

Saturday, September 5
10 am to 10 pm

Drawing at Harbor Stage 8pm
Need not be present to win!



* Free Shuttle runs regularly between Main St. (M-25) and the Harbor + along M-25 from A&W to Trinity and Methodist Church lots.

*Celebrate Music,
Community &
Culture at
Thumbfest
2026!*



Here's to an incredible Thumbfest!
Dive in and relish every moment!

**See ya there,
Thumbfest 2026 Planning Committee**



2026

Thumbfest Program

> The Barones & Friends

Jeff Baron's original family band collides with multiple bandmates to produce an explosion of "New-folk jazz-grass". Catch them partying at the **Courtyard. 7pm**

> 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 plays dobro and banjo. **Harbor 10am; Bluegrass jam 1pm; Troy Smith Sing Out! 4:30pm**

> Bobby Budd on the ultimate hobo

A liberating journey to the life and work of Utah Phillips. Hear some of his best stories, learn a couple of his greatest hits. Join in with any instrument or voice plus an open mind. **Workshop 3:30pm**

> Bookends

Tribute duo returns for their seventh Thumbfest, delivering old-school Simon & Garfunkel. You will remember why you loved this music, or just start loving it now. **Simons Street 3pm**

> Brandon Byrne Ragtime

Michigan pianist playing classical ragtime and original rag-style compositions and arrangements. New to Thumbfest this year! Start your day jumpin' at **M-25 10:30am**

> Annie & Rod Capps

TF welcomes this dynamic duo back for the first time since 2018! Pour lyrics playful and poignant over an amazingly complex instrumental Americana vibe with a touch of twang and a soulful groove. **Courtyard 4pm** Also with **Diamonds in the Rust Harbor 7pm**

> Cigar Box Scott

One-man Ohio folk band on cigar box guitar and homemade foot percussion. A rollicking remix of traditional folk and blues to get you stomping and clapping along! First-time Thumbfester! Catch his workshop "Songs to Sing with your (Grand)kids". Bring them along! **Troy Smith Sing Out! 11:30am; Workshop 1:30pm; A&W 4pm**

> 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 12:30 pm**

> The Cuzzins

A monster mashup of multiple 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. **Simons Street 6pm**

> Devoted Beacon

North Branch power couple Danie Shaye and Blane Martinez return with wide-ranging acoustic cover songs. They love singalong singers, so go join in! **A&W 2pm**

> Diamonds in the Rust

Annie & Rod Capps team up with Krist & Bizer trio for a harbor stage set whose sum is even greater than its topnotch parts. Double the guitar licks, double the vocals. **Harbor 7pm**

> Dog Latin-Chris McGorey

Dog Latin, the musical vehicle of Detroit singer songwriter Chris McGorey, is known to cause foottapping, chin stroking, grinning and involuntary body movement! **Troy Smith Sing Out! 6:30pm**

> Drum Circle Play with Travis Siegfried

Join host Travis Siegfried (Cros-Lex alum) to wake up your sense of rhythm--bring a percussion instrument or borrow one. **Tierney Park 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 2pm**

> 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. **Simons Street 5pm**

> 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 4:30pm**

> 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 1pm; Blues Jam Tent 4pm**



HISTORY: The Blue Water Folk Society (BWFS) was formed in 2000 through the collaborative efforts of individuals from Lexington, Crosswell, and Port Sanilac, who organized and performed live traditional and acoustic music in the area. George Stewart spearheaded the creation of the fledgling Blue Water Folk Society.

