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The Weekend List: Katy Perry, Kid Rock, Celebration on the Grand, Wheatland, Janis Ian, Frankie Beverly, Blind Boys of Alabama

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By John Sinkevics | The Grand Rapids Press

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Rock 'n' roll legend **Buddy Holly** would have turned 75 today. While he's probably rolled over in his grave a few times by now due to the oft-silly gyrations of the music biz, he'd probably still embrace some of the rock music that owes a debt to his pioneering style. And that likely includes some stuff on **The Weekend List** ... (though maybe not item No. 1).

THE BIG SHOW

It's the weekend AFTER Labor Day, but I'd swear we're still in the thick of summer music madness. Speaking of madness, **Katy Perry's** Sunday concert at Van Andel Arena ranks as the weekend's big show, topping even Celebration on the Grand and Wheatland's folk jamboree. In the wake of her recent Video Music Awards victories, the pop star brings her summery California Dreams tour and opener Janelle Monae to Grand Rapids at 7:30 p.m. Sunday. Some tickets, \$37.50 and \$47.50, were still available last I checked at the arena box office and through **Ticketmaster**. Read more about the tour in Thursday's Weekend Ticket! In The Grand Rapids Press and online here at MLive.com.



Courtesy Photo

Katy Perry brings her California Dreams tour to Van Andel Arena on Sunday.

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OTHER LIVE MUSIC GEMS

Thursday-Friday – Compelling Chicago rock band **Empires** plays MXTP, 1115 N. Taylor Ave., on Thursday, with The Water Clocks and The Docksider Fever also on the bill. Tickets are \$8 in advance for the all-ages show; \$10 day of show. Doors open at 6 p.m. Then on Friday, the club presents something plenty of teens can relate to: the “Already Sick of School” show, with My Ticket Home, Lakeland, No Sleep for Panama, We Call This Irony and more. Same price as Thursday. Get details online at mxtp.us.

Thursday – Veteran singer-songwriter **Janis Ian** ("At Seventeen") plays the Saugatuck Center for the Arts, 400 Culver St. in Saugatuck, at 8 p.m. Thursday. Tickets are \$35. Get details online at sc4a.org.

Thursday – A singular event featuring comedy and music begins at 5 p.m. Thursday at Billy's Lounge, 1437 Wealthy St. SE. Hosted by Erin Fields, the **"Live on the Bricks!"** show will feature music by Karisa Wilson, Bad Acid, and DJ Dean Martian, and comedy by Stu McCallister, Dave Jones, Allen Trieu, Garrit Elzinga and others. A \$5 donation will be accepted at the door to support the Emkens and Heeren families, who lost relatives in July's tragic shooting spree in Grand Rapids.

Thursday-Saturday – A perfect way to start the weekend: Catch some free live music Thursday at the kickoff to **Celebration on the Grand**. Starting at 5 p.m., School of Rock, A.B! & Coconut Brown, Glamhammer and Star Farm launch the party at downtown Grand Rapids' