

Mechanics Hall

Where Community and Culture Meet

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Worcester's music scene gets in the groove with Club 321

Spring 2024 music series kicks off with "The Jim & Val Show" and "Jim Rice Trio" on Thursday, February 22

February 12, 2024 (Worcester, MA)—Club 321 kicks off its spring 2024 season with the upbeat, feel-good sounds of "The Jim & Val Show," on **Thursday, February 22**. Backed by the Jim Rice Trio, longtime musical partners Jim Rice and Valerie Sneade-Roy will perform popular tunes from Broadway, the American songbook, hits from the 1960s and 70s. Club 321's eclectic spring lineup continues with Fellswater, Boston's dynamic Celtic music ensemble, on **Thursday, March 7**; the Jack Soref Trio performing manouche "Gypsy" jazz, an expressive combination of American jazz elements and traditional Romani music, on **Thursday, April 4**; Sol y Canto, a Pan-Latin ensemble known for its poetic, often quirky lyrics, on **Thursday, May 16**; and Jeffrey Foucault with his Midwestern amalgam of blues, country, rock'n'roll, and folk on **Thursday, June 20**.

During each Club 321 event, patrons can also enjoy beer tasting by [Redemption Rock Brewing](#) and browse an art exhibit sponsored by [Juniper Rag](#), an independent Massachusetts art and lifestyle magazine.

[Club 321](#) is located in Washburn Hall on the second level of Mechanics Hall—within easy walking distance of anywhere in downtown Worcester. Performances begin at 7:00 p.m., with doors opening at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are \$20 purchased in advance; \$23 at the door. Ticket holders must be at least 18 years old. Seating includes cabaret-style tables and some theater-style. There will be a cash bar and charcuterie plates for sale. To learn more and purchase tickets, visit mechanicshall.org/club321.

Club 321 is presented by [Mechanics Hall](#) and sponsored by [Reliant Medical Group](#). Media Partner is [WICN 90.5 FM](#)

The accessible entrance to Mechanics Hall is located on Waldo Street. Elevators are located in the ground-floor lobby and provide access to the second and third floors. Those who need assistance can contact the Mechanics Hall Ticket Office, Monday through Friday from 9:30am to 4:30pm, by calling 508-752-0888.

Performer photographs are available here:

[Jim Rice & Valerie Sneade-Roy](#)

[Fellswater](#)

[Jack Soref](#)

[Sol y Canto](#)

[Jeffrey Foucault](#)



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About Jim & Val

Jim Rice, of New York and Boston, is an accomplished and diverse music director, arranger, conductor, singer, and pianist of many styles. He has performed in hundreds of theaters and concert halls throughout the USA and Europe. Grafton, Massachusetts native **Valerie Sneade-Roy** has won awards, collected rave reviews from critics across the country, sung with Broadway stars, and performed on stages from the Grand Ole Opry to theaters and nightclubs in New York and Boston.

Together, they are “*The Jim & Val Show*,” celebrating songs by the girls who rocked your world and the boys who made your heart throb. They share a feel-good, upbeat, fresh, and funny, musical experience that comes from a friendship of nearly three decades. Their onstage rapport and interaction in their playful *The Jim and Val Show* is not only memorable but invigorating. Of the many shows they perform together, their most recent is *The Music of Steve & Eydie* which pays tribute to the one of the most popular married entertainment duos of all time, Steve Lawrence & Eydie Gorme. [Learn more about The Jim and Val Show](#)

About Fellswater

Fellswater is Boston’s dynamic Celtic music ensemble that performs a wide range of music from traditional to modern compositions, drawing from the heritage of all the Celtic nations, especially Scotland, Ireland, Galicia and Canada. The group’s instrumentation changes depending on the musical selection and includes vocals, whistles, Irish flute, guitar, octave mandolin, violin, cello, nyckelharpa, Celtic harp, piano accordion, Scottish smallpipes, border pipes and percussion. Since it was formed in 2008, Fellswater has performed throughout New England and in Canada and Scotland. In March 2023, the band collaborated with the renowned [Metropolitan Choral](#) to present its *Celtic Crossroads* concert to much acclaim at the JFK Presidential Library in Boston. The Club 321 event on March 7 will include an instrument “petting zoo” during intermission. [Learn more about Fellswater.](#)

About the Josef Soref Trio

Born and raised in Madison, WI, Jack Soref has spent the last 20 years living in New England, where he has been one of the pillars of the region's fairly substantial Jazz Manouche music scene. Soref has performed at jazz clubs, restaurants, concert halls, and festival stages all over the United States, as well as internationally on stages in France, Canada, and Scotland. He is a mainstay of *Django in June*, where he has taught since 2009, and the Midwest Gypsy Swing Fest, where he has performed as recently as 2023. For the Club 321 event on April 4, the trio-- Jack Soref, guitar; Jameson Stewart, guitar/bass; and Dan Hunt, guitar--will celebrate the music of guitar hero Django Reinhardt. The band will perform a program of tunes Django either composed or revived on a bevy of guitars handmade in Worcester by Hunt. [Learn more about Jack Soref.](#)

About Sol y Canto

Sol y Canto is the award winning Pan-Latin ensemble led by Puerto Rican/Argentine singer and percussionist Rosi Amador and New Mexican guitarist, singer and composer Brian Amador. Featuring Rosi’s crystalline voice and Brian’s lush Spanish guitar and inventive compositions, Sol y Canto is known for making their music accessible to Spanish- and non-Spanish speaking audiences of all ages. On occasion the group is accompanied by virtuoso musicians from Latin America and the United States.



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Sol y Canto's original songs are distinguished by poetic, often quirky lyrics set in a framework of varied musical styles with surprising twists. They can make you dance, laugh, cry and sigh all in one concert. Their arrangements of classic and contemporary Latin tunes are always fresh and original. With Brian's commanding, intricate guitar playing, Rosi's rhythmic drive on cajón and bongos, and liberal use of vocal improvisation, the duo often sounds like a much larger ensemble. [Learn more about Sol y Canto.](#)

About Jeffrey Foucault

In two decades on the road Jeffrey Foucault has become one of the most distinctive voices in American music, refining a sound instantly recognizable for its simplicity and emotional power, a decidedly Midwestern amalgam of blues, country, rock'n'roll, and folk. The Wisconsin native has built a brick-and-mortar international touring career on multiple studio albums, countless miles, and general critical acclaim. Lauded for "stark, literate songs that are as wide open as the landscape of his native Midwest" (*The New Yorker*), and described as "quietly brilliant" (*The Irish Times*), Foucault has caught the ear of everyone from Van Dyke Parks to Greil Marcus, to Don Henley, who regularly covers Foucault in his live set. [Learn more about Jeffrey Foucault.](#)

About Mechanics Hall

Built in 1857 by Worcester County Mechanics Association, Mechanics Hall is internationally regarded as one of the world's great concert halls for its superb acoustics and 19th-century elegance. Regionally, it is widely considered to be Worcester's finest meeting place. The world's most renowned orchestras and performers—from the London Philharmonic to Yo-Yo Ma and Ella Fitzgerald to Linda Rondstat—have taken the Hall's stage. Among the many luminaries who have spoken at Mechanics Hall are Charles Dickens, Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and Mark Twain. In addition to serving as a premiere venue and recording site, Mechanics Hall offers inspiring cultural experiences for diverse audiences through a variety of creative initiatives—including free concerts, community events, a youth chorus, and collaborative programs with local colleges and non-profit organizations.

A non-profit organization, Mechanics Hall is owned and operated by the Worcester County Mechanics Association (est. 1842). It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Learn more at mechanicshall.org.

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