

# Clifton Gorge Music & Arts Festival



August 23 & 24, 2024



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*Welcome to the 12th Annual*

# **Clifton Gorge Music & Arts Festival**

Friday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>, 4-11 PM

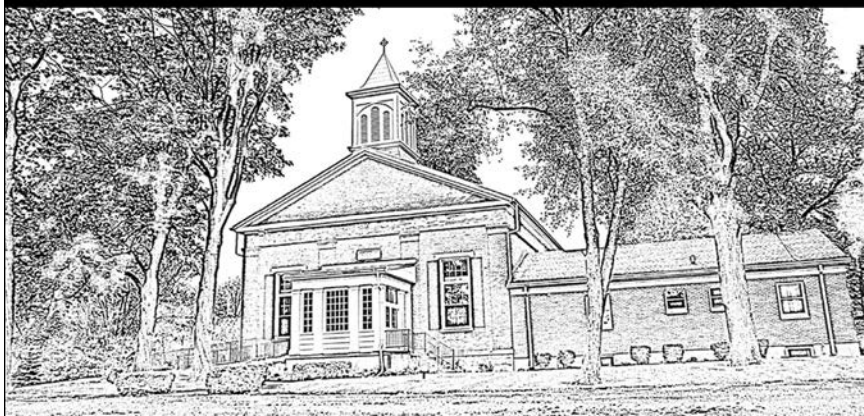
Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM-11 PM



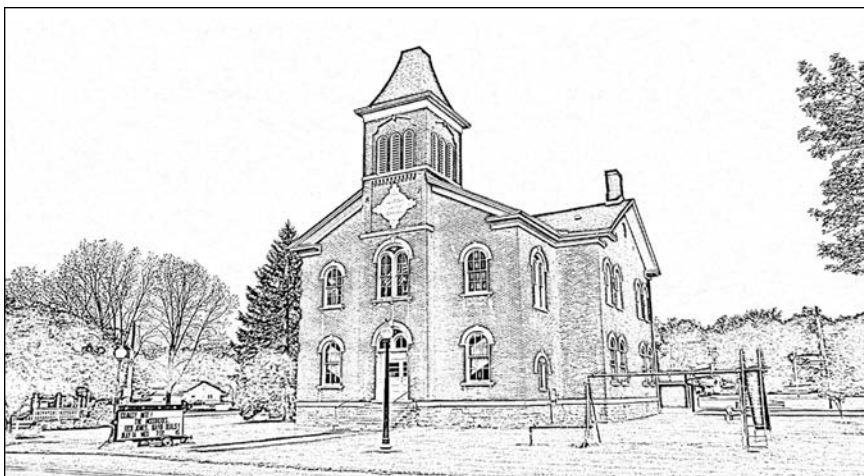
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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve .....	7
Festival Entertainment Schedule .....	9
Preservation Society of Clifton .....	19
Festival Vendors .....	23
The Clifton Opera House .....	31
Clifton Opera House Schedule .....	32
Special Thanks .....	34

**Free festival parking conveniently  
located at the Clifton Mill and  
Clifton Presbyterian Church**

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# Clifton Gorge State Nature Preserve

**T**his 268-acre preserve protects one of the most spectacular dolomite and limestone gorges in the state. Registered as a National Natural Landmark in 1968, Clifton Gorge encompasses a 2-mile stretch of the Little Miami State and National Scenic River, just east of John Bryan State Park.

Geologically, it is an outstanding example of interglacial and post-glacial canyon cutting. At one point, the river funnels through a deep, narrow channel, which was apparently formed by the enlarging

and connecting of a series of potholes in the resistant Silurian dolomite bedrock. In other sections of the gorge, cliff overhangs have broken off forming massive slump blocks scattered along the valley floor.

The shaded, north-facing slopes provide a cool, moist environment for northern species including hemlock, red baneberry, Canada yew, arbor-vitae and mountain maple. This is one of the most spectacular sites in the state for viewing spring wildflowers including the rare snow trillium.



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# Entertainment

## Ongoing

### **Kids' Activity Area** – *Sponsored by Southgate Baptist Church*

Bring home a hand-made craft or two. Earn a prize for enjoying yard games and other fun activities!

- Face Painting
- Crafts and Coloring
- Story Time
- Lawn Bowling
- Hula Hoops
- Putting Green
- Jump Ropes
- Bean Bags
- Contests
- Much more!

