

2024-2025 PERFORMING ARTS SEASON

R

THE REIF

PLAYBILL

APRIL 26, 2025
WILCOX THEATER

Transit Authority THE MUSIC OF CHICAGO



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UP COMING EVENTS

Kathy Mattea

Thursday, May 1, 2025

7pm | *The Reif: Wilcox Theater*

Hairball: Silver Anniversary Tour

Friday, May 16, 2025

Doors: 5:30pm

Northwood's Band: 7:15pm

Hairball: 8:30pm

Yanmar Arena, Grand Rapids

Reif Cozy Concerts: Amanda Grace

Thursday, May 22, 2025

7pm | *The Reif: Ives Theater*

Reif Dance: Spring Show

Fri-Sun, June 6-8, 2025

7pm & 2pm | *The Reif: Wilcox Theater*

Strange Daze ft Rebel Queens

Friday, July 25, 2025

7pm | *Pavilion at the Yanmar Arena*

Parrothead Paradise – A Jimmy

Buffett Show

Friday, August 22, 2025

7pm | *Pavilion at the Yanmar Arena*

GB Leighton

Friday, September 12, 2025

7pm | *Pavilion at the Yanmar Arena*

 **TICKETS**
TheReif.org | 218-327-5780
AT THE BOX OFFICE: 11AM - 4PM



REIF DANCE
ROYAL DANCE
CAMP
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Monday-Friday
8/18/25 - 8/22/25
9am-11am
at The Reif

Performance
Friday, Aug. 22

Tuition: \$80

Back by popular demand! A week-long day camp for every young prince or princess. For students entering Preschool-1st. This is a half day camp featuring theme-based classes that will focus on ballet inspired creative movement, imagination-based learning, and arts and crafts.

To register, visit TheReif.org.
Questions? Email rgraupmann@reifcenter.org or call 218-327-5780.

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Transit Authority

THE MUSIC OF CHICAGO

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Since performing their very first shows together in the early spring of 2004, Transit Authority has become known throughout the U.S. as the premier tribute band to the iconic group Chicago. Based out of St. Paul, Minnesota, this eight member ensemble creates an accurate musical salute to the greatest horn driven rock band to ever hit the stage. Transit Authority's mission is to recreate the excitement of the original Chicago's sound with each and every performance – (Minus the cracks and pops of the vinyl!)

Transit Authority has assembled some amazingly talented musicians who meticulously capture all the nuances of the original recordings and will honestly make you believe you are witnessing the real thing. Performing mega-hits such as, "Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?," "Hard Habit to Break," "Make Me Smile," "Old Days," "Just You 'n Me," "Beginnings," "Wake Up Sunshine," and many more.



Tim Ellis

Drums/Percussion

The founder and heartbeat of the band, Tim Ellis has been piloting the 'Transit Authority' ship since 2004. A master percussionist and drum smith, Tim is a staple of the Twin Cities music scene.

Reif Summer Theater Workshop



Snow White & the Seven Dorks



It is time to register for
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For students 3rd Grade and up.

July 21-Aug 10 | M-F 9am-12pm

Performances: August 8 & 9 at 6pm
and August 10 at 2pm

TheReif.org

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Barry Patrick

Vocals/Percussion

Barry first stepped on stage at the age of 5, and hasn't left since. He studied voice and vocal performance in Pittsburgh and Minneapolis, and has worked in numerous vocal ensembles, theater productions and recording studios, as well as solo projects and countless bands performing almost every genre of music. He took over the duties of Lead Vocalist for Transit Authority in the Spring of 2012, and loves touring the country, and meeting all the wonderful people that love the music of CHICAGO!! However, his favorite duties are that of being a Dad to 6!! He resides with his family in St. Paul, MN.



Gus Lindquist

Trumpet/Flugelhorn

Gus has played with a wide range of entertainers, groups, and musicians including the Chanhassen Dinner Theater, Children's Theater Company, the Guthrie Theater, Norman Leyden with the Minnesota Orchestra Pop series, Lorie Line, Kyle Tennis of Riverside Entertainment, five different cruise lines, and even toured with a circus or two. However, his proudest moment on stage was when, while backing up the venerable insult comedian Don Rickles, he was dubbed "pencil neck". Nevertheless, he is looking forward to earning a different nickname with the Chicago Transit Authority.



