



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**128TH ROCHESTER LILAC FESTIVAL MUSIC HEADLINERS  
AND DIRECT SUPPORT PERFORMERS ANNOUNCED**

*10 Days of Curated Live Music on the KeyBank Center Stage*

**ROCHESTER, N.Y., February 24, 2026** — The Rochester Lilac Festival announces the headlining performers and direct supporting acts set to take the KeyBank Center Stage during the 128th Rochester Lilac Festival from Friday, May 8, through Sunday, May 17.

For 2026, organizers focused on building full evenings of curated music experiences rather than standalone performances — pairing nationally recognized headliners with direct supporting artists to create a unique musical tone, style, and energizing experience for each night.

“Programming the music for the Lilac Festival is one of our favorite parts of this work, because every night is a chance for people to see an artist they love, stumble onto something unexpected, or simply jam out with friends,” said Jenny LoMaglio, Executive Producer of the Rochester Lilac Festival. “We hope this year’s lineup gives our community plenty of reasons to come back throughout the festival and enjoy ten days of live music among the lilacs.”

Spanning a wide range of genres and styles, this year’s headliners and direct support performers reflect the festival’s commitment to variety and quality. All headline performances include ASL interpretation.

<b>Date &amp; Theme</b>	<b>Headliners</b>	<b>Direct Support</b>
<b>Fri, May 8</b> Funk, Soul & Afro-Cuban	<b>Cimafunk</b> <i>For fans of Cory Wong, Chic, Thundercat, Bad Bunny</i>	Zahyia
<b>Sat, May 9</b> Soul & Classic R&B	<b>Lee Fields</b> <i>For fans of James Brown, Sharon Jones, Lake Street Dive</i>	Lady Wray
<b>Sun, May 10</b> Folk, Country & Americana	<b>The Lone Bellow</b> <i>For fans of The Lumineers, Ray LaMontagne, The Head &amp; The Heart</i>	Claudia Hoyser

<b>Mon, May 11</b> Country, Americana & Pop	<b>Cruel Summer</b> <i>For fans of Taylor Swift</i>	Roses & Revolutions
<b>Tue, May 12</b> Rochester Music Hall of Fame Takeover	<b>Scott Mayo &amp; Prime Time Funk</b> <i>For fans of Classic rock, pop, funk, R&amp;B &amp; jazz</i>	The Dawgs, Stoney Lonesome
<b>Wed, May 13</b> Indie, Alternative & Americana	<b>Mikaela Davis</b> (Album Release Party) <i>For fans of Fleetwood Mac, Waxahatchee, Mazzy Star</i>	Giant Panda Guerilla Dub Squad
<b>Thu, May 14</b> 94.1 The Zone Takeover	<b>Joe P</b> <i>For fans of Yeah Yeah Yeahs, MGMT, Tame Impala</i>	The Demos
<b>Fri, May 15</b> R&B, Pop & Fusion	<b>Anees</b> <i>For fans of Bruno Mars, Mac Miller, Ed Sheeran, Michael Franti</i>	Chi TheRealist
<b>Sat, May 16</b> Rock & Roll, R&B & Blues	<b>JD McPherson</b> <i>For fans of Buddy Holly, The Black Keys, Gary Clark Jr., Amy Winehouse</i>	Prime Time Brass
<b>Sun, May 17</b> Jam, Funk & Psychedelic	<b>Eggy</b> <i>For fans of Goose, Little Feat, The Grateful Dead, Phish</i>	High Fade

Live music on the KeyBank Center Stage runs from open to close each day, featuring a variety of community showcases, regional talent and national touring acts. In total, the 10-day event will feature nearly 60 musical performances at the KeyBank Center Stage. The festival also features buskers throughout the gardens and special content for the kids at the Bach to Rock stage. A full list of live music beyond the headliners will be released in March.

**MORE WAYS TO ENJOY THE MUSIC:**

- **The Official Lilac Fest Spotify Playlist** – Dive into the sounds of the 128th Rochester Lilac Festival before it hits the KeyBank Center Stage with our curated playlists on [Spotify](#).
- **The VIP SkyDeck** presented by McCarthy Tents & Events and Impact Earth – a fully covered 21+ viewing area that offers premium sightlines, a private bar, comfortable lounge seating, and upgraded amenities. Packages are available for purchase at <https://roclilacfest.com/music/>.

“Each spring, the Rochester Lilac Festival draws in visitors from around the area for an exciting event filled with unique vendors, mouthwatering food, and spectacular performances,” said County Executive Adam Bello. “Whether you’re discovering a new artist or singing along with an old favorite, the Key Bank Center Stage will host music from a variety of genres, ensuring there’s something for everyone to enjoy. Join us as we kick off the festival season with incredible talent and energizing performances!”

“In a city that loves its festivals, the Rochester Lilac Festival stands alone as a reflection of the Flower City’s rich history, vibrant present and bright future,” said Rochester Mayor Malik D. Evans. “Applause to Festival Producer Jenny LoMaglio and her team for once again curating an eclectic playlist of world-class artists and musicians that perfectly captures the inclusive spirit of the Lilac Festival. Like Rochester itself, this lineup offers something for everyone.”

"Thank you to the Rochester Lilac Festival team for securing a lineup of national performers to headline this year's festival," said Don Jeffries, Visit Rochester President & CEO. "The Rochester Lilac Festival's diverse lineup of music and entertainment draws visitors from not just across our region, but from around the country — and that translates directly into real economic impact for our local hotels, restaurants, and businesses. We look forward to showcasing our community to music lovers drawn to this year's festival following today's announcement."

#### **Current 2026 Rochester Lilac Festival Sponsors**

KeyBank, Bully Hill Vineyards, Fairlife, Fleet Feet, Tim Hortons, Wilkins Recreational Vehicles, Inc., Excellus BlueCross BlueShield, I Love NY, Pepsi, Impact Earth, Window Nation, Rohrbach Brewing Company, MVP Healthcare, Autism Up, New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities, Community Bank, Reimer Heating and Cooling, Dick’s House of Sport, Hamilton AV, Boulder Coffee, North Glow Photo and Video, The Inn on Broadway, Admar, McCarthy Tents & Events, Zweigle’s, ADMAR Construction Equipment & Supplies, WROC-TV News 8 Rochester.

#### **About the 128th Rochester Lilac Festival**

The Rochester Lilac Festival is an award-winning, time-honored tradition celebrated every spring since 1898, in accordance with the blooming of the most extensive collection of lilacs in the Northeast. On average, more than 500,000 visitors from across Western and Upstate NY, the tri-state area, and Canada attend the 10-day festival each year.

In 2026, the 128th Rochester Lilac Festival will return with more than 100 musical performances, 300+ juried arts and craft vendors, kids' activities, and the star of the show – the fragrant lilac blossoms. The annual event is hosted by the Lilac Festival Board, which includes members from Monroe County, the City of Rochester and Visit Rochester and is produced by Best Recipe Productions. For more information about this year’s event, visit [www.roclilacfest.com](http://www.roclilacfest.com), Facebook, and Instagram.