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JULY 12-13, 2025

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OZOMATLI





If the city of Los Angeles had a soundtrack, it would be **Ozomatli.** Since their formation in 1995, the six-piece, multi-genre band has been a cultural force, blending Latin, hip-hop, funk, reggae, and global influences into an unmistakable sound that embodies the energy and diversity of LA. In 2025, Ozomatli celebrates an incredible milestone: 30 years of bringing their dynamic, genre-defying music to audiences around the world.

Emerging from the politically charged streets of Los Angeles, Ozomatli's origins are steeped in activism and a desire to unite communities through music. This ethos has carried the band across three decades, earning them a dedicated global following and accolades that include three GRAMMY® Awards, four iconic performances at the Hollywood Bowl, a TED Talk, and countless sold-out shows worldwide. From high-profile TV appearances on The Today Show, Jimmy Kimmel Live, and Austin City Limits, to groundbreaking tours in places like Burma and Mongolia, Ozomatli's music and message transcend borders, languages, and cultures.



The ensemble's six founding members—**Asdru Sierra** (vocals, trumpet), **Raul Pacheco** (vocals, guitars), **Uli Bella** (saxophone, vocals), **Wil-Dog Abers** (bass), **Jiro Yamaguchi** (percussion), and **Justin Poree** (vocals, percussion)—have remained true to their mantra: "We take you around the world through the heartbeat of Los Angeles". Their music is a vibrant collision of styles, drawing from salsa, dancehall, cumbia, samba, funk, merengue, New Orleans second line, Jamaican ragga, and Indian raga. This eclecticism is at the heart of their sound, resonating with audiences of all ages and backgrounds.

Ozomatli's legacy extends far beyond their music. Known for their tireless community involvement, the band has used their platform to amplify causes that matter, from immigrant rights to education and beyond. Their ability to combine socially conscious lyrics with infectious grooves has made them a beacon of unity and resilience; a band that celebrates life while addressing the struggles that connect us all.

Their 30th anniversary is not just a celebration of longevity, but also a testament to their enduring relevance and innovation. With a career that began with their groundbreaking 1998 self-titled debut, they continue to evolve and inspire. Whether performing new material or beloved classics, Ozomatli's live shows remain a jubilant experience, igniting dance floors and uniting communities.

As they embark on their fourth decade, Ozomatli stands as a symbol of Los Angeles' past, present, and future—a band whose music is as multifaceted and vibrant as the city they call home. Here's to 30 years of Ozomatli, and the many more adventures yet to come. *www.ozomatli.com*

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COUCH





Boston-based band **Couch** injects each project with their signature flavor: expressive horns, warm vocals, and bubbling synths—crafting an oasis of joy for musicians and non-musicians alike.

From their formation in 2019 until spring 2021, members of Couch were scattered across the country; they tackled the challenges of being a "long-distance band," writing and even recording virtually. Despite these challenges, they celebrated the release of their debut EP, "COUCH", in February 2021, as well as three singles and a 20-city headline tour in 2022.

In 2023, Couch released their sophomore EP, "Sunshower", accompanied by a two-part 40-city US headline tour, performances at Boston Calling and Levitate, and a sold-out UK tour.

