

Celebrate Music, Community & Culture at Thumbfest 2025!

**Saturday,
Aug. 30**

**10 am to
10 pm**



DOWNTOWN LEXINGTON

Famous 50-50

No prize limit this year!

\$1/ticket, 6 for \$5 buy from info tables or roaming raffle sellers.

Drawing at 9pm on Harbor Stage.
Need not be present to win!

2025 THUMB FEST RAFFLE DRAWINGS

*Head Home with a
great prize tonight!*

Martin Guitar Raffle

Nice Martin acoustic guitar with built-in pickup donated by Elderly Instruments

\$10 a ticket, only 150 tickets printed, see the guitar and buy tickets at Harbor Stage info table.
Drawing at Harbor Stage 8pm
Need not be present to win!

Thank You

Blue Water Folk Society Special Thanks To Mary Glidden for the generous matching donations program that really surged our fundraising!

To Lexington DDA and all the district businesses for special funding of our festival infrastructure costs!

2025 Stage and Festival Sponsors- Look for their banners!

- Mary Glidden
- Village of Lexington DDA
- Elderly Instruments
- Sanilac Broadcasting
- Lexington Village Theater
- Sweetwater Gourmet Deli and Bar
- The Village Pub
- McGovern Agency - Medicare & More
- The Imprint House
- Woman's Life
- RIIS Customer Software
- The Town Shoppe
- Eastern Michigan Bank
- Virginia McNabbTown and Country Realty
- Knights of Columbus Greenbush Event Center
- Angel's Garden
- Village of Lexington



2025 Performance Sponsors

- Jason and Jenny Parker

2025 Business Donors

- Inn the Garden
- Lakeshore Therapy
- Lexington Arts Council
- Lexington General Store
- Trash to Treasures
- Artiques



Heartfelt Thanks to 2025 Individual Donors

- Karen Balcierski
- Donald Lund
- Ted Smith
- Sharon Conely
- Tom McGovern
- Missy Bobo
- William and Diane Gray

And all the other individuals who give to support Blue Water Folk Society programs.

Please keep it going! Drop some cash in the donations buckets, buy a t-shirt and some raffle tickets! Support our community music events by attending and participating too!

Djangophonique



Blueridge



Cabaret Boreale



Event Schedule

Presented by the
Blue Water Folk Society

• Live Music • Jams • Vendors
• Workshops • Food Trucks • Kids Discovery

HARBOR STAGE

Tierney Park Pavilion

- 10:00 Blue Ridge**
Michigan Bluegrass
- 11:00 School for Strings Fiddle Club**
Tomorrow's stars today
- 12:00 Ironwood**
Toe-tappin' foot-stompin' Irish duo
- 1:00 Jim Bizer/Jan Krist**
Consummate originals duo
- 2:00 Reverend Robert w/"Da Bones Man"**
Delta Blues touring artist
- 3:00 The Whiskey Charmers**
Alt-Country "dusty Americana"
- 4:15 Voxanna**
Neo-folk psychedelic rock-jazz quartet
- 5:30 Finvarra's Wren**
Traditional Irish family quartet
- 6:45 The Hot Rod Cherries**
Swinging jazz/blues sextet
- 8:00 Djangophonique**
Infectious Jazz Manouche joy
- 9:00 Raffle Drawing: 50-50 and Martin**
guitar raffles; buy tickets all day
- 9:15 Hootenanny**
BWFS traditional goodnight jam
- 10:00 See you in 2026!**

SIMONS STREET STAGE

Simons at Washington

- 11:00 Emilie & Andrew**
Folk/Pop from Lexington native
- 12:00 Dan Hazlett**
Songs from the silly to the sublime
- 1:00 Bob Hausler**
Country roots show strong
- 2:00 Leonardo Gianola**
Country blues from 1920's, '30's
- 3:00 William Henry Russell**
Classical guitarist
- 4:00 Bookends**
Simon & Garfunkel tribute
- 5:00 Jim Bizer & Jan Krist**
Consummate originals duo
- 6:00 Devoted Beacon**
Covers and singalong duo

TIERNEY PARK TENTS-

North of Pavilion

CAMP CAVELL DISCOVERY TENT

Family activities: crafts, build an instrument, nature exhibits, hands-on learning Noon to 5 pm