### **Special Saturday-Only Activities:**

- Story Time on the Half Hour (10:30 AM-5:30 PM)





# CRUISE-IN

During the

Clifton Gorge Music  
and Arts Festival

*Friday, August 23 4-8 pm*

*Location: Clay Street (Enter from Clinton St.)  
Clifton, Ohio*

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by Chuck Sivils

Festival Hours: Friday 4-11pm / Saturday 10am-11pm

Music....Food....Beer Garden....Arts....Vendors

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# Entertainment (Contd.)

*Friday, August 23rd*

**Vendors Open** 4 PM

**Cruise-In** 4-8 PM

**Along Clay St. by the Opera House.** Cars, trucks, or bikes – anything with wheels is welcome! Bring your ride or stop by for a look. For more information, see page left. **50/50 Drawing at 7:30 PM**

**Whiskey Brisket** 4-6 PM

Whiskey Brisket is a post ska band from Springfield, Ohio that was borne from a love of ska music and blending it with everything else in a no holds barred, in your face style. They come at you with songs you'll try forever to forget and a show that will keep you moving and wishing for more!

**Beer Tent Opens** 5 PM

**Demonstration: Glass Blowing** 6-6:30 PM

**Across from Concession Stand**

**Visitor** 6:30-8:30 PM

Visitor is an Experience. Loud and proud, while also having the nuance to be able to cover the full sonic and emotional spectrum. They are quick to turn heads, not only with their strange fashion style, but also with the new and exciting, yet nostalgic and familiar sound of their music. **Sponsored by the Cedarville HS Class of '81.**

**The Temps** 9-11 PM

Upbeat dance tunes from the 70's to today, and crowd energy fuels band and costume connoisseurs. Covering songs ranging from 80's pop, disco and dance rock with a sprinkle of their own tunes, the Springfield, Ohio based band mixes an energy-filled performance with a spectacular light show. Adorned in Chuck Taylors and nerd glasses, The Temps embrace and explore the weekend rock star lifestyle. The Temp's in the simplest summary? Crazy costumes....Crazy good tunes! Voted #1 Band in the "Best of Springfield" in 2023! **Sponsored by the Clifton Mill.**

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# Entertainment (Contd.)

*Saturday, August 24th*

**Read about the festival's ongoing Kids' Activity Area** back on page 9 – and don't forget to stop by!

**50/50 Drawing ticket sales throughout the day available at the Concession Stand.** Drawing times to be announced.

**Vendors Open 10 AM**

**One More Time Swing Band 10-11:30 AM**

A small swing band consisting of 2 trumpets, 4 saxes, 2 trombones, bass, keyboard, and drums, playing those great songs from the 20's, 30's, 40's, and 50's, and more.

**Beer Tent Opens 11 AM**

**Demonstration: Behind the Curtain Dance Studio**

11 AM-12 PM

**At the intersection of Clay Street and SR 343.** Behind the Curtain Dance Studio was founded in November of 2013 and currently serves roughly 200 students, including adults and children. Their goal is to create a fun, safe and nurturing environment in which children and adults of all ages are able to learn different kinds of dance –including jazz, ballet, tap, tumbling, cheerleading, hip hop, modern, belly dancing, Zumba, Mommy & Me, and more – all at affordable prices.

**Demonstration: Glass Blowing 11:30-12 AM**

**Across from Concession Stand**

**Spot Fire 12-1:30 PM**

When Tara's Fire founding members Greg Stumbo and Ray Marks left Ohio weather for the beautiful Carolinas, other members kept the fire going. As other members moved away, it was decided they would become Spot Fire- An in-your-face, high energy Irish American rock band, blending heavier versions of your favorite traditional Irish songs and catchy originals that will keep your feet moving!

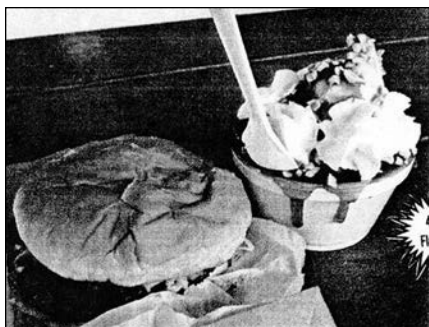
**Demonstration: Dayton Celtic Academy 1:30-2 PM**

**At the intersection of Clay Street and SR 343.** The Celtic Academy of Irish Dance is celebrating more than 30 years as Dayton's ...

