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Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance
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Discover 21 Musical Hotspots in the Mid-Atlantic

(Mid-Atlantic Region, USA, April 7, 2017)—Home to the country's only National Park dedicated to the performing arts and the East Coast's largest free jazz festival, the Mid-Atlantic region is filled with legendary listening clubs and summer music festivals. From bluegrass to blues and from funk to fusion, there's something for everyone at the Mid-Atlantic's unique concert venues and events.

Members of the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) have compiled a list of musical hotspots and destinations for people to plan a weekend getaway. Contact the destinations listed below for more information about a venue or event.

Delaware

Greater Wilmington

The DuPont Clifford Brown Jazz Festival is the East Coast's largest free jazz festival. It features a mix of traditional jazz performances punctuated by fusion, funk, blues and rock. The free, four-day, open air, June festival brings some of the most exciting jazz personalities to the stage in Downtown Wilmington. *Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau, Lyn Lewis, lynlewis@visitwilmingtonde.com, VisitWilmingtonDE.com*

Maryland

Baltimore

This spring and summer, Baltimore is pulling in top national talent to downtown venues like Rams Head Live (Method Man and Redman, Pixies), Royal Farms Arena (Chance the Rapper, Neil Diamond) and Pier Six Pavilion (Ween, Moody Blues). Baltimore also has a rich jazz heritage, with native artists like Billie Holiday and Cab Calloway celebrated throughout the city. *Visit Baltimore, Kelly Nagle, knagle@baltimore.org, Baltimore.org*

Calvert County

Calvert County continues to grow its reputation as a musical hotspot offering a variety of venues for music lovers. From rock and roll to the smooth, silky sounds of jazz and R&B to the charm of an intimate evening with country legends, Calvert County's music scene promises to please. *Calvert County Department of Economic Development, Katie Brittain, brittake@co.cal.md.us, www.ChooseCalvert.com*

Frederick County

"The Thing" is back in Frederick in May. This all-day music festival takes place in 16 different venues throughout Downtown Frederick, showcasing the hottest bands in the area. *Visit Frederick, Melissa Joseph Muntz, mmuntz@fredco-md.net, VisitFrederick.org*

Harford County

Live! At Harford Community College brings you national recording artists, musicals, ballets and more. Enjoy live folk and singer songwriter music in an intimate setting at Deer Creek

Coffeehouse. During the summer, local musicians play at outdoor concert series in Bel Air, Havre de Grace, and at Ladew Gardens. *Visit Harford, Mindy Schneider*, mindy@visitharford.com, VisitHarford.com

Howard County

Merriweather Post Pavilion celebrates 50 years of music in 2017! Situated in 40 acres of forest smack between Baltimore and Washington D.C., no summer would be complete without a visit to this premier outdoor amphitheater. Highlights of this season's schedule (so far) include Dave Matthews, Paul Simon and Santana! *Howard County Tourism, Sarah Kurtanich*, sarah@howardcountytourism.com, VisitHowardCounty.com

Wicomico County

Live music venues in Wicomico County include the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center and downtown Salisbury's Headquarters Live. People can also watch and hear live music at downtown Salisbury's 3rd Friday events, held outside in each of the warmer months, or at community festivals. *Wicomico County Tourism, Vanessa Junkin*, vjunkin@wicomicocounty.org, WicomicoTourism.org

Pennsylvania

Butler County

Jergel's Rhythm Grille hosts the most eclectic and energetic bands around. With upcoming appearances from Winger, Billy Bob Thornton, and the Boxmasters, Jergel's books performances from all musical genres including local, regional, and national bands. Jergel's is a two-story venue and also offers a full food and drink menu. *Butler County Tourism & Convention Bureau, Kimberly Windisch*, kimberly@krolmedia.com, VisitButlerCounty.com

Central Pennsylvania

The Bryce Jordan Center is a 15,000-seat arena that has hosted concerts from Paul McCartney to Billy Joel. Also on the Penn State campus is Eisenhower Auditorium, which provides a more theater like experience. The State Theatre in downtown State College is a more intimate venue for music lovers. *Central PA Convention & Visitors Bureau, Andy Rupert*, andy@visitpennstate.org, VisitPennState.org

Indiana County

Spring rocks into Downtown Indiana at the Delaney Chevrolet Westsylvania Jazz & Blues Festival at IRMC Park! The one-day May festival starts in the morning and continues with after-hours sessions in local restaurants. Check out our headliner at WestsylvaniaJazzandBlues.org. Complete musical schedule for all ages, great food and B&B packages. *Indiana County Tourist Bureau, Maria Jack*, mjack@visitindianacountypa.org, VisitIndianaCountyPA.org

Lancaster

A Lancaster tradition on warm Sunday evenings since 1962, the free 13-week Long's Park Summer Music Series is recognized by regional music fans and beyond as a great outdoor venue known for the diversity and quality of its performing artists and its picture-perfect picnic setting. *Discover Lancaster, Joel Cliff*, jcliff@discoverlancaster.com, DiscoverLancaster.com

