# MAPLEWOODSTOCK 2024

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**MAPLEWOODSTOCK MUSIC AND ART FESTIVAL 2024**

**ANNOUNCES HEADLINERS and SCHEDULE**

www.maplewoodstock.com

The annual free two-day Maplewoodstock Music and Arts Festival will take place on Saturday, July 13, and Sunday, July 14, 2014. Music begins at noon each day and ends around 9:30 PM.

After a full slate of local/regional bands, Saturday will feature Nation Beat at 7 PM and Remember Jones at 8:30 PM.

Remember Jones

National touring artist heralded as “New Jersey’s most ambitious song interpreter” and recently one of “Jersey Shore’s Most Influential People of 2024” by The Asbury Park Press (alongside Bruce Springsteen, Kevin Smith, and more), Remember Jones is a captivating showman, soul/pop singer, storyteller, and bandleader, who keeps audiences on their toes and emotions in the moment. Evoking the authentic energy of the greatest front men and women, his original music, high energy, show-band staging, and theatrical events have played to sold-out clubs and theaters throughout the US.

Remember Jones has shared stages with Springsteen, George Clinton & Parliament Funkadelic, Darlene Love, Ronnie Spector, Buster Poindexter, Rebirth Brass Band, Dumpstaphunk, Robert Randolph, and many more. In addition to supporting original material, Remember Jones presents multiple productions, such as: back to BACK TO BLACK, a recreation of the entire Amy Winehouse album, Joe Cocker’s Mad Dogs and Englishmen, YAS QUEEN!, a theatrical celebration of the music of Queen, a concert re-envisioning Tommy by The Who, recently starred as Judas in Jesus Christ Superstar with a 35-piece Symphonic Orchestra, among others! Remember Jones looks to bring Maplewoodstock some of these treats as well as original material – a plethora of body-moving goodness!

What makes **Nation Beat**so special is that it offers no simple answers. When band leader Scott Kettner looks at a map, he sees a direct line that connects the rivers of northeastern Brazil to the parishes of New Orleans and the streets of NYC. A master percussionist, composer and educator, Kettner is the guiding force behind Nation Beat and has been tracing the similarities between the music and culture of northeastern Brazil and the American South for two decades, through recordings and performances as well as educational and community outreach programs.

More recently, Kettner has been conceptualizing a new sound for Nation Beat that blends the roots styles of New Orleans and Brazil with his background in jazz and hybrid drumming. In 2018 he began composing and collaborating with tenor saxophonist and arranger Paul Carlon. Together, they shaped the ensemble’s sound for their new phase in cross-cultural explorations, and furthering Nation Beat’s history of being rhythm gatherers, harvesting the fruit of 500 years of cultural crossbreeding resulting in a 21st century mash-up of the thunderous grooves of northeastern Brazil with the strolling swagger of New Orleans via NYC. Nation Beat is a NYC-Brazilian collision that parades with an infectious, audacious energy, seamlessly bridging folkloric Brazilian rhythms with classic American roots and jazz in an altogether creative and original manner.

Scott Kettner describes the impetus behind Nation Beat: “In the globalized music industry, Nation Beat aims to reach into roots-based traditions and bring those voices to the surface by creating new music that impacts the people around us, recognizing and assuring that our similarities are stronger than our differences.” Scott is a local musical hero and educator and proud to be playing for his hometown.

Sunday’s featured act is The Tia Holt Experience at 6:45 and Daniel Donato at 8 PM.

**The Tia Holt Experience** is the Voice you need to hear and the Experience you need to have. With every note, they soar to new heights, delivering an unforgettable performance.

### Capping off your favorite weekend of the year is Daniel Donato’s Cosmic Country

There are a lot of musical influences and sources that Daniel Donato has drawn on during his career and that inform Reflector (Retrace Music), the Nashville guitarist-singer-songwriter-band leader’s first all-original album. But within those Donato has carved out a unique and individualized spot for himself, one that speaks to the deep American music heritage that inspires him — and that he’s pushing towards the future with inspired, intentional vigor.

