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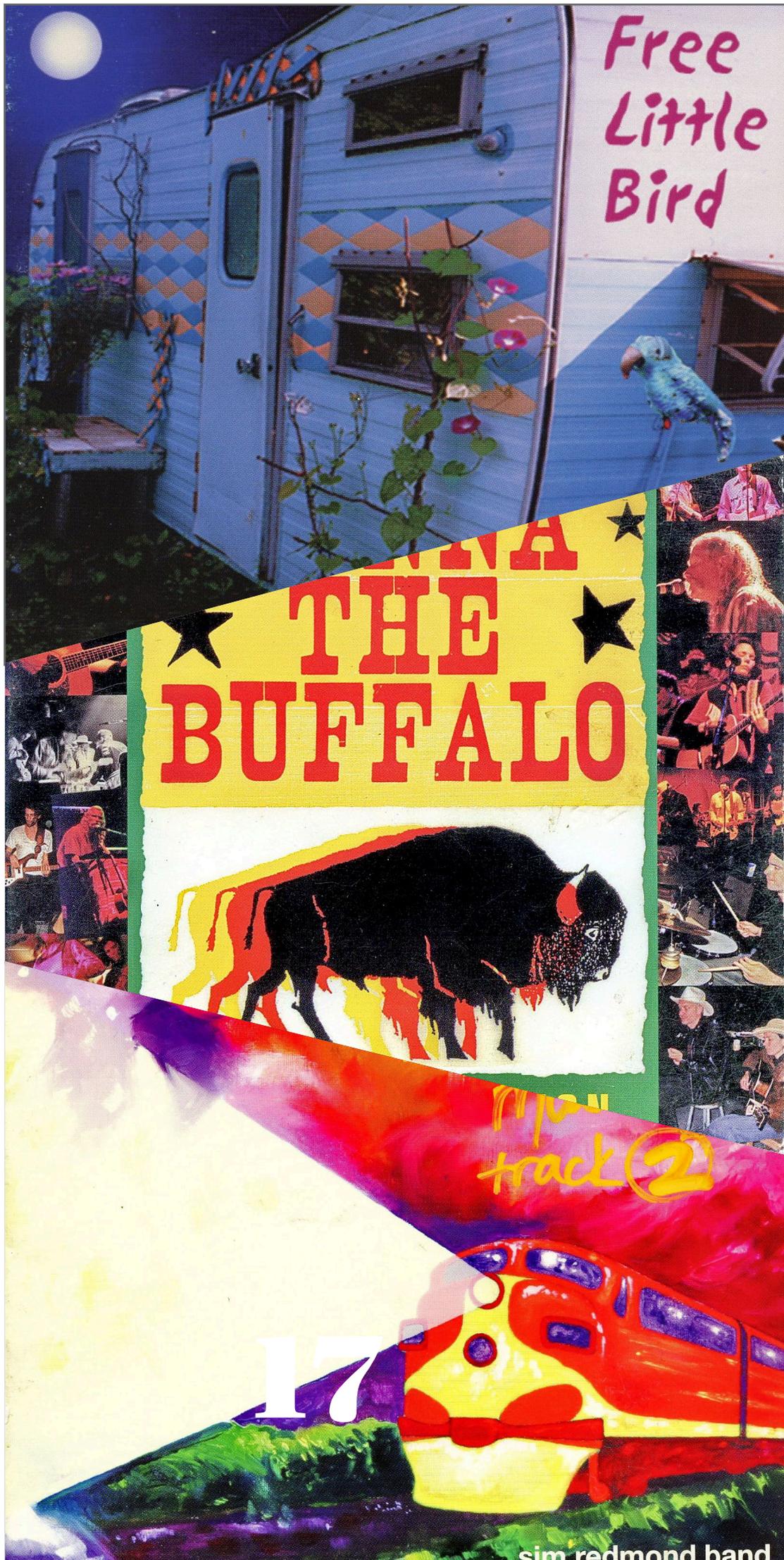
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SATURDAY

DECEMBER 8, 2018 @ 7PM

STATE THEATRE OF ITHACA

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## HISTORY OF THE

# State Theatre of Ithaca

by Corey Ryan Earle

**A**s one of the region's most significant and historic arts venues, The State Theatre of Ithaca is proud to commemorate its 90th anniversary with a celebration of local music and performers. The historic building has long served the community as a gathering place, dating back to its earliest days as a garage and car dealership.

### Opening Act

Less than a decade after the first Ford Model T rolled off the assembly line, *The Ithaca Journal* announced construction of an automobile garage at 107-119 W. State Street on June 8, 1915. Although advertisements for the garage began appearing in November, construction was not completed until the end of December. The building's architect, Henry N. Hinckley (1888-1969), had graduated from Cornell University's College of Architecture only four years earlier. Born in Trumansburg, Hinckley would have a long career in Ithaca as a banker, city building commissioner, residential property manager, and antique collector. His home at 410 E. Seneca Street became the Hinckley Foundation Museum after his death in 1969.

The fireproof garage was a two-story (plus basement) building of buff-colored brick with a copper front and large plate-glass windows. Built by the Ithaca Security Company, a mortgage and real estate firm, the building was called the Security Garage and leased to the Bovard Brothers, who advertised it as "all that the name implies" and "the most complete repair shop in Central New York." In addition to offices and showrooms, the building also contained a machine shop, paint shop, and vulcanizing plant with an electric elevator to

move vehicles between levels. A compressed air system for inflating tires was available both curbside and inside. With capacity for 200 cars, the garage sold brands like Overland, Willys-Knight, Oakland, KissleKar, Cole Eight, and Detroit Electric, bringing electric vehicles to Ithaca long before the introduction of charging stations and the Tesla Roadster. The vehicle repairs and sales were supplemented by a livery and taxicab service. The building also housed the Universal Motor Company sales room and service station for Ford automobiles, claiming that "a complete car can be built from parts in our stockroom." By 1919, these businesses were replaced by The Finger Lakes Garage, Inc., which sold Franklin, Overland, and Studebaker automobiles while advertising skilled mechanics and quick service.

The building was also used for community functions and meetings. It served as a polling place for the first district of Ithaca's second ward, which now votes at the Greater Ithaca Activities Center. As early as February 1916, the Security Garage hosted an Ithaca Board of Commerce banquet. As possibly the building's first major musical event, the banquet was followed by a performance of the Bakeshop Orchestra under the direction of S. H. Ayer, a Class of 1914 Cornellian who wrote the music and lyrics for the school song "Cornell Victorious."

### From Sales Floor to Stage

The 1920s saw the growing popularity of large, ornate "movie palaces." The era of silent films, such as those produced in Ithaca by Theodore (1875-1931) and Leopold Wharton (1870-1927) from 1914 to 1919, was transitioning to "talkies" following the popularity of *The Jazz Singer* in 1927. At the time, Ithacans could view movies at

downtown theaters like the Lyceum, Crescent, and Strand.

In 1928, the Finger Lakes Garage relocated to 110 W. Green Street. The State Street building was sold to Cornell Theaters, Inc., a group of Elmira investors who planned to open a new theater in Ithaca. The corporation was led by Lewis Henry (1885-1941), a 1909 Cornell graduate who briefly served in the U.S. House of Representatives to fill a vacancy from 1922 to 1923. After failing to win reelection, he returned to his legal career and business interests in Elmira. Henry joined with an associate at his law firm, Arthur F. McCann (1893-1929), a 1916 Cornell graduate and son of a noted Elmira judge. Henry and McCann also included experienced theater owners Harry (1899-1973) and Benjamin Berinstein (1901-1965). Only two years earlier, the brothers had taken over management of a new theater in Elmira, today known as the Clemens Center. By 1928, they owned and operated seven theaters ranging across New York from Dunkirk to Elmira to Albany.

The conversion of the garage into a majestic theater was led by architect Victor Rigaumont, who had recently completed extensive

renovations to what is now the Lucille Ball Little Theatre in Jamestown, New York. Rigaumont designed or renovated more than forty theaters throughout the northeast during his career, an enterprise that he called the “Gold Rush Theatre Building Business.” Some of Rigaumont’s remaining buildings include the Smith Opera House in Geneva, NY; Barrow Civic Theater in Franklin, PA; Erie Playhouse in Erie, PA; and Oaks Theater in Oakmont, PA.

