



For Immediate Release:

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The Linda Plaut Newton Festival of the Arts July 10-11, 2021

Newton Community Pride hosts 20+ arts and culture events across Newton

Newton, MA--- Newton Community Pride (NCP) announces the *Linda Plaut* Newton Festival of the Arts July 10 – 11, 2021 at three different locations in Waban, West Newton and Newton Highlands July 10 & 11, 2021. All Festival performances are free and open for all to enjoy. <https://newtoncommunitypride.org/newton-festival-of-the-arts/>

The 6th annual *Linda Plaut* Newton Festival of the Arts spans many facets of arts and culture including several genres of music from blues to baroque, classical guitar to R&B and opera to jazz. The Festival has served as a catalyst for the cultural life in the city since 2015 and has been a showcase of Newton talent and Newton Cultural Council grant recipients for many artistic organizations and artists over the years. *“We are delighted to showcase Newton’s talent and hold the Linda Plaut Newton Festival of the Arts this year for all to enjoy. Live music and performances are back and now more than ever our community is looking forward to the joy music and the arts can bring”* said Gloria Gavris, Board Chair of Newton Community Pride. *“I’m also thankful for Chris Pitts, producer of this year’s festival, for all the time and talent he put into organizing event logistics during such a challenging time of several stops and starts to planning”*, added Gavris.

“The arts bring so much joy and build bonds here in Newton. Emerging from the pandemic, all of us are looking forward to gathering together in person once again to enjoy this year’s Linda Plaut Newton Festival of the Arts. It’s especially sweet this year to listen to music, storytelling and more with an exceptional schedule of performances,” said Mayor Ruthanne Fuller.

Newton Community Pride is a 501c3 non-profit, building community for all to enjoy through arts and culture programming, beautification projects and volunteerism. The *Linda Plaut* Newton Festival of the Arts is supported by corporate and individual donations. The Village Bank, is NCP’s 2021 Presenting Sponsor.

More -

Festival Highlights

- 20+ Performances
- Saturday, July 11, 2021, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Sunday, July 12, 2021, 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- 3 Performance Stages
 - Outdoors - Hyde Center Bandstand, Newton Highlands
 - Outdoors - Suzuki School of Newton, Waban
 - Indoors – Allen Center for the Arts, West Newton
- All events are free and open to the general public
- For complete information on the Linda Plaut Festival of the Arts
 - <https://newtoncommunitypride.org/newton-festival-of-the-arts/>
- Follow Festival events on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram:
 - Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/NewtonCommunityPride>
 - Twitter - @NewtonCommPride
 - Instagram – @Newtoncommunitypride

Artist Highlights

Nikola Stajic - JAZZ, BLUES GUITAR

Saturday, July 10, 2021 at 11:00 AM
Hyde Bandstand, Newton Highlands



Berklee graduate, Nikola Stajic, fuses the finest finger-style technique with sophisticated Balkan music, jazz harmony and improvisation. He is known for his percussive acoustic finger-style and the use of odd meters. *Nikola is a Newton resident and has performed most recently in the Parlor Performance virtual Musical Series for the Newton Cultural Development Office.*

Isabel Stover - JAZZ SINGER

Saturday, July 10, 2021 at 1:00 PM
Suzuki School of Newton, Waban



“Jazz is my go-to music; my comfort food,” says Newtonite Isabel Stover. “As vocal artists there is a need to bear our souls to the world, but at the same time make our music accessible to people. Which is why all these other musical influences that I bring to the table must inform what I do, from my choice in songs to how I sing a particular lyric.” Stover’s indelible presence shines through regardless of genre or style. *Isabel is a Newton resident and lives in Newtonville.*

Andrus Madsen - BAROQUE HARPSICHORD

Sunday, July 11, 2021 at 1:00 PM

The Allen House Center for the Arts, West Newton



Considered one of New England's masters of Baroque music, Madsen performs frequently on the harpsichord, clavichord and the organ both as a chamber musician and as a solo performer. He performs frequently in the New England area, and played recently at Carnegie Hall. Madsen is the Director and Founder of Newton Baroque. *Andrus Madsen is a 2021 Newton Cultural Council grant recipient.*

Olga Lisovskaya - OPERA

Sunday, July 11, 2021 at 12:30 PM

Hyde Bandstand, Newton Highlands



Olga Lisovskaya is a critically-acclaimed singer, voice teacher and director of Talents of the World, an international concert organization, as well as Executive Director at Commonwealth Lyric Theater, an award-winning opera company. Lisovskaya performs regularly at some of the most prestigious concert halls in the world. Her most recent performance was at Carnegie Hall. *Olga lives in Newton and is a recipient of a 2021 grant from the Newton Cultural Council.*

Zaira Meneses - GUITAR

Saturday, July 10, 2021 at 3:30 PM

Hyde Bandstand, Newton Highlands



Zaira Meneses classical guitarist and international acclaimed artist, brings the authentic sounds from Veracruz Mexico with her Son Jarocho Band. Meneses has performed in many of the great concert halls of the world, including Boston's Jordan Hall, New York City's Alice Tully Hall, 92nd St. YHMA and Carnegie Hall. She was recognized by the Boston Foundation in 2018 for being the first musician to bring Son Jarocho music to Boston. She moved to the USA in 2001 and made Newton her home. Meneses will perform together with her colleagues: Juan Carlos Marin Marin (requinto), Akili Jamal, (percussion), and Juan Carlos Ruiz (Jarana). *Meneses lives in Newton and is a 2021 grant recipient from the Newton Cultural Council.*

Sandeep Das with Suhail Yisaf Khan, Journey in Rhythm, Classical Tabla
Sunday, July 11, 2021 at 7:00 PM
The Allen Center for the Arts, West Newton



A 2019-20 Guggenheim Fellow and Grammy-winning musician, Sandeep Das is one of the leading Tabla virtuosos in the world today. Since his debut concert at the age of 17 with legendary Sitarist Pt. Ravi Shankar, Das has established himself as one of India's top Tabla maestros, building a prolific international reputation that spans over three decades. Das actively performs with and composes for major symphony orchestras, string quartets, jazz musicians, world music concerts at Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, the Hollywood Bowl, the Royal Albert Hall, and the Concertgebouw. *Das lives in Newton and is a recipient of a 2021 grant from the Newton Cultural Council.*

Newton Community Pride organized and funded artists for this year's festival. This festival, recognizes the decades of arts and culture programs led by the long time former Director of the Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs, Linda Plaut who died in 2019. NCP is a 501c3 non-profit, supported by business sponsors and individual donors, and underwrites arts, culture, community programs, and beautification projects each year. For more information, go to www.newtoncommunitypride.org.