

Thumbfest 2025

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 4:30**

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 3:30**

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 accordion, 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 5:30**

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 1:30**

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 12:30; Troy Smith Sing Out Stage 6:30**

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 4:30**

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 5:30**

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 10:30; Troy Smith Sing Out 3:30**

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 6:45;**

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 11:30; Bluegrass Jam Tent 1pm, Courtyard 5pm**

Sheila Landis and Rick Matle duo -Vocalist SHEILA LANDIS teamed up with 7-string guitarist RICK MATLE in 1991, sensing a kindred musical spirit. Together they continue to explore jazz balladry, bebop, blues and country music, poetic excursions, Brazilian rhythms, funky/pop/classic rock and their own inventive collaborations at every performance--elegant yet edgy. . **M-25 stage @12:30pm**

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 **Jam Tent 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 2:30; 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 10:30**

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 1:30**

PB&J

Judy Insley, 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 11:30**
Also catch Judy co-hosting a songwriter circle in the **Workshop Tent 4:30**

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 11:00;**

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 2:30**

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 11:30;**
Jerry also co-hosts a songwriter circle with Chris McGorey **Workshop Tent 12:30**

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 6:30**

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 specialty in traditional Spanish Flamenco. Give him a warm welcome at **Troy Smith Sing Out 12:30**

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 2:30**

Linden also co-hosts a songwriter circle at **Workshop Tent 4:30**

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 4:15; 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 cellist for a new twist on the psycho-sound. **M-25 3:30**

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 5:30**

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**