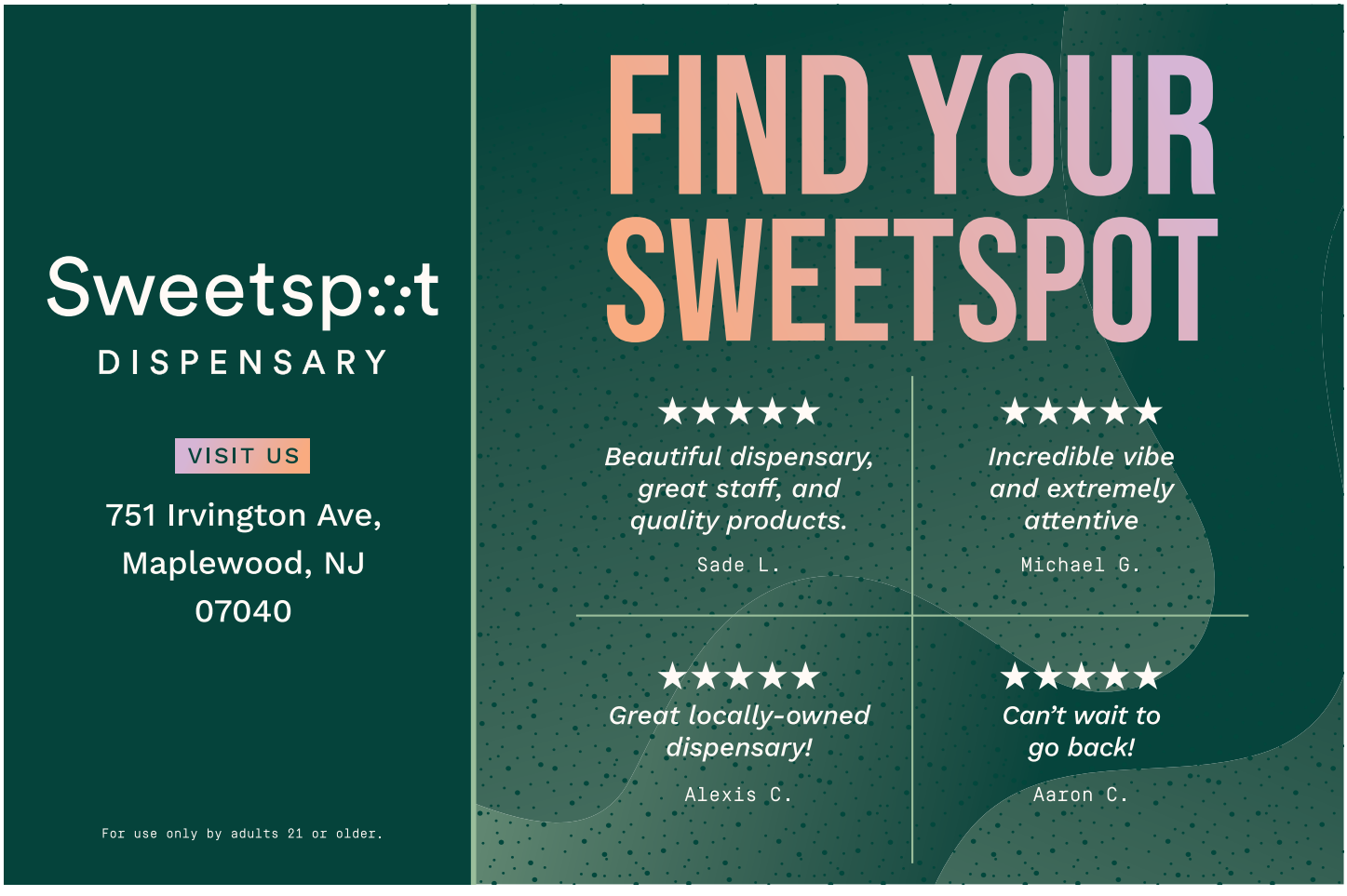
This past fall and winter, Couch opened for Cory Wong (Vulfpeck/Fearless Flyers) on his 38-city US and European tour.

Couch recently announced their largest headline shows yet, including stops in Boston (Roadrunner), New York (Brooklyn Steel), and Washington D.C. (9:30 Club).

"Couch is kicking it old-school with a delightful modern twist…[They] are single – or seven-handedly – breathing new life into the pop music scene."
- Sheesh Media

Fusion seems to be a key word for Couch. Influenced by artists from Paul McCartney and Buddy Rich to Charlie Puth and Bruno Mars, Couch's unique music brings together instruments as different as bass guitar and saxophone to blur the lines between genres..."
- The Harvard Crimson

www.couchtheband.com



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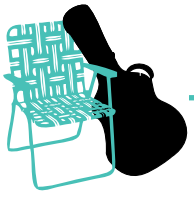
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Traditionalists or progressives? Fronted by the charismatic Jamaican-born singer and songwriter **NeeNee Rushie**, the seven-piece New York band **The Big Takeover** plays original music that is rooted in and reverent toward the genres and rhythms of Jamaican pop: reggae, rocksteady, ska. They are devotees of Desmond Dekker and the way the old school did it. At the same time, The Big Takeover crosses lines and blends traditions like global pop fusionists. Their deceptively complex arrangements and big hooks connect with the spirit of Motown and the uptown sophistication of the 21st century retro soul and R&B revival scene.

