

Countdown to First Night entertainment

The First Night/Birmingham celebration has been created just for you. We have put together an exciting night of entertaining performances and fun activities for people of all ages to enjoy — there is something for everyone.

This year's program is packed full of the excellent performances that First Night goes home to expect, plus we have added several new activities that will make this unique New Year's experience even more enjoyable.

We are thrilled to bring you three open dance events which feature the music you love to dance to — reggae, club music, and even country for the first dancer in you. Equally exciting is the addition of two outside events in Shain Park from 4-11:30 p.m. — storytelling within a Celtic Stone Circle, and the all-knowing Oracle (for entertainment purposes only).

Whatever you do at First Night, be sure to head to Shain Park after 11:30 p.m. for the fabulous midnight celebration, featuring the Trinidad Triplot Steel Band!

A little preplanning goes a long way toward making the most of the evening. Because there are so many performances to see and things to do, plotting out a tentative schedule allows you to see what you would most like to be.

Food and refreshment are available at several First Night sites, which are indicated on the First Night map, and outside at Shain Park. Plus, WJOL is hosting the coffee house in the Celebration Center for the second year, where they will serve complimentary hot beverages (First Night button required). There are also restaurants in Birmingham that are open for New Year's Eve.

Admission: Except for children under 5 years of age, all First Night goes must have a First Night admission button — cost \$7 — to attend any of the performances.



Auld Lang Syne: Each year crowds gather in Shain Park beginning about 11:30 p.m. in anticipation of the special midnight ceremony which marks First Night/Birmingham.

- Performance tickets are available at four ticketing centers which you will find listed in the Performance Ticket Distribution Schedule on the following page.
- To receive a performance ticket, you must show a First Night button for every ticket you request.
- No food or drink is permissible in performance spaces.
- Emergency and first aid assistance is available. If an emergency occurs at a site, report the problem to the Site Manager.
- Lost and found center is located in City Hall.
- Free parking is available in city-owned parking garages from 3:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
- For more details and information please contact First Night/Birmingham, 540-6288.
- Have a great evening and a Happy and Joyous New Year!

Thanks to the people who make it all happen

Benefactors: AIA Michigan-Birmingham Branch, BFI, Barclay Inn, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Michigan, Chrysler Corporation Fund, Comerica, Jacobson's Metro Times, Inc., Michigan National Bank, 7-Eleven Stores, The Detroit Edison Foundation, The Townsend Hotel, The Johnson Foundation, Village Women's Club-Bloomfield, Johnson Foundation, Lula C. Wilson Trust, Birmingham/Bloomfield Board of Realtors, Kathryn Wimshish, M.D.

First Nighters Founders Circle: Ed & Judy Berne, Leslie & Peter Drobet, Becky & Mark Jones, Walli & Bob Klein, Leslie & Marjorie Rose, John & Kathy Walgren.

First Nighters: Quality Mailing Service, Martie & Bob Sachs, Snyder, Kinney, Bennett & Keating.

Patrons: Mary Lou Craig, Nancy Greshfield, Harmony House Records/Tapes, Sandy & Ben Nathan, Ken Wilken, Friends, Max B. Horton.

Beverly Community Education: Jeanette Kerenekjian, M.E. & Mrs. Robert Stevenson, Isadore & Beryl Winkelman Foundation, Birmingham/Bloomfield Families in Action.

Special Thanks To: Birmingham City Commission, Birmingham City Staff, Pat Roman, Judd, Jerry McCann, Ewings Salminen, Howard Wilkerson.

First Night/Birmingham Steering Committee: Charlotte Birch, Executive Co-Chair, Jim Casey, Executive Co-Chair, Lisa Healy, Public Relations Co-Chair.

Nancy Nelson, Chris Petersen, Finance Chair/But- ton Sales, Diane Hyling, Performance Co- Chair, Patti Thoms, Junior League of Bir- mingham First Night '94 Chair, Jill Riddle, Producer, Council of Birmingham/Bloomfield Pamela Wise, Performance Co-Chair, Zina Kramer, Executive Director, Jill Riddle, Producer, Lisa Barsen, Volunteer Coordinator, Leslie Sapp, Project Coordinator.

Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs

Pick among a potpourri of performers

Use these sketches of the First Night performers to help decide which performances you'd most enjoy. Each description is followed by the performance location and a helpful hint that suggests the general audience appeal of each artist or group.

SALLY ROGERS & HOWIE BURNSEN
With dynamic vocals and instrumental virtuosity, Sally and Howie have delighted family audiences from coast to coast since 1982. They gained national prominence through appearances on Garrison Keillor's "A Prairie Home Companion" performing lullabies, songs, and storytelling. The Community House, Children/Family.

WENDELL HARRISON ENSEMBLE FEATURING PAMELA WISE
When you long two incredible jazz talents like this together, it can only add up to one thing — an unbelievable performance. Recording artist, composer and educator Harrison has over 30 years experience and 12 recordings to show for children of all ages. The Baldwin Library, Children/Family.

