



PRESS RELEASE

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World Fest Brings Finland to Marinette and Menominee Through Music

World Fest kicks off its three-year rotation in Marinette County, WI and Menominee County, MI of international musical ensembles with the Finnish group Okra Playground in October 2022. World Fest, a program of Arts Midwest, connects Midwestern communities to international musicians to foster an understanding of and appreciation for global uniqueness and differences.

World Fest's first residency in Marinette and Menominee occurs the first week of October and will include a series of four days of school concerts. The first day will be in Wausaukee, the second Coleman, the third Marinette, and the fourth Stephenson. Students from surrounding schools will be bussed to the concert sites.

"The cultural experience of World Fest will deliver an incalculable impact to our students." Kim Brooks of Rusty Wolfe Studio, the local organizer of World Fest Marinette/Menominee said. "Research shows that exposing children to international cultures and experiences increases their soft skills, improves their rational thinking abilities, and sharpens their critical thinking skills."

There will also be a community-wide concert at Theater on the Bay on Saturday, October 8th, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. This event is free to the public and everyone is encouraged to come out and travel to Finland for a night through the native musicians, Okra Playground.

This event is sponsored locally by the Stephenson National Bank and Trust, M&M Area Community Foundation, Riverfront Inn, Provident Health Foundation, and many other local donors. World Fest is a project of Arts Midwest and is sponsored by the National Endowment of the Arts and the Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies.

To see the full schedule of concerts this October, as well as get information on subsequent concerts over the next few years, visit the World Fest Marinette/Menominee Facebook Page @worldfestmm.

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