

2024 Oktoberfest Entertainment Lineup

Alex Meixner

Dynamic accordionist Alex Meixner mixes an array of musical styles into traditional, exuberant Central European party music, letting die-hard polka fans to enjoy the evolution and letting hipsters discover all there is to love in the innately fun genre. Solo and with his band, he has performed at major venues and festivals around the world, as well as at uncountable accordion-centric events. His virtuosic yet quirky style has made him a sought-after collaborator (he worked alongside Jack Black in the 2017 Sundance pick *The Polka King*), spokesperson (Hormel and Ford have used his music), and educator. His recording "Polka FreakOut" with Brave Combo's Bubba Hernandez won him a GRAMMY nomination.



Alpensterne

Alpensterne is one of the most unique and musically diversified groups performing today. The group performs some of Germany's most loved folk songs with Jim Strehlke's incredible jodeling.

Jim mastered the art of European jodeling from one of Germany's greatest, Sepp Diepolder. Recently he was hired by Walt Disney to jodel "The Silly Song" from *Snow White* which will be featured on the Seven Dwarfs Mine Ride at Walt Disney World in Orlando. Jim has a wonderful singing voice, and plays trumpet, baritone and bass guitar.

One of the crowd favorite participation numbers is "name that tune" performed on the 15 foot Swiss Alphorn.

On the accordion and button box is Eric Ray. Eric has been playing since he was 11 years old. He graduated from Duquesne University studying business and Ethnic music. Eric's talent on these two difficult instruments add some serious Bavarian style to the group.



Joining Alpensterne as the youngest member is percussionist / vocalist / jodler, Erich Strehlke.

Erich is Jim's youngest son, and in the past has filled in with Alpensterne. Erich has worked himself into a regular position adding not only his talent a drummer but a great singer and jodler as well.

The most recent member to join Alpensterne is Aleks Strehlke. Aleks has been working with his dad and brother in the Contemporary Christian Music field for 10 years. Aleks joins Alpensterne adding back chunk rhythm guitar and the secondary bus driver.

Combined Alpensterne musical talents can't be numbered by years but by their youth and spontaneity. Their authentic German singing and jodeling are true crowd pleasers They are equally at home doing the standards, Latin, and all of your favorite musical genres. The group performs at many Upper Midwest largest German Festivals and Oktoberfests . The group performs in authentic German attire and has a true professional appearance.

Die Schweitzer Streicher String Duo

Charles Asch is a performs classical, folk and popular music styles on cello. He attended Juilliard and University of Minnesota for his Master's and Doctorate degrees, and currently resides in Delano, MN.



Evan Shallcross began his music training in Minneapolis, MN. He earned performance degrees from Oberlin Conservatory (BM) and the Yale School of Music (MM), He has performed and held positions with major orchestras in the United States and abroad.

The Dale Pexa Band



The Dale Pexa band originated in New Market Minnesota and was formed by Dale Pexa Sr. and wife Fran.

After they passed in 2015 & 2017 respectively, Dale Pexa Jr, Prior Lake MN, has kept up the family tradition of delighting listeners and dancers with traditional old tyme music with the big band sound!

S. G. Edelweiß-St. Paul



S. G. Edelweiß-St. Paul was founded in 1961. Our purpose is to promote, through the instruction and performance of folk dancing, the appreciation and preservation of German and Austrian heritage, with the State of Bavaria as the main emphasis. We strive to uphold the customs and cultures of the Bavarian and Tyrolean people through the dances we perform and the clothing we wear. We have performed throughout the upper Midwest at many different celebrations and also across the United States and Canada. Our group has made two trips to Germany and Austria to learn more about the traditions, customs and dances. We have also performed at festivals held in Germany as a part of the celebrations of the groups we were visiting.

We are a family oriented organization. Our group consists of dancing and social members that range in age from toddlers to grandparents, all with the goal to uphold the traditions of the German and Austrian peoples. Our Kinder Gruppe (Children's Group) is comprised of school age children, ages 5-14. They perform a variety of dances from simple figure dances to the complicated Schuhplattler. In our Erwachsene Gruppe (Adult Group), we have members who have been dancing since their childhood as well as those who are just beginning.

The Wendinger Band



Peter & Paul Wendinger, sons of Herbert & Eleanora Wendinger, grew up on the family farm near St. George, MN. Their parents' connection with numerous old tyme bands and their love of concertina music was instilled in the hearts of their two "boys".

Celebrating over 50 years of the rich, musical heritage of New Ulm, Minnesota; the Wendinger Band enjoys entertaining you with their gift of "**MUSIC**" – the **UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE!**

Peter & Paul were recipients of the Minnesota Music Academy Award and the Minnesota Ballroom Old Tyme Band of the Year Award. In 2005, the brothers were inducted into the World Concertina Congress; and in June of the following year they were inducted into the Polka Hall of Fame at Ironworld in Chisholm, MN. The highlight of their career came about in 2007 when they were inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame in their hometown of New Ulm.

For almost 50 years, Peter & Paul's unique style of music with two concertinas, accompanied by brass and rhythm sections and four part harmony, captivated audiences of all ages. The younger of the brothers, Paul Wendinger, passed away on November 20, 2010 at the age of 59 years.

Present day musicians with the Wendinger Band are Peter Wendinger, Bandleader – concertina; Steve Moran – trumpet, trombone, keyboard, vocals; Mike Simon – trumpet, trombone, vocals; Gary Schroeder – trumpet, baritone, tuba, baby bass, Larry Roepke – trumpet, trombone, tuba, vocals; and Justin Beranek – percussion & vocals. On occasion, Tom Moran, Steve's son, joins the band, playing concertina at various events.

The Wendinger Band's radio show at 12:30 PM is part of the Sunday Polka Parade on KNUJ (860 AM) and knuj.net, keeping them in touch with listening audiences throughout the world-wide web.