

# Music Happenings

## Moab Music Festival Winterlude Returns January 25 – February 1 More Genre-Defying Acts, Concerts, Workshops

The Moab Music Festival will be heating up Moab January 25 to February 1, 2025 when its eagerly anticipated community-centered week of workshops, concerts, and events, *Winterlude* returns. The cross-genre ensemble W4RP, which blends classical chamber music with improv, jazz, world, and popular traditions, will be back, along with Grammy-nominated composer, jazz pianist, and electronic artist Pascal Le Boeuf making his local debut. *Winterlude* is all about the community, and its 2025 events will include senior and church outreach, classroom mentoring and assemblies, school workshops, and for the first time, the inclusion of pre-K students in the Festival’s education program. Guest artists will also lead workshops for community youth and adult musicians, as well as hit the airwaves on KZMU Radio.

The ensemble W4RP, which the *Columbia Free Times* said “exemplifies the genre-obliterating direction of contemporary classical music with electrifying programs,” takes the stage at one of Moab’s most upscale hotels – the Hoo Doo -- on Saturday, January 25 (7pm). The evening’s program conjures up a night out in New York City, W4RP’s hometown, with an energetic set of original compositions, improv-infused jazz classics, classical, and some recent tracks from its new album. The group features violinist Josh Henderson, cellist Ju-Young Lee, pianist Mikael Darmaine, and drummer Rick Martinez.

Local instrumentalists can join the fun at Potluck & Playthrough with W4RP on Sunday, January 26, at St. Francis Episcopal Church (6pm). Along with their instruments, musicians of all levels can bring a dish to share and enjoy dinner together, then the artists lead casual chamber music reading sessions for intermediate and advanced players in an enriching and enlivening community gathering for string, wind, brass, and piano players who can read music. Registration is required.

Sips & Sounds has become a fall festival-favorite event, and now it’s making its first appearance at *Winterlude* on Tuesday, January 28 (7pm) at Josie Wyatt’s Grille. Attendees can grab food and drink, then get up close and personal with featured artists violinist Sara Caswell and cellist Nick Photinos — both of whom they’ll see again later in the week.

Back by popular demand is the Community Drum Circle on Thursday, January 30 at Star Hall (7pm). An informal and fun workshop for ages 8 and up will explore rhythm, groove, and call and response and will be led by W4RP’s percussionist. Workshops for students and amateurs will be happening all week, and include a rare opportunity for side-by-side collaboration with the professionals in their own music, specially arranged for the occasion. The grand finale is the Winterlude Showcase on Friday, January 31 (7pm) in Star Hall. Participation is free for students (18 and under) and pay-what-you-wish for adults 19 and up, but registration is required.

The Moab Music Festival’s Musical Story Hour, on Saturday February 1 (10:30am), gets a Winterlude makeover this year. Pascal



W4RP

Le Boeuf leads his quartet in an interactive musical story time performance open to children newborn and up, centered around the books “Charlie Parker Played Be Bop” and “When Louis Armstrong Taught Me Scat.” Pascal Le Boeuf and his quartet close the week on Saturday, February 1 (7pm) at Star Hall, with music from their recent album *Ritual Being*. Le Boeuf’s GRAMMY-nominated compositions bridge jazz, classical and electronic-based music with improvisation and production to create a sleek new hybrid. Featuring violinist Sara Caswell, cellist Nick Photinos, and drummer Michael W. Davis, Le Boeuf creates soundscapes *Downbeat* magazine called “a riveting intersection of jagged contemporary classical and jazz rhythms [with] passages of breathtaking beauty.”



Pascal Le Boeuf



Le Boeuf Ensemble

## JJ Grey & Mofro to Perform its Southern ‘Swamp’ Style Music in Grand Junction, January 30

By Sharon Sullivan

If you missed JJ Grey and Mofro’s performance at Colorado’s renowned Red Rocks Amphitheater in July, you’ll have another opportunity to hear this Florida-based southern rock band when they perform in Grand Junction at the Avalon Theatre, Jan. 30, 2025. Doors open at 7 p.m., and show starts at 8 p.m.

Grey released his first album *Blackwater* in 2001, and has come out with a number of albums since, music that his official bio describes as “deeply moving, masterfully written, funkified rock and front porch Southern soul

music.” According to his official bio, Grey’s message is simple: “respect the natural world and always live in the moment. And never forget the importance of having a good time.”

Grey writes songs inspired from his own life and experiences in the Northern Florida swampland, where “Grey’s gritty baritone drips with honest passion and testifies with a preacher’s foot-pounding fervor.”

National Public Radio described the band’s music as “a deeply-rooted blend of southern-fried rock and swamp funk...richly evocative lyrics...plainspoken, blue-collar American music.”

JJ Grey and Mofro are on a nationwide tour to promote the release of their most recent album, *Olustee*, comprised mostly of songs “steeped in the mystical Southern stories of his ancestral Florida home and filled with people from his life.”

The band has played many well-known music festivals, including Lollapalooza, Bonnaroo, Wakarusa, Austin City Limits Festival, Byron Bay Blues Festival in Australia, Montreal Jazz Festival, and Fuji Rock in Japan.

JJ Grey and Mofro perform more than 75 shows a year in the United States and worldwide. They’ve shared the stage with Lenny Kravitz, B.B. King, The Allman Brothers Band, The Black Crowes, Los Lobos, Jeff Beck, Ben Harper, Booker T. Jones, Mavis Staples, and many more.



JJ Grey - Photo by Steve Rapport

Grey’s songs have been used in films and on television, including shows like *House of Cards*, *Criminal Minds*, *Bones*, *House*, *Flashpoint*, *Crash*, *Friday Night Lights*, *The Glades*, *The Deadliest Catch* and the films *The Hoot* and *The Gray Man*. In 2009, Grey wrote the film score for the critically-acclaimed, Emmy Award-winning documentary *The Good Soldier*, which appeared in theatres and on *Bill Moyers Journal* on PBS.

Grey is a visual artist (he designed and drew all of the cover art on each of his albums). He’s also an avid outdoorsman and fisherman who works to protect coastal fish and fish habitat.

For more information about JJ Grey and Mofro, visit: <https://www.jjgrey.com>.

For the best-priced tickets visit this site: [www.ticketmaster.com/event/1E006126117B8D0B](http://www.ticketmaster.com/event/1E006126117B8D0B)



JJ Grey - Photo by Ryan West

**Check out more  
Live Music Events  
listed in the  
Moab Happenings  
calendar  
page 4A–6A**