

NBT Bank Summer Concert Series Moves Forward

Norwich, N. Y. – (June 4, 2021) – The long wait is over. The organizers of the NBT Bank Summer Concert Series are excited to announce that, after a year off, the much-loved Free Thursdays concert series will be returning to East Park this summer for a total of eight shows in July and August. In past years thousands of people have attended performances by nationally touring artists in a variety of genres, and this year's lineup is sure to be as popular as ever. Current guidelines pertaining to public health will mean things will look a little different this year but everyone felt like it was worth a little inconvenience to be able to bring the music back.

To meet NYS Department of Health regulations only those who have received COVID 19 vaccinations will be able to attend. Children 16 and under who have not yet had a chance to be vaccinated can attend with a vaccinated adult. Organizers of the events recognize that not everyone wishes to be vaccinated and regret that they will not be able to join us in the park this year (at least at present) and look forward to seeing them at next year's shows. Unfortunately, regulations meant either do it their way or don't do it at all. Everyone involved hopes that things will continue to improve and that the New York State regulations that govern public gatherings will be modified but, for the time being, these are the rules we have to abide by.

The first show will take place on Thursday, July 8th and will feature blues guitarist Ana Popovic. Ana was a hit at her Chenango Blues Fest appearance years back and it's taken this long for her schedule to allow a return engagement. She will be followed on July 15th by one of the most anticipated shows East Park has ever seen. Asleep at the Wheel has won too many awards over their fifty-year touring career to even list. Since forming in 1970 they have retained a passion for American roots music, and the singular voice of Ray Benson has fronted a band with over eighty alumni. A full listing of artists can be found on the Chenango Blues Association website at www.chenangobluesfest.org. From western swing to New Orleans jazz, from Austin cool to New York City R&B there will be something for everyone.

NBT Bank President and CEO John H. Watt, Jr. said, "We appreciate the Chenango Blues Association's commitment to bringing incredible music and national talent to Chenango County. We are thrilled NBT Bank Summer Concert Series is on again as we emerge from a very challenging period for all of us."

Organizers of the concert series would like to thank NBT Bank for allowing shows of this caliber to be presented at no cost to the community. They are also very grateful to The Greater Norwich Foundation, The R.C. Smith Foundation and other local foundations for making these concerts possible. The NBT Bank Summer Concert Series also receives support from a grant from the New York State Council of the Arts, administered by the Chenango County Council of the Arts Decentralization program. All the shows start at 7:00 P.M. but this year it will be important to arrive early as some screening process will be a likely necessity. Thank you to everyone in advance for their understanding this year as we navigate the ever-changing regulations that pertain to large public gathering events. Let's enjoy the shows while keeping the community safe. ➡