That rich sound, along with their rigorous performing schedule and studio work, has been paying off. In 2018, the Big Takeover completed a successful 12-state tour. They were enthusiastically received by 10,000 at Omaha's Jazz on the Green festival. They delivered an outrageously infectious and nuanced acoustic performance on the popular reggae-centric Sugarshack Sessions. Meanwhile, their current standalone single "Rainboots" has scored big with the discerning tastes at National Public Radio. The Big Takeover has appeared live in studio on several NPR stations, while "Rainboots" is in rotation on all of them.

"Led by the powerhouse, Jamaican-born singer and songwriter NeeNee Rushie, The Big Takeover's horn-powered global blend reveals deep fluency in reggae and world music, hints of soul and Motown, and their own infectious brand of pop classicism." — **John Burdick**

www.bigtakeoverband.com



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PERFORMANCES

SATURDAY JULY 12TH

NOON • **Maplewood Glee Club**
A beloved men's chorus known for its humor and harmony, MGC has been a MAPSO staple for nearly 80 years, performing everything from the Beatles to Bruce.

12:45 • **Becky Crosby**
A pop rock artist based in NYC, is backed by a group of exceptionally talented musicians. Crosby's compositions possess a distinct and eclectic blend of genres.

1:30 • **Ballistic Berry**
A dynamic quartet hailing from Asbury Park. The band blends vintage vibes with a contemporary twist, creating a sound that resonates across generations.

2:15 • **Paper Money**
A mix of 90s rock and punk, with a modern twist. The songs are fun and catchy, balanced with lyrical themes that juxtapose nostalgia, sarcasm and existentialism.

3:00 • **Gina Royale**
A Jersey-born alt-pop singer-songwriter known for her ability to fuse mainstream pop sensibilities with elements of rock & alternative music.

3:45 • **Laredo**
Longtime Maplewood and South Orange residents with special guests, who bring their cover versions of songs from Croce to Carlile and Dylan to Dawes.





4:30 • **Mother Hubbard**
A unique funk-rock group hailing from Northern New Jersey, captivating listeners with their unique sound that is somewhere between the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Steely Dan.

5:15 • **Sarah Hodd + The Drive**
An 8-piece powerhouse, playing explosive covers and bluesy originals. It's neo-soul meets rock n roll!! All driven by electric vocals and a rocking band.

6:00 • **Water Street**
A new version of Indie-Rock, mixing acoustic melodies with rugged rock and roll bursts, enticing sax riffs, a driving rhythm section & some hints of funk.

7:15 • **The Big Takeover**
Led by the powerhouse Jamaican-born singer and songwriter **NeeNee Rushie**, The Big Takeover's horn-powered global blend reveals deep fluency in reggae and world music, hints of soul and Motown, and their own infectious brand of pop classicism.

8:30 • **Couch**
Boston-based band Couch injects each project with their signature flavor: expressive horns, warm vocals, and bubbling synths—crafting an oasis of joy for musicians and non-musicians alike.

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PERFORMANCES

SUNDAY JULY 13TH

NOON • **Cold Hill**
A big sound, original Rock and Roll Band. With Rock as their backbone, other influences of styles breaking through include Bluegrass, Funk, Reggae and Jam Band.

12:45 • **Roe Knows Best**
A pop-punk band, indelibly New Jersey in sound, style, and attitude. The lyrical themes of Roe Knows Best songs speak about love, anxiety, and loneliness.

1:30 • **Cheer Up Dusty**
They deliver high energy, hook-filled pop punk with authentic lyrics alongside a Philly edge. Perfect for fans of Blink-182, Sum 41, and The Wonder Years.

2:15 • **The Penniless Loafers**
Ska that rocks. Brass that booms. Guitars that shred. The Penniless Loafers keep Jersey City & NYC dancing with high-energy, horn-driven grooves.

3:00 • **The Hip Snacks**
A Denver-based six-piece powerhouse of explosive soul music. For fans of Tedeschi Trucks Band, Bonnie Raitt, Allman Brothers.

3:45 • **Essex Funk Collective**
A local, multi-generational group playing soul, disco, R&B and funk grooves.





4:30 • **Norbert Leo Butz**
A two time Tony Award winning actor of stage, film and television, Norbert Leo Butz is also a singer/songwriter, combining elements of rock, soul, and folk with confessional lyrics.

5:15 • **Reina Williams + The Remedy**
A blend of reggae, hip-hop, and soul into a high-vibe experience. From smooth flows to infectious rhythms, they bring a fresh sound that moves the crowd.