TRAVIS SIEGFRIED'S DRUM CIRCLE TENT

near the breakwall

Drop in and drum along Noon to 5pm

M-25 STAGE

Huron at Main

- 10:30 Kate Hinote Trio**
Contemporary folk violin-guitar-vocalist interplay
- 11:30 The JR Band**
Instrument-swapping bluegrass/country/Americana
- 12:30 Still Running**
Timeless covers, impactful originals
- 1:30 Circle of Friends**
Old-school Peter, Paul and Mary covers
- 2:30 Linden Thoburn Trio**
Brighton country/folk singer-songwriter with cello and bass
- 3:30 Mike Ward-Psychosongs**
Outstanding original songs trio draws a crowd
- 4:30 Blue Ridge**
Five-piece bluegrass band
- 5:30 Cabaret Boreale**
Vintage jazz, accordion, guitar and tuba
- 6:30 Reverend Robert w/ "Da Bones Man"**
Delta Blues touring artist

TROY SMITH SING OUT! STAGE

Simons St at Dallas

- 10:30 Trae McMaken**
Michigan traditional dance music fiddler
- 11:30 PB&J**
Judy Insley's new trio of singer-songwriters
- 12:30 Mert Sela**
Classical and Flamenco guitarist
- 1:30 Ourselves**
Irish songs and ballads
- 2:30 The Mayapple Collective**
All-star Old Time/Appalachian trio
- 3:30 Kate Hinote Trio**
Contemporary folk violin-guitar-vocalist interplay
- 4:30 John Finan & Sharon Tse**
Original folk/jazz/rock/pop concoctions
- 5:30 Washburn & Gentner**
Johnny Cash/classic country
- 6:30 Still Running**
Timeless covers, impactful originals

TIERNEY PARK

Noon - 5:00 pm:
Camp Cavell Discovery Tent

Family Activities:

- Crafts
- Build an instrument
- Nature exhibits
- Hands-on learning

Fun
for
kids!

COURTYARD STAGE

Huron Ave at Lex Pub/
Sweetwater Deli patio

- 11:00 Cuzzins**
Smooth four-part harmonies
- 12:00 Williams Brothers**
Think Everly Bros, Ry Cooder, Tom Petty
- 1:00 Cabaret Boreale**
Vintage jazz accordion, guitar and tuba
- 2:00 Djangophonique**
Infectious Jazz Manouche joy
- 3:00 The Hot Rod Cherries**
Swinging jazz/blues sextet
- 4:00 Ironwood**
Toe-tappin', foot-stompin' Irish duo
- 5:00 The JR Band**
Instrument-swapping bluegrass/country/Americana
- 6:00 The Mayapple Collective**
All-star Old Time/Appalachian trio
- 7:00 Voxanna**
Neo-folk psychedelic rock-jazz quartet

JAM TENT

Huron Ave across from Courtyard

- 11:00 String Band Jam**
with Pine River Legacy
- 12:00 Old-Time Jam**
with The Mayapple Collective
- 1:00 Bluegrass Jam**
with Blue Ridge and The JR Band
- 2:00 Irish Session Jam**
with Ironwood
- 3:00 Country Jam**
with Bob Hausler and Washburn & Gentner
- 4:00 Blues Jam**
with Reverend Robert, Da Bones Man and Leonardo Gianola
- 5:00 Simple Jam**
with Punch Drunk--all instruments and music types
- 6:00 The Harp Circle**
Swap harmonica solos over Michael Lisi backing tracks

WORKSHOPS TENT

Huron Ave behind Jam Tent

- 11:30 Native American Flute**
Bring 5 or 6-hole flute, or enjoy demonstration
- 12:30 Songwriter Circle**
Hosts "Dog Latin" & Jerry Price
- 1:30 Learn the Ukulele**
Punch Drunk lends you a hand and a uke!
- 2:30 Blues Progression for Guitar**
"Get" the basic blues from Walt Piotrowski
- 3:30 Utah Phillips**
Bobby Budd shares the folk icon's songs and stories
- 4:30 Songwriter Circle**
Hosts Judy Insley and Linden Thoburn

EXCITING TIPS FOR AN AMAZING THUMBFEST!