The State Theatre’s construction was completed by a local firm owned by Jes J. Dall, Jr. (1895-1942), a Cornell classmate of McCann who constructed buildings throughout Cornell, Ithaca, and Cayuga Heights. Although the garage’s exterior remained largely unchanged besides the addition of a marquee and ticket booth, Rigaumont transformed the interior with a mixture of Moorish, Renaissance Revival, and Collegiate Gothic styles. Rigaumont also introduced elements of atmospheric theaters, a popular trend at the time. The ceiling was dotted with lights to simulate twinkling stars along with a cloud machine to add further ambiance. Constellations of the Zodiac completed the ceiling design.



State Theatre of Ithaca ca. 1950. Photo from The History Center’s Carl Koski Photo Collection.

Inspired by Ithaca's "educational atmosphere," Rigamont incorporated collegiate symbolism throughout the interior. Along the left and right sides of the stage are emblems representing the eight individual colleges of Cornell University (as of 1928), while directly above the stage are six shields for Navy, Harvard, the University of Pennsylvania, the Carnegie Institute of Technology (Rigamont's alma mater, now Carnegie Mellon University), Yale, and Army. An emblem with Great Seal of the United States is on the left wall to the side of the stage and the coat of arms for the University of Oxford is on the right wall. The ceiling showcases emblems of over sixty other colleges and universities, with Cornell University's emblem front and center. Windows throughout the building include stained glass designs depicting the insignia of Cornell fraternities and honor societies.

A steam shovel was used to excavate the orchestra pit and 150 tons of steel girders were removed from the building. Furnishings and equipment were provided by a number of local businesses. The Schumann baby grand piano came from Hickey's Music Store and the neon sign from Flexlume Signs of Buffalo, both still in business today. Ithaca's Rothschild's Department Store provided the seats. The organ, the largest ever provided to a theater by the Link Organ Company of Binghamton, cost approximately \$26,000, had around 2,000 pipes, and used 20,000

feet of wiring. The Link Organ Company ceased production the following year, making it one of their last. The new facility included 3,100 light bulbs, 2,012 letters for the marquee, 1,818 seats, 32 drop sets for vaudeville productions, and 8 dressing rooms. The iconic neon sign outside with red letters and a green border, considered the largest in the Southern Tier at the time, was so unusual that newspapers included scientific explanations of neon lighting, noting that it was "invented in Europe and is now used almost exclusively on Broadway."

### Curtains Up

With opening night set for Thursday, December 6, 1928, workers rushed to complete the renovations and interior decorations on time. The newly-hired general manager for the theater, Joseph Saperstein (1889-1965), arrived in Ithaca on the Saturday before opening, leaving his job as manager of Harmanus Bleecker Hall in Albany. Saperstein had started his theater career as a program boy at the Rand Opera House in Troy, NY, before owning a circuit of theaters in Connecticut and serving as president of the Theater Owners of Connecticut.

The *Cornell Daily Sun* dedicated five full pages to articles and advertisements about the State Theatre on opening day, with details on the design, construction, management, and

performers. The paper's editorial read: "To the new State Theater which is throwing wide its doors this evening, we open our hearts and our purse. Magnificent and splendid without a trace of garishness or tinsel, this stately dignified theater is easily Ithaca's loveliest building." Twenty Cornell students in tuxedos were hired as ushers. With doors opening at 6:00 p.m., tickets priced at fifty cents sold out within the hour for the opening performance at 6:45 p.m.

The evening began with an organ recital by noted organist Harry Springer, followed by newsreels, and then remarks by Joseph F. Hickey (1869-1939), secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and founder of Hickey's Music Store. Theater corporation president Lewis Henry gave remarks on behalf of the theater. The main event was Paul Tremaine and his Aristocrats of Modern Music, a dance band of 21 "peppy, snappy entertainers" described in advertisements as "rhythm running riot," "an avalanche of melody," "synco-symphonic-synco-pation," and "something different every minute." Tremaine's ensemble had performed throughout the country, making a name for itself as jazz's popularity grew. For the theater opening, they featured singers and dancers the Helen and Mary Swift, Johnny Scott, and Ruth Ford. The live performance was followed by a showing of *Show Girl*, a silent comedy-drama film that had debuted in September. Based on a novel of the same name by J. P. McEvoy, the film

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and The History Center in  
Tompkins County on your past,  
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ITHACA JOURNAL-NEWS, WEDNESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 5, 1928 THIRTEEN

## Feature Film and Big Vaudeville Act on Opening Program

### Vaudeville Show Has 21 Entertainers

Will be Stage Feature of New Theater Opening on Thursday. "Nail" - Paul East - First Ball Around Vaudeville Paul Termini



**'Show Girl' To Open New State Theater**

Alice White to Star of First Grandly Film Adapted From J. P. McEvoy's Novel of Same Name - Broadway Life After Dark

The debut program on the opening of the new State Theater, which will be held on Thursday evening, December 6, will be a grandly staged production of the novel "Show Girl" by J. P. McEvoy, adapted for the screen by Paul Termini. The story is set in the heart of New York City and tells the story of a young girl who becomes a show girl in the city's night life.

### Ruth Ford, Songstress



...based on a Broadway play, "Show Girl" will be the first feature film to be shown at the new State Theater. The production is a grandly staged production of the novel "Show Girl" by J. P. McEvoy, adapted for the screen by Paul Termini. The story is set in the heart of New York City and tells the story of a young girl who becomes a show girl in the city's night life.

### Congratulations

to Mr. Berinstein and his associates upon the completion of his new State Theater

The Lighting Fixtures in this Theater designed and manufactured by the

Charles J. Weinstein Co.

2 West 47th Street, New York City

### Swift Sisters, Dancers



The Swift Sisters, dancers, will be featured in the opening program. They are a popular act and will be shown in their new costumes.

### Famed Stars Booked for Next Week

Next week will feature the famous stars of the Broadway stage. The program will include a variety of acts, including comedians, singers, and dancers.



**State Theatre**

Built by

**J. Dall, Jr., Inc.**

Building Construction  
Ithaca, N. Y.

We wish to congratulate the Cornell Theaters, Inc. upon the successful completion of their new playhouse

Ithaca Theater Corporation  
Operating the Strand, Crescent and Lyceum Theaters

ITHACA JOURNAL-NEWS, WEDNESDAY EVENING, NOVEMBER 27, 1929 SIX

### Starting at the State Theatre Tomorrow



**Vaudeville Opens At State Theatre; Dancer Headlines**

...the opening of the new State Theatre, which will be held on Thursday evening, December 6, will be a grandly staged production of the novel "Show Girl" by J. P. McEvoy, adapted for the screen by Paul Termini. The story is set in the heart of New York City and tells the story of a young girl who becomes a show girl in the city's night life.

### Starting Tomorrow at the Temple



**3 DAYS ONLY STARTING TOMORROW STATE**

**BROADWAY SCANDALS**

SALLY O'NEILL  
JACK EGAN  
CAMEL MESS

One of the Season's Best Photoplays

**VAUDEVILLE**

The Little Darling Wonder  
MAYM BELLET  
AND COMPANY

Metropolitan Singers  
Musical and Dramatic  
MORAN and  
Lands and  
MANNERS  
in  
"GAY"

### Crescent

TODAY-TOMORROW  
FRIDAY-SATURDAY  
Nov. 27-28

With  
**ELLIOTT NUGENT  
J. C. NUGENT  
NORMA LEE  
ROLAND YOUNG**

From the Famous Stage Play  
**"KEMPI"**

**ALL TALKING!**  
Masterpiece of the  
Vaudeville Stage

### Thanksgiving Dinner Specials Adorbed By Resorts, Inns

...the opening of the new State Theatre, which will be held on Thursday evening, December 6, will be a grandly staged production of the novel "Show Girl" by J. P. McEvoy, adapted for the screen by Paul Termini. The story is set in the heart of New York City and tells the story of a young girl who becomes a show girl in the city's night life.

