

Live Music Events

Moab Arts Festival Live Music Schedule — Saturday/Sunday, May 24 & 25

The Nanites • 10:30am Saturday

Nearly a decade ago four immortal beings known as the Cosmic Fiddler, The Stellar Rhythm keeper, The Celestial Wanderer and the Galactic Groover make up the giant robot known as the Nanites. After their ship crash landed in the Moab Desert, they took the human names Tamara Freda, Donnie Castor, Joey Ganino and Brian Valasquez and began integrating themselves with the local population by telling strange stories accompanied by pleasing musical vibrations. Catch them Sunday at Noon at the Moab Arts Festival.



Moab Taiko Dan • 12 Noon Saturday

Moab Taiko Dan has shared joy and positive vibration with the Moab community for over 30 years. Taiko (translated as “fat drum”) is a Japanese cultural art form that uses a variety of drumming and percussion instruments to convey original compositions and multi-cultural rhythms. This diverse 501(c)3 nonprofit group of amateur drummers promotes cultural awareness and inclusiveness as they share unique ensemble performances at local and regional venues.



The drum vibrations pay homage to the ancient and modern Human Spirit, as well as the natural wonders of area rivers, canyons, and wilderness. Taiko is an ancient tradition that brings fresh awareness and healing to the modern world.

As part of our effort to promote individual growth, development, and expression through the art of taiko drumming, we have provided instruction for both elementary and middle school students through the BEACON after-school program for over 20 years. Our current class of HMK Taiko Kids will kick off our performance at high noon on Saturday, May 24th.

Grand County High School Marching Band 1:30pm Saturday

Marcia Ewell • 3:00pm Saturday

Marcia has been performing Folk and Blues for over 40 years, from Austin, Tx, to West Virginia, to Telluride, CO and now Moab, UT. Marcia grew up in a musical family, learning to play various instruments with her 2 brothers. It was her father's love of Classic Jazz and Blues that got her hooked on Vintage Blues. She's performed in venues ranging from open mics, to opening for Telluride Blues and Brews Festival. Marcia learned directly from many great blues masters in the 80's while living in WVa including John Cephas, Phil Wiggins, Etta Baker and John Jackson. Marcia sees the Blues as a universal language, the music speaks for itself, and is ultimately about healing and resolve as we all struggle through the difficult times in our lives.



The Butch Cassidies • 4:30pm Saturday

Known for its original songs, rich harmonies and honest and humorous lyrics, the Butch Cassidies is a women-fronted Americana band out of Moab, Utah. The core group includes guitarist/vocalist and songwriter, Emily Cox; bassist/vocalist and songwriter Josie Kovash; and guitarist/

vocalist Lisa Hathaway. The band is frequently joined by musical guest “Sundance Kids”, including mandolin player and vocalist, Eric Jones. Among its accomplishments, the band has performed several outdoor festivals, including the first Moab Women's Festival, the Moab Free Summer Concert Series and several Moab Arts Festivals. Last year, the band made its debut appearance at the Entrada Institute in Torrey, UT and most recently kicked off KZMU's Radiothon with a tiny station performance. For sound bytes and upcoming shows, their website is www.the-butch-cassidies.com.



Quicksand Soup • 6:00pm Saturday

Quicksand Soup is a 5-piece high energy alternative bluegrass band based in Moab, Utah. They are known for a mix of original and old-time selections with an emphasis on showing audiences a great time. Songwriter Sand Sheff was Arizona born and Oklahoma raised and has released 15 albums of original music; including in Nashville, where he was called “the very definition of Americana” by Music Row Magazine. Lead Guitarist David Steward is one of the best pickers in the Rocky Mountains, and has several albums of his own original music. Mandolinist Eric Jones, raised in Dinosaur, Colorado, was a founding member of Big Timbre and is an American musical historian as well as a much-sought after singer and picker. Moab born and raised Alan Snow was the lead bass player for the world-famous Caleb Chapman Super Band and traveled the world playing jazz. Upstate New York raised Fiddler Tamara Frieda is one of the great strings talents of the Four Corners and also performs with the Durango and Phoenix Symphonies.



Ryan & Jeff • 10:30am Sunday

Ryan Barnum and Jeff Gutierrez are staples in the Moab music community performing in multiple groups. They will be performing an exclusive set for the Moab Arts Festival with Ryan on guitar and Jeff on Tenor Sax. Good times guaranteed by all.