He calls it Cosmic Country, a moniker that’s both self-descriptive and a statement of purpose. It’s an organic rock band aesthetic with plenty of roadhouse twang, a showcase for Donato’s instrumental virtuosity and facility for melodically infectious songcraft. Bridging Nashville and the Great West, Kentucky and mid-60s northern California, tie-dye and plaid, it’s a world of his own, and wide world of musical adventure at that.

“I think Cosmic Country is a tale as old as time, really,” Donato explains. “It’s yin and yang in a musical form. It’s three chords and the truth, and then on the other side it’s exploration and bravery. I really went through a lot of years of grinding, and still am, to achieve this sound which is a vehicle for my personality, and the personality is a vehicle for my soul. So (Reflector) is more that than any other record I ever put out.”

In addition to the headliners we selected bands from across the tri-state area for our local/regional acts. From 117 submissions across the tri-state region (but also from Down the Shore, Boston, Phila, and beyond) , 18 other bands were selected to perform throughout the two days in a variety of styles from rock to reggae, R&B to jazz, grunge to Latin, and pop to Americana.

2024 Maplewoodstock Committee say: “We have put a lot of work into this year’s selections; the quality gets better every year. Trust us: you once again will be blown away at the quality and variety of the performers in 2024..”

First held in 2004, Maplewoodstock is a free event held in Memorial Park in a natural grass amphitheater, steps away from the Maplewood train station (NJ Transit) and the charming village of Maplewood. In addition to 9 hours of music each day, it also features approximately 20 food vendors, 60 art vendors, 20 Kidzone vendors, and a beer and wine garden (in partnership with SO Elks Lodge #1154) featuring beverages from regional brewers and vintners.

In addition to being free, Maplewoodstock is committed to being accessible and open-armed to all our attendees. The festival will offer handicapped parking spots, handicapped accessible port-o-potties, a Senior Tent in partnership with SOMA’s Two Towns for All Ages, a Deaf Zone sign language interpretation area staffed by volunteers, and a sensory “chill out” tent for those who might need respite from our sights, sounds, and crowds. Several of our food vendors will offer vegetarian and vegan foods. Furthermore, the South Orange Volunteer Rescue Squad will be on-site for any medical issues.

Maplewoodstock is about music, arts, and community. The festival is not a platform for causes, politics, advocation, solicitation, or demonstration.

With much support from local businesses and t-shirt sales, Maplewoodstock continues to be true to its mission of presenting the best possible musical show and gathering for the community and of the community with nationally known closing acts and a collection of regional bands with strong Maplewood and South Orange representation.

So, come: sit with your friends and neighbors; listen and dance to the music; buy a special item from an arts and crafts vendor; purchase lunch or dinner from a food vendor; wear a Maplewoodstock t-shirt; check out the Beer Garden. Hang with long-time friends; meet new friends.

While the Township of Maplewood strongly supports Maplewoodstock, this is not a Township event. The festival is managed and funded by the Maplewoodstock Volunteer Committee through ads, sponsorships, and sales. For more information, band schedules, inquiries, or if you wish to donate or seek an opportunity to advertise or sponsor, please visit [www.maplewoodstock.com](http://www.maplewoodstock.com).

## Our Supporting Organization:

Music & Arts Education Project, Inc. (MAEP) is a Maplewood (NJ), 501(c)(3) organization that advocates for the inclusion and broadening of a comprehensive arts and music curriculum in all schools, in all grades, and for all students. MAEP seeks to demonstrate (1) cognitive development of participatory arts and music programs, (2) positive social and emotional development of performing arts and music programs, (3) the inherent diversity, equity, and inclusion that is the cornerstone of the arts, and (4) the positive community impact of public art displays, music performances, and literary performances.

MAEP is proud to produce Maplewoodstock as its flagship annual event. Stay tuned for additional programming and information sessions aimed at furthering our mission of enhancing arts education in our schools and community!

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