### OFTEN IMITATED BUT NEVER EQUALLED!

The All-Girl Musical Film  
**"TANNED LEGS"**

Starts Sunday

Ann Pennington  
Arthur Lake  
Dorothy Revier  
Sally Blane  
and cast of  
50 Dancing Girls

**TEMPLE THEATRE**

### Wise Girls

TODAY-TOMORROW  
FRIDAY-SATURDAY  
Nov. 27-28

With  
**ELLIOTT NUGENT  
J. C. NUGENT  
NORMA LEE  
ROLAND YOUNG**

From the Famous Stage Play  
**"KEMPI"**

**ALL TALKING!**  
Masterpiece of the  
Vaudeville Stage

### Dolores Costello HEARTS IN EXILE

GRANT WITHERS

Also showing  
**THE PLUMBERS ARE COMING**

### NOW PLAYING

POSITIVELY ENDS SATURDAY

50 MILLION PRELUDE  
GAIL BEWING

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**"THE LAST OF THE MOHICANS"**

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Showing  
Musical  
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John Aronin, Flutist  
Feb. 24 - Myra Hess, Pianist  
March 19 - John Charles Thomas, Baritone  
April 19 - The Cleveland Orchestra  
Nikolai Sokoloff, Conductor

Dept. of Music Dial 2269 320 Walt Ave.

Photos courtesy of the Ithaca Journal News, Wednesday, December 5, 1928 (pictured left) and the Ithaca Journal News, Wednesday, November 27, 1929 (pictured right).

starred Alice White as aspiring Broadway star Dixie Dugan.

With a second performance of the "gala bill" of live music and film scheduled for 9:00 p.m., crowds began to gather outside before the first show had finished. One report noted that attendees "overflowed the sidewalk outside the theater and blocked traffic on West State Street." The show was staged twice per night that Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, followed the next week by showings of *West of Zanzibar*, a silent film starring Lon Chaney as a vengeful magician and Lionel Barrymore as his rival.

Within two weeks of opening, crowds at The State Theatre were so common that an auxiliary box office had to be installed on State Street to cut down on delays. On January 20, 1929, six weeks after opening, the first "sound motion picture" was shown. *Alias Jimmy Valentine*, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's first partially talking film, led the way for films advertised later that year as "100% talking." In March 1929, locals were treated to film footage of Cornell itself, with advertisements reading, "Hear and See Students Going to Class, Talk by Coach Jack Moakley, Boxing By Students." Recorded by Fox Movietone, the campus footage was incorporated

into newsreels shown throughout the country. Perhaps the most unusual performance was by Mary the rhinoceros in May 1934, who toured the country promoting the film *Tarzan and His Mate* before ending up in a circus.

From its start, The State Theatre found ways to give back to the community, often hosting benefit shows featuring vaudeville, film, and music. During the Great Depression, the theater worked with local organizations to host December benefits in support of unemployed Ithacans. In 1935, the theater hosted a charity event for families affected by the devastating local flood. But as films grew in popularity, live performances and vaudeville entertainment were gradually phased out of the regular schedule.

### Intermezzo

Although The State Theatre was originally the only property owned by Cornell Theaters, Inc., the corporation acquired the Strand, Crescent, and Lyceum theaters in 1929. In 1930, the Temple Theater was added and the Crescent was converted to a dance hall. Julius Berinstein, uncle of the Berinstein brothers who founded Cornell Theaters, became the new general manager and remained in the role for decades. The four downtown theaters were particularly

popular with college students, and Cornellians of the mid-twentieth century fondly remember a time when the theaters could be identified by nicknames based on geographic distance from the campus: the near-near (Strand), far-near (Temple), near-far (State), and far-far (Ithaca).

In 1965, Cornell Theaters, Inc. completed a monopoly by acquiring the last independent theater in town, adding the Ithaca Theater to its portfolio of the Strand, Temple, and State downtown, as well as the Dryden Drive-In and the Cinema near Triphammer Mall. But audiences were dwindling and the enormous State Theater rarely reached capacity. Four years later, just over forty years since the founding of the Cornell Theaters corporation, all six of their properties were leased to Panther Theater Corp. of New York City for \$3.5 million.

In 1976, The State Theatre balcony was walled off to create a second screen. The first floor became State I and the second floor was billed as State II "under the stars and clouds." That same year, the Pyramid Mall (now Shops at Ithaca Mall) opened with a four-screen cinema, drawing more moviegoers away from downtown. The other downtown cinemas gradually closed their doors until only the State remained. Over the next two decades, the theater continued showing films and the occasional live performance or speaker,

but the building gradually deteriorated with little upkeep.

The theater was purchased by Joe Ciaschi in 1989, who sold it in 1994 to the non-profit Ithaca Performing Arts Center (IPAC) for \$390,000. Volunteers led by the IPAC began efforts to preserve and restore the building, while still hosting occasional events and performances. In early 1996, the balcony wall separating the theater into two cinemas was removed after twenty years. The State Theatre was added to the National Register of Historic Places later that year, but the IPAC had fallen behind on mortgage payments by 1997, prompting the property to be sold at a foreclosure auction. Ciaschi purchased it once again, for \$290,000, with hopes that it could still be restored.

### Second Act

At this point, local historic preservation organization Historic Ithaca took an active role in preserving the building. With a feasibility study on the landmark completed by the Community Arts Partnership, Historic Ithaca began negotiations to purchase the theater, acquiring it in May 1998 with support from a

New York State matching grant and significant community contributions. Over the next decade, the non-profit organization rallied community and grant support to begin the daunting restoration process. Using its historic preservation expertise, Historic Ithaca installed a new roof with thermal insulation, repaired plasterwork, updated lighting and electrical systems, replaced plumbing and heating systems, and learned how to run a theater. During this process, the American Institute of Architects recognized the State Theatre as one of the 60 Most Significant Architectural Landmarks in New York State in 1999.

On December 5, 2001, The State Theatre reopened with an event billed as a “Community Ceremony and Celebration,” the culmination of tremendous time, energy, and philanthropy from community volunteers, local businesses, and local and state governments. Historic Ithaca continued to lead phase two of the renovation, including facade and marquee restoration, accessibility improvements, and restoration of interior design elements. In spring 2009, Historic Ithaca sold the property to State Theatre of Ithaca, Inc., a new non-profit organization

dedicated to the continued preservation and operation of the building, allowing Historic Ithaca to return to its core mission of promoting architectural preservation programs and services throughout Tompkins County.

Over the last decade, State Theatre of Ithaca, Inc. has continued to invest in improving the building. In 2010, major upgrades were completed to the stage and fly-gallery, including a \$92,000 rigging project that added thirteen counterweight line sets to the existing system allowing greater programming options and a more professional production space. Other projects over the last decade include repairing and repainting damaged plaster throughout the interior (2011), installing a digital movie projector to bring movies back (2012), upgrading the backstage and artist hospitality area (2014), and renovating the balcony-level restrooms (2015). Additional projects include improvements to the entire front entrance and lobby, repairing and replacing the ceiling “starlight” bulbs, converting many of the more than 3,000 light bulbs to light-emitting diode (LED) technology, adding an insulated load-in door to improve energy efficiency, and restoring the original 1928



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# 155 YEARS SINCE THE FOUNDING OF

## The History Center in Tompkins County

**T**he History Center is one of Tompkins County's earliest organized institutions, its first iteration founded 1863.

On June 18, 1863, a group of prominent Ithacans gathered in the law offices of Douglass Boardman and Francis M. Finch to discuss a pet idea of Ezra Cornell, founding an historical society.

Recognizing the "necessity and utility" of such an association, the assembly established the Ithaca Historical and Scientific Society for the stated purpose of "collecting, preserving, and diffusing historical and scientific knowledge." Ezra Cornell was appointed the organization's first president.

Information on this early organization is sketchy, yet it is known that it ceased to

function in 1864. R. Williams to discuss the possibility of reorganizing the defunct DeWitt Historical Society. In February of 1935, the Society was formally re-established to "encourage research into local history and to preserve objects and documents of historical significance."