6:00 • **simmerr**
An infusion of bedrock 80s soul with indie-rock, a carefree yacht rock energy, and Latin jazz rhythms, to put an irresistible smile on the faces of audiences.

6:45 • **Annie Minogue Band**
The band's driving and energizing sound, which combines a gutsy rock attitude, great pop sensibility with a hint of the blues, is reminiscent of rock's greatest female icons.

7:45 • **Ozomatli**
Ozomatli has spent 30 years uniting communities through music, earning three GRAMMY® Awards. They continue to inspire and move hearts, minds and dance floors across the globe.

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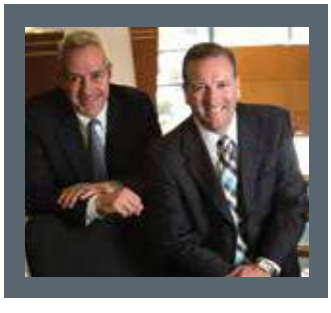
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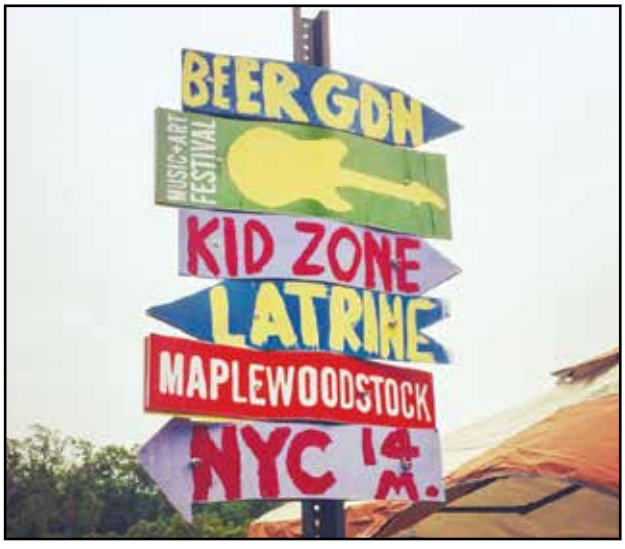
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ABOUT OUR SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION

Music & Arts Education Project, Inc. (MAEP) is a SOMA-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to advocating for comprehensive music and arts education for all students, in all grades, across all schools. We believe in the transformative power of the arts, from fostering cognitive and social-emotional development to championing equitable access to arts instruction. MAEP not only advocates for policy change and funding but also provides direct support to arts educators and students. We are proud to produce Maplewoodstock as our flagship annual event while also expanding our efforts to ensure that every child has access to a robust arts education.

Since our formation, MAEP has made a tangible impact in response to years of budget cuts. We have provided thousands of dollars' worth of essential art and music supplies to every elementary school in the South Orange & Maplewood School District and recently donated over $12,000 in supplies for K-8 programs. Our contributions—ranging from violin strings and woodwind reeds to construction paper and air-dry clay—have empowered teachers to bring their creative visions to life. We are also actively working to address purchasing inefficiencies in school supply procurement to ensure that resources are allocated as effectively as possible.

We need your help to continue this vital work. Your support—through donations, advocacy, and volunteerism—ensures that the arts remain a vibrant part of our schools. To learn more and contribute, please visit **https://www.musicartseducationproject.org**

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20 UNDER 20 ART GALLERY



For the first time, Maplewoodstock will be presenting a shaded art gallery of 20 young, local artists under 20 years old! This is an endeavor to encourage the younger burgeoning artists in our community to pursue their passions, display their work in a non-commercial, no-pressure setting, and continue to find ways to elevate the Arts aspect for our 20th Festival – "OF and FOR the community."

The artists have been juried by a small group of local folks, long-time involved in various ways within the MAPSO arts scene. Within our 20 Under 20 Art Gallery, you might find painting, photography, sculpture, fabrics, and multi-medium creations to view and contemplate.



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COMPASS

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Maplewoodstock began in 2004 as an audacious idea by local musician and art supporter James Buchanan to gather several garage bands together and "put on a show!" in Memorial Park. Since then, Maplewoodstock has continued to grow and remains the best free, volunteer-driven, local festival of music and art in the tri-state area.

We hope that these pictures bring back fond memories of sitting with your friends and neighbors while taking in the shows.