Have you ever experienced the ultimate music festival in the Thumb?

Get ready for Thumbfest, the fantastic acoustic music festival that pumps up the streets of downtown Lexington! This year, we're throwing an epic party on Saturday, August 30, from 10 AM to 10 PM. With four stages, over 40 musical performances, workshops, a jam site, a lively kids' area, tasty food & craft vendors, and so much more - it's going to be a blast, and the best part? It's absolutely FREE! This is your personal invitation to join us for an unforgettable day, and here's our top advice for making the most of your Thumbfest experience!

If you're new to Thumbfest - Get in on the fun!
Don't let this amazing festival pass you by!

If you've never dived into a whole set of unfamiliar music - Go for it!
This year, we're serving up a satisfying mix, from country and folk to Americana, classics, bluegrass, blues, jazz, Celtic, and beyond! There's something to tickle everyone's musical fancy.

Joining the musicians at the Jam Site? - Yes, please!
Grab your instrument or bring your voice, and jam along with some fantastic professional musicians.

Never been to a workshop?
This is your chance! Learn, create, and unleash your inner artist!

If dancing at the Harbor Stage is new to you - What are you waiting for?
Let loose, tap your feet, twirl a hula hoop, and let the rhythm take you away!

Bring your kids or grandkids!
If you've never taken the little ones to Thumbfest, now's the perfect time! With crafts, hands-on drumming, and more all day from 12 PM to 5 PM, it's a family-friendly extravaganza - and yes, it's FREE!

Got a friend who's never been?
Invite them along! Share the joy of the coolest music festival in the Thumb.

Want to support Thumbfest financially?
We'd love that! Get one of our cool Thumbfest 2025 t-shirts or grab a discounted one from year's past, toss a few bucks in the donation buckets, buy a 50/50 ticket, or grab a raffle ticket for a chance to win an awesome Martin guitar. You can even snag a Blue Water Folk Society membership for just \$20. Remember, we're a passionate all-volunteer organization that thrives on your support!

And don't forget - hop on our FREE shuttles to steer clear of any parking hassles. We'll get you wherever you need to be!

Here's to an incredible Thumbfest!
Dive in and relish every moment!

**See ya there,
Thumbfest 2025 Planning Committee**

Saturday, August 30, 2025 | 10 am to 10 pm | Downtown Lexington

2025 Thumbfest Program

➤ Jim Bizer & Jan Krist

Members of multiple bands, including Diamonds and Rust and the Yellow Room Gang, this dynamic duo packs a lot of fun and a little reflection into every set with top-notch harmonies and guitar licks.

Harbor 1pm; Simons Street 5pm

➤ Blue Ridge

Blue Water area traditional bluegrass band plays a mix of old standards and contemporary songs in the bluegrass style. Kerry Sutton on banjo, mandolin and vocals, Ed Orr playing guitar, singing lead and harmony vocals, Terry Trudell adding vocals and Bob Pokriefka on bass. Fifth member Jim DeHeno joins in, playing dobro and banjo. **Harbor 10am; Bluegrass Jam Tent 1pm; M-25 4:30pm**

➤ Bobby Budd

Join in a personal workshop tribute to American Folk icon Utah Phillips, who inspired Bobby's own journey into story songs and storytelling.

Workshop Tent 3:30pm

➤ Bookends

Tribute duo returns for their sixth Thumbfest, delivering old-school Simon & Garfunkel arrangements. You will remember why you loved this music, or just start loving it now. **Simons Street 4pm**

➤ Cabaret Boreale

This cabaret-style jazz vocalist is backed with accordian, bass and sometimes tuba. Andrew Brown of Djangophonique sits in on guitar. Katie also sings guest vocals with Djangophonique. Jazz lovers' dream! **Courtyard 1pm; M-25 5:30pm**

➤ Camp Cavell Discovery Tent

Camp Cavell provides their popular Discovery Tent for kids of all ages, including a "build your own instrument" workshop, crafts and hands-on environmental exhibits. **Open Noon-5pm in Tierney Park north of the Harbor Stage.**

