

HANOVER THEATRE & CONSERVATORY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Music, Aliens, Santa and more!

FREE SUMMER EVENTS at The Hanover Theatre



Photo collage features Big Nazo, Clatta Bumboo, Kotoko Brass, and Stomp N' Holler

Worcester, Mass. (May 23, 2024) Starting **July 10**, the Francis R. Carroll Plaza comes to life with the sounds of live bands, captivating performances, and popular food trucks at [The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts](#). After the success of last year's inaugural season, the popular *Lunchtime Concert Series* returns with a brand-new lineup performing **FREE** live music on the outdoor [Bank of America Stage](#) every Wednesday from **11:30-1:30 PM**. These concerts are the perfect excuse to get out of the office and enjoy the vibrant downtown scene! Other free summer events on the plaza include the theatre's 3rd Annual *Christmas in July*, the only indoor/outdoor party of its kind at The

Hanover Theatre on **July 25 at 5 PM**, and an extraterrestrial invasion under the stars featuring the international performance group, BIG NAZO on **August 3 at 7 PM**.

Described last summer by Edwin Shea, President of Bank of American Central Massachusetts, as a “world class performance space bringing a whole new level of vitality to the city,” the Bank of America Stage on the Francis R. Carroll Plaza has only grown in its appeal and vibrancy. Even in the winter months the stage featured ice sculptures, variety artists, girl scouts, and became the destination for a slew of family photoshoots along with local music video productions.

Now summer 2024 promises to heat things up at The Hanover Theatre! Learn more about the exciting FREE performances and the entertaining visiting artists below.

July 10 brings [The Party Band](#) to the outdoor Bank of America stage. They’re an original brass band embodying homegrown, unadulterated, unplugged fun with a mission to make the world a better place through the joys of quality live music in a way that is accessible to everyone. Originating in Lowell, MA, The Party Band has traveled the country sharing original brass music inspired by the sounds of New Orleans and folk music from across Planet Earth.

On **July 17** [Clatta Bumboo](#) makes his Worcester debut. Born in the parish of Westmoreland, Jamaica and raised in the small mountain village of Moreland Hill in the same parish. Influenced by the commanding reggae sound of the Rastafari elders such as The Wailers, Bob Marley, Burning Spear and Culture. Clatta Bumboo has accepted the responsibility to uphold the roots music of his culture and has produced several original reggae records.

July 24 [The Suitcase Junket](#) cleverly lands at the Francis R. Carroll Plaza. The popular one-man set bears constant comparison to legends of showmanship, brilliance, madness and invention. What instruments, Matt Lorenz requires, he builds from scratch and salvage. What parts five players would perform, he performs alone. Audiences are consistently captivated by his solitary form and the show itself.

July 25 from **5-7 PM** marks our 3rd Annual [Christmas in July](#) extravaganza. This festive indoor/outdoor event, hosted by the talented Steve Gagliastro and Annie Kerins, promises to be an unforgettable evening filled with holiday cheer, live music, and festivities. Attendees will receive special access to holiday deals and be able to enter to win fun prizes! Joining the celebration is the stellar James Rice on keys, accompanied by a diverse range of talent from The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts. Guests are encouraged to embrace the holiday spirit by dressing up in their favorite festive attire, snacking on a sweet treat from a food truck and participating in a joyous sing-along. The evening promises to be a heartwarming experience that will invoke the magic of Christmas... in July!

On **July 31** [Girls Just Want To Have Fun!](#) Attendees of this lunchtime concert will be transported to the totally tubular 80’s with the Girls Just Want To Have Fun Band, New England’s #1 80’s Ladies Tribute Band! This band brings the party wherever they go with a talented and energetic female-fronted lineup!

August 3 from **7-9:30 PM** aliens invade Carroll Plaza. BIG NAZO, an international performance group of visual artists, puppet performers, and masked musicians unite to create bizarre and hilarious larger-than-life sized characters, environments, and spectacles. Renegade circus family contortionists, a rowdy rodeo horse, blob-like GO-GO Dancers, a charismatic lab rat and more create an irreverent musical Commedia full of irresolvable conflict, ridiculous dancing and an epic battle with the forces of chaos.

On **August 7** [Scottish Fish](#) present a fresh take on traditional and contemporary Scottish and Cape Breton music. Their lively and unique arrangements are woven together from session music handed down from generations of the tradition's finest players, many of whom they have had the opportunity to share the stage with. These five young women have a very long and unique history, they began the band as elementary school children and have remained together for the last decade. You won't be able to keep your toes from tapping and hands from clapping, especially when experiencing their arrangements live.