Jim Buchanan



2004 - 3rd Gear



2005 - Felt



2006 - Code Black

"Our band played early at the first Maplewoodstock on a brutally hot afternoon. At that point, most of the eventual audience hadn't shown up yet, and those who did were searching for some cool shade at the top of the hill. Only a few hearty souls braved the heat and came down close to the stage. Looking out at the audience that day, there was no way to have anticipated that that little DIY music festival would become the incredible must-see event it is now"

Mark Loughney, 3rd Gear, 2004



2007 - JJ Blues Band



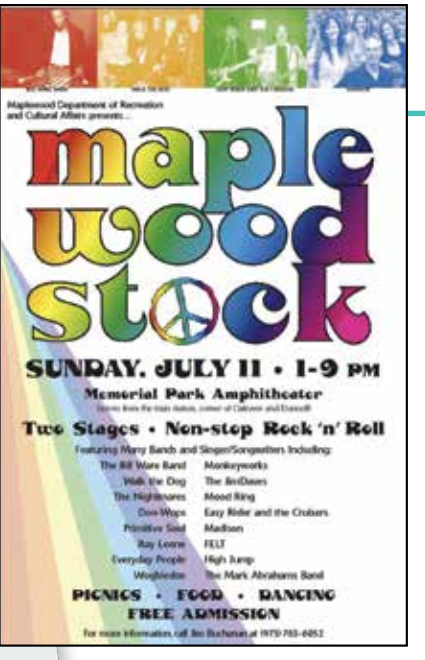
2008 - New Day Dawn



2009 - Jonathan Edwards

"The first year of Maplewoodstock, 20+ years ago, I was underneath some janky wooden risers with rope and pliers trying to assemble a small stage and worried that it was all going to fall apart on my head. Heavens held; the stage held; and we pulled off an audacious event that continues to evolve 20+ years later.

Jim Robertson





2010 - Dumpstaphunk



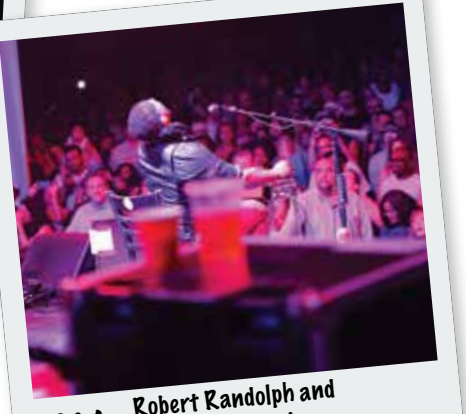
2011 - The Smithereens



2012 - Shemekia Copeland



2013 - Joan Osborne



2014 - Robert Randolph and the Family Band



2014 - Puss N Boots featuring Norah Jones



2014 - Stuff Bros



2015 - Rusted Root

"I was very involved with the origination of the festival. I provided stage logistics in the early years, supplying the sound systems, stage back line equipment, and know-how to put on the shows. In 2007, I was able to bring PA, lighting and a stage that my workplace - Sony Music Studios - had built for Guns N' Roses "Chinese Democracy" Tour rehearsals, to Maplewoodstock. After a couple of years of moving that back and forth to NYC, the stage manager told me to just keep it and it lived among the trees in Memorial Park for a while longer"

