



THE ND MUSIC HALL OF FAME **CLASS OF 2026 IS HERE!**

The North Dakota Music Hall of Fame is proud to announce its Class of 2026.

This year, 20 individuals and groups were nominated for induction, representing performers, songwriters, educators, broadcasters, producers, and music industry leaders from across North Dakota.

The quality of the nominations made this year's selection process especially difficult and served as a powerful reminder of the remarkable musical talent and history connected to our state.

From this outstanding group, six inductees were selected for the Class of 2026. Their careers have influenced audiences, inspired future generations, strengthened the music industry, and helped carry North Dakota's musical legacy far beyond our borders.

For the first time, this year's inductees represent all four North Dakota Music Hall of Fame induction categories.

Greg Nelson

Songwriters & Composers / Music Industry Contributors

Shadoe Stevens

Music Industry Contributors

The Tibor Brothers

Musicians, Bands, Duos & Groups

Dr. Tom Porter

Music Educators / Songwriters & Composers

Johnny Holm

Musicians, Bands, Duos & Groups

Michael Clute

Music Industry Contributors

GREG NELSON



Born and raised in Bismarck, Greg Nelson graduated from Bismarck High School and the University of Mary before launching his musical career right at home. He began as an elementary music educator and orchestra director in Bismarck, while directing church choirs and co-founding Spirit Records. His early work conducting community theater and regional symphonies laid the foundation for a lifetime of music creation.

Over a career spanning more than five decades, Greg went on to write over 400 published songs and produce recordings for Christian music icons like Sandi Patty, Amy Grant, and Michael W. Smith. His career honors include seven Grammy Awards, over twenty GMA Dove Awards, and induction into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2018. He is also an accomplished author and poet whose global works, including the acclaimed oratorio Saviour, have been performed at Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center.

SHADOE STEVENS



Born in Jamestown, North Dakota, Shadoe Stevens began his broadcast career at the age of 11, becoming "America's Youngest DJ" on local radio station KEYJ. His passion for communication and media led him to study journalism and radio before moving to major media markets, where he revolutionized rock radio formats at iconic stations like KROQ-FM and KMET-FM in Los Angeles.

Shadoe became an international pop culture icon as the host of American Top 40, reaching over one billion listeners weekly across 110 countries. Inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame, his multifaceted career spans award-winning advertising campaigns (including the famous "Fred Rated" commercials), founding global radio networks, and voicing major national television shows like Hollywood Squares and Antenna TV.

THE TIBOR BROTHERS



Hailing from Hebron, North Dakota, the Tibor Brothers (Francis, Gerard, Harvey, Kurt, and Larry) carried on a rich family tradition that stretched back to their grandfather's 1920s band and their mother's piano playing. Forming their country/western band in 1970, they got their start touring North Dakota, Montana, and neighboring states, eventually converting their father's old blacksmith shop into JoMar Recording Studio.

Over their decades-long career, the brothers cut over a dozen albums, played the North Dakota State Fair for 10 consecutive years, and backed country music legends like Johnny Cash, Roy Clark, and the Statler Brothers. Their single "It's So Easy Loving You" reached the Top 100 on the Billboard Country chart, and the group was inducted into the North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame in 2007 in recognition of their lasting legacy and extensive community charity work.

DR. TOM PORTER



Photo credit to Shane Balkowitsch

A native of Mandan, Dr. Tom Porter's early musical journey began with piano lessons from the Sisters of Annunciation Monastery and performances in local school and community ensembles. After studying at the University of Mary and earning advanced degrees in music and theology, he served as the Director of the Office of Worship for the Diocese of Bismarck. He then spent decades shaping North Dakota higher education as Chair of the Music Departments at both Bismarck State College and the University of Mary.