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Zach Miller

Saxes/Flute

Zach is a graduate of the University of Minnesota – School of Music and is a current music educator as well as professional performer. He was raised in Owatonna, Minnesota, and spent much of his childhood taking piano and

saxophone lessons. He also spent time in musical theatre both in the pit orchestra and singing on stage. While at the University of Minnesota, Zach studied classical saxophone playing with Dr. Eugene Rousseau. He was also part of the university's jazz program for 4 years. Zach plays for several groups around the twin cities including JoJo Green, Funk N Spuds and Buck It Up Brass. On occasion you may find him busking at random locations around the cities, bringing smooth jazz, rock, and pop to the people! When not performing or teaching, Zach spends much of his time learning how to cook dishes from many different countries.



James Jamar

Bass

The newest member of Transit Authority, James practiced so much leaning the music he wore out one of his basses! He has played in numerous Twin Cities bands and with some of the best artists in the industry. His on stage energy is a sight to behold.

A promotional graphic for MPR News. The background is dark. On the left, a woman with dark, curly hair (Angela Davis) is looking towards the camera. On the right, a woman with short blonde hair and glasses (Cathy Wurzer) is wearing a headset and smiling. The text is overlaid on the image in white and blue.

MPRnews

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**MINNESOTA NOW
WITH CATHY WURZER**
WEEKDAYS AT NOON.

**MPR NEWS
WITH ANGELA DAVIS**
WEEKDAYS AT 9:00 A.M.



Alan “CoolPapa” Lecher

Trombone/Vocals/Percussion

Alan was born and raised in the Twin Cities, however his resume might lead you to believe otherwise. Growing up in Apple Valley with two music teachers as parents, he began the trombone at

age ten. After high school, Alan joined the U.S. army band and was stationed in Ansbach, Germany. While there, he performed all over Bavaria with the 1st Armored Division Band. He also served one tour in the Persian Gulf during Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, performing concerts for the troops. He has worked with numerous rock and swing groups, including an extended stint in Vic Volare's Fabulous Volare Lounge Orchestra, as well as collaborations with Martin Zellar, Steve Millar, Laura Schlieske, Boogie Wonderland, and the Minnesota Jazz Orchestra, among others. Alan took a two-year hiatus from performing to teach music in the Philippines at a school for orphans. Besides Transit Authority, Alan regularly performs with the Riverside Hitmen and the Riverside Swing Band.

Some of Alan's biggest musical influences have been trombonists Urbie Green, Frank Rosolino, and J.J. Johnson, along with Stevie Ray Vaughan, Chick Corea, and Harry Connick Jr.

Favorite Chicago songs: Beginnings, Mississippi Delta Blues, Forever.



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Reggie Hammond

Keyboards/Vocals

Reggie “Hammond” Tulk has played piano, keyboards and organ for almost half a century, and has a storied career in the Minnesota music scene. Reggie has played and recorded with innumerable acts, including Sugar Marie, Jonah and the Whales, Janie in Wonderland, JUG, Devon Worley and many more.

In addition to his virtuosic skills on the ivories, Reggie is a proud essential healthcare worker. Fun facts: Played his own wedding, planning to play at his funeral if he can work out the timing.



Ben Callies

Guitar/Vocals

Ben has been playing music for as long as he can remember, starting on the piano and eventually adding vocals, guitar and bass to his repertoire. In addition to playing with Transit Authority, Ben fronts a blues/rock/funk outfit called the

Royal Blues, playing around the Twin Cities. He studied music at Hamline University, and has worked on various other recording and live projects.

Ben’s biggest influences include Stevie Wonder, Steely Dan, Earth Wind & Fire, and Prince.