➤ Circle of Friends

Trio of Blue Water veterans deliver the best Peter, Paul & Mary. Everything they play is rich in harmony and complex guitar/bass arrangements. **M-25 1:30pm**

➤ The Cuzzins

A monster mashup of multiple Thumbfest-savvy musicians, Dean Barnett (Circle of Friends, Bookends), Jim Williams (Williams Brothers), Micki LePla (Ruby Hill), and Kent Kreuger (Lost Cuzzins). Playing whatever acoustic four-part harmony numbers strike their fancy. **Courtyard 11am**

➤ Devoted Beacon

North Branch power couple Danie Shaye and Blane Martinez play wide-ranging acoustic cover songs. They love singalong singers, so go join in! First time at Thumbfest. **Simons Street 6pm**

➤ Djangophonique

Inspired by the Parisian Jazz Manouche-style guitarist Django Reinhardt, Djangophonique pulls this rich tradition into the present with stunning improv, spontaneity and musical interaction. Hot swing, lush ballads, musette waltzes, jazz standards, boleros, and moody minor pieces are all fused together with theatrical flair and musical humor.

Courtyard 2pm; Harbor 8pm

➤ Dog Latin-Chris McGorey

Dog Latin is a revolving group of musicians spearheaded by native Detroit singer songwriter Chris McGorey. Chris joins Jerry Price to host a songwriter circle.

Workshop Tent 12:30pm

➤ Drum Circle Play with Travis Seigfried

Join host Travis Siegfried to wake up your sense of rhythm-bring a percussion instrument or borrow one. **Tierney Park near the breakwall. Noon-5pm**

➤ Emilie & Andrew

A caffeine-fueled social worker mom with a passion for songwriting and a slick guitar player with a surprising past now moonlighting as a neuropsychologist. That's the folk-pop duo Emilie and Andrew, sharing original music and favorite covers. **Simons Street 11am**

➤ John Finan & Sharon Tse

John and Sharon weave intricate guitar arrangements and effortless vocal harmonies into their intelligent songwriting with nuances of folk, rock, pop and jazz. Sharon is also a member of Linden Thoburn trio. Duo plays **Troy Smith Sing Out 4:30pm**

➤ Finvarra's Wren

Michigan based family band plays "music you would expect to hear on the west coast of Ireland." All are performers/teachers and recording artists in their own right. Together they play as only a family can. Don't miss this experience at the **Harbor 5:30pm**

➤ Bob Hausler

Steeped in the country music tradition, Bob has played as a sideman for multiple bands in addition to heading up his own collaborations and an active songwriting and solo career. Twenty Dollar Dog is his current band project, but he is popping over from Saginaw to make his Thumbfest solo debut. **Simons Street 1pm; Country Jam Tent 3pm**

➤ Dan Hazlett

In his hands anything from "carpet stains to schizophrenia" becomes an emotive song of giddy silliness or deep reflection, reinforced by intricately crafted guitar arrangements. **Simons Street Noon**

➤ Kate Hinote Trio

Contemporary indie-folk ensemble of vocal, violin and guitar weaves original songs with carefully selected retro and modern covers to maximize the impact of their sound. Look for their 2025 album Stowaways **M-25 10:30am; Troy Smith Sing Out 3:30pm**

➤ Hootenanny

Festival organizers with musical guests jam a sweet good night to Thumbfest 2025.

➤ The Hot Rod Cherries

This swingin' sextet led by Dan Cafferty delivers jazz and blues standards guitar, bass, trumpet, sax, drums and keyboard. Regulars at Michigan Wine By the Bottle in Royal Oak. **Courtyard 3pm; Harbor 6:45pm**

➤ Ironwood

This young couple from Troy is storming Celtic music stages across the state, to a great reception. Anna holds down fiddle, mandolin and lead vocals, ably backed by husband Mark on guitar and bass. They will get your heart started in the morning! And keep it going all day! Hear them two or three times! **Harbor Stage Noon; Irish Session in Jam Tent 2pm; Courtyard 4pm.**

➤ The JR Band

Bay-area band playing bluegrass/country Americana on fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar and bass. This instrument-swapping multi-vocalist quartet will never leave you hanging. **M-25 11:30am; Bluegrass Jam Tent 1pm, Courtyard 5pm**

