THE DAKOTA BEAT
NEWSLETTER | OCTOBER 2026 EDITION

What a Day! Recapping the 2026 Induction Ceremony

Wow, what a day! On September 20, 2026, the North Dakota Music Hall of Fame welcomed its Class of 2026, and all six inductees were there in person, surrounded by their friends and family. They are an exceptional group of people, and we are so thankful we got to meet them, spend time with them, and officially induct them into the Hall of Fame. It was such a special day, and we will never forget it.



We are so grateful to everyone who helped make this day happen. Keep reading for the music, our riverboat dinner, and a few special thank-yous.

★ A DAY FULL OF MUSIC ★

The Tibor Brothers and their family brought their signature sound to the stage, and the Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus and a string quintet performed selections written by Greg Nelson and Dr. Tom Porter. Hearing their music come to life was truly beautiful and moving.

Michael D. Clute shared music videos featuring some of the incredible songs he has written throughout his career, giving us all a special window into his work.

And of course, the Johnny Holm Band closed out the night with all the fun we've come to expect, and two very special guests joined him on stage: Darren Rust of The Blenders (inducted in 2025) and Matt Vee, a relative of Bobby Vee, one of the very first inductees into the North Dakota Music Hall of Fame back in 2015.

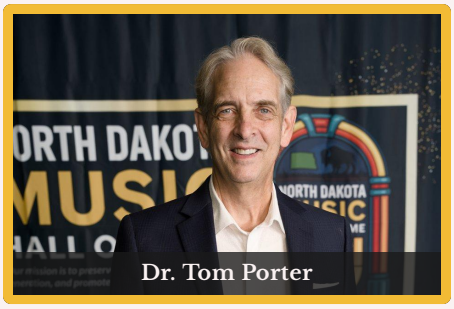
Shadoe Stevens was an absolute joy as our MC. He put in so much hard work to make emceeing this event special, wonderful, and hilariously funny. He brought us into his world a little bit, shared about an exciting project he has going on, and kept the whole room smiling.

We were also overwhelmed by the friends and family who came to celebrate. They didn't just travel from North Dakota; they came from all over the United States! We got to meet truly amazing people connected to all six inductees, had a great time together, and are so glad we can call some of them friends now. As a board, we are so thankful that all of our inductees could be there, and we feel so blessed to have gotten to know each and every one of them.


Greg Nelson


Shadoe Stevens


The Tibor Brothers


Dr. Tom Porter


Johnny Holm


Michael D. Clute

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★ ALL ABOARD THE RIVERBOAT! ★

The celebration started before the big day! The North Dakota Music Hall of Fame hosted a special inductee dinner aboard the Lewis & Clark Riverboat, a fun, relaxed way to get to know our inductees even better before induction day.

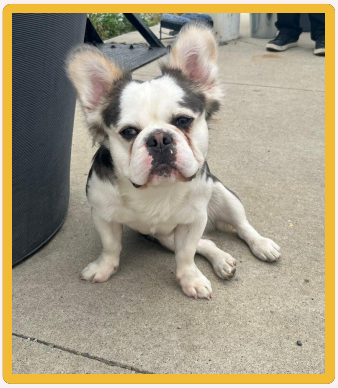
Four of our six inductees joined us on the water: Michael D. Clute, Shadoe Stevens, Dr. Tom Porter, and Greg Nelson, along with a few of their family and friends. We were also joined by friends of the North Dakota Music Hall of Fame, which made for a great evening.

The music kept the boat rolling, too. Two good friends of the Hall of Fame, Joe and Lars, provided live music and a really fun atmosphere. They even took requests!

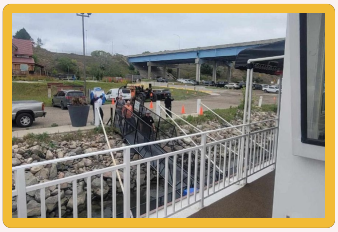
A big thank you to the Lewis & Clark Riverboat for letting us rent it out, and to Sixteen03 Main of Bismarck for the wonderful catering.









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★ FAMILIAR FACES IN THE CROWD ★

Past inductees who came out to celebrate the Class of 2026





Joining us to celebrate the newest class were two of our own past inductees, Richard Torrance and Keith Bear, who came out to show their support for this year's honorees. Darren Rust, also no stranger to the North Dakota Music Hall of Fame stage, was in attendance as well — and even joined the Johnny Holm Band for a special guest performance during the closing set.

It meant so much to have these familiar faces back with us, celebrating alongside the Class of 2026.

Keep an Eye on Our Website & Social Media

We have new items coming soon. Follow along so you don't miss out!

Online Auction Items

Country Fest tickets, donated by Country Fest

A few signed guitars, including one signed by all six inductees (one donated by Eckroth)

Merchandise from Michael D. Clute

Plus a few more items.

Shirts & Hats

Some great t-shirts and hats from the induction ceremony will be up for sale. Interested? Watch our website and social media for details.

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★ SPECIAL THANKS ★

It takes a whole community to put on an induction ceremony. Thank you to everyone below!