At first, a single room in a downtown commercial building housed, the reincarnated Society. It collected books and documents, mounted small exhibits, and published local history articles in the Ithaca Journal. In 1936, the county offered the Society space in the County Courthouse on Tioga Street. This was followed in 1943 by moving to the old Tompkins County Courthouse on Court Street.

The 1940s and the '50s saw the expansion of the organization and the formalization of many of its activities and programs. It was

After 10 years of progress in its State Street home, the organization sought to expand its presence in the community which led to the re-naming of the organization as The History Center in Tompkins County.

The story of The History Center has always been one of growth and change. By periodically re-evaluating the community's needs, as well as its own role in the community, The History Center continues to be a central component to the cultural health and well-being of Tompkins County.

Its transition to the new Tompkins Center for History and Culture will help it evolve through the 21st century.

### IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH OUR MISSION WE:

- PRESERVE AND ENCOURAGE ACCESS TO THE HISTORY CENTER'S UNIQUE COLLECTIONS;
- SEEK OUT THE DIVERSE NEEDS AND INTERESTS OF OUR COMMUNITY;
- DESIGN LEARNING EXPERIENCES AND PROVIDE SERVICES THAT RESPOND TO THOSE NEEDS;
- CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE TO LEARN ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THEIR PLACE IN THE WORLD; AND
- PROVIDE A NEUTRAL ENVIRONMENT FOR PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS THAT BRING HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE TO CURRENT ISSUES.

**"The History Center in Tompkins County helps people use the tools of history to understand the past, gain perspective on the present, and play an informed role in shaping the future."**

function in 1864.

In October 1899, 46 people met in the home of Professor and Mrs. F.D. Boynton to entertain the notion of resurrecting, in some form, the old Historical and Scientific Society. This resulted in the formation of the DeWitt Historical Society in November 28 of that year. It was named for Simeon DeWitt, a prominent early Ithacan and Surveyor General of New York state.

This new organization collected materials relating to local history, placed markers at a number of historical sites, and held monthly meetings with discussions and lectures. This group existed until early 1905.

Even in the face of two false starts, the notion of a local historical society in Tompkins County seems to have had enduring appeal. In January of 1934, a group of 12 local citizens met at the residence of Mrs. George

recognized by the state of New York in 1947, when the DeWitt Historical Society obtained a Provisional Charter from the Education Department, followed in 1952 by an Absolute Charter.

Growth and expansion continued in the 1960s; more refined collecting was continued, a series of short books on local history topics was inaugurated, and a quarterly newsletter was begun. In 1973, the historical society moved yet again -- this time to the historic Clinton House and hired its first professionally trained director.

In the spring of 1993, the organization moved to its current location, in the old Dean of Ithaca Building on East State Street, now the Gateway Center complex. In this completely renovated and substantially larger space, the Society created the "Tompkins County Museum."

THE  
HISTORY  
CENTER  
in Tompkins County



# TOMPKINS Center for History & Culture



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Introducing an innovative, community and tourism destination filled with immersive experiences that bring Tompkins County's history and culture alive.

The Tompkins Center will be a space for dynamic, collaborative exhibits and experiences for our community and thousands of people who visit Tompkins County each year.

The Tompkins Center will bring together many of Tompkins County's rich cultural and heritage organizations into one dynamic, collaborative, new Ithaca Commons destination.

The new facility will present exhibits featuring compelling narratives and themes focused on Tompkins County's past, present and future, seeking to deepen our connection with who we are, and what we value. The Tompkins Center will serve as a gateway to the region, encouraging both our community and visitors to go out and explore history, culture, and enterprise.

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*The Legendary*

***Don McLean***

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**8:00PM SHOWTIME**

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## ABOUT

# Master of Ceremonies PEGGY HAINE

Brooklyn-born Peggy Haine played and recorded in the 1960s with the Even Dozen Jug Band and the Iron Mountain String Band in New York City, before returning to Tompkins County in 1969. Back in Ithaca she worked with Country Cooking, Angel Band, and the Goin' Home Blues Band. Working with the gifted musicians of the Lowdown Alligator Jass Band, she was noted for her light-catching costumes, electrified chapeaux, voluminous feather boas, and off-color lyrics. She retired from the music business in 1992, transported off Cornell's Statler Auditorium stage in a chaise borne by six heroically muscular locals decked out in her costumes.

### COMMUNITY • ECONOMY • ENVIRONMENT



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ABOUT THE

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## MUSICIANS AND PERFORMERS

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### THE BURNS SISTERS

Annie and Marie Burns as a duo create uplifting, transcendent music filled with warmth and conviction. Stirring and reverent, their passionate, seductive harmonies and lyrics are bursting with spirit and soul. The Burns Sisters are renowned for their pure harmony, beautiful lyrics and joyful energy.

Annie and Marie Burns were born in NY to a progressive political, musical, creative family in Binghamton. Two of twelve siblings, Annie and Marie have been singing together since early childhood.



### CAYUGA NATION GAYOGHÓ:NQ WELCOME

The Gayogohó:no, (Cayuga Nation) is a member of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The people of the Cayuga Nation have called the land surrounding Cayuga Lake their homeland for thousands of years. They are known as “People of the Long Pipe” and “People of the Mucky Lands” . After being displaced during the Sullivan/Clinton Campaign, Cayugas found themselves living in many areas. Even though the 1794 Canadaigua Treaty guaranteed the Cayugas territory in their homelands, New York has not honored the Treaty. In the early 2000s, the Cayugas have come home and are bringing their language, ceremonies and way of life back home.



### DOROTHY COTTON JUBILEE SINGERS

The Dorothy Cotton Jubilee Singers (DCJS) was founded in 2010 by Dr. Baruch Whitehead, associate professor of music education at Ithaca College, and is dedicated to the preservation of the “Negro Spirituals.”

This group of community singers, directed by Dr. Whitehead, was named in honor of current Ithaca resident Dorothy Cotton, civil rights pioneer who served as education director for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference alongside Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



## FALL CREEK BRASS BAND

In their inexhaustible effort to get the world up and shaking that groove thing, the Fall Creek Brass Band plays a wide variety of dance music from traditional New Orleans tunes to funk, hip-hop to rock and roll. Originally formed at Dryden High School, Fall Creek Brass Band has found itself reinvigorated in the past few years with new life. Fall Creek can also be heard on their latest album, *Prime Time*.

**Performing:** Trumpet: Derek Hessing, Remanu Panther; Trombone: Adam Phillips-Burdge, Mike Nave; Saxophone: Archer Cowen; Sousaphone: Jymmy Hays; Drums: Joel Blizzard



## JOE CROOKSTON

From Ithaca, NY. An artist, guitarist, painter, fiddler, and believer in all things possible. Born to a songwriting mother, Joe is a musician/magician who embodies hope, cynicism, darkness, and beauty. Live, he is fierce, creative and funny as hell. With his '48 Gibson, slide guitar, fiddle, and an unwavering commitment to his art, Joe connects with his audience every time. Always growing, he loves what he does. Featured in the documentary film, "Blue Tattoo" and the 2016 Artist in Residence at the Folk Alliance International Conference, Joe is a Rockefeller grant recipient, whose songs are included in the new Rise Again songbook, and the upcoming film, "Brooklyn in July." Joe is signed to Tamulevich Artist Management. WWW.JOECROOKSTON.COM

Happy 90th,  
State Theatre!



Historic Ithaca &  
Significant Elements

Historic Ithaca is proud to have helped save the historic **State Theatre** through its ownership of the building from 1998 to 2009 and stewardship of the first two phases of its restoration.



For more than 50 years, Historic Ithaca has helped preserve historic buildings in Tompkins County.

Its architectural warehouse store,

**Significant Elements,**

sells old house parts, furniture, lighting, antiques, and one-of-a-kind finds and trains young adults in a range of retail and preservation skills.

[historicithaca.org](http://historicithaca.org) [significantelements.org](http://significantelements.org)



## JOHNNY RUSSO AND THE EAST HILL CLASSIC JAZZ BAND

Over the years Johnny Russo and Doug Robinson's East Hill Classic Jazz Band has become a central New York institution enjoyed by all age groups on the Cornell University campus. Strongly influenced by traditional jazz legends Louis Armstrong, Jack Teagarden, and Bix Biederbecks, Russo and Robinson maintain that their approach to music also reflects a deep kinship with classical greats such as Bach, Mozart, and Brahms, among others.