➤ Leonardo Gianola

Specializing in solo, acoustic Country Blues, including Delta style, Leonardo slaps a fresh coat of paint on these rarely heard classics from the 20's and 30's using open tunings and resonator guitars. **Simons Street 2pm; Blues Jam Tent 4pm**

➤ Michael Lisi:Harp Circle

Eastern Market jamleader Michael returns to run tracks for harmonica players to jump in on. Come hop on the Harp Train **JamTent 6pm**

➤ The Mayapple Collective

Lansing area co-op headed up by Stephen Rohs (banjo) showcases Mike Ross on fiddle this year. Mike has played old-time/southern Appalachian fiddle music for decades at contradances, at Wheatland Traditional Arts Festival, and at the Hillsdale Traditional Music Festival. Fred Johnson (guitar) has been in dozens of bands in Traverse City and Lansing, including more recently the contradance band Asking for Trouble and his duo with his wife: Denning & Johnson. All are multi-instrumentalists, the fiddle-banjo-guitar lineup is basic, but they swap roles as well. Pick the apples at **Old Time Jam Tent Noon; Troy Smith Sing Out 2:30pm; Courtyard 6pm**

➤ Trae McMaken

This St. Clair County fiddler spent his early years learning his trade from the last of the Michigan and Ontario traditional performers of the unique fiddle-based band music of this part of the great Midwest. Now grown with children of his own, Trae is a true tradition carrier. **Troy Smith Sing Out 10:30am**

➤ Ourselves

"Thumbfest house band" trio honors their musical origins this year with a set of rollicking and tender Irish songs and ballads. **Troy Smith Sing Out 1:30pm**

➤ PB&J

Judy Inslay, Bobby Pennock and Beverly Meyer join forces. Sets consist of "in the round" solo songs as well as songs played together. A sweet interchange of musical styles and ideas with mutual support. Sometimes a PB&J just hits the spot.

Troy Smith Sing Out 11:30am

Also catch Judy co-hosting a songwriter circle in the **Workshop Tent 4:30pm**

➤ Pine River Legacy String Band

Long-time Blue Water area dulcimer-led string band with banjo, mandolin, bass, fiddle, autoharp and who knows what all. Host **String Band Jam Tent 11am**

➤ Walt Piotrowski

Croswell-based guitar teacher and multi-talented band member returns to Thumbfest to give guitarists an introduction to playing the blues. So get the basic blues from Walt **Workshop Tent 2:30pm**

➤ Jerry Price

For his workshop, bring a 5 or 6-hole Native American flute with you. There'll be handouts and step-by-step instructions. Or just enjoy the beauty of this native instrument. **Workshop Tent 11:30am;** Jerry also co-hosts a songwriter circle with Chris McGorey **Workshop Tent 12:30pm**

➤ Punch Drunk

Lansing-based ukulele band plays every song in the book, and shows you how to do it too! Learn to accompany songs on uke **Workshop Tent 1:30**-bring yours or borrow ours; Punch Drunk also hosts a **Simple Jam** for ukes and all instruments **Jam Tent 5pm**

➤ Reverend Robert w/Randy "Da Bones Man" Sepalla

Robert's passion for the Delta blues, played on metal resonator guitars has taken him throughout the US, Canada, the UK, Europe and even India. His one-man blues can also incorporate the influences of jazz, ragtime, and swing, as well as Caribbean, Hawaiian, African and Indian music. "Da Bones Man" joins in for Thumbfest playing washboard, spoons and "da bones". Randy operates out of the UP, where he has played with Finnish lumberjack harmonica legend Les Raber Sr and also has a regular seasonal band in the Delta of Mississippi. **Harbor 2pm; Blues Jam Tent 4pm, M-25 6:30pm**

➤ William Henry Russell

Classical guitarist and composer, Bill also develops appealing classical arrangements of popular songs and hymns. A captivating and inspiring listening experience. **Simons Street 3pm**

➤ School for Strings Fiddle Club

Touring group of the Port Huron stringed instrument academy. These kids can really fiddle! Be ready to tap your feet and clap your hands! **Harbor 11am**

➤ Mert Sela

Mert is a native of Turkey, conservatory trained in classical guitar with a speciality in traditional Spanish Flamenco. Give him a warm welcome at **Troy Smith Sing Out 12:30pm**

➤ Still Running

Engaging originals and fresh arrangements of a wide range of artists from the Byrds and Beatles to Tom Petty and U2.