RICH RIDENOUR
Ridenour, a Grand Rapids native, is a versatile pianist who captivates audiences with his ragtime and early jazz repertoire. A graduate of the Juillard School of Music, he is a widely acclaimed recording artist and touring professional. St. James Episcopal Church, All.

JERRY JACOBY
Some call him a classic storyteller. To some he's a comedian, and to others a motivator. We'll let you decide as you witness his family concert of good, clean, hilarious fun. The Community House, Children.

JACK AND THE BEAN STALK
"Big Laughs" version of this beloved classic fairy tale involves lots of audience participation, hysterical laughter, and two "cute guys" (their quote). The Community House, Children/Family.

THE BRAINSTORMERS!
Experience Brainstormers' acclaimed creative writing show. It's a combination comedy club and classroom. Kids learn a lot! Parents laugh a lot! The Community House, Children/Family.

THE DINOSAUR MAN
Bob Learner, The Dinosaur Man, creates the magic of museums through his lively songs and fact-filled anecdotes on subjects ranging from dinosaurs to dolomite. The Baldwin Library, Children/Family.

THE PIPPIN PUPPETS
Traditional puppet theater at its best! This troupe of highly regarded puppet masters combines music, ad- vention, and surprises in their wintery cabaret setting. Voted the best dance band in the United States in 1990, The Big Picture will have you out of your seat and on to your feet in no time at all. First United Methodist Church-Sanctuary, Adult/All.

DETROIT BRASS SOCIETY
Highly touted brass quartet presents its brilliant sound, which runs the spectrum from fine chamber music to American classics. First Church of Christ, Scientist, All.

CELESTINE BIRCH
This lullaby virtuoso is accompanied by his equally skilled wife on piano in their breathtaking performances of classic Russian folk songs. Emigres from the former Soviet Union, the Zuts have performed in the fabled Carnegie Hall and have a recording contract with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. First Baptist Church, All.

TRINIDAD TRIPLOT STEEL BAND
These two groups will square off at opposite ends of the Sealthom High School Gymnasium in a dance that will last from 7-11 p.m. Opening with Trinidad Triplot's island rhythms and percussions, this dance will continue the beat with Nuevo Mundo's Latin and Cuban numbers. There will be acts available for those who think they can sit still. Sealthom High School-Gymnasium, Adult/All.

FRANCISCO MORA'S NUEVO MUNDO JAZZ BAND
These two groups will square off at opposite ends of the Sealthom High School Gymnasium in a dance that will last from 7-11 p.m. Opening with Trinidad Triplot's island rhythms and percussions, this dance will continue the beat with Nuevo Mundo's Latin and Cuban numbers. There will be acts available for those who think they can sit still. Sealthom High School-Gymnasium, Adult/All.

THE ROYAL AMERICAN FOLK-ART THEATRE
"The Legend of the Firebird" will be stunningly performed using life-size puppets in this 45-minute show. John Byrne brings his Emmy-award winning puppet theater back to First Night with his show-stopping interpretation of this Old World classic. Sealthom High School-Auditorium, Family/All.

THE WINANS
The Grammy-winning Winans, featuring Carvin and Michael, promise to break the barriers of sheer excitement, setting a new standard for excellence in the realm of irredeemable pop, streetwise soul, rap, rock — even a little country. Sealthom High School-Auditorium, Family/All.

STREETCORNER
This mate singing group will wow you with their melodic renditions of hits from the '50s, '60s, and the Motown sound. You will find yourself wanting to sing along. First United Methodist Church-Sanctuary, Adult/All.

COUNTRY LINE DANCING
This evening-long event is a combination of 30-minute dance lessons taught by area professionals at 6, 7, and 8 p.m., followed by a full-blown line dance from 8:30-11 p.m. Come and kick up your heels at the hottest thing going in dance today! First Presbyterian Church-Knox Auditorium, All.

THE JOHNSON FOUNDATION — PIPPIN PUPPETS
The Junior League of Birmingham — All children's activities. The Kroger Company — "The Legend of the Firebird." The Lyon Foundation, Inc. — Outdoor performances in Shain Park. Target Stores — Ron Coden & Josh White, Jr. Village Women's Club Foundation — Streetcorner. Kathryn Wimshish, M.D. — The Dinosaur Man. WJBK-TV-2 — Trinidad Triplot Steel Band. WJOL — Coffee House at the Celebration Center.

WJOL — The Big Picture.
And a special thanks to the First Night Bite Cookie Angel - The Townsend Bakery & to the organizations that sold these delectable delights.



Mozart revisited: You'll know a lot more about the personalities and music of Mozart and Beethoven after seeing pianist Emmon Scott perform.



Grammy winners: Two of The Winans — Carvin (left) and Michael — should shake the rafters of Sealthom High School's auditorium.