## KEVIN KINSELLA

Kevin Kinsella is recognized as a leading contributor to the American reggae movement, founding such groups as The Tribulations, John Brown's Body and 10 FT. Ganja Plant.

Kevin has been writing, recording and touring for over 30 years. Between his works with these bands, as well as under his own name, he has released over 20 albums. Kevin was also a leading force in the founding of I Town records, a cooperative record label showcasing the prolific musical output of Ithaca, NY.



## RICHIE AND ROSIE

Richie Stearns and Rosie Newton grew up a 150 miles and few decades apart. While both were raised by professional cellist, Richie started playing banjo at 14 and Rosie began classical piano lessons at eight, eventually moving to classical viola as a teen. Both shared incredibly unique, musically-immersed childhoods: Richie's family founded the iconic GrassRoots Festival of Music & Dance (which he is now President of) and by her junior year of high school, Rosie was playing fiddle and touring with folk rock band The Mammals. During that time, the two were introduced at Saratoga Springs' Flurry festival -- a meeting that would spark a fated friendship and unique musical bond.



## JEAN MCPHEETERS AS SEBELA WEHE

Jean McPheeters founded Jean McPheeters Consulting LLC in 2014. Her consulting practice focuses on board development and strategic planning. Jean served as the president of the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce in Ithaca, New York for 14 years. Jean also has worked as a congressional aide and district administrator for two members of Congress and as a labor organizer, a campaign manager, a postal carrier, a community education coordinator, and a library clerk.

Jean and her husband Daniel live in the Brooktondale area in a log home they built. Jean is an avid bird watcher, a very slow knitter, and an extremely poor ukulele player.



## SIM REDMOND BAND

Since their inception over 18 years ago, the Sim Redmond Band has been forging new ground in roots music. Traveling around the globe, playing in some of the most beautiful venues in the U.S. and Japan, the world has taken notice. With 8 tours of Japan under their belt, SRB's unique blend of roots-rock, Afro-Caribbean, and reggae music continues to spread organically, but they remain firmly rooted and entrenched here in Ithaca. The organic, diverse, and upbeat but laid back vibe of this band resonates strongly with Ithacans and provides a beautiful reflection of this place that we all call home.



## THE CHORALE OF THE ITHACA CHILDREN & YOUTH CHORUS

The Ithaca Children & Youth Chorus has been providing comprehensive choral instruction for beginning to advanced young singers in the Ithaca area for over thirty-five years. Students learn a culturally diverse repertoire in this year-long program committed to excellence, support, and cooperation. Chorale, the group featured in today's performance, has recently collaborated with the Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, Women's Works of Ithaca, and composer Hugh McElyea. ICYC is currently celebrating its third year under Artistic Director, Katie O'Connor-Ballantyne.



More than a century ago, Stewart Park was the place hundreds of people would go to hear music and watch movies being made.

Friends of Stewart Park and Wharton Studio Museum are collaborating with the City of Ithaca to revitalize this beautiful and historic lakefront park, celebrate its rich history and ensure the park has a vibrant life for the next one hundred years.



**WHARTON STUDIO MUSEUM**

## Revitalizing Ithaca's Lakefront Gem

[friendsofstewartpark.org](http://friendsofstewartpark.org)

[whartonstudiomuseum.org](http://whartonstudiomuseum.org)



*The Park's Bandshell hosted nightly and very popular concerts featuring the renowned Paddy Conway Orchestra throughout the summer in the 1890's.*



## THE HANGOVERS

The Hangovers are Cornell's oldest a cappella group, founded in 1968. We are the official subset of the Cornell University Glee Club, a men's choir of 50-60 members and the oldest student organization on campus. In addition to two large concerts during the school year, the Hangs frequently perform on campus, in the surrounding Ithaca area, and even internationally. Recent international tours include Hong Kong (2017) and Spain (2013). The Hangovers are often called upon to sing at student functions, weddings, charity concerts, and other campus events. This year, they celebrated their 50th Anniversary by welcoming approximately 150 Hangovers alumni back to campus for a weekend of singing and sharing memories.



## UNITED DANCE TROUPE

UNITED is a group founded by Ms. Harmony Malone, and nothing gives her more joy than being able to give back to the community! UNITED-a-youth performing dance program - allows for participants to: cultivate new friendships, acknowledge unique dancing styles, learn about the culture of dance, black unity, self-love, feminism; choreograph and perform challenging pieces, be themselves and most importantly develop a safe-space where they develop an appreciation of community! UNITED members collectively create strong intentional statements through the power of movement, commanding attention! Creating messages that cannot be ignored, and reminding audiences to show love and that we (especially our black and brown brothers and sisters) are PEOPLE FIRST!

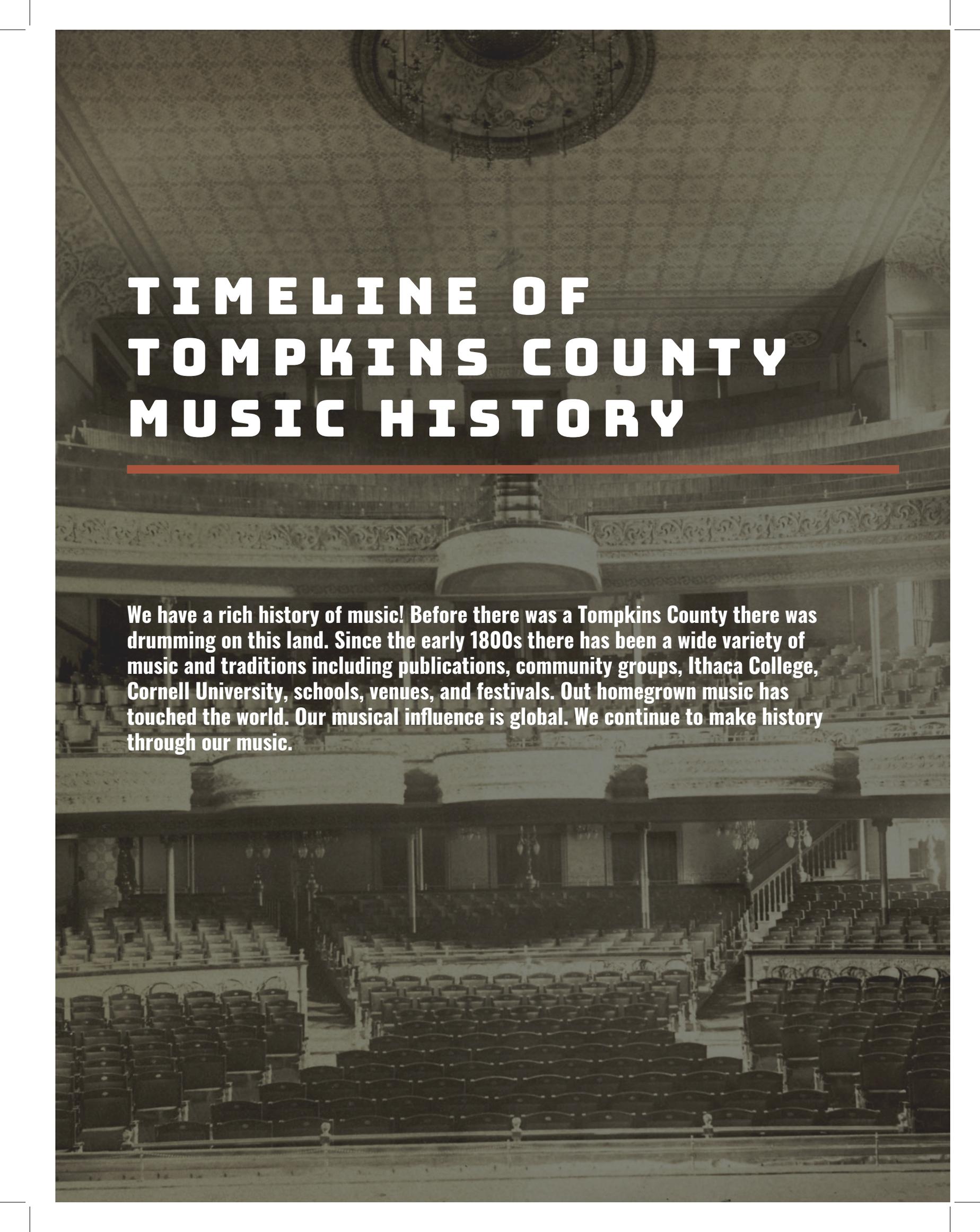
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# TIMELINE OF TOMPKINS COUNTY MUSIC HISTORY