Lehigh Valley

From Afrobeat to Zydeco, music lovers can enjoy 60 free performances throughout the summer months on the Levitt Pavilion Stage, complete with the stunning backdrop of the blast furnaces of the former Bethlehem Steel plant. Don't miss Musikfest in August, one of the nation's

largest free music festivals. *Discover Lehigh Valley, Kaitie Burger, kaitie@discoverlehighvalley.com, DiscoverLehighValley.com*

Pocono Mountains

Music flows through the Pocono Mountains like the scenic streams and rivers. Concert venues include Penn's Peak, Sherman Theater, Cove Haven Entertainment Resorts, and more. Special events such as the Pocono Mountains Music Festival, Wildflower Music Festival, Roots & Rhythm Music & Arts Festival, and the Milford Music Festival bring in visitors from all around. *Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Kelly Shannon, kshannon@poconos.org, PoconoMountains.com*

Virginia

Alexandria

In Alexandria, music lovers flock to The Birchmere: America's Legendary Music Hall. Called "the best listening club in America" by The Washington Post, The Birchmere has welcomed musicians like Johnny Cash, Ray Charles and Esperanza Spalding and offers a mix of legends and rising stars in an intimate setting. *Visit Alexandria, Leah Spellman, ispellman@visitalexva.com, VisitAlexandriaVA.com*

Arlington

In Arlington, crowds flock to Iota Club & Cafe for a mix of local talent and regional/national tours, as bands take the stage almost nightly in hopes of becoming the next big act. After all, legends like Norah Jones and John Mayer played their D.C.-area debut here. *Arlington Convention & Visitors Service, Cara O'Donnell, codonnell@arlingtonva.us, StayArlington.com*

Fairfax County

Experience nationally-renowned recording artists and stage shows surrounded by nature in a one-of-a-kind venue at Wolf Trap, the country's only National Park dedicated to the performing arts. You can also catch local acts and big-ticket names at Jammin' Java, one of Pollstar's Top 100 Venues in the world. *Visit Fairfax, Ali Morris, amorris@fxva.com, FXVA.com*

Harrisonburg

Harrisonburg is referred to as a toe-tapping, fun-fueled music destination for good reason! Start at one of our eclectic local restaurants and work your way through a variety of hopping venues that host live music and entertainment each week. Come hear why Live Music is Better in the 'Burg! *Harrisonburg Tourism, Jessica Williams, jessica.williams@harrisonburgva.gov, VisitHarrisonburgVA.com*

Lexington & Rockbridge Area

Lime Kiln Theater is rooted in and inspired by the magic of a natural, outdoor theater. Set in the ruins of a lime quarry and kiln in Lexington, Virginia audiences tap their toes to bluegrass, folk and rock under the stars. *Lexington & Rockbridge Area Tourism, Patty Williams, marketing@lexingtonvirginia.com, LexingtonVirginia.com*

Lynchburg

We're Trending Excitement in Lynchburg! The Academy Center of the Arts presents its Riverfront Park Concert Series with headliners George Clinton and his Parliament Funkadelic and Blues Traveler in 2017. The Lynchstock Music Festival gives local and regional bands the stage. *Lynchburg Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau, Krista Boothby, krista.boothby@lynchburgva.gov, LynchburgVirginia.org*

Prince William County & Manassas

Spend the day sipping ice cold craft beer while enjoying local live music at Farm Brew Live, scheduled to open in summer 2017! Dust off your boots and enjoy a variety of county music at Jiffy Lube Live or spend the evening taking in a symphony at Hylton Performing Arts Center. *Discover Prince William & Manassas, VA, Nicole Warner, nwarner@discoverpwm.com, DiscoverPWM.com*

Richmond

The Richmond region hosts a variety of local and national acts annually. Catch an acoustic performance at Ashland Coffee & Tea or bands at Pocahontas Live and Innsbrook After Hours. Enjoy popular outdoor music festivals like the Richmond Jazz Festival, Richmond Folk Festival and Friday Cheers. The Richmond Region is also home to Spacebomb Records and Studios. *Richmond Region Tourism, Meghan Gearino, mgearino@visitrichmondva.com, VisitRichmondVA.com*

Shenandoah County

Celebrating over 50 years of world-class music in the Shenandoah Valley, the Shenandoah Valley Music Festival offers an intimate concert series in the historic mountain resort town of Orkney Springs. Arlo Guthrie and Emmylou Harris take the stage in 2017. Bring a picnic and enjoy music under the stars. *Visit Shenandoah County, Jenna French, jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us, VisitShenandoahCounty.com*

About the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance

The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance (MATPRA) is a cohesive unit of regional tourism partners encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C. The group serves travel journalists by creating a regional resource that ignores geographical boundaries. The Alliance promotes common threads and offers saleable stories to journalists about the mid-Atlantic destination as a whole. For more information, visit www.matpra.org.

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