

NEW YEAR'S FEST

New Year's Fest is a performing arts festival, started in 1985, making the fest 40 years old. New Year's Fest celebrates the power of cultural arts and the sheer enjoyment of supporting artists through a community gathering on New Year's Eve, in the heart of downtown. We depend on the community to support this event through participation, volunteering, financially donating, or sponsoring the event. Every year, we are honored to present this event that is designed by and for the community.

Make sure to check out the website for up-to-date information on performances. We are hoping to add performances as space becomes available, and we are looking for ways to enhance popup events in Bronson Park. Buttons are limited this year due to space restrictions, so make sure to get your buttons early.

New Year's Fest is an independent 501(c)(3) organization run by the Board of Directors. These dedicated volunteers work throughout the year to plan and raise the money needed to support this event.

The 2025 New Year's Fest Board of Directors are: Larry Potter (President), Dan Bunker (Vice-President), Brenda Keelan (Treasurer), Steve Ellis (Secretary), Michael Deaton, Sid Ellis, Sariah Metcalfe, Adam Ostrander, Elizabeth Start, and Chris Shook.

GREAT WAYS TO ENJOY THE FEST

New Year's Fest website is filled with information about how to enjoy the festival. We recommend using the "Entertainment Page" to reference the performances. These pages, by category, provide information about the artists and the opportunity to direct link to their social media pages. Then, we suggest that you use the performance grid to plan out what performances you want to see, and in what order due to the timing of the performances. We recommend actually circling the performances on the grid.

Please check the website, NewYearsFest.com for updates regarding the food trucks in Bronson Park, performances, locations, and added music on the Stage in Bronson Park.



A round of applause for our sponsors!

ADMISSION BUTTONS \$10 ADVANCE SALE
On December 31, buttons sold in Bronson Park - \$15

BUTTON SALE LOCATIONS
KELC Events
1417 S. Burdick Street
Harding's Market & Marketplace
Several Locations - please check website

Midtown Fresh Market
Cash only sales | 1693 S. Westnedge

Maple Hill Auto Group
Checks/Cash | 5622 W. Main

BUTTONS SOLD ONLINE AT NEWYEARSFEST.COM

NEW YEAR'S FEST
1417 S. Burdick Street • Kalamazoo, MI 49001
Phone: 269-388-2830 • Fax: 269-388-3083

*Please observe parking signs, obey towing signs, and visit downtownkalamazoo.org for parking information.

The 2025 New Year's Fest Performance Grid

Updated 12/11/2025

Row	Column	Artist/Event	Time	Notes
1	1	Bronson Park Heated Tent	6:00	Arts and Crafts, Vendors, Warming Tent, Music
2	1	First Presbyterian Church	6:15	Doug Church, WMU Afro, Latin Ensemble
3	1	First Presbyterian Church Social Hall	6:30	Vinyl Tap
4	1	First United Methodist Church	6:45	Alan Smola, Yellowhouse
5	1	First United Methodist Social Hall	7:00	Ventriquist, Richard Paul
6	1	First Congregational Church	7:15	Octocelli, Silent, But Deadly
6	2	First Congregational Atrium	7:30	Lego City In the Atrium
7	1	KNAC Upstairs Performance Hall	7:45	Crawspace, Josh Holcomb, Electric Violin
8	1	KNAC Crawspace Theatre	8:00	Gemini Moon
9	1	The Radisson Ballroom	8:15	Kanola Band
10	1	The Radisson Ballroom	8:30	Oba the Artist 7:30-9:00 pm
10	2	The Radisson Ballroom	8:45	Mexicuba Band
10	3	Bronson Park Stage	9:00	Music Announcements Photo Booth Pictures

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Performing Arts Festival
December 31, 2025
Downtown Kalamazoo



TUBAS, PARK PERFORMERS, LEGOS, BALL DROP AND THE FIREWORKS



The event starts with Tuba New Year performing from the Bronson Park stage at 6 p.m. for a 45 minute concert performing the Harvey Phillip's Tuba Christmas. This is a special musical performance from a score that is only played in Kalamazoo on New Year's Eve.

Another tradition of New Year's Fest is the presentation of Lego City. Children and adults alike are surprised by the resemblance to our own Downtown Kalamazoo. Lego City is scheduled for First Congregational Church Atrium from 6:15 to 9:00 p.m. If you have never seen it, it is indeed impressive and a great celebration of everyone's favorite childhood toy: Legos! A long standing tradition at NYF!



One of the last programs to be scheduled are the live performances from the Bronson Park Stage. If the weather prediction is on the "warmer side" then bands will be scheduled to perform from the stage. Please check the website for an update on the music schedule.



The Ball Drop is a favorite of New Year's Fest and thanks to the support of Mavcon, Biddergy, and MacAllister Rentals, the traditional celebration of count downs happens just before midnight. Most people gather on Church Street, and we will have a short count-down ceremony by the Ball Drop. The stage in Bronson Park is still the perfect photobooth for the 2026 balloons. The fireworks

will kick off at the stroke of midnight with a show that can be seen throughout downtown. The impressive fireworks display has been a tradition at New Year's Fest and serves as a community gathering to welcome in the New Year.

ENJOYING THE FEST

New Year's Fest is perfect to enjoy all of downtown. Please check our website and social media for updates about restaurants, Central Commons/Social District beverages, and food trucks in Bronson Park. Enjoy food and beverages in the heated eating tent in Bronson Park. Please note that Central Commons beverages are welcome in the outdoor (tent) venues, but are not allowed in the indoor venues. The Central Commons beverages are for outside consumption and cannot be brought into venues. Please note that some venues do serve alcoholic beverages.