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**We have a rich history of music! Before there was a Tompkins County there was drumming on this land. Since the early 1800s there has been a wide variety of music and traditions including publications, community groups, Ithaca College, Cornell University, schools, venues, and festivals. Our homegrown music has touched the world. Our musical influence is global. We continue to make history through our music.**

# TIMELINE OF TOMPKINS COUNTY MUSIC HISTORY



W. Grant Egbert, Ithaca Conservatory founder, and Gertrude Walker, n.d. – Photo from The History Center’s Carl Koski Photo Collection. GPF O5.27

## 1820

◇ The Musical Monitor by Ephraim Reed is the first musical publication in Ithaca.

## 1868

◇ Orpheus Glee Club founded at Cornell University.  
 ◇ Wilgus Opera House opens.

## 1887

◇ Hollis Dann moves to Ithaca to build Ithaca High School music program.

## 1892

◇ Ithaca Conservatory of Music founded.  
 ◇ Hickey’s Music Center is founded as the J. F. Hickey music store.

## 1893

◇ Lyceum Theater opens.

## 1894

◇ Ithaca Conservatory of Music, the first department of Ithaca College moves into the Wilgus Opera House.

## 1895

◇ Bandleader Patrick Conway moves to Ithaca to work at Cornell and founds the Ithaca Band.  
 ◇ Savage Club of Ithaca founded.

## 1903

◇ Hollis Dann begins the Department of Music at Cornell

## 1904

◇ First Cornell Music Festival held

## 1910

◇ The first Finns begin moving to the Ithaca area, introducing Finnish musical traditions

## 1911

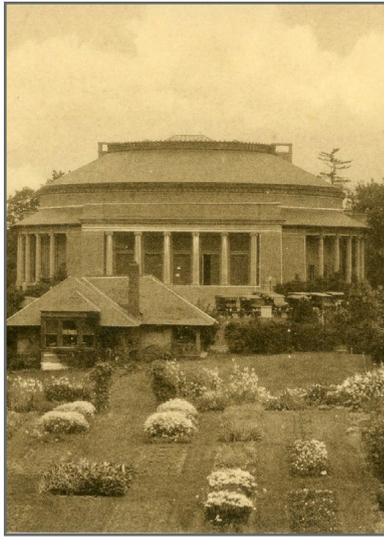
◇ Ithaca Conservatory of Music moves into the Boardman House.



Ithaca Band and Orchestra  
 Photo from The History Center’s Carl Koski Photo Collection. GPF B15.10

## TIMELINE OF TOMPKINS COUNTY MUSIC HISTORY

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Bailey Hall. Photo courtesy of Historic Ithaca.

**1914**

◇ Bailey Hall officially opens as the Agricultural Auditorium.

**1917**

◇ Strand Theater opens.

**1922**

◇ Conway Military Band School founded at the Ithaca Conservatory.

**1928**

◇ State Theatre opens.

**1935**

◇ Cornell Radio Guild founded.

**1946**

◇ Chanticleer opens.

**1947**

◇ WICB founded.

**1949**

◇ The Cayuga's Waiters are founded at Cornell, beginning the popularity of collegiate acapella.

**1953**

- ◇ Robert Moog founds his synthesizer company in Trumansburg.
- ◇ Cornell Savoyards (now Savoyards Ithaca) founded.

**1957**

- ◇ "Best of Broadway" debuts on WICB.
- ◇ WICB-AM (now VIC) begins operating.

**1958**

- ◇ WVBR-FM goes on air.

**1959**

- ◇ Ithaca College music department moves into the St. Catherine Greek Orthodox Church.



Strand Theater, ca 1926  
Photo from The History Center's Carl Koski Photo Collection. GPF X5.63

## TIMELINE OF TOMPKINS COUNTY MUSIC HISTORY

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### 1960

◇ Community School of Music and Arts (CSMA) founded.

### 1965

◇ Ithaca College's music building, now Ford Hall, is dedicated.

### 1967

◇ "Bound for Glory" folk show airs on WVBR.

### 1969

- ◇ The Haunt opens at its first location.
- ◇ Pioneering synthesizer ensemble Mother Mallard's Portable Masterpiece Co. founded.
- ◇ The North Forty opens.

### 1970

◇ Cornell Concert Commission founded.



Photo courtesy of the Ithaca Journal. Saturday, May 29, 1971.



Ambassadress of the Rongovian Embassy Vivian Brooks samples a Caribbean drinks — a specialty of the new bar. (Photo by Michael Parkhurst.)

### *Rongovian Embassy —*

Photo courtesy of the Ithaca Journal. Friday, September 7, 1973.

### 1971

◇ A Salty Dog opens

### 1973

◇ Rongovian Embassy opens.

### 1976

◇ Ithaca Concert Band founded.

### 1977

- ◇ The Grateful Dead gives their famous performance at Barton Hall.
- ◇ The Ithaca Festival begins as Celebration Ithaca.
- ◇ Festival of Black Gospel founded.

### 1983

◇ Ithaca Children's Choir, now known as Ithaca Children & Youth Chorus founded.

**1991**

◊ The Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival of Music and Dance begins.

**1997**

◊ The Haunt relocates to its current location.

**2000**

Castaways opens.

**2001**

◊ State Theatre of Ithaca re-opens.

**2003**

◊ Bernie Milton Pavilion dedicated on the Commons.

**2007**

◊ Ithaca Underground founded.  
◊ Porchfest founded.

**2014**

◊ The Dock opens.

**2017**

◊ Cayuga Sound Festival begins.

**GrassRoots grow at T-burg festival**

**Thousands of AIDS warriors join party**

By FRANKLIN CRAWFORD  
*Journal Staff*

TRUMANSBURG — What was a blessing for area farmers was a curse for organizers of the Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival of Music and Dance, as Saturday's sodden weather marred an otherwise superb weekend of entertainment — which drew an estimated 3,000 people to the fairgrounds here.

But Sunday lived up to its name, and clear skies helped put the AIDS fund-raiser back on the right track.

Spiritually, if not fiscally, that is. By late Sunday afternoon, scads of joyful dancers inspired by the high-spirited Charmaine Neville Band from New Orleans, raised dust clouds over a dirt track that 12 hours earlier had puddles in it deep enough to breed crawdads.

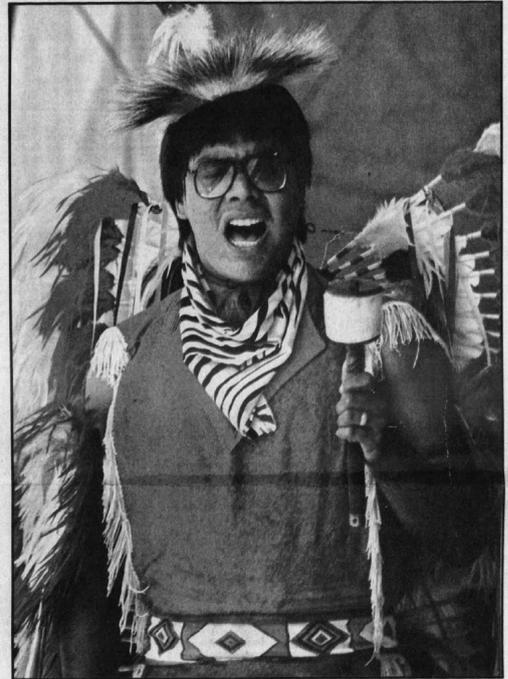
"We hope and pray that this festival will become one of those annual events," said Reggie Houston, saxophonist for the Neville band.

