

**Press Release: Uptown Music Collective to present tribute to 40 years of rock with The Evolution of Rock 1951 - 1991**

**Who:** The Students of the Uptown Music Collective

**What:** The Evolution of Rock: 1951-1991

**Where:** The Community Arts Center, 220 West Fourth St. Williamsport, Pa

**When:** November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm

**Cost:** \$10.00/ Advance- \$15.00/ Door

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For their 12<sup>th</sup> major performance the students of the Uptown Music Collective will present "The Evolution of Rock: 1951-1991," a theatrical tribute to 40 years of popular rock music. The performance, which will take place at the Community Arts Center in Williamsport on November 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7:00pm, will take the audience on a musical journey through 40 years of rock music, with an accompanying light and video show.

From its creation in the early 1950's to the huge commercial industry that it is today, Rock and Roll has changed and evolved just like we have. Along the way it has encouraged us to sing, dance and play air guitar, while also serving as a voice for feelings of joy, anger, love, political dissent and hope for generations of people, young and old alike..

Starting with what is purportedly the first Rock and Roll song, Rocket 88, released in 1951. The show will move linearly through rock's evolution, showing how rock moved from its innocent beginnings, through the turbulent 1960's, the corporate rock of the 70's, up through the 1980's. Finally concluding the show with a song from 1991, that for many felt signaled a return to rock's roots translated for a new generation.

.The show features 47 music students from the Uptown Music Collective performing historically important songs from rock history, learned note for note from the original recordings. All performers are between the ages of 13 and 19 years of age and have been preparing for this performance for the last two months. Imagine the sense of musical history that these young people will get through their involvement in this epic event.

Along with the live music, there will be a video presentation and a powerful light and sound show organized by the students themselves. As with all Uptown Music Collective performances the students are not only the performers, but also direct the show. There is also a group of younger students who will serve as stage technicians, spot light operators and video operators.

The Uptown Music Collective is a 501(c) (3) non-profit school of music that offers lessons, classes and workshops in several instruments, and educates student musicians in a variety of skills and styles, as well as offers classes on songwriting and music theory. Since its founding in 2000 by director Dave Brumbaugh, the UMC has earned a reputation for its talented students, comprehensive music education, and virtuosic student performances that take place throughout the year. Today, the UMC is seen as the premier source for music education in the area

In the past, the Uptown Music Collective has presented theatrical productions of Pink Floyd's "The Wall," The Who's "Tommy," "Woodstock," Pink Floyd's "Dark Side Of The Moon," "Lollapalooza" (a tribute to the 90's rock festivals), "Let It Be" (a tribute to the Beatles' album & film of the same name), "Achilles' Last Stand" (a tribute to Led Zeppelin) and this spring's, "Shine on You Crazy Diamond; A Tribute to the Music of Pink Floyd," among others, and all of these shows have met with rave reviews and standing ovations from local audiences.

"I can't wait to see these young people performing great rock music from so many different decades. Even the songs I don't really like are exciting to me when I hear my students nailing their parts and performing like professionals. All of our shows rock, but this one is going to be something special," says UMC Director Dave Brumbaugh.

\*\*\*See Quotes from UMC Students participating in the show below\*\*\*

"It's got a little something for everyone" – Alyssa Morris

"What's cool about this show is it showcases a lot of sub -genres of rock."– Kelsey Silvagni

"This show allows the students to trace the roots of the music they have come to love today" –Jeff Mach

"This is a show that entire families can enjoy because it draws music from generations as familiar to parents as it is to kids." – Jonah Walters

"This show is different because it gives the younger students a chance to play beside the older, more advanced students."– Josh Hines

"This is the first fall performance that is taking place at the Community Arts Center, which is usually the venue used for the Collective's spring performance." – Alex Hines

"It's a real privilege for our students to be exposed to the professionalism of the Community Arts Center, not only their staff but the venue in general" – Bryan Stillman

"When playing the Community Arts Center, you tend to feel a certain level of pressure to play at a higher level due to the usual level of players on the Arts Center stage. It's a very exciting feeling." – Shannon Cantor

"It's awesome to be exposed at such a young age to all the different eras of rock music that we are emulating throughout this show." - Tess Marshall

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