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# Entertainment (Contd.)

*Saturday, August 24th (Contd.)*

**(Dayton Celtic Academy – Contd.)** ... premier Irish dance school. Voted Best of Dayton by both *Dayton Magazine* and *Dayton.com*, the Celtic Academy is always in high demand to perform at events throughout the Midwest. Certified instructors instill the values of excellence and determination in both the competitive and non-competitive arenas. Dancers and instructors alike live up to the school's motto: Dance like champions, love like family!

**Demonstration: Glass Blowing** 1:30-2 PM

**Across from Concession Stand**

**The Relics** 2-3:30 PM

The Relics are a classic rock and roll cover band playing your favorites from the 60's, 70's, 80's and 90's along with some country fan sing-along hits. Based out of the Springfield-Dayton area they are all about helping you let loose, have fun, dance and sing along.

**Demonstration: Troupe Roja** 3:30-4 PM

**At the intersection of Clay Street and SR 343.** Troupe Roja is an award-winning Middle Eastern dance troupe from Dayton, OH. They study and perform many styles – from folkloric to fusion. Their dances often feature props like veil, cane, sword, and finger cymbals. They dance at many events and festivals in the area, including Dayton's A World A'fair and the Lebanese Festival.

**Demonstration: Glass Blowing** 3:30-4 PM

**Across from Concession Stand**

**Ohio Brass and Electric** 4-6 PM

Ohio Brass & Electric has been lovingly recreating classic horn band dance tunes since 2012, from artists such as Chicago, Earth Wind & Fire, Etta James, Stevie Wonder, and many more, thanks to a groovy rhythm section that lays down the perfect dance-tastic foundation for their powerful horns and vocals.

**Demonstration: The Sayaw FilipinOH** 4:30-5:00 PM

The Sayaw FilipinOH is a cultural dance group from the Dayton area dedicated to showcasing the Philippine culture through dance and costume. Sayaw, in their native language, Tagalog, means "dance." Their repertoire consists of dances from our Igorot, Muslim, Hispanic, and ...



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# Entertainment (Contd.)

*Saturday, August 24th (Contd.)*

**(The Sayaw FilipinOH – Contd.)** Fiesta suites... and Hip Hop! Their goal is to share the Philippine culture through our dance performances, and to pass on our love for the culture to future generations. A dance ministry of the First Fil-Am Church of Greater Dayton, their mission is to glorify God by uplifting and uniting people through our dance performances.

## **Cardinal Squares 5-6 PM**

**At the intersection of Clay Street and SR 343.** Cardinal Squares is a square dancing club in Springfield, Ohio. They dance the 2nd Friday of every month at Riversong Church, 3660 Springfield Jamestown Road, Springfield from 7-9:30pm. They will be doing lesson classes this fall. Please see one of the dancers for flyers with more information regarding dates, times and cost. They will have you "dancin in the street" in no time! Find a club near you! Go to: [miamivalleydancecouncil.org](http://miamivalleydancecouncil.org)

## **"That's Life Storytelling Show" 6-7 PM**

**In the Clifton Opera House.** Features real stories from everyday people that illustrate lessons life can teach us. The focus of the group is to workshop and perform Moth-like stories live on stage, as solo shows and 1-act plays.

## **The Hoppers 6:30-8:30 PM.**

Six guys from Yellow Springs playing tunes from the Beatles, Byrds, Beach Boys, Rolling Stones, McCoys, Chuck Berry, Buddy Holly, Johnny Rivers, Roy Orbison, Elvis, Del Shannon, & Ritchie Valens – just to name a few!

## **Aurora Fire (Fire Dancers) 8:30-9:00 PM**

**At the intersection of Clay Street and SR 343.** Aurora Fire is a group of fire dancers that will light up the night with fire props including hoops, fans, staff, and poi, and extravagant costumes.