John Williams



2015 - The Wailers



2015 - Kwame Binea



2016 - Hula Hoop Lady



2016 - Lisa Rott



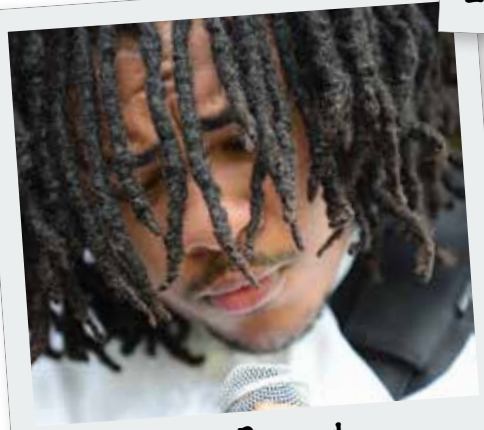
2017 - Autumn Jones



2017 - The Hip Abduction



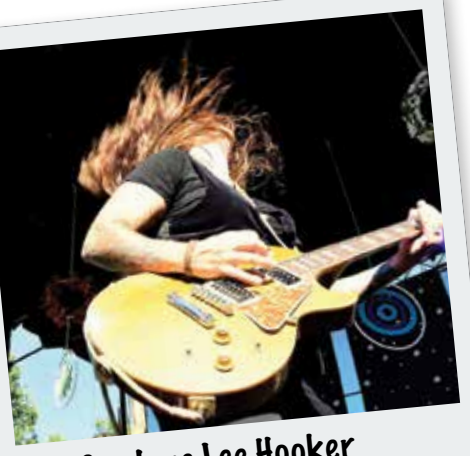
2019 - Antibala



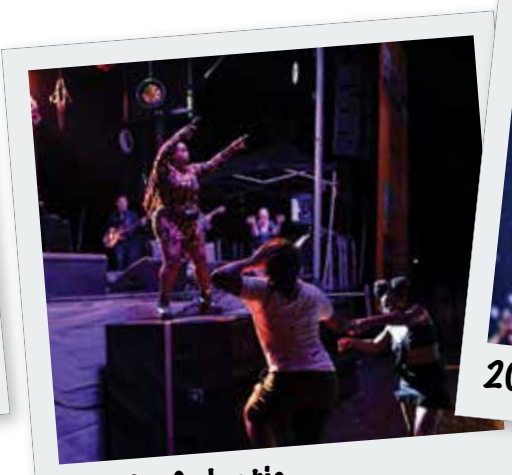
2017 - Ricky Persaud



2017 - Shakey Ground



2018 - Jane Lee Hooker



2022 - Galactic



2018 - Third World





"We wanted to create a concert in the park for local bands to perform for their friends and neighbors. And that's what we did.".

Gary Shippy

Gary Shippy - Every Year



2023 - Sarah Hodd + The Drive



s



2022 - Alan Paul
(Friends of The Brothers)



2024 - Remember Jones



2024 - The Tia Holt Experience

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South Orange Rescue Squad

Maplewood Memorial Park Conservancy

South Orange Elks

Jim Buchanan

Together We Bloom

Music & Arts Education Project

Jess Frank

Rachel Goldman

Adam Grzelewski

Brian McNamara

Alison Oxman

Steve Casella

Marwan El-Gabry

James Goodger

Ken Lagemann

Rick Davis, Jeff Rosolen, and 368 Event Management

Tom Carlson and Marcia Leonard

Michael Choi

and special thanks to Charlie McGuire who has volunteered his time and talent to create every program over the years

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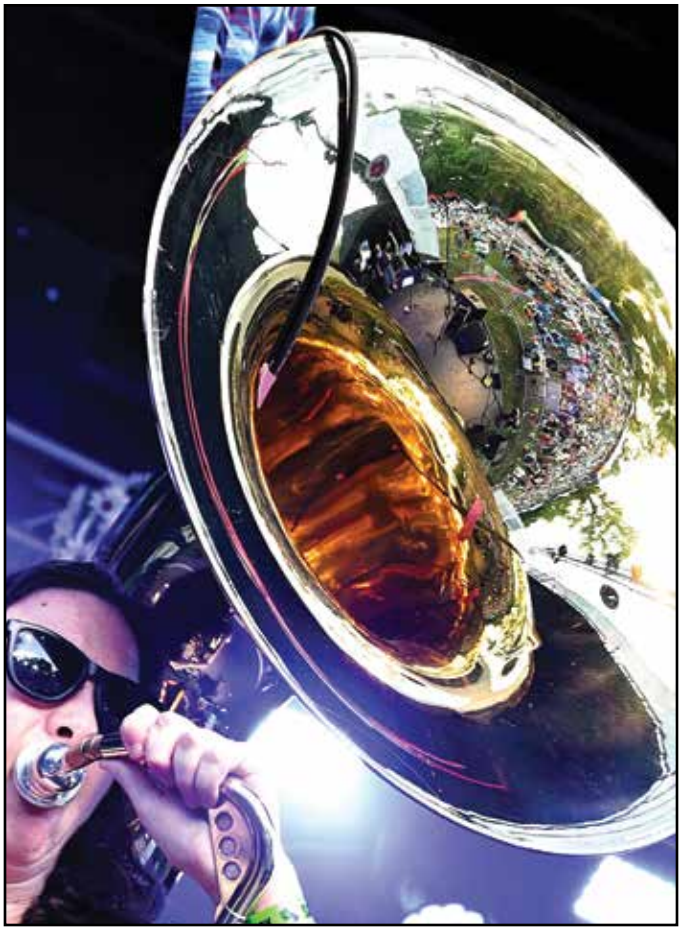
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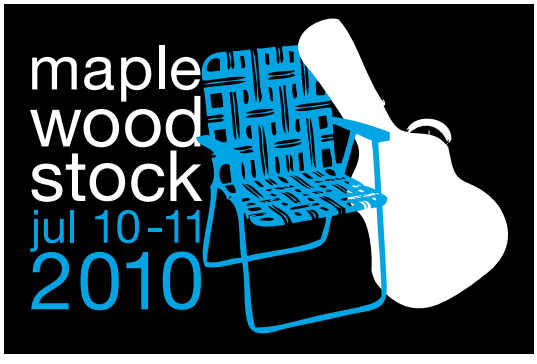
T-SHIRTS