Favorite Chicago Songs: Introduction, Ballet for a Girl in Buckhannon, Sing a Mean Tune Kid

First Impressions

Behind the Scenes – April 2025

by: John Miller, Technical Director



Technical Director
John Miller

A warm welcome at the door, a friendly smile at the Lakewood Café, and a pleasant usher to help you find your seat; priceless amenities when you visit the Reif Center! We are lucky to have a fabulous facility, but our volunteers make it more than just a building. These often uncelebrated individuals offer up their time, effort and energy for free, and we couldn't operate without them!

"It is our Reif volunteers that transform what would be an average smalltown experience into a memorable, world class one for our patrons. All elements of their visit to The Reif, from a friendly greeting, tickets, seating, cleanliness of the venue, the cafe, gift shop, merchandise, to the time they leave, are all made better due to the selfless generosity of our volunteers." -Amy Savela, Patron Services Manager

With a full-time staff of only eight, volunteers fill the gap and enhance your visit at the Reif Center, both visibly and behind the scenes. They do much more than take a ticket and show you to your seats! You don't see them cleaning the auditorium before and after each performance, helping an artist set up their merchandise table, or make sure the coffee and hot chocolate are ready at intermission. And, when there is some hot chocolate left after intermission, they will often bring it to the tech crew!



"You only get one chance to make a good first impression, and yours may be in the hands of the receptionist." ~~X~~ **VOLUNTEERS!** (John Miller)
-Harvey Mackey

Volunteers operate our gift shop, help decorate the lobby for Christmas, and run errands for artists. If you get a mailing from the Reif Center about an upcoming performance, a volunteer has likely assisted with the project at some point. If you see our kiosks at the college, arena, mall, or YMCA, a volunteer has updated it! There is even more help needed when we bring a performance to the Yanmar Arena or a local lake for a boat in concert, and our volunteers rise to the challenge! At the arena they help set up chairs, sell a more extensive selection of food and help empty the trash cans at the end of the night. If you like Rock 'n' Roll, we still need volunteers for Hairball on May 16th. Help the Reif Center and listen to some great music!

You would think our boat-ins wouldn't need any volunteers, there are no tickets, no seats and no concessions! But we do like to send a canoe or kayak around with a fish net to collect donations, and usually one of our volunteers will take that gig!





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So why help? There are perks to being a volunteer at the Reif! The most obvious one is earning tickets to shows. You can volunteer for performances you are not interested in and get tickets to the shows you do want to see, or share them with friends and family. You may get to see a bit of sound check or help your favorite artist sell merchandise. But, when we surveyed our volunteers and asked them what the best part of volunteering was, their answer was overwhelmingly...you, the audience!

Interacting with our patrons is our volunteer's favorite activity. David Marty used to call the Reif Center "Grand Rapids' front porch," and it's very true. You will catch up with old friends and meet people who are new to the community. Our volunteers are good will ambassadors for the Reif Center, both when they are here, or out in the community.

Do you have an artistic talent? You can help paint sets for a Theater Arts production! Are you interested in lights? Sometimes we need volunteer spot light operators! Maybe you want to serve on our board, all volunteers!

Young or gracefully aging, there are many ways your time and experience will make a difference! But, be warned, once you start volunteering it can be very hard to leave!

For details on volunteer opportunities, email boxoffice@reifcenter.org or call 218-327-5780.



GENERAL INFORMATION

BUY TICKETS... NO FEES!



ONLINE: **TheReif.org**

MCMAHON BOX OFFICE:

MON-FRI: **11am to 4pm** AND
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**Please note there are no fees to purchase tickets.
If you would like your tickets mailed, shipping
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DISCOUNTS...



- Group discount of **10%** for 10 or more people (use code GROUP10 on eligible shows), **20%** for 20 or more people (use code GROUP20 on eligible shows) or call 218-327-5780 to secure groups
- Buy 3 or more events at one time and save **10% on your order** (use code SAVE10 on eligible shows)

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information and special ticket offers delivered to your mailbox!

REIF MISSION

To stimulate arts in Northern Minnesota.

Underlying principles that guide this mission include the Reif Arts Council's responsibility to provide a healthy organization and a well-managed facility in which a wide variety of visual and performing arts may be experienced, exhibited, and taught.

2024 - 2025

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