

## THE WEEKEND

### FRIDAY

**The Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival continues with an 8 p.m. concert, featuring pianist Ruth Laredo, at St. Hugo of the Hills on the corner of Opdyke and Hickory Grove in Bloomfield Hills. Tickets \$25, call (248) 559-2097, or visit [www.greatlakeschambermusic.com](http://www.greatlakeschambermusic.com).**

### SATURDAY

**Join the Swedish Club for a Midsummer Festival 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 22398 Ruth St. at Freedom Road in Farmington Hills. The event begins with breakfast and features a Maypole raising, choral performances, folk dancing, children's games, dinner, bake and Swedish import sale. Call (248) 478-2563 for details.**

### SUNDAY

**The Bugs Badow Blues Band performs 7-11 p.m. in the Entertainment Tent during Livonia Spruce at Ford Field on Farmington Road in Lyndon. Spruce offers a carnival, food and other activities, call (734) 427-8190 for information.**



**Spend an afternoon strolling among artists at two fairs - Canton's Fine Art & Fine Craft Show at Heritage Park, 1150 Canton Center Road, and the West Bloomfield Art Festival, Saturday, Sunday, June 23-24. Look for Colin Walker's mixed media art at the West Bloomfield Art Festival grounds of Henry Ford Medical Center, 27900 West Bloomfield Ave. in Dearborn.**

# FROG ISLAND

## Festival showcases an eclectic blend of musicians

BY MICHAEL MURPHY  
SPECIAL WRITER

If you're going to have a music festival what better way to start it than with a parade - New Orleans style.

That's the way organizers of the 20th annual Frog Island Music Festival in Ypsilanti intend to kick off their weekend-long affair on Friday when the New Orleans-based Wild Magnolias lead the faithful from Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town to the Frog Island Festival site.

And The Wild Magnolias, led by a trio of feather-festooned Mardi Gras "Indians" steeped in the New Orleans "second-line" tradition, do love a parade.

"It's just getting out and having fun," said Magnolias lead singer Big Chief Bo Dollis. "You put all your troubles behind you and that day you're the big chief."

The 67-year-old Dollis said he now leaves the percussion-filled parading to the "younger guys" and waits for

the crowd to arrive at the stage.

The parade is part tradition, part advertising and part of the Wild Magnolias that isn't going to go away, Dollis said.

"At most festivals we do it," Dollis said. "A lot of people, they don't know about the Wild Magnolias, and they're the ones we try to attract."

### Folk tradition

The Wild Magnolias have traveled the world with their own blend of New Orleans "fok," a folk tradition that has African, Creole, Native American and Spanish roots, and they're coming to Frog Island again for the first time in six years.



**Featured performers: The New Orleans-based Wild Magnolias will kick off the 20th annual Frog Island Music Festival by leading the faithful from Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town to the festival site.**

## Young musicians and dancers celebrate their Celtic roots

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN  
STAFF WRITER  
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Flutist Sean Gavin becomes a fireball of enthusiasm as his friends drift in one by one for an interview to discuss their performance at the Frog Island Music Festival on Sunday. Detroit Grupa Cool, an ensemble of young Celtic musicians which includes Gavin, will play while a quartet of

dancers from the O'Hare School of Irish Dance perform a set of reels and jigs at 4 p.m. during the festival.

Headliners for the day-long Celtic celebration include Mary Jane Lamond, Natalie MacMaster, Saline Fiddlers Philharmonic, and Whirligig, a New York-based band that combines fiddle, bouzouki, tin whistle, clarinet, uilleann pipes,

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**Celtic roots: Sean Gavin (left), Rebecca Shirdon, Michael Gavin, Colleen Burke, and Colleen Shanks will celebrate their Celtic heritage with sets of jigs and reels.**

The group, which is also fronted by Big Chief Monk Bourbon and drummer/vocalist Norwood "Geachie" Johnson, started as a social club in New Orleans in 1958 and began recording as a band in 1964.

The "second line" social clubs got their start in the 19th century when black groups were excluded from Mardi Gras activities on the city's main thoroughfares. The African-American groups brought parades to their own neighborhoods.

Some dressed as Indians to pay homage to their ancestors, Dollis said.

Dollis said career highlights have been too many to count, but that the Wild Magnolias always manage to draw a crowd.

"Japan, Australia, Brazil, and even right here at home. Everywhere we play the place will be packed," Dollis said.

### Variety rules

The Wild Magnolias will be followed Friday by Zydeco artists Lisa Haley and the Zydecats and Terrence Simien. Piano pounder Marcia Ball, who has appeared at the festival six times in its 20-year history, will close out the festival on Friday with her blend of blues, rhythm and blues, and roots rock and roll.