Follow us on Social Media:
Facebook @NewYearsFest | Instagram @NewYearsFest
Website www.NewYearsFest.com

MUSIC, BANDS, AND GREAT ENTERTAINMENT - NEW YEAR'S FEST 2025

Magician Alan Smola First United Methodist Church 6:00, 7:45, 9:30, 11:15 p.m.

It's magic, it's comedy, and it's perfect for families. To honor NYF's 40th anniversary, Magician Alan Smola rewinds to 1986 with brand-new illusions and an electric 80's style. Direct from Minneapolis, his internationally featured show is a must-see.



Ventriloquist Richard Paul First United Methodist Church Social Hall 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:00 p.m.

He's That Funny Puppet Guy. A high energy, funny family show mixes puppets, magic, music, and a whole lot of audience participation. Children, teens, and adults will be laughing out loud and thinking, "This guy has too much time on his hands."

Anna, Elsa, Captain America Radisson Plaza Hotel - Ballroom Lobby 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Olivia Grace & Company is honored to add some magic to New Year's Fest. They work to create the highest quality character entertainment in the world! Anna, Elsa, and Captain America will make your experience as memorable as possible. And, they love to sign autographs, visit, and take pictures.



Yellowhouse First United Methodist Church 6:45, 8:30, 10:15 p.m.

Yellowhouse is a Rock collaboration made up of Lucy Wallis, Drew Jepson, Sam Vanwinkle, Colin Frieben and Nick Loken. Bringing together the intensity of 90s era Rock classics, with a mix of flavors from both Classic Rock favorites and worldwide influences.

WMU Afro Latin Ensemble First Presbyterian Church 6:45, 8:30, 10:15 p.m.

The WMU's Jazz Studies features this Afro Latin Ensemble of talented student musicians offering an imersive experience in jazz. Just recently recording a Downbeat Student Award Submission, these students are ready to perform and delight.

Gemini Moon KNAC Crawspace Theatre 7:00, 8:15, 9:30 p.m.

Joe Chamberlin formed Gemini Moon because it is soulmates bound by music. It's a combination of fresh interpretations of classic and moderen covers and guitar-driven originals with male/female mixed harmonies.



Mexicuba Radisson Ballroom 9:30-11:00 p.m.

Mexicuba is a Latin band based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, composed of musicians from Mexico and Cuba. They perform a variety of Latin, Cuban, and blended American music.



Zondo Love Radisson Ballroom 10-11:30 p.m.

With his guitar and voice, he juxtaposes traditional Liberian roots rhythm with American folk styles, creating music that our hearts understand. His songs aim to heal, unite & ignite our spirits, empowering us to resonate with Truth & Love amidst adversity.



DJ Monte Bronson Park Heated Tent 8:30-11:45 p.m.

It's time to close out 2025 with DJ Monte. Under the heated tent, it's a place to stop in, enjoy great music, celebrate the ability to do a few dance moves, and then keep visiting all the great venues and artists. The music will warm you up.



Josh Holcomb Electric Violin KNAC 6:45, 8:30, 10:15 p.m.

Joshua Holcomb offers a fresh and modern take on violin music. Using a combination of effects, samplers, and live looping, he performs compelling original works spanning a wide range of genres. Expect to hear groovy beats, energizing melodies, and comforting waves of sound from this Kalamazoo native.



Doug Church as Elvis First Presbyterian Church 6:00, 7:45, 9:30, 11:15 p.m.

Doug Church is a world-renowned, multi-award-winning Elvis tribute artist known for his astonishing vocal likeness to the King of Rock 'n' Roll. For decades, he has mesmerized audiences worldwide, performing alongside Elvis's original bandmates, collaborators and music.



Oba the Artist Radisson Ballroom | 7:30-9:00 p.m.

In a single, one-time-for-the-evening show, Sidney "Oba" Ellis will be performing a comedy show perfect for all ages. Blending story-telling, puppets, and comedy, this is a great show for kids, families, young adults, and everyone in between. This is a show that will make you think and laugh.

Kanola Band Radisson Ballroom 7:00-8:00 p.m. 8:30-9:30 p.m.

Kanola Band is more than a band—it's a musical journey through the heart of New Orleans. With deep reverence for the city's unmatched cultural legacy, this high-energy ensemble brings to life the music that has defined the Crescent City for generations.



Crawspace Eviction KNAC

6:00, 7:45, 9:30, 11:15 p.m. Crawspace Eviction has been delivering laughs to Kalamazoo since 2003. Playing "Whose Line Is It Anyway" style improv games, this troupe shows audiences just how much fun it is when what happens next is anybody's guess. You just might also be a part of this high-energy comedy experience.



Octocelli First Congregational Church 6:00, 8:00, 10:00 p.m.

Octocelli is a group of Michigan cellists most of whom have played in the Kalamazoo Symphony, Battle Creek Symphony, and Kalamazoo Philharmonia who enjoy playing a variety of music together including classical, pop, and sacred music.



Silent But Deadly First Congregational Church 7:00, 9:00, 11:00 p.m.

Silent But Deadly is a chamber orchestra composed of Kalamazoo-based professional musicians whose purpose is to bring the art of the silent film orchestra back to the modern era. Their chief mission is to compose new music for silent classics while providing an entertaining and informative look at the world of silent film orchestration.



Vinyl Tap First Presbyterian Social Hall 6:30, 7:30, 8:30, 9:30 p.m.

Performing together for nearly 3 decades, Vinyl Tap has been a 60s and 70s Classic Rock main-stay in the SW MI area! A veteran of several New Year's Fests, their "sing-alongs" have been enjoyed by thousands. So, get ready to sing, dance, or just make a joyful noise! Let's welcome Vinyl Tap!

