



2016 Art In the Barn Performers

Denise Sabala Dance Company

Located in Lake Zurich, the Denise Sabala Dance Company represents more than 70 competitive dancers. Based on age and technical skills they make up six teams that compete at local competitions every season. Throughout the years, Denise has been recognized and awarded for her outstanding choreography. She has also judged regional dance competitions throughout the states. Ms. Sabala held the title of Miss Barrington and went on to compete for the Miss Illinois title. For several years following, she was asked back as guest performer, ending up choreographing and co-directing the pageant.

Denise has been professionally teaching around the Chicago land area for 39 years. She has owned Denise Sabala Dance Studios for the past 32 years with locations in Rolling Meadows, Mt. Prospect, Arlington Heights, Orland Park and Lake Zurich, Illinois. Denise founded and co-directed The Chicago Dance Connection for 15 years, a dance convention, and competition, which was sold and is still successfully operating under new ownership as The Chicago Dance Connection. Currently, she is teaching all styles of dance including her passion of Jazz and Musical Theater. For the past six years, Denise has had the pleasure of choreographing and directing for Lake Zurich High School's musical productions. We are fortunate to welcome the Denise Sabala Dance Company dancers to the Art in the Barn stage for the first time in 2016.

Pat McKillen

Named Chicago's "Best Emerging Artist" in 2014, McKillen finds joy in every part of the creative process. As the sole producer of his three LPs (Stagefright [2011], The Red Headed Enemy [2013], Blood & Bones [2016]) and EP Love Without Me [2014], every song represents a complete cycle of the creative process. Dedicated to creating a sound that reflects the organic nature of his songwriting, McKillen brings life to his songs. The result is an evolving sound that couples a powerful and passionate voice with a fusion of musical genres including folk, pop, and rock.

McKillen's 2016 release "Blood & Bones" is his 3rd full-length album that pays homage to the traditional singer-songwriter sounds of his earlier work while incorporating some of the more modern percussive elements from his Love Without Me EP [2014]. This results in a well-polished set of tracks and his

strongest release yet, coupling pensive and thoughtful lyrics with the musical maturity of an artist finding his voice. Check his gorgeous tunes at patmckillen.com.

John Ballantyne and his Crazy Heart Band

We are excited to have a honky-tonk band on the stage for their first performance at Art in the Barn! Fast becoming recognized as one of Chicago's premier country singers and songwriters, Ballantyne was born and raised in Scotland, though you'd never know it from his earthy vocal delivery and immaculate lead guitar. Both resonate with the twang and raunch of classic honky-tonk country, also known these days as Americana.

Take a few minutes to listen to this band and watch the videos at Crazyheartmusic.com and then come and stomp, clap and dance to music that won't let you just sit and listen.

Crystal Lake Community Band Clarinet Ensemble

The history of band music in the Crystal Lake area dates back to the Crystal Lake City Band of the early 1900's. The current CLCB was established in 1984 as an affiliate of the Crystal Lake Park District. The band was founded by a small group of amateur musicians seeking an outlet for their love of music. From the outset, the Band has always sought adult members from all walks of the community and prided itself on its ability to bring music of a consistently high level to the public. Currently, the Band boasts a roster of approximately ninety members including both professional and dedicated amateur musicians. Members come from sixteen different communities in Illinois and Wisconsin.

Smaller ensembles from the Crystal Lake Community Band, such as the Clarinet group who are performing for Art in the Barn this year, enjoy performing musical selections that uniquely suit this versatile instrument.