

# Live Music Events

## Doing Musical Requests and More at Moab's Backyard Theater

by Sand Sheff

The Backyard Theater in downtown Moab is one of the first live venues in the west to reopen since the lockdown eased, providing some much-needed musical relief to a crisis-weary population. Tuesdays are feature the owners of the Backyard Theater, Sand and Sunnie Sheff, playing old country favorites and originals from Sand's 15 studio albums.



The couple began performing together in 2007, with Sunnie taking over bass duties just a few days after learning how to play on a borrowed instrument.

"Her first show was in front of 200 people at the Strater Theater in Durango," Sheff recalls. "They were not easy songs, either. She rocked it!"

When the couple moved to San Marcos, Texas for three years in 2008, the duo began performing at a wide variety of roadhouses and biker joints.

"I would have lots of dangerous looking men come up and say: 'C'mon. Let the girl sing!', so I began to insist that Sunnie start singing, more, for my own personal safety, which she did a great job at."

The couple formed the core of the Armadillo Clean Orchestra, which backed the musical comedy "Texcentric Radio Hour" that Sheff wrote for the Esther's Follies Theater, where he worked as a writer and opening act.

"They called him Mr. Texas," Sunnie recalls of their nearly three-year run.

At the dollar beer night roadhouses, the duo began performing requests together, going A to Z through the musical alphabet, Allman Brothers to ZZ Top. This earned more than a few worn-out dollar bills over the last decade. Returning to Moab in 2011, their act became a fixture at the old Buck's/Atomic Restaurant and also at the Blubar.

Now, after having performed literally hundreds of gigs,

they sing at the open-air oasis of the Backyard Theater, where they perform every Tuesday nights.

Wednesdays at the BYT features Quicksand Soup with free bluegrass night and Thursday is Saints and Sinners with Gospel and Country music. The weekends are TBA. All shows are free and start at 8pm. The Moab Backyard Theater is located at 56W 100 South in Moab, Just behind Zax, We'll see you there!

**Downtown Entertainment!**



Bring food (and drinks) to go and see a show!!

**SHOWTIMES 8 PM**

**TUESDAYS SAND & SUNNIE**

**WEDNESDAYS BLUEGRASS**

**THURSDAYS COUNTRY & GOSPEL**

**FRI & SAT TBA**

*fun for all ages!*

★ visit website for exact times and more info! ★

**MOABBACKYARDTHEATER.COM**

56 W. 100 S. (1/2 Block off Main next to Zax)

## Moab Music Festival

Moab Music Festival is planning to carry on its musical-tradition of music in concert with the landscape™ in the wide-open setting of Moab Utah from August 31 to September 17.

Excited to be one of the first festivals in the US to be able to proceed safely during Covid 19, the 28th season will be pared down to accommodate protocols, but the one-of-a-kind experiences will be as majestic as ever. The outdoor concerts, are the focus this year and will be held in the socially-distanced settings of rafts along the Colorado River, hidden wilderness alcoves, and elegant private ranches. Audiences will enjoy chamber music, from traditional to hot-off-the-press, jazz, and Latin music performed by renowned artists in a pitch-perfect setting.

Moab Music Festival's commitment to the security of audiences, staff and artists is its top priority, so when a ticket is purchased, festivalgoers will be agreeing to adhere to all safety procedures, which will be laid out in advance; these include wearing masks, observing social distancing,

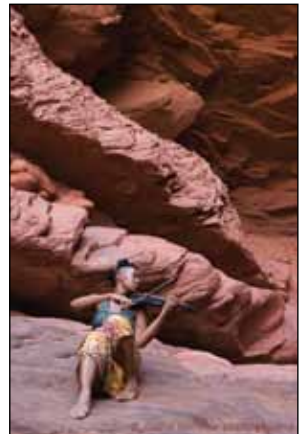


Photo by Nisha Sondhe



Photo by Richard Bowditch

and using available handwashing stations. CDC rules will be monitored, and should anything change audiences will be notified.

"Our hope is that Moab Music Festival can go forward this year," said the Festival Co-Directors Leslie Tomkins and Michael Barrett, "As we face the world's challenges together we look forward to offering solace through music."

### MOAB MUSIC FESTIVAL CONCERT SCHEDULE\*

www.moabmusicfest.org

**Westwater Canyon Musical Raft Trip**  
Monday, August 31- Wednesday, September 2, 2020  
Ruby, Horsethief and Westwater Canyons

**Grotto Concert I**  
Thursday, September 3, 2020 - 11:30am  
Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

**Music Hike I: Classical Strings**  
Saturday, September 5, 2020 - 8:00am  
Wilderness Area

**My Heart is in Havana**  
Saturday, September 5, 2020 - 7:00pm  
Red Cliffs Lodge

**Music Hike II: Everything That Rises**  
Sunday, September 6, 2020 - 8:00am  
Wilderness Area

**Virtuosos Then & Now**  
Sunday, September 6, 2020 - 7:00pm  
Red Cliffs Lodge

**Rocky Mountain Power Family Concert**  
Monday, September 7, 2020 - 7:00pm  
Red Cliffs Lodge

**Ranch Benefit Concert**  
Tuesday, September 8, 2020 - 5:30pm  
Private Ranch

**Grotto II: Hammerklavier**  
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 - 11:30am  
Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

**Music Hike III: Curated by Jay Campbell**  
Saturday, September 12, 2020 - 8:00am  
Wilderness Area

**Music Hike IV: String Theory Curated by Kristin Lee**  
Sunday, September 13, 2020 - 8:00am  
Wilderness Area

**Grotto III: Music of Faith & Belief**  
Monday, September 14, 2020 - 11:30am  
Colorado River Wilderness Grotto

\*Programming and schedule subject to change



Photo by Richard Bowditch

# 4th of July

## Independence Day Celebration!

*Brought to you by Vortex Productions, the City of Moab, the Recreation District, and Grand County*

Tune into 97.1 FM "KCYN" to hear music choreographed to the fireworks

Fireworks to be showcased on July 4th from Lions Back at approximately dark  
(Wind date: July 5th or 6th)