



2026-2027

## **MAIN STREET SOUVENIRS (In Search of the American Heartland)**

Scott Kirby's "Main Street Souvenirs," is a musical and cinematic celebration of Classic Americana. We will explore 150 years of music through Kirby's live piano performances of some of America's greats - including Stephen Foster, John Philip Sousa and the ragtime of Scott Joplin. The music and narratives will be accompanied by a video featuring nostalgic archival images from America's past, as well as stunning photography, and Kirby's own spectacular watercolor paintings of the Great Plains that "touch the soul of the heartland." Baseball games and barbershops, Prairie churches, concerts in the park, and one room schoolhouses - it's all here on Main Street. The performance will also focus upon Washington county with photos and history.

"With 'Main Street Souvenirs' Scott Kirby has created a stunning theatrical concert. This superbly talented entertainer blends his skills as an artist, pianist, composer, and historian, in a show that evokes the American past and its music with longing and affection."  
- Max Morath

"It was a musical history lesson along with pure, raw, creative genius. Scott's music combined with his multi-media presentation was mesmerizing." - Allison Nichols, Northeastern Arts Network, Montana

"I cannot recommend Scott Kirby more highly to you. His knowledge is endless and his performing outstanding." - Brigitte Blachère, The Smithsonian Institute

"In Scott Kirby's playing we encounter the very essence of ragtime. He is the embodiment of the Scott Joplin ideal." - Edward A. Berlin, Author of King of Ragtime: Scott Joplin and His Era.

"Ace pianist." - Time Magazine, August 1992

"... Kirby sounds like Chopin." - Jeff Bradley, The Denver Post, 1997

## **ARCOSTRUM**

Praised as "a first-rate ensemble among the new generation of performing artists," ArcoStrum is a trailblazing violin-guitar duo leaving their mark through creative concert design, on-stage charisma, and innovative programming. From classics like Vivaldi's Four Seasons to Chinese traditional music to progressive rock, they have captivated audiences around the world with exciting, inspiring, and dynamic performances.

ArcoStrum is committed to pushing boundaries and redefining the 21st-century violin-guitar art form, presenting a new chamber music that is mixed-genre, multi-cultural, and cross-era. Violin, Classical Guitar, Electric Guitar, Erhu (Chinese Two-String Fiddle), Flute Dizi & Piccolo Dizi (Chinese Bamboo Flutes) will be featured. ArcoStrum includes TY Zhang and Strauss Shi, who met while studying at The Juilliard School and soon discovered their chemistry not only as friends but in music-making.

Merging Eastern and Western cultures, ArcoStrum seamlessly combines the evocative sounds of traditional Chinese instruments with the virtuosity of classical violin, guitar, and electric guitar. Selections will include Vivaldi, as well as modern artists. ArcoStrum's innovative program offers an immersive, movie-like experience that promises a transformative musical journey that transcends boundaries, celebrating the evolution of music across cultures and generations.

"A first-rate ensemble among the new generation of performing artists"—Omni Foundation

## **IT TAKES TWO – with Erinn Dearth and Dan Beckmann**

Join globally-renowned entertainers Erinn Dearth and Dan Beckmann for an unforgettable musical journey celebrating the iconic duos that have shaped history in their latest show *It Takes Two: A Legendary Duo Revue*. From legendary musicians like Johnny Cash & June Carter to iconic on-screen pairs like Fred Astaire & Ginger Rogers, this dynamic performance brings classic hits and Broadway showstoppers to playful nods to pop culture favorites like Batman & Robin and *The Odd Couple*. Blending the legacy of timeless hits with the wit and edge of classic sketch comedy, *It Takes Two* is an incredibly unique musical experience guaranteed to delight all generations. Come enjoy Donnie & Marie Osmond, Karen & Richard Carpenter, Simon & Garfunkel, Dolly Parton & Kenny Rogers, Sonny & Cher and many, many more!

With powerful harmonies, heartwarming moments, gut-busting comedy and plenty of surprises, *It Takes Two: A Legendary Duo Revue* is a celebration of the magic that happens with the power of two.

“That was one of the best, most entertaining concerts yet! We loved it!”—Bottineau, ND

## **HANSEL AND GRETEL VS. The Witch – with music by Engelbert Humperdinck**

OPERA Iowa brings the perfect show for children and families to the Washington Area Performing Arts and Events Center. Engelbert Humperdinck’s version of the classic Grimm’s fairy tale *Hansel and Gretel* provides both a great story and much well-loved music! Following the Brothers Grimm tale of two children lost in the woods and finding a witch’s gingerbread house, the show explores themes of hunger, gluttony and resilience. Sung in English, this light opera will feature Humperdinck's lush, Wagner-influenced score, which will be adapted for piano accompaniment. The singing roles will present a rich array of young operatic talent.

## **AN EVENING OF IMPROVISATION**

Improv comedy is alive and thriving in Washington County. Students and adults alike will enjoy quick-witted comedy bursting to life on stage via seasoned comedic actors. There will even be opportunities for audience participation! Featured will be Washington alumni and improv groups from area drama programs. Don’t miss this opportunity to unwind, laugh and expand your creative genius! This will be an evening of great comedy and improvisational theater at the Washington Area Performing Arts and Events Center!