Throughout his distinguished teaching career, Dr. Porter led collegiate choirs on international tours to historic venues like Carnegie Hall, St. Peter's Basilica, and the Sistine Chapel. Beyond the classroom, he has served as director of the Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus for over 30 years and composed numerous works celebrated locally and nationally. His dedication to music and community has earned him the North Dakota Governor's Award for the Arts and the ND ACDA Outstanding Choral Director honor.

JOHNNY HOLM



Raised in the Upper Midwest, Johnny Holm got his start taking the stage with an unstoppable passion for live performance. He built his reputation by performing across local halls, town festivals, and regional venues, surrounding himself with talented Midwest musicians to create a high-energy, crowd-interactive live band experience.

Known as "the pied piper" of Midwest rock and roll, Johnny has led the widely traveled Johnny Holm Band for decades, entertaining millions of fans across the country. His legendary, non-stop 3-to-4-hour shows are famous for being almost entirely impromptu and audience-driven, turning generations of concertgoers into a dedicated "fantourage."

MICHAEL D. CLUTE

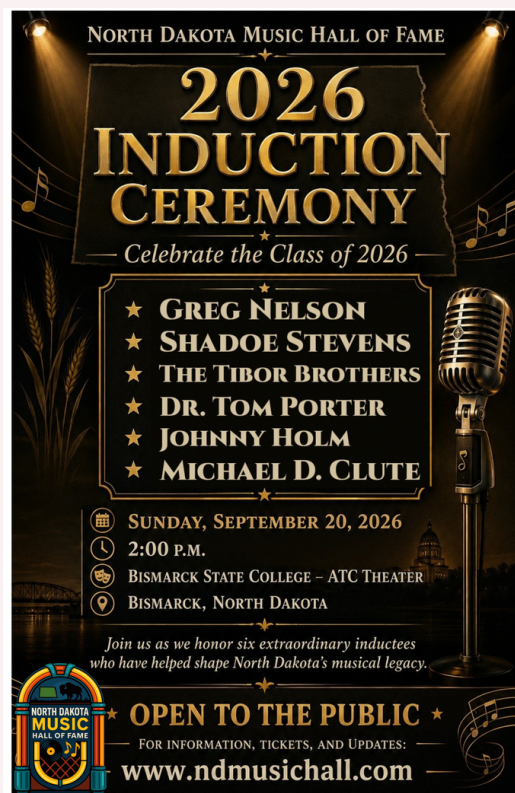


With deep family roots in Tolna, Egeland, and Adams, Michael D. Clute got his start performing in local rock bands at age 12. While attending North Dakota State University for engineering and music, he performed across the Fargo/Moorhead area and established Rainbow Recording Studio, producing regional commercials and local band records before making his move to Nashville.

As an elite music producer and sound engineer, Michael has worked on more than 400 major label tracks, yielding over two dozen #1 singles and 25 Gold and Platinum albums. He won a Grammy Award for producing Diamond Rio's album *The Reason* and has earned nearly 100 cumulative awards and nominations across the CMA, ACM, Dove, and Grammy organizations. Throughout his career, he has engineered and produced music for legends across genres, including Aerosmith, Shania Twain, Faith Hill, and Amy Grant.

While their careers and contributions are distinctly different, each of these inductees shares a lifelong commitment to music and a legacy worthy of recognition.

We also extend our sincere appreciation to everyone who submitted a nomination and helped us recognize the artists, educators, creators, and industry professionals who continue to shape North Dakota's musical story.



Looking for More Fun? Catch The North Dakota Stage Tour! 🎸

Want to attend even more exciting North Dakota Music Hall of Fame events? Hall of Fame Live presents The North Dakota Stage Tour, featuring local live music, adult beverages, and tons of fun!

Mark your calendars and come party with us:

- Friday, September 18th: Minot, ND
- Saturday, September 19th: Mandan, ND



BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

KAYLA
Lawson

Secretary of the ND Music Hall of Fame

In her professional life, Kayla works as a Communications Coordinator for Marlo Anderson. Outside of work, Kayla loves to travel, attend concerts, hang out with friends, and celebrate all the fun daily observances on the National Day Calendar. In her spare time, you can also find her taking in sprint car racing and spending quality time with her husband, children, and family.