In January 2001, BWFS launched a new "Coffeehouse" open mic program at Trinity Episcopal Church in Lexington. This community event continues on the second Saturday of each month from October to March, at the same time and location. The



> Hanselman, Kulik & Sears

Percussionist/vocalist for all seasons Dennis Hanselman (Blue Ice, Triple Play) teams up with Rick Sears (Blue Ice, Triple Play) and Larry Kulik, longtime purveyors of seasoned interpretations of 60's, 70's and 80's music sprinkled with original songs spread over many genres. **A&W 3pm**

> Harper Lyon

Flint master guitarist Erik McIntyre plays imaginative fingerstyle guitar in every genre and has backed up, fronted and collaborated with countless artists. For his Thumbfest debut, Erik teams up with Walter Prettyman, already known to us as a fiddler with Creole du Nord. If you love guitar, with some topnotch fiddling, this a performance you can't afford to miss! **Courtyard noon; Harbor 3:15pm**

> Bob Hausler

Steeped in the country music tradition, Bob has been a sideman for multiple bands and heads up his own collaborations, like the band Twenty Dollar Dog, with an active songwriting and solo career. **Simons Street noon; Country Jam Tent 3pm**

> Dan Hazlett Band

In his hands anything from "carpet stains to schizophrenia" becomes an emotive song of giddy silliness or deep reflection, reinforced by intricately crafted arrangements. Quartet includes John Finan (Finan & Tse), Jeff Schott (Hackwells) and Wolf Tytschkowski. **M-25 3:30pm**

> Hidden Ridge

What do you get when you mix four talented energetic young musicians with traditional string band and bluegrass music? A fiddle-mando-bass-guitar four-part harmony quartet that won't stay hidden long! Look for the Ridge at **Bluegrass Jam Tent 1pm; Courtyard 3pm; A&W 6pm**

> Hootenanny

Festival organizers with musical guests jam a sweet good night to Thumbfest 2026. **Harbor 9:15pm**

> The Hot Rod Cherries

This swingin' sextet led by Dan Cafferty delivers jazz and blues standards on guitar, bass, trumpet, sax, drums and keyboard. Regulars at Michigan Wine By the Bottle in Royal Oak. **Harbor 1pm; Courtyard 6pm**

> The Humbuckers

Sanilac County quartet's special Thumbfest set delivers some pop/jazz standards, some blues and some traditional songs with a seasoning of sweet modern ballads. **A&W 5pm**

> The Huronia Brass

This flexible sextet of trumpets, French Horn, euphonium and tuba delights audiences around the area with classic dance numbers, show tunes and movie themes. If you ask they may even play Sponge Bob! Get your toes tapping at **Troy Smith Sing Out! 10:30am**

> Ironwood

This husband/wife Celtic/American folk duo is storming stages across the state with traditional and original songs. Anna sings, plays fiddle and mandolin, backed up by Mark on guitar and bass. They will get your heart started and your feet stomping. **A&W noon; M-25 4:30pm**

> The JR Band & Friends

Bay City area band playing bluegrass/country Americana on fiddle, banjo, mandolin, guitar and bass. This instrument-swapping multi-vocalist quartet will never leave you hanging. **A&W 1pm; Country Jam Tent 3pm; M-25 6:30pm**

> Jan Krist & Jim Bizer

Supported by Alan Finkbeiner's inventive percussion, Jan & Jim pack a lot of fun and a little reflection into every set with top-notch harmonies and guitar licks. **Troy Smith Sing Out! 3:30pm** Also with **Diamonds and Rust Harbor 7pm**

> LL Blues

Larry Stevens and Larry Everhart (Hackwells, Maggie's Farm) bring traditional guitar/harmonica blues to life for the modern ear. **M-25 11:30am; Troy Smith Sing Out! 2:30pm; Blues Jam Tent 4pm**

> 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 multiinstrumentalists, the fiddle-banjo-guitar lineup is basic, but they swap roles as well. Pick the apples at **Old Time Jam Tent Noon; Courtyard 2pm; M-25 5:30pm**

> 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. **Simons Street 11am**



> Mustard's Retreat

Michigan's own national touring folk band returns with the whole original trio, David Tamulevich, Libby Glover and Michael Hough. Thumbfest got them all! **Harbor 2pm** Also with the **Yellow Room Gang Harbor 8pm**

> Ourselves

"Thumbfest house band" trio this year sings of the Michigan "Greats" including the logging boom, Great Fires, the Great Lakes, and the Great Storm of 1913, also highlighting Michigan traditional songs that reused Irish tunes. **Troy Smith Sing Out! 12:30**

> Pine Grove Collective

Blue Water band plays classic rock, folk and country hits from the 50's to the 90's. They are like a box of chocolates, take a bite to see what you are gonna get. **A&W 11am**

> 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 11am**

> 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 10:30am; Workshop Tent 12:30pm**

> Punch Drunk

Lansing-based ukulele duo plays every song in the book, and shows you how to do it too! Learn to accompany songs on ukulele **Workshop Tent 2:30pm** --bring your uke or borrow ours; Punch Drunk also hosts a **Simple Jam** for ukes and all instruments **Jam Tent 5pm**.

