



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Hochstein at High Falls Noontime Concert Series Returns this Summer** *Free outdoor concert series features local musicians*

ROCHESTER, N.Y.— The **Hochstein at High Falls** lunchtime summer concert series returns to the city's High Falls District with the sounds of local music beginning Thursday, June 9, 2022, and running through August 18 (except for Thursday, July 7). The series kicks off with the cultural drum and dance group **Womba Africa**. The featured musical talent will vary each week, with styles ranging from Latin jazz, blues, and Americana to indie folk, swing, and R&B.

The 10-week series includes: Womba Africa (June 9), Debbie Kendrick Project (June 16), Ann Mitchell Trio (June 23), John Dady & Benny Bleu (June 30), The White Hots (July 14), Watkins & the Rapiers (July 21), Katie Morey (July 28), Mambo Kings (August 4), Hanna PK with Johnny Burgin (August 11), and Zahyia (August 18). [**See calendar listing below for full descriptions of the performers.**]

Hosted by WXXI Classical's Mona Seghatoleslami, the concerts begin at 12:10 pm at the Granite Mills Park near the Pont de Rennes Bridge. In the event of inclement weather, the rain location will be announced via Hochstein's social media. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own seating and lunch. Each performance will run approximately 40 minutes.

Hochstein at High Falls concerts are presented by High Falls Business Association, The Hochstein School, and WXXI. The new look for this year's Hochstein at High Falls concerts was designed by Brandtatorship. For more information, visit [www.hochstein.org](http://www.hochstein.org) or The Hochstein School's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/HochsteinSchool](https://www.facebook.com/HochsteinSchool) or call 585-454-4596.

Hochstein at High Falls concerts are made possible by a number of local organizations, including Brandtatorship, LaBella Associates, La Luna High Falls, LMT Technology Solutions, MillRace Design, Stantec, and The Zoghlin Group.

Photographs of the performers are available in this folder on Google Drive:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1VgIfJtkXBhtDmKyaaN2hnNuixLJv9swM?usp=sharing>

**About High Falls Business Association:** The High Falls Business Association is a diverse group of businesses located in downtown Rochester's vibrant High Falls District, home to the future High Falls State Park. Members are proud to support business development in the historic environment and spectacular natural surroundings that make High Falls unique. For High Falls' news, events, and a business directory, please visit <http://highfallsroc.com>.

**About Hochstein:** The Hochstein School was founded in commemoration of genius and is dedicated to providing access to opportunity regardless of age, level of skill, ethnicity, or ability to pay. Hochstein's vibrant community of musicians, dancers, and supporters choose to come together to develop the ability to speak and communicate through music, dance, and expressive arts (music, art, and dance therapy). Established in 1920 as The David Hochstein Memorial Music School, today Hochstein serves approximately 3,500 students annually from a 12-county region surrounding Rochester, N.Y. and continues its commitment to the Rochester community by offering a variety of free and low-cost concerts and performances in the Hochstein Performance Hall—and locations around our city—throughout the year. For more information, visit [www.hochstein.org](http://www.hochstein.org).

**About WXXI:** WXXI is the essential, life-long educational public media resource that engages, inspires, and strengthens our community. It operates four digital TV channels and six radio services, including an NPR station and a full-time classical music station. WXXI's national productions include *Second Opinion with Joan Lunden*, public television's only regularly scheduled healthcare series, and documentaries that explore arts, culture, and history such as *Journeys Through the Finger Lakes*, *Tailor Made: The Story of Rochester's Garment Industry*, and *Restoring a Masterpiece: The Renovation of the Eastman Theatre*. For more information, visit [www.wxxi.org](http://www.wxxi.org).

## CALENDAR LISTINGS

### **Hochstein at High Falls: Womba Africa**

Thursday, June 9; 12:10 pm; Granite Mills Park, Platt/Browns Race, Rochester, NY; free.

The eight-member Womba Africa came to the U.S. from Ghana in hopes of competing on "America's

Got Talent" and ended up in Rochester. They have been drumming and dancing, singing, and playing in venues around town – or you might see them playing at the beach or in a park. Their joyful, exuberant music and dance draws an enthusiastic following. The group was founded by Fredrick Quaye Odai with a vision of promoting West African music and culture. The members are part of the Ga Adangbe People in greater Accra, Ghana, a tribe with a very rich and distinct history and culture. <https://www.wombadrumming.com/>

### **Hochstein at High Falls: Debbie Kendrick Project**

Thursday, June 16; 12:10 pm; Granite Mills Park, Platt/Browns Race, Rochester, NY; free.

Vocalist Debbie Kendrick is Rochester's Queen of the Blues, carrying on a tradition of many great blues and gospel artists that goes back to the legendary Son House. Her group has an acoustic vibe and its influences harkens back to the early days of blues, gospel, folk, and jazz music. The Debbie Kendrick Project includes drummer Pete Monacelli, a veteran of the local jazz scene; bassist Mike Patric, who also accompanies the legendary Joe Beard; and guitarist Sean Pfeifer, whose acoustic fingerstyle guitar provides a solid rhythmic background for Debbie's powerful vocal melodies. She inspires audiences across New York and Canada with her improvisational performances, laughing with the band and chatting with the crowd. <https://www.debbiekendrickproject.com>

### **Hochstein at High Falls: Ann Mitchell Trio**

Thursday, June 23; 12:10 pm; Granite Mills Park, Platt/Browns Race, Rochester, NY; free.

