) | Burlington, ND | Country Mouse Bar
Ted & Kari | Medora, ND | MDH (Mark Twain/Rough Riders Hotel)
Dakotah Faye | Menoken, ND | Apple Creek Winery
Elijah O'Sullivan | St. Michael, ND | BK Tap House
Tailspin | ND | Private Event
Dakota Talent | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)
Donny Dahl Band | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (2nd Stage)
Rock Creek Revival | Minot, ND | ND State Fair (Flickertail Garden)

Sunday, July 26

Jared Schumaier / The Drewbie Brothers / Little Chicago Funk | Minot, ND | Oak Park (MACA Arts in the City - 4:00 PM)

July 27- August 2

Wednesday, July 29

Chloe Raye | Milnor, ND | Entertainment at Freedom Park

Thursday, July 30

Savanah Benz | Bismarck, ND | Bismarck Depot Community Concert Series (8:00 PM - 10:00 PM)
Chloe Raye | Fargo, ND | Suite Shots
Aaron Niehaus | Bismarck, ND | The Lonesome Dove
Avantide | Minot, ND | Citizens Alley (Levitt AMP) (6:15 PM)
Lung | Minot, ND | Citizens Alley (Levitt AMP) (7:30 PM)
Gina Powers w/ Dakota Jazz Big Band | Fargo, ND | MIDCO Stage - Broadway Square

Friday, July 31

Savanah Benz | Bismarck, ND | Meg-A-Latte (8:00 AM - 10:00 AM)
Brandon Foster (w/ Moments Notice) | Loraine, ND | Loraine Rib Fest
Morgan Wade Harr | Maddock, ND | 125th Centennial

Saturday, August 1

Chloe Raye | Harwood, ND | Harwood-A-Rama
Brandon Foster | Medora, ND | Maah Daah Hey 100

Sunday, August 2

Savanah Benz | Bathgate, ND | Country Gospel Concert (6:00 PM - 7:30 PM)
Aaron Niehaus | Fargo, ND | Broadway Square
Daniel Starks / Andrew Emmel / Darryl Hicks Trio | Minot, ND | Oak Park (MACA Arts in the City - 4:00 PM)
Gina Powers (Merrill Piepkorn Presents) | Fargo, ND | MIDCO Stage - Broadway Square

August 2-9

Thursday, August 6

Morgan Wade Harr | Jamestown, ND | Art in the Park (McElroy Park)
Brandon Foster | Williston, ND | Cattails Lounge (After SNoM)
Liam Keeney | Minot, ND | Citizens Alley (Levitt AMP) (6:15 PM)
Raynes | Minot, ND | Citizens Alley (Levitt AMP) (7:30 PM)
Slamabama | Williston, ND | Summer Nights Concert Series

Friday, August 7

Chloe Raye | Devils Lake, ND | Bobbers Marina Bar
The Broken Spokes | Bowman, ND | Bowman County Fair
Chris Basden (Full Band Show) | Minot, ND | Rockin' Horse (8:30 PM)

Saturday, August 8

Morgan Wade Harr | Pettibone, ND | Legacy Bar
Chloe Raye | Buffalo, ND | Viking Vines Vineyard
Brandon Foster (w/ Moments Notice) | Minnewaukan, ND |
Rock the Lake The Band NOVA (after Confederate Railroad) | Bowman, ND | Bowman County Fair
Chris Basden (Full Band Show) | Minot, ND | Rockin' Horse (8:30 PM)

August 10-16

Monday, August 10

Tigerlily Gold | Medora, ND | Burning Hills Amphitheatre
Kyle Colby | Bismarck, ND | The Jousting Lemur (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

Wednesday, August 12

Kyle Colby | Bismarck, ND | Laughing Sun Brewing (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

Thursday, August 13

Green Boots | Mandan, ND | Lonesome Dove
Rick Adams | Fargo, ND | Newman Outdoor Field (3:00 PM)
Chloe Raye | Fargo, ND | Buffalo Wild Wings
Chris Basden | Minot, ND | Citizens Alley (Levitt AMP) (6:15 PM)
Jessie Veeder | Minot, ND | Citizens Alley (Levitt AMP) (7:30 PM)
Rhino | Williston, ND | Summer Nights Concert Series

Friday, August 14

Aaron Niehaus | Fargo, ND | The Troll Lounge
Rick Adams | Oxbow, ND | Oxbow Country Club