> William Henry Russell

Classical/fingerstyle guitarist composer and arranger "Bill" holds degrees from Boston Conservatory of Music and Florida State. He has won two national fingerstyle championships and made three trips to the final round in internationl fingerstyle championships. Expect to hear fingerstyle arrangements of hymns and pop tunes, as well as pieces from the classical guitar repertoire. **Courtyard 11am**

> 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. **M-25 2:30pm**

First time workshop, Intro to free Sela Music Clock app (available online), chord chart and guitar tablature system www.instagram.com/mertselamusic **Workshop 11:30am**

> Still Running

Engaging originals and fresh arrangements of a wide range of artists from the Byrds and Beatles to Tom Petty and U2. You will like it all. Bringing their full quartet back this year. **Harbor noon; Hosting Dylan Jam Tent 2pm**

> 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." **Courtyard 1pm; Harbor 5:45pm**

> 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 5:30pm**

> The Whiskey Charmers

Alt-country "dusty Americana" band fronted by singer/songwriter Carrie Shepard and "Twisting Tarantulas" guitarist Lawrence Daversa. Hot from a western road trip in July, the Charmers cap off their state-wide August tour with a return to Thumbfest. **M-25 1:30pm; Courtyard 5pm**

> Wildrose Pickers

Homegrown Blue Water folk-bluegrass trio of Ron McPhail with Steve and Julianne McCalmon harmonizes over a lively mix of guitar, dobro, banjo and standup bass. **Simons Street 4pm**

> Wrong Note Ramblers

Judy Insley's new old-time songs trio partners her with Jack Ferguson (from Campfire Compadres) and Mike Rogers. Lots of singing and mandolin picking with this group. **Troy Smith Sing Out! 1:30pm** Judy hosts songwriter circle **Workshop 4:30pm**

> Yellow Room Gang

Michigan collaborative big band of songwriters and touring musicians, fronted for Thumbfest by Michael Hough and David Tamulevich of Mustards Retreat, Annie Capps, Jan Krist and Jim Bizer. A rare booking coup for Thumbfest, since you can only catch more of this 8-member collective when they gather for their annual January concert at the Ark in Ann Arbor. A fabulous final set before Hootenanny at **Harbor Stage 8pm**

Thank You

To Lexington DDA and all the district businesses for special funding of our festival infrastructure costs!

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positive response to the Coffeehouse was so strong that George proposed organizing a small music festival under the umbrella of the Lexington Arts Council, where he served as a board member.

Thumbfest Music Festival debuted on Labor Day weekend in 2002 and took place at Camp Ozanam in Sanilac County. Admission was \$10, and children were free. The festival was held at the camp for the first three years, but as Thumbfest began to outgrow the venue, plans were made in 2004 to relocate the festival to the Village of Lexington.

Moving the festival led to the implementation of free admission, which in turn cultivated a community-supported event sustained solely by donations. The year 2026 marks the 21st anniversary of Thumbfest in the Village of Lexington. In 2004, BWFS incorporated as a Michigan nonprofit corporation and obtained 501(c)(3) charitable status from

the IRS in 2005, in time for the festival's transition to Lexington.

Founded on a passion for traditional and acoustic music, the BWFS actively preserves and promotes this vibrant art form throughout our communities. Beyond successfully hosting the Coffeehouse and Thumbfest, this all-volunteer organization, led by dedicated musicians and music enthusiasts, develops diverse programs to engage all ages through concerts, interactive activities, and the joy of live music. Every penny of every donation directly supports these vital community initiatives, and the organization encourages everyone to embrace and support local performances in schools, museums, theaters, and community events.