Sponsors & Partners

Dakota Community Bank

Farmers Union

Lodging & Transportation

The Bismarck Hotel

Veracity Motors

Venues & Food

Bismarck State College, and Collin and his staff, for hosting us at the ATC Theater

Sixteen03 Main Catering

Lewis & Clark Riverboat

Bri's Bakehouse for the yummy treats

Our Performers

The Tibor family

The Johnny Holm Band

The Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus and String Quintet

Michael D. Clute for the special music

Joe and Lars for the live music on the riverboat

Shadoe Stevens for all his hard work in making our ceremony so great

Our Helpers

Alice for all the yummy food in the green room

Pam for her help with the breakfast

Alyson and Ellie for all their help the day of the event

Chad and Lisa for their help setting up

Photographer

Matt Foster of FATT Media, for the photos and videos

Auction Donors

A big thank you to everyone who donated items for our silent and live auctions. Your generosity helps us keep North Dakota's music story going.

Inductee Introductions

Thank you to those who introduced our inductees: **Dory Hauck** (the Tibor Brothers), **Senator Cramer** (Johnny Holm), **Dr. Rebecca Raber** (Dr. Tom Porter), **Larry Jahnke** (Greg Nelson), **Dave Flohr** (Michael D. Clute), and **Tim Ingstad** (Shadoe Stevens).

And to anyone we may have forgotten to thank: we are so appreciative of every one of you!

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★ BOARD MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ★

BRIANNA HELBLING • BOARD MEMBER, ND MUSIC HALL OF FAME



This month, we're spotlighting board member Brianna Helbling. Brianna hails from the Mandan area and brings a musician's perspective to our board — music isn't just a passion for her, it's her profession.

When she's not on our board or making music, you can find Brianna spending time with her dog Paris, her cat, and her family. She also runs a sweet little side project of her own: Bri's Bakehouse, a Fargo bake stand where she whips up homemade cookies and other delicious baked goods.

We're so grateful to have her on our team — thanks for all you do, Brianna!

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★ A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT ★



Wow, what a month! I'm still smiling about the induction ceremony.

To our board members and volunteers, thank you. You gave a lot of time and work to make the day happen, and we couldn't have done it without you.

To our six inductees, thank you for being part of it. It was a real pleasure getting to know each of you.

And to everyone who came out, thank you for filling the room. You're why we do this.

I'm proud of this group, and I'm looking forward to what's next.

Thank you,
Marlo Anderson
President, North Dakota Music Hall of Fame



Our board, left to right: Brianna Helbling, Mark Wagner (Vice President), Dave Blair, Marlo Anderson (President), Correy Pierce, Brock Holbert, Tracey Anderson (Treasurer), and Kayla Lawson (Secretary). *Not pictured:* Brenda Beran & Sheila Moffit

Make Some Noise: National Days to Celebrate

Three music-minded days coming up. Tag us and share how you celebrate!

OCT 23

iPod Day

Dust off your old playlists! Tell us the song from your iPod you'd still play on repeat.

OCT 25

National Merri Music Day

Honors the Merritone Sound System, born in 1940s Jamaica and called the oldest sound system on the planet.

NOV 6

National Saxophone Day

Marks the birthday of Adolphe Sax, who invented the saxophone. Play your favorite sax solo!

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★ NORTH DAKOTA SPOTLIGHT ★

Celebrating the artists carrying North Dakota's music forward



Morgan Wade Harr

Morgan Wade Harr grew up in Ypsilanti and now lives in New Salem, where he writes and performs original outlaw country with a nod to Johnny Cash. He picked up the ukulele in 2014, switched to guitar around 2020, and toured seven European countries in 2017 with the National Ambassadors of Music. Today he leads the Morgan Wade Harr Band. Find him at morganwadeharr.com.

TUNING UP TRIVIA

At what age did 2026 inductee Shadoe Stevens start his radio career and become known as "America's Youngest DJ"?

a. 11 years old
b. 16 years old
c. 21 years old

Answer to last month's trivia: **B. 20 years** of professional experience.

Tune In Every Friday!

Listen every Friday at **7 p.m.** on **K-Hits 106.9** out of Minot for our weekly interview with the North Dakota Spotlight artist.

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★ THE DAKOTA SPANGRAM ★

Theme: Class of 2026. Find 7 hidden words, plus the spangram, which stretches from the top of the board to the bottom.

Trace words by linking touching letters: up, down, sideways or diagonally. Every letter is used exactly once!

H	S	P	O	N	L
A	E	T	R	S	E
R	L	T	E	O	N
O	L	V	E	N	S
T	F	C	L	U	T
F	I	B	M	E	C
A	O	R	H	U	I
E	M	O	L	M	S

Hint: six are last names of our inductees, one is what they make, and the spangram is where they now belong.

Answer key (row, column): HALLOFFAME: R1C1 R2C1 R3C2 R4C2 R4C1 R5C2 R6C1 R7C1 R8C2 R8C1 • STEVENS: R1C2 R2C3 R3C4 R4C3 R4C4 R4C5 R4C6 • PORTER: R1C3 R1C4 R2C4 R3C3 R2C2 R3C1 • NELSON: R1C5 R2C6 R1C6 R2C5 R3C5 R3C6 • TIBOR: R5C1 R6C2 R6C3 R7C2 R7C3 • CLUTE: R5C3 R5C4 R5C5 R5C6 R6C5 • MUSIC: R6C4 R7C5 R8C6 R7C6 R6C6 • HOLM: R7C4 R8C3 R8C4 R8C5