Joseph Secody • 12 Noon Sunday

Native Cultural Legacy is led by Joseph Secody, a Navajo Hoop Dancer, Flute Player, and StoryTeller. They are known for high-energy shows featuring an innovative blend of modern and traditional Native American dance styles. Our performers' regalia are adorned with vivid assortments of brightly-colored ribbons, feathers, beads, and furs—all of which honor our nations' elders and the legacy of our traditional arts.



They are Based in Page, AZ. Native Cultural Legacy represents a proud and vibrant tradition for local, national and international audiences. Our program is designed for corporate events, opening ceremonies, cultural celebrations,



show productions, conferences, sporting events, and more.

Joseph Secody has also Competed in the 35th annual World Championship Hoop Dance Contest and is currently 2025's ranked #5 Native American Hoop Dancer!

Joseph has performed at the National museum of the American Indian Smithsonian in New York City and Washington D.C. he has also traveled internationally to Dubai to perform at 2020 World Expo representing USA.

Joseph also Hoop Danced at a halftime show for a Phoenix Suns Game. He is also appeared in a Phillips TV commercial and in a music video with Taboo of the Black Eyed peas featuring a song called “one world”.

Our mission is to spread Cultural awareness, Change the stereotype of how people see Native Americans in Movies and books. We would like to give the message that “we still move with the modern world, at the same time we still Believe and practice our traditional ways.”

Matthew & The Hope • 1:30pm Sunday

Matthew & The Hope is a nationally touring Salt Lake City, Utah based Americana/County/Bluegrass band. At any one of their performances you can expect a night of whiskey-fueled, porch-pounding bluegrass breakdowns, the sorrowful morose of guilt-ridden country melodies, and a very unapologetic “take it or leave it” style of storytelling. Whether it's due to their upbeat fiddle-driven tunes, or their powerful laments, this band deeps 'em drinking all night long.



Toni & the Enablers • 3:00pm Sunday

Toni and the Enablers aim to entertain and delight with their soulful original tunes and wide array of popular cover songs that span the decades. Featuring Toni Sicola's powerhouse vocals and incredible instrumental talent from the band's skilled musicians, you'll be tapping your toe and singing along.



Stonefed • 4:30 Sunday

Stonefed played its first shows in 1999 and since has traveled the country over with its music. Stonefed's place is at the heart of Utah's jam-band community; filling shows up in the state's capital for over two decades, it's following has grown into a family. Between the groovy rock n' roll drumming and funky bass lines, one can catch dual lead guitar interplay reminiscent of southern rock jam bands. Original tunes with catchy lyrics give way too energetic jams and tasty swells. These men from Moab have come to you with one intention... A funky good time.

Moab Downtown Entertainment Starts another Big Season

Not only are there plenty of natural wonders to see in Moab, there's also lots of fun entertainment available right downtown. Moab hosts a thriving music scene. If you're looking for something totally different, there's the Moab Backyard Theater, located right in the heart of downtown. It's open to all ages and great fun for grown-ups and kids alike. Not only is it fun, but all shows are performed without the use of Artificial Intelligence.



The Backyard Theater is one of the only open-air entertainment venues in the west, a throwback to the old west days when traveling shows entertained culture-starved pioneers on the dusty streets of the frontier towns. Located just a half-block off Main street in downtown, The Backyard Theater features Magic and Music. The stage sits beneath a giant cottonwood tree that is older than the town itself. In its 12th year of operation, the

theater has entertained thousands of people from all over the world. They come to see an old-fashioned type of American entertainment that has all but vanished in the rest of the country.

Every Wednesday, traditional bluegrass music returns to the theater. The band Quicksand Soup performs old-time standards and unique originals starting at 7 pm. The free show has become a downtown fixture over the last few years and it's common to see

both locals and tourists alike tapping their toes.

Saturdays, The southwest's only outdoor downtown Magic show returns with the award-winning magic of Rick Boretti. Rick's hilarious routine changes constantly, but always involves lots of wisecracks and mystifying magic tricks. Folks have been known to return year after year for the show. Kids love Rick's magic, but adults are often amazed at how much they love it too. If you haven't



caught a real magic show in a while, then you might have forgotten how fun they can be. Shows start at 7pm. Music is always free. Magic prices are 15 dollars for folks over 12 and 8 dollars for kids over 3. 3 and under are free. The theater often features the authentic cooking of El Local Cocina Food Truck, and always allows outside food and drink. It is located just behind Zax at 56 W. 100 South