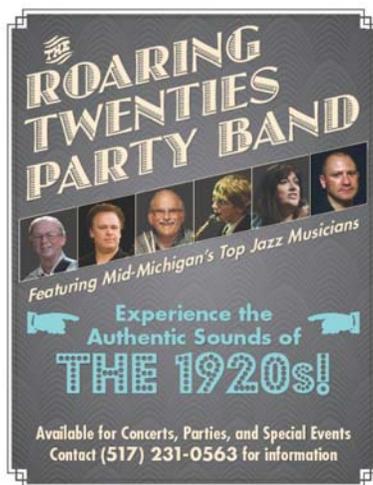




Contact Jeffrey Hayes
Telephone 517-541-5691
Email HayesJ@charlottenet.org
Website www.charlotteperformingartscenter.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 31, 2016

CELEBRATE WITH YOUR CHARLOTTE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



Charlotte, MI, May 31, 2016– The Charlotte Performing Arts Center is excited to kick off the **CELEBRATE CHARLOTTE FESTIVAL** and **ANNOUNCE OUR 2016-2017 SEASON** on Wednesday, June 15, with a special performance by **Roaring Twenties Party Band** starting at 7:30 pm. This family-friendly show is sponsored by Dean Transportation and Friends of the Charlotte Performing Arts Center and features a lively Michigan-based group of 6 professional musicians.

Made up of mid-Michigan's top jazz musicians, this all-star band is sure to inspire dancing in your seats as they take us back to the carefree and exciting musical times of the Roaring 1920's. The players bring a long and varied history of performing with the nation's top entertainers in venues featuring jazz, Broadway shows, and top symphony orchestras. The musical selections include songs that everyone will recognize as enduring 20's jazz, dance tunes, and ballads, all of which represent

Americana presented at its finest.

You will experience the original sounds of the 1920's presented with a fresh new approach using authentic sounds of ukulele, banjo, archtop guitar, sassy trumpet, vocal schnozzle, raspy kazoo, wide-vibrato sax, and strong jazz vocals. To help get into the spirit you are invited to search your closet for your best twenties attire. It is entirely optional, but the best dressed couple will be awarded a prize for the top outstanding period attire.

Songs you will recognize are enduring Great American Songbook selections such as Blue Skies, The Way You Look Tonight, Mack the Knife, S'Wonderful, Georgia, Stormy Weather, Someone to Watch Over Me, My Blue Heaven, Embraceable You, It Had to be You, Ain't She Sweet, As Time Goes By, Charleston, and many more. This is a musical review that represents the great jazz legacy from the Roaring Twenties.

This performance is generously supported by Dean Transportation. All show seat tickets are \$10 and are available at the Charlotte Performing Arts Center box office between the hours of 9 am and 12 noon Monday through Friday, or by purchasing online at www.charlotteperformingartscenter.com. Box office phone is (517) 541-5690.

Make a complete evening of the event with a PRE-SHOW DINNER. Sponsored by the Eaton Area Senior Center, beginning at 6:00pm in the cafeteria you can enjoy a fried chicken dinner with potatoes, vegetables, salad, fresh baked dinner roll, soft drink, and desert. Tickets for the dinner are \$10 for adults or \$6 for children and advance purchase is required.

ABOUT THE BAND:

Roaring Twenties Party Band was organized by Charlotte's Don Sovey in January of this year in preparation for the 30th birthday party of his daughter-in-law, Danielle. The birthday celebrant wanted a special party to say good-bye to her twenties decade. That was the beginning of **Roaring Twenties Party Band**.

Musicians recruited for the band include some of Michigan's top jazz players who regularly work with many different musical groups and ensembles. All are music readers and the majority are college trained music majors.

The musicians include:

Dominic Michael Bierenga (*Sax and Clarinet*) graduated in 2015 from Central Michigan University with a Bachelor of Science in Music. He served as an on-air host for Nightside Jazz and Blues with CMU Pubic Radio and was recognized for his musical achievements as Outstanding Soloist at the Elmhurst College Jazz Festival, Jack Saunders Jazz Award (CMU), ASCAP Young Jazz Composers Award Winner, North American Saxophone Alliance Quartet Competition Semi-Finalist, and Robert D. Hays Award for Excellence in Jazz (CMU).

Danielle Blanchard (*Vocals*) is a professional vocal musician and educator with over 2,200 commercial jingles and other recordings to her credit. She's performed on over 12 recordings nominated for Grammy Awards, and was honored by NARAS in 2012 for 20 years voting member service. She has performed everything from opera to rock, performed and directed musical theater and dance productions and is a former Newsweek-WDIV Middle School Teacher of the Year (Vocal Music, Theatre and Technology) and former Adjunct at Oakland University.

Brad Fowler (*Trumpet*) has been performing professionally in the US and abroad for over 20 years. Formerly first call trumpeter for Princess Cruise Lines, his performance highlights include lead trumpet for the Gerald Wilson Big Band (Detroit Jazz Fest), lead trumpet for the Michael Dease big band (East Lansing Jazz Fest) and stints on tour with Rock and Roll hall of fame inductee, Bob Seger. Adept at multiple styles and genres, Mr. Fowler can be found in both lead and solo positions in Jazz, Funk/R&B and Salsa bands across Michigan.

Pete Kittle (*Dr. Bass*) majored in music performance at MSU and has played professionally since he was 14 years old. He enjoys and has performed a wide variety of styles ranging from musicals at the Wharton Center to performing live at the Christian Music Awards in Nashville, TN. Pete is presently completing his second solo album (FULL CIRCLE) scheduled to be released nationally in 2016.

Ian Levine (*Drums*) is a product of a musical family and first attended Wayne State while also playing music in metro Detroit. At MSU, he completed undergraduate and grad programs in social science/secondary education and school psychology, and was a member of MSU Jazz Band I under the direction of Ron Newman. Ian has performed in jazz festivals at Aquinas College, Notre Dame, Ohio State, Detroit, Schoolcraft College, Michigan Festival, Lansing Old Town, E. Lansing Summer Solstice and Flint; subbed with the Jimmy Dorsey and Legends of Swing big bands.

Don Sovey - (Archtop Guitar, Banjo, Ukulele, Vocals) has served as guitarist with symphony orchestras in Lansing, Battle Creek and recently performed with the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra featuring vocalist Jackie Evancho. He has also played guitar, banjo, ukulele, and mandolin with 22 National Touring Broadway Musicals at Wharton Center, Devos Performance Hall, and Miller Auditorium. He serves as guitarist and vocalist in J&J Sounds, World Class City Band, and Don Sovey Quintet.

Steve Edwards (Sound Technician) has built his career around providing top sound support for many of the country's top touring musicians. As a member of the band's team, Steve serves an integral role for the success of every musical production.

###

If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Jeffrey Hayes at 517-541-5691 or email at HayesJ@charlottenet.org