You don't know what you will get next, but you will like it all. Bringing their full quartet this year. **M-25 12:30; Troy Smith Sing Out 6:30pm**

➤ Linden Thoburn Trio

Celebrating the success of her back-to-back albums, "Scarecrow" and "The Sun Comes Shining Through", and a DMA nomination for outstanding band, Linden hits the Thumbfest stage with her favorite cello player and the multi-talented Sharon Tse. **M-25 2:30pm.** Linden also co-hosts a songwriter circle at **Workshop Tent 4:30pm**

➤ Voxanna

Driven by Billy Brandt's guitar skills, to the counterpoint of world-beat rhythms and tasty bass, this quartet built of two couples swaps out three lead vocalists, with smooth harmonies and a music style that's been described as "neo-folk, psychedelic rock and jazz." **Harbor 4:15pm; Courtyard 7pm**

➤ Mike Ward:Psychosongs

Detroit folk/Americana songwriter grew up in Port Huron soaking up the likes of Dylan and Springsteen and those voices echo in his lyric-driven songs. Joined this year by vocalist Judy Brown, and borrowing Linden Thoburn's cello for a new twist on the psycho-sound. **M-25 3:30pm**

➤ Washburn & Gentner

Steve and Bob take the stage and the jam tent for some classic acoustic country-Steve's Johnny Cash covers are not to be missed! **Country Jam Tent 3pm; Troy Smith Sing Out 5:30pm**

➤ The Whiskey Charmers

Alt-country Americana band fronted by singer/songwriter Carrie Shepard and "Twisting Tarantulas" guitarist Lawrence Daversa. Their Streetlights album was a hit last year and Thumbfest caps off a state-wide summer touring schedule. **Harbor 3pm**

➤ The Williams Brothers

Jim and Dave offer their lively arrangements of songs ranging from The Everly Brothers, Eric Clapton & Ry Cooder, to The Beatles, Van Morrison & Tom Petty. **Courtyard Noon**

Saturday, August 30, 2025 | 10 am to 10 pm | Downtown Lexington

THUMBFEST 2025 EVENT MAP



HISTORY

The Blue Water Folk Society (BWFS) was formed in 2000 through the collaborative efforts of individuals from Lexington, Crosswell, and Port Sanilac, who organized and performed live traditional and acoustic music in the area. George Stewart spearheaded the creation of the fledgling Blue Water Folk Society.

In January 2001, BWFS launched a new "Coffeehouse" open mic program at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lexington. This community event continues on the second Saturday of each month from October to March, at the same time and location. The positive response to the Coffeehouse was so strong that George proposed organizing a small music festival under the umbrella of the Lexington Arts Council, where he served as a board member.

Thumbfest Music Festival debuted on Labor Day weekend in 2002 and took place at Camp Ozanam in Sanilac County. Admission was \$10, and children were free. The festival was held at the camp for the first three years, but as Thumbfest began to outgrow the venue, plans were made in 2004 to relocate the festival to the Village of Lexington.

Moving the festival led to the implementation of free admission, which in turn cultivated a community-supported event sustained solely by donations. The year 2025 marks the 20th anniversary of Thumbfest in the Village of Lexington. In 2004, BWFS incorporated as a Michigan nonprofit corporation and obtained 501(c)(3) charitable status from the IRS in 2005, in time for the festival's transition to Lexington.

Founded on a passion for traditional and acoustic music, the BWFS actively preserves and promotes this vibrant art form throughout our communities. Beyond successfully hosting the Coffeehouse and Thumbfest, this all-volunteer organization, led by dedicated musicians and music enthusiasts, develops diverse programs to engage all ages through concerts, interactive activities, and the joy of live music. Every penny of every donation directly supports these vital community initiatives, and the organization encourages everyone to embrace and support local performances in schools, museums, theaters, and community events.



A Special Thumbfest Music Festival

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to
MARY GLIDDEN



for your generous support!



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EVENT MAP KEY



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