## **Matt Clarkson Band 9:00-11 PM**

Matt Clarkson Band, founded by front man Matt Clarkson and lead guitarist Kelly Bush, are a high-energy top-quality Rock/Country band from Central Ohio! MCB has been providing a great blend of southern rock and country appealing to a wide variety of concert goers throughout Ohio, Indiana and Tennessee. They also have received 5 nominations in Nashville's Josie Music Awards for October 2024! Voted in top 3 bands in the "Best of Springfield" in 2023! **Sponsored by Buckeye Ag Supply.**

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# Preservation Society of Clifton



## Historic Clifton

The area had settlers in the early 1800's with many taking advantage of the river and cliffs to establish water powered mills. When Clifton Mill was first built it was believed to be the largest mill in the country due to the six levels.

According to Broadstone's History, "The town of Clifton is the oldest town in Miami Township, dating its official beginning from 1833." The county surveyor was Robert Walton and he plotted 32 lots for Bates & Lewis. The plat was registered on 24 August 1833.<sup>1</sup>

The Village of Clifton is divided by the Clark and Greene County line. The division originates in 1818 when Clark County is established. This division even continues through the local Clifton Union Cemetery. The first burials in this cemetery are about 1813/1814.

## Famous Clifton Connections

**Isaac Funk**, of Funk & Wagnalls Fame, was born in Clifton on 10th September 1859. He later moved to Springfield where he graduated from



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# Preservation Society of Clifton (Contd.)

Wittenberg in 1860 and was ordained a Lutheran Pastor. He is best known for “Standard Encyclopedia of World’s Knowledge,” produced by his partnership with Adam Wagnalls in 1877. Isaac Funk died 4 April 1912, in New Jersey but is buried in Brooklyn, New York.<sup>2</sup>

**David Talbot Littler** was born in Clifton on 7 February 1836. He was a lawyer and politician serving in several roles. He moved to Illinois, where he served as a Justice of the Peace, and in the House of Representatives as well as in the Senate. He died in Illinois on 23 June 1902 and is buried in Springfield, Illinois.<sup>3</sup>

**Benjamin Whiteman** was born in Pennsylvania but is famous for having moved the county line so that his Clifton home would remain in Greene County rather than Clark County. This home stands just east of Clifton on North River Road and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places with an approximate date of 1805. Whiteman moved to

the Clifton area about that time with his father-in-law Owen Davis. He also served in the military in several campaigns. Benjamin Whiteman died 1 July 1852 and is buried in nearby Clifton Union Cemetery.

**Owen Davis** was the father-in-law of Benjamin Whiteman. He is listed as registering, “Jonathan a negro boy aged nine years on the 1st day of September 1805.” This registration was done with the Clerk of Court of the Common Pleas Court of Greene County and is housed at the Greene County Archives. We do not know any other information about Jonathan, but this was most likely to be compliant with the Ohio Black codes passed in 1804. Owen Davis stayed in the Clifton area and was highly active in the county contributing to the first courthouse, building a mill, and settling at a time when battles were still going on in what was considered a frontier area. Owen Davis died on 18 February 1818 and is buried in Clifton Union Cemetery.

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<sup>1</sup> History of Greene County, Ohio: Its People, Industries and ..., Volume 1 By Michael A. Broadstone, p.306

<sup>2</sup> Wikipedia contributors. “Isaac K. Funk.” Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 26 Mar. 2024. Web. 13 May. 2024.

<sup>3</sup> Wikipedia contributors. “David T. Littler.” Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia. Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia, 2 Mar. 2024. Web. 13 May. 2024.

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# Vendors (Contd.)

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TangCat Creations	Handmade Jewelry & Ceramics from Greene Co. Clay
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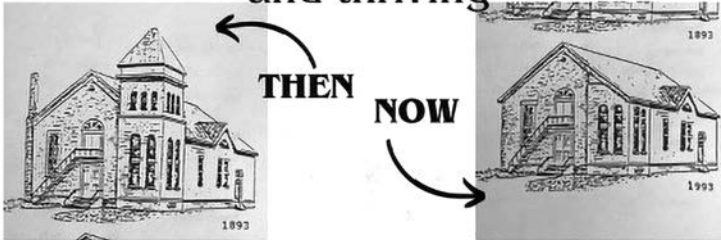
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Beres Concessions	Fresh Squeezed Lemonade
Young's On the Moove	Sandwiches, Ice Cream, and Fried Cheese Curds
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# Preservation Society Of Clifton

Come, join us and be part of  
keeping the history of Clifton alive  
and thriving



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## Clifton Senior Citizens

**3rd Monday of every month ...**

**12 noon**

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# The Clifton Opera House

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Like many thriving small towns of the day, Clifton built an Opera House in 1893. The building's architect, Charles Cregar, having recently completed the Springfield City Building and Market, was the preeminent Victorian architect of the Springfield area until his untimely death three years later at the age of thirty-eight.

