

# *Mechanics Hall*

*Where Community and Culture Meet*

## PRESS RELEASE

### For Immediate Release

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### **Club 321 rocks downtown Worcester's contemporary music scene**

*Fall series at Mechanics Hall opens on Thursday, September 26, with Harshitha Krishnan Trio*

September 5, 2023 (Worcester, MA)—Grammy-nominated performing and recording artist [Harshitha Krishnan](#) opens Mechanics Hall's fall Club 321 series on **Thursday, September 26**. Known for her distinctive fusion of Indian and contemporary western music, Krishnan will perform her original arrangements, creating a singular musical experience that takes listeners on a journey of unfiltered emotions, sounds, and textures from around the world.

[Club 321](#) is a live music series featuring an eclectic blend of musicians performing Americana, jazz, world music, blues, and more. The performances take place in Washburn Hall on the second level of Mechanics Hall, 321 Main Street, Worcester. Performances begin at 7:00 p.m., with doors opening at 6:15 p.m. Tickets are \$20 purchased in advance; \$25 at the door. Mechanics Hall members receive 15% off a single ticket. Ticket holders must be at least 18 years old. Seating includes cabaret-style tables and some theater-style with a cash bar and light refreshments for sale. To learn more and purchase tickets, visit [mechanicshall.org/club321](http://mechanicshall.org/club321).

Throughout the evening, patrons can browse an art exhibit sponsored by [Juniper Rag](#), an independent Massachusetts art and lifestyle magazine. Club 321 is presented by Mechanics Hall and includes member discount benefits. Media partner is WICN 90.5 FM.

The Club 321 series will continue throughout the fall with [Ali McGuirk](#) and her trademark sound that blends soul and folk, laced with rock and roll, on **Thursday, October 10**; [Nellie McKay](#), with her witty and original takes on the Great American Songbook, on **Thursday, November 14**; and blues powerhouse [Michelle Willson](#) and her Evil Gal Festival Orchestra on **Thursday, December 12**.



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Mechanics Hall is walking distance from all downtown locations. The Hall's accessible entrance is located on Waldo Street. Elevators are located in the ground-floor lobby and provide access to the second and third floors. All concerts take place in Washburn Hall on the second floor. Those needing assistance should contact the Mechanics Hall Ticket Office, Wednesday through Friday from 11:00am to 5:00pm, by calling 508-752-5608.

## **About Harshitha Krishnan**

Harshitha Krishnan is a Grammy nominated performing and recording artist, music educator, and social justice advocate of Indian origin from Lagos, Nigeria. With a strong background in western classical music, she embraced soul, R&B, alternative, jazz, Indian folk and other world music styles, creating her own distinctive and eclectic sound: a fusion of Indian and contemporary western elements. Through performing her original music, arrangements of Indian and Pop tunes, jazz fusion pieces and more, Krishnan creates a singular musical experience that takes listeners on a journey of unfiltered emotions, exploring sounds and textures from around the world.

A graduate of Berklee College of Music, Krishnan has worked with an impressive roster of renowned musicians, including A.R.Rahman, Ilayaraaja, Gary Burton, Vijay Prakash, Michael McDonald, Shankar Mahadevan, Shreya Ghoshal, Pablo Ziegler, Bill Whelan, Alejandro Sanz, Clinton Cerejo, Javed Ali, Sivamani, and Javier Limone. She was a leading member of the Berklee Indian Ensemble whose debut album was nominated for 'Best Global Music Album' at the 65th Grammy® Awards, and performs with her vocal group 'MuZù', the Yotam Ishay Chamber Group and Utako Toyama's 'SkyBridge'. Since 2021, she has served on the Voice, Ensemble, Harmony and Professional Music Faculty at Berklee College of Music.

[A photograph of Harshitha Krishnan is available here.](#)

## **About Ali McGuirk**

Blending classic soul power with a folk songwriter lyricism, New England's Ali McGuirk has the rare ability to silence a room with just a few words of a song. With a voice that is raw and sultry and a style rooted in improvisation, her sets are a hypnotic and intimate journey. McGuirk currently divides her time between touring North America and Europe and crafting new compositions in her lakeside Vermont cottage. She has performed



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spellbinding sets at Boston Calling, Merlefest, Americanafest, and NPR's Mountain Stage. [Learn more about Ali McGuirk.](#)

[A photograph of Ali McGuirk is available here.](#)

## **About Nellie McKay**

Nellie McKay's music has been heard on *Mad Men*, *Boardwalk Empire*, *Weeds*, *Grey's Anatomy*, *NCIS*, *Nurse Jackie*, and *SMILF*. She has appeared on TV shows including *The Late Show with David Letterman*, *Conan*, *Ferguson*, and *The View*. Nellie has made numerous radio appearances on NPR's Mountain Stage, *A Prairie Home Companion*, *eTown*, and Marion McPartland's *Piano Jazz*. The Chase Brock Experience produced a ballet of her third album, *Obligatory Villagers*, and she contributed the forward to the 20<sup>th</sup>-anniversary edition of *The Sexual Politics of Meat*. Her writing has also appeared in *The Onion*, *Interview* and *The New York Times Book Review*. [Learn more about Nellie McKay.](#)

[A photograph of Nellie McKay is available here.](#)

## **About Michelle Willson**

Known to blues lovers the around the world as "Evil Gal," Michelle Willson is acknowledged by aficionados of jazz and blues as a passionate and gifted performer, bandleader and songwriter. Her music is regularly played on blues radio and internet programs all around the globe, and her original music has been featured in the HBO series *"Mind of the Married Man"*, as well as on the 2008 House of Blues compilation album *Essential Women in the Blues*. She has toured Europe and Canada—and is featured on two recordings—with Anthony Geraci and the Boston Blues All Stars and appears on two recent Duke Robillard recordings. She currently hosts "Morning Vibe Time", weekdays 6-9am on 90.5 FM WICN. [Learn more about Michelle Willson.](#)

[Photograph of Michelle Willson available here.](#)

## **About Mechanics Hall**

Built in 1857, Mechanics Hall is internationally regarded as one of the world's great concert halls for its superb acoustics and 19<sup>th</sup>-century elegance. Regionally, it is widely considered to be Worcester's finest meeting place. The world's most renowned orchestras and performers—from the London Philharmonic to Yo-Yo Ma and Ella Fitzgerald to Linda Ronstadt—have taken the Hall's stage. Among the many luminaries who have spoken at



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Mechanics Hall are Charles Dickens, Susan B. Anthony, Frederick Douglass, and Mark Twain. In addition to serving as a premiere venue and recording site, Mechanics Hall offers inspiring cultural experiences for diverse audiences through a variety of creative initiatives—including free concerts, community events, a youth chorus, and collaborative programs with local colleges and non-profit organizations. A non-profit organization, Mechanics Hall is owned and operated by the Worcester County Mechanics Association (est. 1842). It is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Learn more at [mechanicshall.org](http://mechanicshall.org).

The accessible entrance to Mechanics Hall is located on Waldo Street. Elevators are available in the ground-floor Waldo lobby and provide access to the second and third floors. There is no elevator access to the balcony. The concert will take place in the Great Hall on the third level. Those who need assistance can contact the Mechanics Hall Ticket Office, Wednesday through Friday from 11:00 am to 5:00 pm, by calling 508-752-0888.

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