AUGUST NOTABLE NATIONAL DAYS

- Aug. 7th–
International Blues Music Day
- Aug. 11th
Hip Hop Celebration Day
- Aug. 12th–
Vinyl Record Day
- Aug. 24th
International Strange Music Day
- Aug. 26th
Music Yoga Day

TUNING UP TRIVIA

Before The Beatles took America by storm in 1964, which famous Fargo-born singer and NDMHOF Inductee did John Lennon and Paul McCartney look up to and copy early harmonies from?

- a. Bobby Vee
- b. Johnny Lang
- c. Shannon Curfam

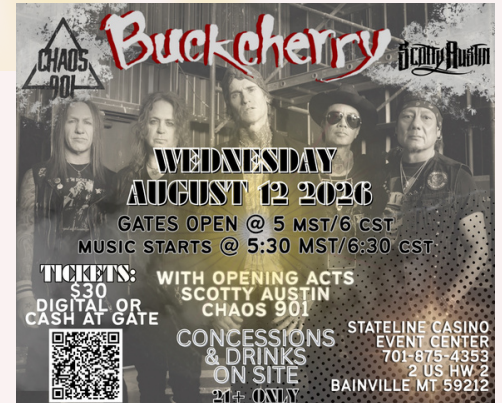
Answer to
last month's
trivia:
B. Bubbles in the
Wine

EVENT SPOTLIGHT

Summer Outdoor Rock Show at Stateline Casino!



Get ready to turn the volume up, North Dakota! The ultimate outdoor hard rock party of the summer is landing at the Stateline Casino on Wednesday, August 12, 2026, and it's a lineup you will not want to miss.



(Note: While the Stateline Casino sits just across the border in Bainville, MT, it's practically in our backyard—and they are huge supporters of local North Dakota music and our regional scene!)

Headlining the big stage are rock heavyweights Buckcherry, bringing their high-octane energy and timeless anthems to the prairie. Joining the bill as direct support is Scotty Austin (former lead singer of Saving Abel), delivering a powerhouse performance loaded with fan favorites and classic radio hits. Kicking off the night is Williston's very own hard rock outfit, Chaos 901, repping the local regional scene and setting the stage on fire from the start!

Event Details & Ticket Info:

Wednesday, August 12, 2026 | Doors open early

Stateline Casino (Bainville, MT / Williston, ND area)

Admission: Strictly 21+ Outdoor Event (Rain or Shine)

Tickets: Secure yours ahead of time via the official Eventbrite Ticket Page. General Admission tickets will also be available for purchase at the gate for \$40.00.

VIP Note: VIP passes are currently SOLD OUT online!



VENUE SPOTLIGHT



Citizens Alley in Downtown Minot

Looking for a great spot to catch live music? Citizens Alley is Minot's newest outdoor music and recreation venue! Located at 106 East Central Ave, this vibrant space is free to the public (unless reserved for a private event), fully accessible, and fun for all ages.

This summer, Citizens Alley made history as home to North Dakota's first-ever Levitt AMP Music Series, bringing free local, regional, and national talent to downtown every Thursday night.

There are only two weeks left to enjoy these free Thursday night concerts!
Gates open at 5:00 PM with music starting at 6:15 PM:

***August 13: Jessie Veeder (with Chris Basden)**

***August 20: Emmy Woods & The Red Pine Ramblers (with Lila Bea)**

Bring a lawn chair, use one of theirs, grab your family, and come enjoy the final shows of the summer! You might even spot someone from our friends at K-Hits 106.9 hanging out!



The SOUND of North Dakota



Your Ultimate Guide To Live Music in the 701 This Summer

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

Tigirlily 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 Kooler
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