

Mechanics Hall

Where Community and Culture Meet

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contacts: Kathleen Gagne, Executive Director, 508-752-5608 x222, kgagne@mechanicshall.org
Amy Sklar, Director of Sales and Marketing, 508-752-5608 x239, asklar@mechanicshall.org

Brown Bag Concerts serves a distinctive blend of jazz styles this fall

New season lineup announced by Mechanics Hall and 90.5FM WICN Public Radio

October 17, 2024 (Worcester, MA) — Mechanics Hall and 90.5FM WICN Public Radio have announced the fall 2024 schedule for their popular [Brown Bag Concerts](#) series. A Worcester musical tradition since 1983, Brown Bag Concerts features regional and national artists performing a wide variety of jazz styles—from American and Latin to Big Band and Gypsy jazz. The fall 2024 season includes jazz violinist and vocalist Tomoko Iwamoto on **Wednesday, November 13**; Latin jazz group Trío Búho on **Wednesday, November 20**; contemporary soul and jazz saxophonist Myanna on **Wednesday, December 4**; and the perennial favorite U.S. Navy Band Northeast with the New England Conservatory’s Chamber Singers and Symphonic Winds on **Wednesday, December 11**. All concerts are free and open to the public; registration is not required.

Produced by Mechanics Hall in partnership with [90.5FM WICN Public Radio](#), 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. Whenever possible, the concert series 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.

Brown Bag Concert Series is sponsored by [Price Chopper/Market 32](#) and The Fred Harris Daniels Foundation.

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



Mechanics Hall

Where Community and Culture Meet

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.

About the Artists:

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

November 13: Tomoko Iwamoto

Born and educated in Japan, Tomoko Iwamoto majored in electrical engineering at Keio University, but spent a lot of time playing jazz saxophone and singing in the R&B band. After working as an engineer in Tokyo for a year, she moved to the U.S. to become a professional musician. She studied at the Berklee College of Music with Sharon Leventhal (classical violin), Matt Glaser (jazz violin), Herb Pomeroy (jazz trumpet), Greg Hopkins (harmony and jazz composition), and Ken Pullig (jazz arranging and composition). Calling herself a “jazzy” violinist, Iwamoto has performed with groups playing styles from classical, rock, and pop to jazz and world music. She leads the gypsy jazz quartet “440” and is also a member and composer/arranger of J-Way (jazz string quartet) and Axis Electric Strings (Top 40 songs). In addition, Iwamoto continues to perform classical music with Plymouth Philharmonic, Lexington Symphony, New England Philharmonic, Woodvale String Quartet, among others. [Learn more about Tomoko Iwamoto](#)

[A photograph of Tomoko Iwamoto is available here.](#)

November 20: Trío Búho

Trío Búho is a Latin jazz group featuring pianist José Soto, bassist Greg Loughman, and percussionist Gen Yoshimura. Together, they have forged a new and distinctive voice, rooted both in the rhythms and songs from across Latin America and the songs and improvisational approach of jazz. The result is a unique and irresistible blend, rhythmically infectious, melodically appealing, and peppered with exciting and surprising complexities. Costa Rican pianist José Soto has performed internationally with artists including Luciana Souza, Chico Pinheiro, Danilo Perez, and Cheo Feliciano. Bassist Greg Loughman has performed with artists including Jerry Bergonzi, Mark Murphy, the Rhythm Future Quartet, and Danilo Perez. Drummer Gen Yoshimura has made a name for himself as a versatile accompanist, performing with internationally acclaimed artists such as



Mechanics Hall

Where Community and Culture Meet

Fernando Huergo, Kris Davis, and Walter Smith, winning Jazz Artistry Now (JAN)'s Best of Jazz 2020 for his drumming in Fernando Huergo's Big Band album "The Possibility of Change".

[A photograph of Trio Búho is available here.](#)

December 4: Myanna

One of the hottest and most soulful saxophonists in Massachusetts, Myanna plays music that mixes jazz improvisation with funky rhythms, expressive playing, and catchy tunes. Her music, whether it is an original or a cover tune, is colorful and infectious, and she is a consistent crowd pleaser. [Learn more about Myanna.](#)

[A photograph of Myanna is available here.](#)

December 11: U.S. Navy Band Northeast

Navy Band Northeast is a thirty-five-musician ensemble based on board NAVSTA Newport and one of eleven 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, directed by Bill Drury, and Symphonic Winds, directed by Erica Washburn, to perform a broad repertoire of holiday favorites. [Learn more about the U.S. Navy Band Northeast.](#)

[A photograph of the U.S. Navy Band Northeast performing at Mechanics Hall is available here.](#)

About Mechanics Hall

Built in 1857, 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 Ronstadt—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

Where Community and Culture Meet

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

90.5FM 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

###