Ann Mitchell Trio entertains listeners with the songbook jazz classics of the 1930s-1950s with an unbeatable heart. Ann is known for her smooth, lively jazz vocal style and energetic performances. Rounding out the trio are pianist John Gabriele and Kyle Vock, bass. Ann Mitchell Trio has had an extensive list of appearances including Jazz 90.1 FM LIVE On Air Concerts, KeyBank Rochester Fringe Festival, JazzBuffalo, and Fox Rochester's Good Day Rochester. <https://annsings.com>

### **Hochstein at High Falls: John Dady & Benny Bleu**

Thursday, June 30; 12:10 pm; Granite Mills Park, Platt/Browns Race, Rochester, NY; free.

John Dady – one half of the Rochester Music Hall of Fame inductees The Dady Brothers – brings his unique blend of Irish and American folk music back to Hochstein at High Falls. Joining him for this concert will be Benny Bleu, an award-winning banjo player, songwriter, and singer who is also a member of The Brothers Blue and The Crawdiddies. John and Benny have been friends and musical kin for years. Both are songwriters and multi-instrumentalists, so you can expect lots of spontaneous moments of musical magic. <https://dadybros.com> - <https://bennybleu.com>

### **Hochstein at High Falls: The White Hots**

Thursday, July 14; 12:10 pm; Granite Mills Park, Platt/Browns Race, Rochester, NY; free.

Named for one of Rochester's gastronomic specialties, The White Hots are a blues, swing, and jazz group who perform everything from mellow instrumental music to swing dances with a full band. Musicians and music critics rave about them, dancers swing to them, and people who just like interesting music love their live shows and CDs. The band includes Tina Albright, vocals; Ted Mosher, bass; Aleksandar Disljenkovic, guitar; and Bill Blind, percussion. [www.thewhitehots.com](http://www.thewhitehots.com)

### **Hochstein at High Falls: Watkins & the Rapiers**

Thursday, July 21; 12:10 pm; Granite Mills Park, Platt/Browns Race, Rochester, NY; free.

Watkins & the Rapiers play an eclectic mix of acoustic music incorporating echoes of Cajun, country, jug band music, reggae, soul, and swing. The band's repertoire includes more than 60 quirky original songs written by band members, as well as covers of songs by artists as diverse as The Band, Travelling Wilburys, Steve Earle, and Colorblind James, among others. The band has been rocking

out in the Greater Rochester area since January 1996, when the band was formed on a lark to fill an empty performance slot at the Rose & Crown Pub. The band includes Scott Regan, Kerry Regan, Tom Whitmore, Marty York, Steve Piper, and Rick McRae. [www.rapiers.org](http://www.rapiers.org)

### **Hochstein at High Falls: Katie Morey**

Thursday, July 28; 12:10 pm; Granite Mills Park, Platt/Browns Race, Rochester, NY; free.

A lifelong steward of the craft of songwriting, Katie Morey (née Preston) grew up on the banks of Lake Ontario and currently resides in Rochester. She and her past projects such as Paul's Grandfather and Pleistocene have shared bills with artists such as Cursive, Japanese Breakfast, Vagabon, Ted Leo and the Pharmacists, Brand New, and Screaming Females. Morey's newest release, an LP titled *Friend of a Friend*, came out in March 2022. One reviewer said it "showcases the singer's crystalline vocals, thoughtful lyricism, and sonic arrangements."

<https://bandcamp.com/katiemorey>

### **Hochstein at High Falls: Mambo Kings**

Thursday, August 4; 12:10 pm; Granite Mills Park, Platt/Browns Race, Rochester, NY; free.

Together since 1995, the Mambo Kings are enjoying great success as Upstate New York's foremost Latin jazz ensemble, and have earned a national reputation for their explosive blend of Afro-Cuban rhythms and jazz improvisation. They have appeared in Pops concerts with the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, at the Rochester International Jazz Festival, and with orchestras in Baltimore, Vancouver, Detroit, Dallas, Naples (FL), Portland (OR), Alabama, Chicago, Austin, Virginia, and Buffalo. The band consists of Mambo Kings' musical director and pianist Richard DeLaney, percussionist Freddy Colón, saxophonist John Viavattine, bassist Hector Diaz, and percussionist Tony Padilla. [www.mambokingdom.com](http://www.mambokingdom.com)

### **Hochstein at High Falls: Hanna PK with Johnny Burgin**

Thursday, August 11; 12:10 pm; Granite Mills Park, Platt/Browns Race, Rochester, NY; free.

Hanna PK is a blues pianist and singer born and raised in South Korea and based in Rochester. She has been building a strong local following with her wide-ranging repertoire, the power of her voice and piano playing, and the way she can rock the house! For this year's appearance, she performs with her special guest Johnny Burgin. Johnny grew up in Mississippi and moved to Chicago with a plan to become a writer, only to be swept by the Chicago Blues! There, he developed an authentic blues style by working with legendary artists. Since his debut album with Delmark Records, he has released multiple albums as a leader and sideman; toured the world while hosting a video podcast, "No Border Blues," which features international blues artists; and teaches guitar on his YouTube channel and online lessons. <https://www.hannapk.com/index.html> - <https://johnnyburgin.com>

### **Hochstein at High Falls: Zahyia**

Thursday, August 18; 12:10 pm; Granite Mills Park, Platt/Browns Race, Rochester, NY; free.

A songwriter, lyricist, producer, and creative visionary, Zahyia has dedicated her life to existing in spaces that elevate and change the limited narratives, images, and awareness of what it means to exist as a Black American Woman. With her eclectic background of jazz, hip-hop, R&B, lo-fi hip-hop, music theater, funk, and soul, Zahyia finds ways to push traditional boundaries in the world of music and alternative R&B. She will be joined by her five-piece band. [www.zahyia.com](http://www.zahyia.com)

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