Those prayers might just get answered, but low ticket sales almost made this year's extravaganza a maiden voyage into a sea of red.

"We didn't do badly for a first festival. These things take time to gain momentum, but we're going to break even," said Jeb Puryear, coordinator for the festival, and a member of Donna the Buffalo, the band which hosted the show.

Puryear was a little dismayed by the turnout, obviously. Organizers had anticipated 4,000 to 6,000 people and had hoped to raise \$100,000 for AIDS Work of Tompkins County. An estimated 3,000 people showed up to sample the eclectic music and dance.

See FESTIVAL, SA



WEEKEND BENEFIT: Billy Crouse Sr., of the Allegany River Indian Dance Troupe, performs during the Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival Sunday at the Trumansburg Fairgrounds. An estimated 3,000 people attended the weekend festival held to support the fight against AIDS.

Photo courtesy of the Ithaca Journal. Monday, July 15, 1991.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2017

**Cayuga Sound Festival to debut Saturday**

**X Ambassadors and The Roots headline**

JIM CATALANO  
CORRESPONDENT

After months of planning, the Cayuga Sound Festival will debut at Stewart Park this Saturday. Curated by X Ambassadors, the fast-rising band that features Ithaca natives Sam and Casey Harris, the festival will feature a total of 13 musical acts, including the Roots as co-headliner.

"It's kind of hard to wrap my head around," said Sam Harris in a phone interview last week. "I'm pretty nervous and anxious, but also very, very excited. It's so cool that we're getting an

**IF YOU GO**

- » **Who:** X Ambassadors, The Roots and other bands
- » **What:** Cayuga Sound: A Festival for the City of Ithaca
- » **When:** noon to 10 p.m. Saturday
- » **Where:** Stewart Park, Ithaca
- » **Tickets:** \$59.50 (VIP tickets sold out), kids 5 and under get in free
- » **Info:** www.cayugasoundfestival.com

let alone my hometown," he said. "It feels so special and I hope that there are some young musicians from Ithaca and from upstate New York that come to this festival and see us onstage and think "Wow, I can do this, and I can make this bigger than just my hometown, and I can still bring it back



Sam Harris of X Ambassadors is "very, very excited" about Saturday's Cayuga Sound festival, which the band helped to organize. FILE

**THE SCHEDULE**

- » 12-12:30 p.m.: Imperials
- » 12:30-1 p.m.: Stone Cold Miracle
- » 1-1:30 p.m.: Izzy True
- » 1:30-2:10 p.m.: Jukebox The Ghost
- » 2:10-2:40 p.m.: Sammus
- » 2:40-3:20 p.m.: Margaret Glaspy
- » 3:20-3:50 p.m.: Crush Club
- » 3:50-4:35 p.m.: The Knocks
- » 4:35-5:10 p.m.: Savoir Adore
- » 5:10-5:55 p.m.: K.Flay
- » 5:55-6:40 p.m.: Tei Shi
- » 6:40-8 p.m.: X Ambassadors
- » 8:25-10 p.m.: The Roots

Harris is delighted that

Photo courtesy of the Ithaca Journal. Thursday, September 21, 2017.

# HISTORICAL MUSIC VENUES

From community churches and downtown nightlife to the college campuses on the hills, Ithaca has long boasted a wide range of venues for musical performances and performers of all kinds. Local theatres, concert halls, restaurants, and cafes have featured musicians from around the world for audiences of 5 to 5,000. Some shows are forever preserved for posterity, like the recording of the Grateful Dead, 1997's concert at Barton Hall, which was inducted into the National Recording Registry of the Library of Congress in 2012. Other musical memories are more fleeting, like the occasional busker on the Commons or street corner serenade. Whatever the venue, we are proud of our hometown musical heritage and celebrate music and musicians in our community.

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BARTON HALL • STRAND THEATER • THE STATE THEATRE OF  
ITHACA • CHANTICLEER • FORD HALL • THE HAUNT • NORTH  
FORTY • SALTY DOG • RONGOVIAN EMBASSY • CASTAWAYS •  
THE DOCK • BERNIE MILTON PAVILION • UNICORN • NIGHT  
COURT / THE ARCADE • AND MORE...**



A typical Sunday night at the Strand Theater during the run of *Hands Up*. The explosion of the flash used in taking this picture set the Strand clock two hours. ca. 1926.  
 Photo from the History Center's Carl Koski Photo Collection. GPF X5.63



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The Strand Theater  
 Photo courtesy of Historic Ithaca



Chanticleer. Photo taken during the Ithaca Heritage 2017 Pub Crawl.  
Photo courtesy of Historic Ithaca.



Chanticleer  
Photo courtesy of Historic Ithaca

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Star Theater exterior, GPF X5,6 (pictured above) and interior GPF X5,59 (pictured below). Photos from the History Center's Carl Koski Photo Collection.



**Star Theater**  
**VAUDEVILLE**

Tom Brown's Premier Jazz Troupe  
**"THE COLUMBIA SIX"**

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**RENN & CUNNINGHAM TWINS**  
 Songs—Dances—Songs

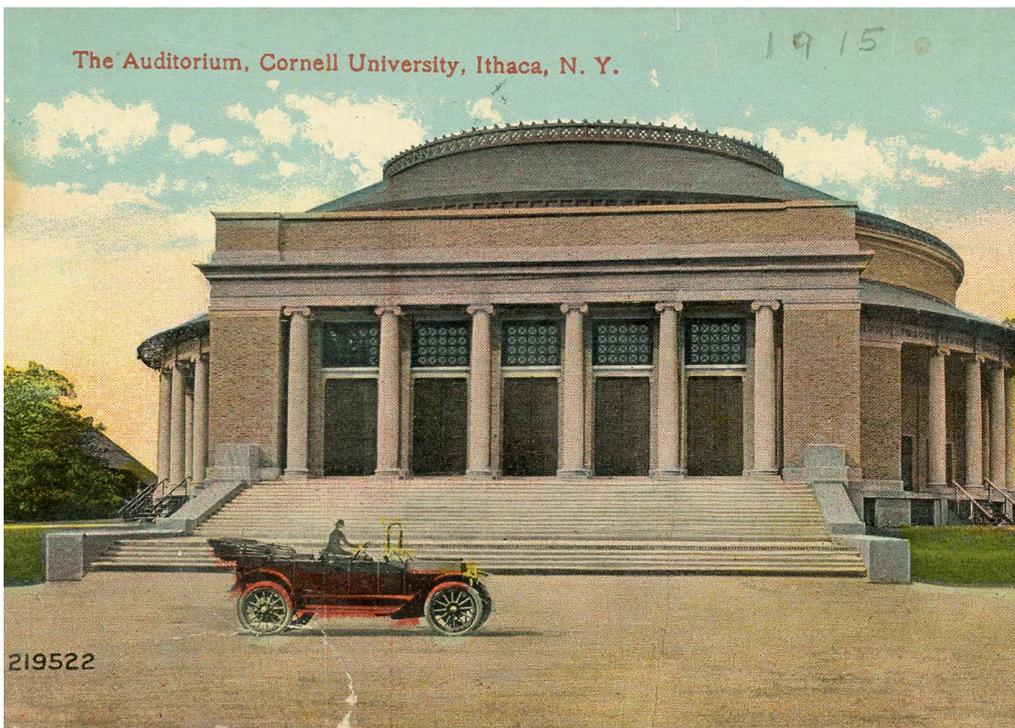
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**PISTEL & CUSHING**  
**"Those Minstrel Mokes"**

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Lucky Cards in "The Great Gamble." The Queen of Diamonds, Ace of Spades and the Ten of Hearts are the Lucky Ones. The first 25 Queens of Diamonds Presented Monday will admit bearer Free to all episodes of this serial. The first 25 Aces of Spades on Tuesday, and Tens of Hearts Wednesday.

*The Ithaca Journal News*, Thursday, July 19, 1919 (pictured above).



Bailey Hall, ca. 1915. Photo courtesy of Historic Ithaca.

**UNIVERSITY**  
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HANS KINDLER,  
 'Cellist.

ALMA CLAYBURGH,  
 Soprano.