One of Maplewoodstock's long-standing traditions is the annual t-shirt. Every year since about year 3, there has been at least one new t-shirt design. Some years there are multiple designs or a special design for kids' shirts.

Over the years there have been contests to determine the design, students and local artists have created designs, and designs have been developed by the organizing committee. Regardless of the source of the design, the goal is to celebrate art, music, and our community.

Some of the designs from over the years are shown here, and include:

- A tribute to the amazing ash tree at the top of the hill
- A celebration of the tenth anniversary (MWSX)
- The year we turned the volume up to 11
- The lucky 13 year
- The limited edition empty stage t-shirt from 2020, designed after the decision was made to cancel Maplewoodstock due to Covid.



The question is – *how many do you have?*
Take a selfie in your favorite Maplewodstock t-shirt, post it on social media and tag #Maplewoodstock!







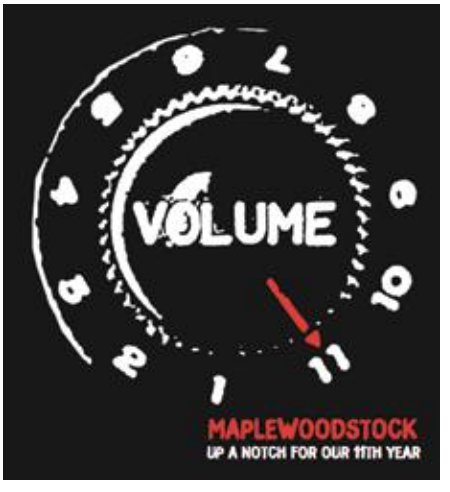


MWSX


MAPLE
WOODSTOCK
MUSIC & ART FESTIVAL
2016


MAPLEWOODSTOCK
2015
MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL




VOLUME
MAPLEWOODSTOCK
UP A NOTCH FOR OUR 11TH YEAR


LUCKY
13
MAPLEWOODSTOCK

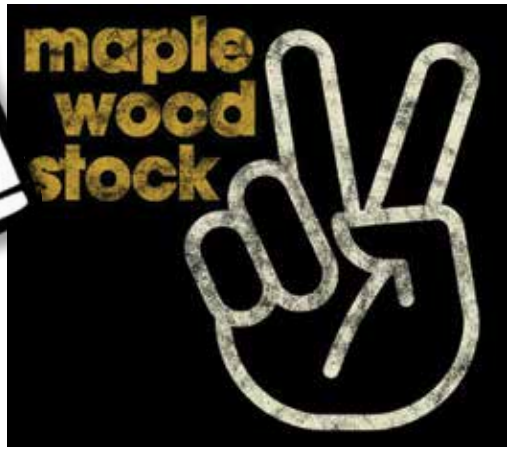

MAPLEWOODSTOCK
JULY 8 AND 9, 2017


2017

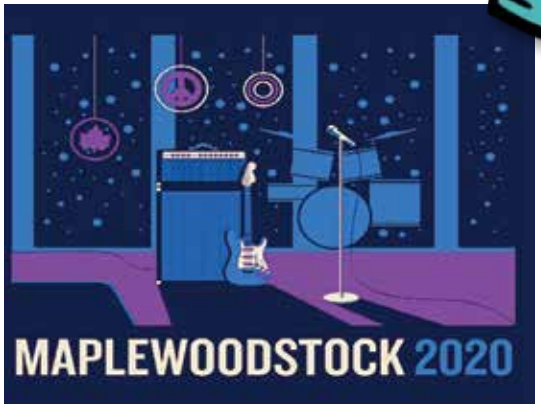

15
YEARS
MAPLEWOODSTOCK
MUSIC + ARTS FESTIVAL
JULY
14-15
2018


Maplewoodstock
All Together Again
July 9 - 10, 2022


MAPLE WOOD STOCK
JULY 13 & 14, 2019


maple
wood
stock

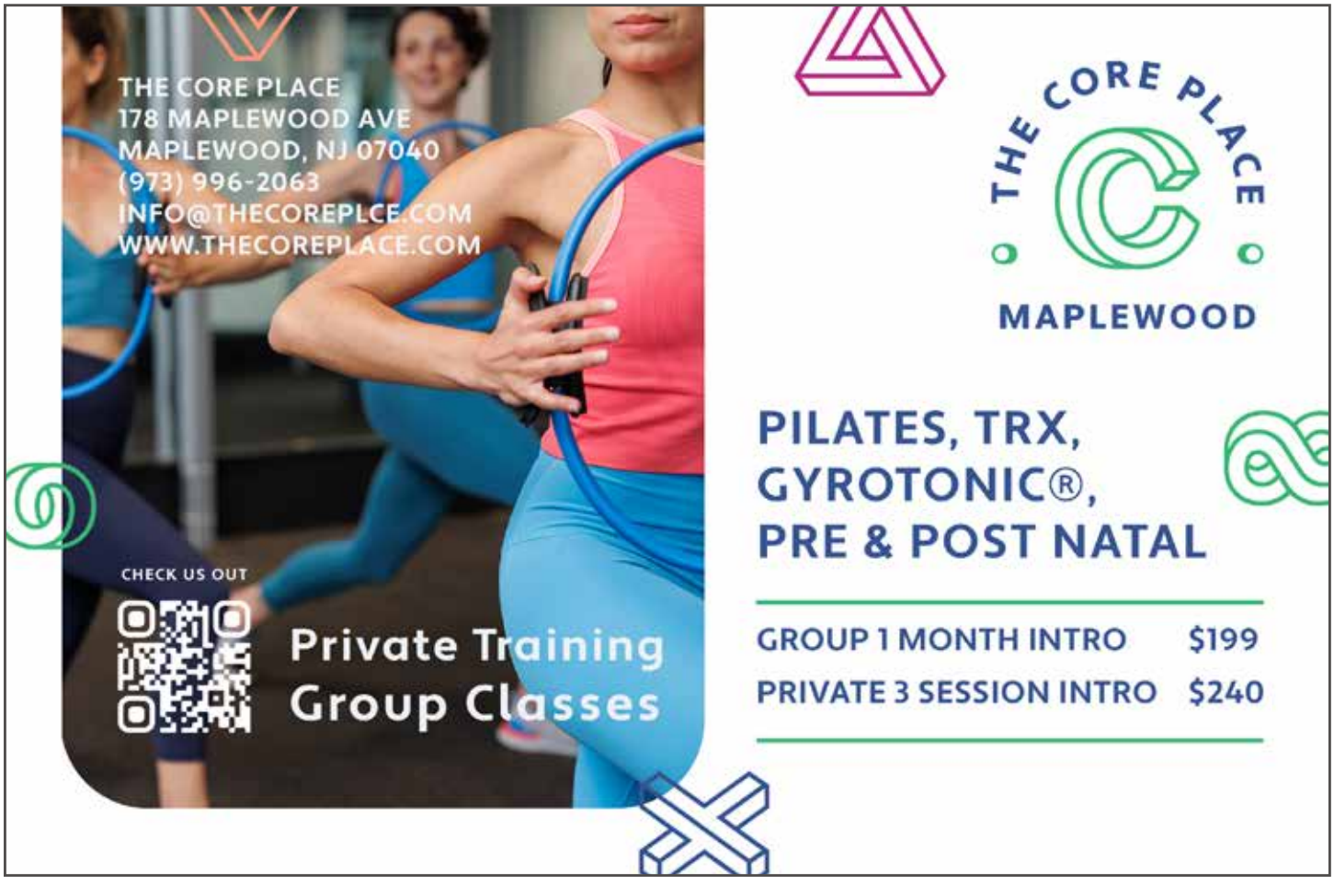

MAPLEWOODSTOCK
Press Play for 2021
20:19
-20:21


MAPLEWOODSTOCK 2020


MAPLEWOODSTOCK
2023
MUSIC + ARTS


Maplewoodstock
Music & Art Festival
July 8 & 9, 2023


Maple
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MUSIC & ART
FESTIVAL
JULY 13 & 14
2024


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