The Frog Island Music Festival, known for presenting an eclectic blend of musical groups and stylings, is celebrating its milestone anniversary with its widest-ranging lineup

### Frog Island Music Festival

**When:** Friday-Sunday, June 22-24  
**Where:** Frog Island Park in Ypsilanti's Depot Town  
**Entrance:** at Cross Street, one block from Huron Street.  
**Tickets:** \$20 in advance, \$25 at the gate. Three day pass \$50 in advance. No charge for kids age 12 and younger. Call (734) 487-2229 or visit [www.fimf.org](http://www.fimf.org)

yet.

Following Friday's "South Coast Celebration" will be blocks of jazz and blues artists on Saturday and Celtic artists on Sunday.

Jazz mavens will want to check out the festival on Saturday afternoon, when the lineup will include the Blackman/Arnold World Jazz Band, the Johnny Rodriguez Fiery Latin Jazz Band, the Mr. B. Turbulence Trio, Geri Allen and Karen Briggs.

The Brothers Groove will open the evening show with their mix of "new wave blues and punk jazz rock" and the night will also feature performances by Detroit's Robert Penn Blues Band, Larry McCray and headliner Bobby "Bluc" Bland.

Penn, who is playing the festival for the first time, has been saturating Detroit-area clubs with his genuine brand of blues since the early 1980s.

He's become one of the leading purveyors of blues and rhythm and blues in Detroit. He's a guitar instructor and has conducted orchestras for Motown legends David Ruffin and The Contours. And he has a very definite idea of what the blues is all about.

### Art of blues

"A lot of people think that playing the blues is easy, but it's not easy, it's an art," Penn said. "The truth comes out in experience, and you can't convince an audience unless it's true

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## RADIO

# Terry Gross brings breath of 'Fresh Air' to Power Center

Terry Gross, host of National Public Radio's afternoon show *Fresh Air*, has interviewed countless artists, celebrities and public figures - from writer John Updike to musician Elvis Costello.

But it's the feeling of intimacy between Gross and her guests, not the big names, that seize listeners' attention and quickly transform them into devotees of *Fresh Air*.

Gross began hosting and producing the program in 1973 in Philadelphia. Today, *Fresh Air*, which has received numerous accolades including the prestigious Peabody Award, is distributed nationally to more than 275 stations.

Gross is slated to talk about her work and experiences at 4 p.m. Sunday, June 24 at the Power Center for Performing Arts in Ann Arbor. Following a one-hour presentation, she'll allow the tables to be turned and take questions from the audience.

The session will be moderated by David Fair of WEMU 89.1 FM radio. Todd Mundt of Michigan Radio, WUOM 91.7 FM, will introduce Gross.

Gross' visit comes courtesy of the Ann Arbor Summer Festival, which runs through July 8 and showcases a host of dance, music, theater, film and a host of

**What:** Terry Gross, host of National Public Radio's *Fresh Air*, talks about her work and herself as part of the Ann Arbor Summer Festival  
**When:** 4 p.m. Sunday, June 24  
**Where:** Power Center for Performing Arts, 123 Fletcher at Huron in Ann Arbor  
**Tickets:** \$18-25; call (734) 764-2538 or visit the Power Center box office



Terry Gross

entertainers. We caught up with Gross and asked her about public speaking, the art of interviewing and the media.

**Q: How did you begin your speaking engagements and why?**

**A:** When the show went national, I started going to radio stations to make them aware of the show and I had to start thinking about public speaking. ... Initially, I felt very frightened about it. ... I speak to hundreds of thousands of people every day, but you don't see them and they don't see you. I don't even imagine one person I know listen-

ing, when I do the show.

**Q: What's your comfort level with other people interviewing you?**

**A:** I've gotten a lot more comfortable about it. I think I was almost phobic when I started because I wanted listeners to create me to be whatever they needed me to be. I think that's one of the beauties of radio. Physically, you're not tied down to

what you are. **Q: You're considered one of the best interviewers on the air. What do you think makes a good interview?**

**A:** At many times, a good interview presents information concisely and well. Sometimes, an interview is good because you have come to understand an artist or an actor or a musician. Sometimes, a good interview is just fun.

**Q: You do a lot of preparation and research. Do you come to an interview with a list of questions and, if so, how tied are you to that sheet of**

paper?

**A:** I try to have a list of questions, but my questions aren't written out word for word. ... I want my interview to have a narrative. I want my interview to feel like a conversation. That said, I have to listen to the guest. I might abandon my questions entirely. I might abandon them for a little bit and then come back to them.

**Q: You create an intimacy on the air, yet the majority of your interviews are not face to face. How do you achieve that intimacy?**

**A:** First of all, I think people are used to talking on the telephone. ... We're all used to doing it. ... Also, it makes it somewhat easier (to interview someone) because you have space. You're just listening to what someone is saying. ... For me, sometimes it's much easier to interview somebody who's well known by phone because I'm less intimidated by that person or that name.

**Q: When an interview is going well, is there a feeling or rhythm there?**

**A:** Yes, you feel connected to that person. You feel that there's an energy that's lifting it.

**Q: What are your interviewing techniques?**  
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