**Bailey Hall**

**Friday Evening,**  
**July 25, 8:15 p. m.**

Tickets Now on Sale at Co-op  
 and Corner Book Stores.

PRICES . . . . . \$1.00, 75c, 50c

*The Ithaca Journal News*, Thursday, July 24, 1919 (pictured above).



"The Alligators"

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 4, 1978  
8 P.M. - 1 A.M.

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**MUSCULAR DYSTROPHY MUSIC EXTRAVAGANZA**  
featuring ...



ALLIGATORS

DAYBREAK

(Doors open at 7 P.M.)



Moss Back

Mule Band

Photo courtesy of The Ithaca Journal, Saturday, September 30, 1978.

## 'Unicorn' is a new nightspot

By MICHAEL DAVIS  
centuries, men who  
re you can sometimes  
your dreams have  
d to behold the unicorn.

four area men, the  
of capturing their own  
n is now reality, after a  
ear of planning.  
Unicorn, an innovative  
spot set to open next  
is for Ithacans whose  
al tastes flow in folk  
and classical directions.

ated on the third floor of  
.G. Miller building on the  
r where State splits to  
ea, the Unicorn recap-  
the graceful '20s at-  
here that was once the  
lar Eagles Club.  
e hall, with its high  
ags, long stately benches  
hand-carved woodwork,  
then the grand meeting  
of the Fraternal Order



Krasnoff, Shapiro and Robert Davis were readying the Unicorn earlier this year. The nightspot's opening is next weekend.

Photo courtesy of The Ithaca Journal, Thursday, November 28, 1974.

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HICKEY'S  
ITHACA COLLEGE  
STEVE REICH  
HARRY CHAPIN  
PETER YARROW  
ROBERT MOOG  
DAVID BORDEN  
TREVOR PINCH  
KAREL HUSA  
HUEY LEWIS  
WICB  
WVBR  
ZOBO FUNN BAND  
KING HARVEST  
X AMBASSADORS  
BURNS SISTERS  
DONNA THE BUFFALO  
SAMMUS  
WILL DILLON  
STEVE STUCKY  
GREG GRAFFIN  
SIM REDMOND BAND  
JOHN BROWN'S BODY  
FRANK BATTISTI  
LAURA BRYANT

MOTHER MALLARD  
GAVIN DEGRAW  
JOE CROOKSTON  
ARNOLD GABRIEL  
DOROTHY SARNOFF  
BRUCE BOYCE  
JEREMY JORDAN  
MOE TUCKER  
LONNIE PARK  
ANNA COOGAN  
JOE BOUCHARD  
SAMITE  
TEDDY "BIG DADDY" ANTRUM  
BOBBY COMSTOCK AND THE COUNTS  
DAVE WICKSTROM  
BARNEY COLE / CALF AUDIO  
JOHNNY DOWD  
CLAYTON & EUNICE WEBER (CSMA)  
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF JUNIOR  
MUSIC CLUBS IN TOMPKINS COUNTY  
RADIO LONDON  
JACK DEAL  
ROY IVES  
RUDY PAOLANGELI  
GERRY ANGEL  
NEAL MASSA  
ORLEANS  
JAMO BAND (DAVE JAMORUSTY)  
BOFFOLONGO  
HEPCATS

THE RATCHETTS  
THE MOJOS  
FALL CREEK BRASS BAND  
OTTO KINKELDEY  
JAN VINCENT  
ROBERT PALMER  
CAROL KRUMHANSL  
VITO MASON  
WALTER BEELER  
RICHIE AND ROSIE  
BLIND SPOTS  
PEABODY BAND (ERIC AND HARRY  
ACETO)  
DESPERADO  
DAVE DAVIES/DJUG DJANGO  
FIVE TWO  
ITHACA UNDERGROUND  
DEAN BROTHERS  
LOW DOWN ALLIGATOR JASS BAND  
KEVIN KINSELLA  
CAYUGA'S WAITERS  
MARTIN SIMPSON  
ITHACA AGELESS JAZZ BAND  
MALCOLM BILSON  
HIGHWOODS STRING BAND  
MUSICIANS' UNION  
COOKIE COGAN  
FESTIVAL OF BLACK GOSPEL  
CLINT SWANK  
THE HORSE FLIES  
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THE GUNPOETS



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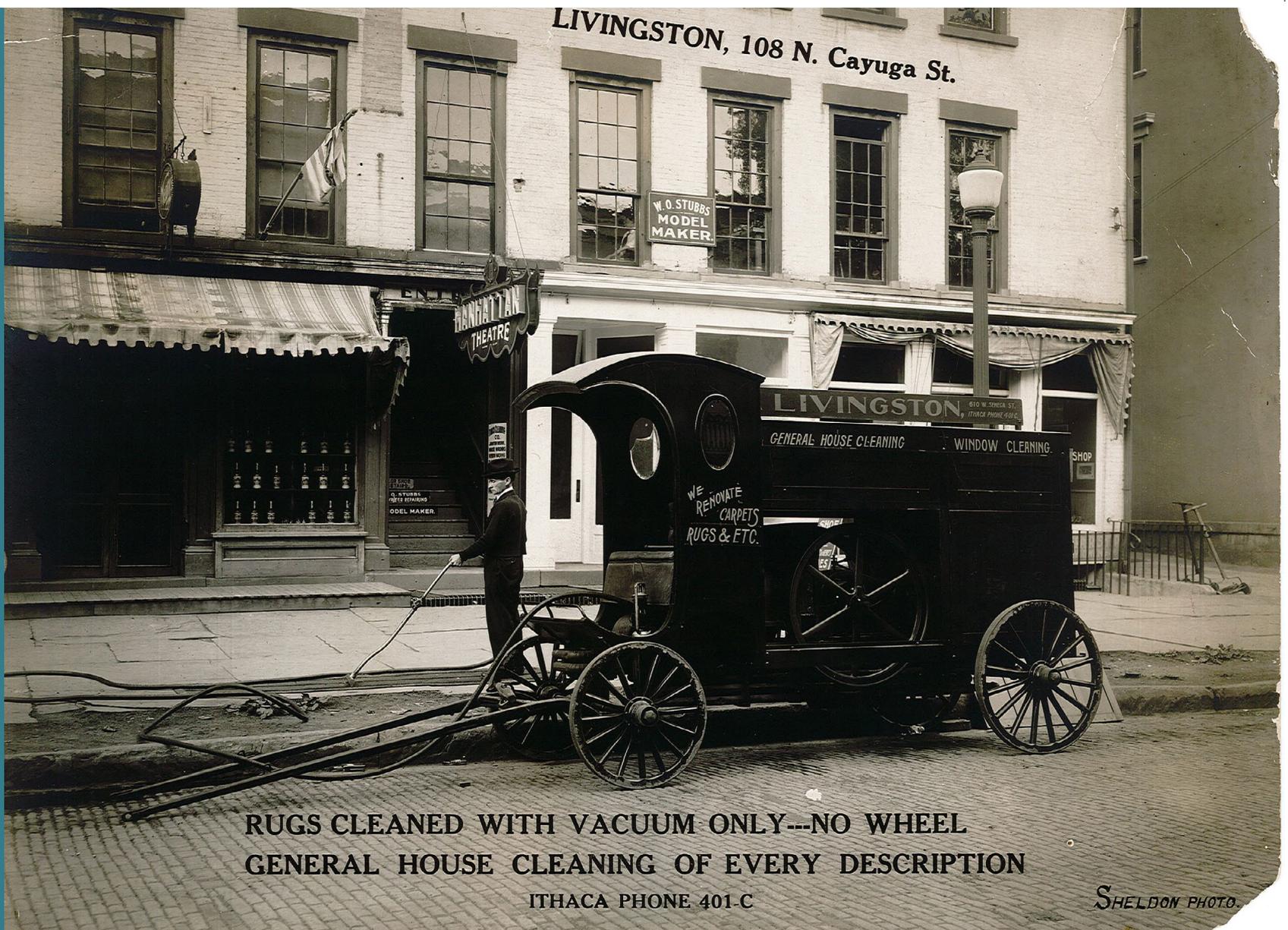
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