

PRESS RELEASE

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Willard House & Clock Museum

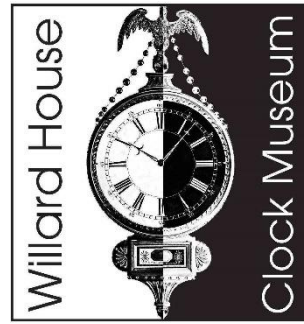
The Center of Early American Clockmaking

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CONTACT: Beverly Snow, Program Coordinator

DATE OF EVENT: Sunday, August 7, 2022

2:00 to 4:00 PM



Willard House & Clock Museum Bringing Famous New Black Eagle Jazz Band To Apple Tree Arts

North Grafton, MA: Willard House and Clock Museum (WHCM) is pleased to announce a special performance showcasing the New Black Eagle Jazz Band as part of its 2022 Concert Series.

Recognized as one of the premier traditional jazz bands in the world, the New Black Eagles have been featured at some of music's most prestigious jazz festivals, including the Newport, Kool, JVC, Tanglewood, Edinburgh, and New Orleans Jazz and Heritage festivals – and now they're coming to the Apple Tree Arts Great Hall on Sunday, August 7th, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.

The band has also appeared in concerts accompanied by symphony orchestras — the Scottish National Symphony, the Delaware Symphony, the Baltimore Symphony, and the Boston Pops among many others.

With a Grammy nomination to the band's credit, a vast repertoire, inspired musicians, and a highly entertaining stage manner, it's no wonder that the New York Times has noted that the Black Eagles are "So far ahead of other traditional bands...there is scarcely any basis for comparison."

This is a not-to-be-missed performance. Tickets are \$10 for adults and Willard members are free. Tickets can be purchased at <https://willardhouse.org/shop/new-black-eagle-jazz-band>. Apple Tree Arts is located at 1 Grafton Common, Grafton, MA.

"Willard has been very fortunate to host some remarkable music talent", says Robert C. Cheney, Willard's Executive Director, "I am delighted to have this timeless, world-class jazz ensemble as part of the museum's 2022 Concert Series.

The event was possible by support from the TJ Woods Insurance Agency of Worcester an active community supporter of the arts.

About New Black Eagles Jazz Band

For fifty years, from Symphony Hall to Singapore, the New Black Eagle Jazz Band has delighted audiences worldwide with its infectious, soulful and uplifting style of traditional New Orleans jazz.

Paying homage to the greatest musicians of the early jazz era-Louis Armstrong, Jelly Roll Morton, Duke Ellington -the band has also developed its own eclectic sound, incorporating spirituals, 1920's and 30's popular music and even some songs recorded by Elvis and Bob Dylan!

Fun Facts

- The band is named after the Black Eagles, a New Orleans jazz band from the 1920's.
- Banjo player, Peter Bullis, wore red socks to every single gig and there were sometimes as many as 125 gigs a year. Bring your red socks to the concert.
- The band will celebrate its 51st anniversary on Sept 30.
- The band's first gig was aboard the Peter Stuyvesant, a boat moored alongside the Pier Four restaurant in Boston Harbor. The date was Sept. 30, 1971.
- Band leader Billy Novick's jug band adaptation of "Peter and the Wolf," with Dave Van Ronk narrating, premiered in New York's Lincoln Center.
- Shortly after forming, the band took up "residency" at the Stickey Wicket Pub in Hopkinton, Mass., and stayed for years.
- Herb Gardner, piano player, served as co-leader of Vince Giordano's Nighthawks, playing for the inauguration of George Bush, Bill Clinton's victory party and other high-visibility events.

Website: <https://www.blackegles.com/>

About TJ Woods Insurance Agency

The Thomas J. Woods Insurance Agency, founded in 1949, has earned a reputation for providing superior customer service and excellent insurance products. As independent agents, they pride themselves on representing insurance companies which offer the best coverage at the best price. The agency offers personal and commercial insurance coverages to residents and businesses in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

The Thomas J. Woods Agency is proud to have established firm roots in the Worcester County community. Jack Woods, President of the Agency, is on the Board of the Webster Square Business Association and is the past president of the Worcester County Independent Insurance Agents Association. Walter Conlin, Vice President of the Agency, is past president of the Emerald Club; he also sits on the Board of Directors of the Quinsigamond Village Community Center and the Holy Cross Club of Worcester.

Website: <https://woodsinsurance.com/>

About Willard House and Clock Museum

Celebrating its 50th Anniversary.

Located at 11 Willard Street in North Grafton, MA, Willard House and Clock Museum exhibits more than 80 Willard clocks in the birthplace and original workshop of the

Willard clockmakers, along with family portraits, furnishings and other family heirlooms. Works by all three generations of Willard clockmakers, and the famed clockmakers Simon Willard Jr. and Benjamin Franklin Willard, are also displayed. The Museum tour includes the original Willard House, built in 1740, the original clock-making workshop, and three modern galleries. Visit the Willard House and Clock Museum website at www.willardhouse.org

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