[Hot Honey](#) arrives at the Francis R. Carroll Plaza on **August 14**. This collective of performers from the famed *Blue Man Group* come together to explore and expand their musical boundaries with new interpretations of some of their favorite songs interwoven with their original work. Hot Honey hits the spot. Spicy and Sweet. Funk, Pop, Folk and Low Rock.

August 21 brings [Kotoko Brass](#) to the plaza. Inspired by the traditional drum rhythms of Ghana, Kotoko Brass creates a unique, joyful, and improvisational style of West African dance music described by the *Boston Globe* as "propulsive, infectious party music". The horns blend traditional sounds of New Orleans with the famous West African brass band sound heard from Ghana to Nigeria, and the guitar, keys and bass evoke classic African and Caribbean styles of highlife, afrobeat and reggae.

To close out the Lunchtime Concert Series [Stomp N' Holler](#) hits the Francis R. Carroll Plaza on **August 28**. Voted "Best Country Act" by the 2023 Worcester Music Awards, Stomp N' Holler has been performing their "Feel-Good Music for the Masses" throughout New England since 2015. Their blend of Classic and Current Country and Country Rock along with their critically acclaimed originals have entertained audiences from 30 to 5,000.

Accessible by [WRTA](#) free bus routes, all Francis R. Carroll Plaza events are open to the public and free to attend. These performances are the perfect way to wrap up your summer and celebrate the arts with friends, family, and co-workers. [RSVP here today](#). Food trucks will show up rain or shine. For additional information, please visit TheHanoverTheatre.org. In the event of severe inclement weather please check website for event updates.

About the Francis R. Carroll Plaza and the outdoor Bank of America Stage

The newly reconstructed Francis R. Carroll Plaza is a public outdoor space in front of The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts dedicated to celebrating art, culture, and community. This space pays tribute to Worcester business leader and veteran Francis R. Carroll, who is celebrated

locally and nationally for his exceptional contributions to charitable organizations and philanthropic efforts. The vision for the Carroll Plaza was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the City of Worcester, local community organizations and generous contributions from individuals and corporations committed to the city's growth and prosperity. With the addition of the outdoor stage funded by Bank of America and programming of the space by THT, the Bank of America Stage on Carroll Plaza promises a powerful commitment to the arts through free programming open to the public. Visitors also enjoy the public art installation "Calliope" by Ross Miller, which was inspired by the historic Mighty Wurlitzer organ and features a light display. The reimagined Francis R. Carroll Plaza marks an exciting chapter in Worcester's history, an emblem of its determination to evolve as a thriving cultural destination.

About The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts

Since opening in 2008, The Hanover Theatre has entertained more than two million guests with Broadway musicals, comedy headliners, music, dance and more. POLLSTAR consistently ranks The Hanover Theatre as one of the top theatres in the world. The award-winning historic theatre continues to establish its place as a world-class center for the performing arts, a venue for local cultural and civic organizations and a catalyst for the revitalization of downtown Worcester. The Hanover Theatre's facilities at 551 Main Street house function spaces, offices, and The Hanover Theatre Conservatory. The Hanover Theatre Conservatory provides performance opportunities, classes, and individual instruction in theatre, dance and technical theatre and design to more than 500 young people and adults from across central Massachusetts each year. Established in 2016, the conservatory cultivates individual attention, ignites creativity, and inspires confidence through arts education led by outstanding teaching artists. The state-of-the-art facility includes classrooms, rehearsal and teaching studios, and tech and costume labs for advanced education in stage craft and design. Students receive access to master classes with national touring artists and gain professional experience from performance opportunities with THT Rep and on The Hanover Theatre's world-class stage. THTC believes in access to arts education for all and provides financial aid for those in need. Many conservatory students have continued their pursuit of the arts at institutions such as Emerson College, Boston University, NYU, Boston Conservatory at Berklee, Berklee College of Music, Hofstra, Hartt School at the University of Hartford, Marymount Manhattan College, Syracuse University and more. Worcester Center for Performing Arts is a registered not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, which owns and operates The Hanover Theatre and Conservatory for the Performing Arts (THT) and, on behalf of the Worcester Cultural Coalition (WCC), manages Worcester's BrickBox Theater at the Jean McDonough Arts Center (JMAC). All [donations](#) are tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law.

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