Saturday, August 15

Brandon Foster (w/ Moments Notice) | Golden Valley, ND | Community Center / Street Dance
Rogue Royal | Sheyenne, ND | Sheyenne Stampede
Dakotah Faye | Bismarck, ND | Harvest Brazilian Grill
Elijah O'Sullivan | Arthur, ND | Arthur's Market

August 17 -23

Tuesday, August 18

Chloe Raye | Medora, ND | Pitchfork Steak Fondue
Mere Mortals | Tioga, ND | Weekends on Tuesday

Wednesday, August 19

Chloe Raye | Medora, ND | Pitchfork Steak Fondue
Kyle Colby | West Fargo, ND | Silver Dollar Bar & Flying Pig Grill (8:00 PM - 11:00 PM)

Thursday, August 20

Rick Adams | West Fargo, ND | POW/MIA Plaza (Cruise Night - 6:00 PM)
Chloe Raye | Medora, ND | Wagon Stage / Pitchfork / Badlands Pizza
Lila Bea | Minot, ND | Citizens Alley (Levitt AMP) (6:15 PM)
Emmy Woods & The Red Pine Ramblers | Minot, ND | Citizens Alley (Levitt AMP) (7:30 PM)
Elijah O'Sullivan | West Fargo, ND | Hooligans
Mars Daniels | Williston, ND | Summer Nights Concert Series
Gina Powers | Fargo, ND | Camp Lonetree

Friday, August 21

Chloe Raye | Medora, ND | Wagon Stage / Pitchfork / Badlands Pizza
Aaron Niehaus | Wahpeton, ND | Ole Firehouse Brewing
Ted & Kari | Medora, ND | Little Missouri Saloon

Saturday, August 22

Morgan Wade Harr | Bismarck, ND | The Jousting Lemur
Chloe Raye | Medora, ND | Wagon Stage / Pitchfork / Badlands Pizza
Ted & Kari | Medora, ND | Little Missouri Saloon

Sunday, August 23

Chloe Raye | Medora, ND | Wagon Stage / Pitchfork Steak Fondue

August 24 – August 31

Monday, August 24

Rick Adams | Fargo, ND | One Oak Place (2:00 PM)

Wednesday, August 26

Kyle Colby | Fargo, ND | 701 Eateries (7:00 PM - 9:00 PM)

Thursday, August 27

Morgan Wade Harr | Bismarck, ND | Summer Concert Series
Elijah O'Sullivan | Medora, ND | Badlands Pizza
Tripwire | Williston, ND | Summer Nights Concert Series

Friday, August 28

Chloe Raye | Minot, ND | Silobration Street Dance (Citizens Alley)
Elijah O'Sullivan | Medora, ND | Badlands Pizza

Saturday, August 29

Elijah O'Sullivan | Medora, ND | Badlands Pizza
Tailspin | Fargo, ND | Red River Market (2:00 PM)
Tailspin | Fargo, ND | UpDistrict Festival Field (8:30 PM)
Tripwire | Lisbon, ND | Ransom County Fair Grounds
Morgan Wade Harr | Bismarck, ND | Stonehome Brewing Co

September 1 – 6

Wednesday, September 2

Kyle Colby | West Fargo, ND | Hooligans Bar & Grill

Thursday, September 3

Chloe Raye | Fargo, ND | Suite Shots
Ted & Kari | Minot, ND | Ebenezer's (7:00 PM - 11:00 PM)
Elijah O'Sullivan | Medora, ND | Badlands Pizza

Friday, September 4

Ted & Kari | Surrey, ND | Big Dog Saloon
Elijah O'Sullivan | Medora, ND | Badlands Pizza

Saturday, September 5

Ted & Kari | Strawberry Lake, ND | Strawberry Cooler
Dakotah Faye | Bismarck, ND | Harvest Brazilian Grill
Elijah O'Sullivan | Medora, ND | Badlands Pizza

Sunday, September 6

Kohlrabi Soup Bluegrass Band | Wahpeton, ND | A Primitive Place Gathering
Elijah O'Sullivan | Medora, ND | Medora Wagon Wheel Stage

September 7 – September 13

Monday, September 7

Rick Adams | Stump Lake Village, ND | Old Main Street (12:00 PM)

Tuesday, September 8

Rick Adams | Horace, ND | Big Erv's (Bike Night - 6:00 PM)

Thursday, September 10

Elijah O'Sullivan | Fargo, ND | 701 Eatery

Friday, September 11

Chloe Raye | Bismarck, ND | The Jousting Lemur

Saturday, September 12

Kohlrabi Soup Bluegrass Band | Colfax, ND | Red River Roots Bluegrass Festival

Elijah O'Sullivan | Mapleton, ND | Mapleton Days