The Opera House has been used as a concert hall and theater and has also served as a community auditorium for town meetings, school activities, and all manner of gatherings. In 1978, Howard Printz, President of the Clifton Historical Society of that time, began raising funds to save the deteriorating building. The Opera House was restored and has held performances ever since. The venue seats a little over two hundred people including some original seats in the balcony. The acoustics are such that a low voice from the stage can be heard

in the back rows. The Opera House today features live music each week from Spring through Christmas, with styles ranging from Bluegrass to Celtic. School musicals and other performing arts events are also booked, as well as private soirees on occasion. Food trucks have also regularly been on hand to offer dining options for a picnic in the park or carry-in during Opera House shows.

The Opera House building is owned and operated by the Village government and their network of generous volunteers. Notably, Council member Paula Lazorski and the Village's Clerk/Treasurer, Sue Chasnov have been at the helm to keep the vibrant theater venue part of the fabric of the Clifton community. We hope you'll join us for an upcoming show! See the upcoming shows listed in the summer/fall event schedule (pp. 32-33). For more information call (937)342-2175.



# The Clifton Opera House

## SUMMER & FALL SCHEDULE

Shows start at 7:00 PM unless otherwise noted. Suggested donation for most shows is \$10. Food Trucks are on-site from 5:00 PM until showtime. Please visit our website for the most up-to-date schedule.

### JULY

Saturday, July 13

#### **Blue Note**

(Bluegrass/Country)

Mom Andrasik's Food Truck

Saturday, July 20

#### **Mark Whitt & the True Bluegrass Band**

El Buen Taco Food Truck

Saturday, July 27

#### **Sugar Creek Bluegrass**

Road House Grill Food Truck

### AUGUST

Saturday, August 3

#### **Willow Creek**

(Americana/BG/Country/  
Folk/Gospel)

El Buen Taco Food Truck

Saturday, August 10

#### **Lafferty Pike**

(Bluegrass)

Galactic Flats Food Truck

Saturday, August 17

#### **Bill Purk and Friends**

(Bluegrass)

Road House Grill Food Truck

### SEPTEMBER

Saturday, September 7

#### **Rocky Creek**

(Bluegrass)

Rolling Easy Food Truck

Saturday, September 14

#### **Laurel Mountain Bluegrass**

Road House Grill Food Truck

Saturday, September 21

#### **Hitchhikers**

(Celtic)

The Little's Grill Food Truck

Saturday, September 28

#### **Pinnacle Ridge**

(Bluegrass)

BL BBQ & Karaoke Food Truck



# The Clifton Opera House

## SUMMER & FALL SCHEDULE

Beverages & snacks available. No alcoholic beverages.  
For more information, visit [cliftonoperahouse.com](http://cliftonoperahouse.com). Like us on Facebook:  
[facebook.com/village.of.clifton.opera.house](https://facebook.com/village.of.clifton.opera.house)

### OCTOBER

Saturday, October 5

**Don Greene - Songs  
of the Cowboys**

BL BBQ & Karaoke Food Truck

Saturday, October 12

**Fin Tan**

(Celtic / Irish Pub Music)

TBA Food Truck

Saturday, October 19

**Kentucky Heritage**

(Bluegrass)

The Little's Grill Food Truck

Saturday, October 26

**Daniel Dye & The Miller  
Road Band**

(Folk)

What the Taco Food Truck

### NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 2

**The Kevin Prater Band**  
(Bluegrass)

Tickets \$15

Galactic Flats Food Truck

Saturday, November 9

**Blue Note**

(Bluegrass/Country)

Road House Grill Food Truck

Saturday, November 16

**Berachah Valley**

(Bluegrass / Gospel/Folk)

TBA Food Truck

### DECEMBER

Saturday, December 7

**New Mountain Heritage**  
(Bluegrass)

3-5 pm · Doors Open at 2:30 pm

Saturday, December 14

**Lafferty Pike Christmas Show**  
(Bluegrass)

2-4 pm · Doors Open at 1:30 pm



# SPECIAL THANKS

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