

Mechanics Hall

Where Community and Culture Meet

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Brown Bag Concerts serves up a variety of jazz styles and holiday music

This fall's noontime series announced by Mechanics Hall and 90.5 WICN Public Radio

October 19, 2023 (Worcester, MA) — Mechanics Hall and 90.5 WICN Public Radio have announced the fall 2023 schedule for their popular [Brown Bag Concerts](#) series. Now in its 38th season, Brown Bag Concerts includes four Wednesday noontime concerts, featuring artists performing a variety of jazz styles and holiday music. The fall series includes jazz pianist Laszlo Gardony on **November 8**; Dan Gabel's Stoptime Revue, a seven-piece, vintage-inspired show band, on **November 15**; holiday jazz with the Eric Mintel Quartet on **November 29**; and the U.S. Navy Band Northeast's annual holiday concert, performed with the New England Conservatory Chamber Singers and Symphonic Winds, on **December 6**. All concerts are free to the public.

Produced by [90.5 WICN Public Radio](#) and [Mechanics Hall](#), the Brown Bag Concert Series is held at Mechanics Hall, 321 Main Street, Worcester. Concerts begin at noon and end promptly at 1:00 pm. Doors open at 11:30am. Cabaret-style seating in the Great Hall is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Attendees are invited to bring their own "brown bag" lunch. In addition, food and beverages will be available for purchase. Brown Bag Concerts is broadcast live on 90.5 FM WICN Public Radio and streamed at wicn.org. Concerts are subject to change without notice. For more information, visit mechanicshall.org or call 508-752-5608.

The accessible entrance to Mechanics Hall is located on Waldo Street. Elevators are located in the ground-floor Waldo lobby and provide access to the second and third floors. There is no elevator access to the balcony. All concerts take place in the Great Hall on the third level. Those who need assistance can contact the Mechanics Hall Ticket Office, Monday through Friday from 9:30am to 4:30pm, by calling 508-752-5608.

Brown Bag Concerts is sponsored by Price Chopper/Market 32, The Fred Harris Daniels Foundation, and Mass Cultural Council.

About the Artists:

More information is available on the Mechanics Hall [website](#).

November 8: Laszlo Gardony

Internationally acclaimed Boston-based jazz pianist and composer Laszlo Gardony is one of the most expressive and technically skilled pianists working in jazz today. A native of Hungary, he has performed in 27 countries and released 13 albums during his distinguished decades-long career. Gardony's recordings and performances



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convey the joy of inspired creation, drawing on a deep well of emotions, a prodigious technique, and a playful curiosity that thrives on creating music that is truly alive in each unique moment. His 14th album as a leader, “Close Connection” (Sunnyside Records), which features his trio, Yoron Israel (drums) and John Lockwood (bass), was released in December 2022. [Learn more about Laszlo Gardony.](#)

[Photograph of Laszlo available here.](#)

November 15: Dan Gabel

Hailed by the Boston Globe as “the real deal, [a bandleader] that looks and sounds like the 1940s” and by the Syncopated Times as “the champion of Big Bands and vintage jazz,” Dan Gabel is a trombonist, arranger, bandleader, historian, and educator. His popular big band, Dan Gabel and The Abletones, has played throughout the northeast and is featured on numerous recordings and video and television programs. A busy sideman, Dan Gabel tours internationally and has recorded with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, on the road full-time, as well as first-call with many other groups, including the Cab Calloway, Tommy Dorsey, and Hal McIntyre Orchestras.

[Learn more about Dan Gabel.](#)

[Photograph of Dan Gabel available here.](#)

November 29: Eric Mintel Quartet

An urbane and intelligent improviser, arranger, and composer, jazz pianist Eric Mintel performs in a straight-ahead style, often incorporating classical themes into his music. Influenced by such legends as Dave Brubeck, Bill Evans, and Duke Ellington, in 1993 he formed the Eric Mintel Quartet, featuring Eric Mintel on piano, Nelson Hill on saxophone and flute, Jack Hegyi on bass, and Dave Mohn on drums. The group has since performed in a wide array of settings, including at Kennedy Center and the White House as well as on Marian McPartland's Piano Jazz on NPR. [Learn more about the Eric Mintel Quartet.](#)

[Photograph of Eric Mintel available here.](#)

December 6: U.S. Navy Band Northeast

Navy Band Northeast is a 35-musician ensemble based on board NAVSTA Newport and one of 11 official U.S. Navy bands worldwide. For their annual holiday concert, the Navy Band Northeast teams up with the [New England Conservatory's](#) Chamber Singers and Symphonic Winds to perform a broad repertoire of holiday favorites. [Learn more about the U.S. Navy Band Northeast.](#)

About Mechanics Hall

Built in 1857 by WCMA, 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



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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.

About WICN Public Radio

90.5 WICN Public Radio, Inc. has been a dynamic presence in the cultural life of central Massachusetts for over fifty years. WICN originated in 1969 as Worcester's Inter-Collegiate Network, joining The College of the Holy Cross and Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) with other local colleges. WICN was accredited by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in 1987.

As one of the few remaining jazz-focused radio stations in the United States, WICN is committed to the keeping the Worcester community vibrant and economically sustainable through the presentation of authentic, independent music, on the radio and in the concert halls, preserving America's living art forms of jazz and other music for generations to enjoy. Learn more at wicn.org

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