

Press Release: Uptown Music Collective presents The Last Waltz

Who: The staff and teachers of the Uptown Music Collective with a host of area musicians

What: The Band's The Last Waltz (A Concert in Support of the Uptown Music Collective)

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

When: Friday, October 23rd 2009 at 7:30pm

Cost: \$10.00 Advance – \$12.00 Door

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Description:

On Friday, October 23rd 2009 at 7:30pm, the Uptown Music Collective will present, "The Last Waltz," at the Community Arts Center in Williamsport, Pa. The concert, a fundraiser for the non-profit school of music, will be based upon The Band's farewell concert entitled, "The Last Waltz." The concert will feature classic songs by The Band including, "The Weight," "Up on Cripple Creek," and "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down," as well as the songs that featured guest musicians' during the original concert including "Coyote," by Joni Mitchell and "Helpless," by Neil Young.

The Band was formed in 1967 by members Robbie Robertson, Richard Manuel, Garth Hudson, Rick Danko, and Levon Helm. The musicians first came together as the backing band for various artists including Bob Dylan and Ronnie Hawkins. Because they were always "the band" to various front men, Helm said the name "The Band" worked well when the group came into its own. Their two most acclaimed albums included, "Music from Big Pink," and "The Band." In 1976 The Band became tired of touring and decided to have massive farewell show on Thanksgiving Day at the Winterland Ballroom in San Francisco, California. This show included The Band playing all of their biggest hits as well as a variety of guest musicians including Neil Young, Van Morrison, Joni Mitchell, Ronnie Hawkins, and Muddy Waters to name a few. The concert was filmed by director Martin Scorsese. The footage was released as a concert documentary in 1978 with an accompanying triple – LP soundtrack entitled, "The Last Waltz." The film has been hailed as one of the greatest concert films ever made.

The concert will be performed by Uptown Music Collective teachers and staff including Executive Director Dave Brumbaugh, Jared Mondell, Willi Ort, Colin Beatty, Alex Callenberger, Hunter Wentzler, Michelle Dennen, Kim Adair, Jesse Roedts, and Adam Westover. The show will also feature area musicians including Bob Yoas, Matt Radspinner, Lauren Johns, Alison and Richard Rupert, Joe Houseran, Kimbo Reichley, Ken Whittman, Shaun Gilmour, Jimmy Lovchik, Tim Breon, Dave Thompson, Dave Soragun, Gordon Taylor and Neil Wyman. Also featured in the performance will be Uptown Music Collective Students Mark Dougherty, Tess Marshall and Shannon Cantor.

The Uptown Music Collective has gained a strong reputation in the greater Williamsport area for its powerful and entertaining performances. Usually UMC performances are educational vehicles for the hundred plus music students that attend lessons, classes, and workshops at the school each week. The cast and crew for shows like last spring's "Shine on You Crazy Diamond" and the upcoming show, "The Evolution of Rock 1951-1991" (November 20th and 21st) are made up entirely of students with an average age of sixteen. However, over the last two years, the school has produced a series performances such as "The Blues Brothers Rhythm and Blues Revue," "What's Going On (a tribute to Motown)," "Born to Run (a Tribute to Bruce Springsteen)," and the most recent, "Moonflower (A Tribute to Carlos Santana)" each of which brought together UMC staff members and local musicians in an effort to raise money for the school.

"These shows are what we are all about", said Dave Brumbaugh, Director of the Uptown Music Collective. "Bringing people together, young and not so young, and educating, as well as entertaining them, all through the power of live music! This particular performance features great music from a wide variety of artists performed by a virtual who's who of Williamsport musicians. This show is not to be missed!"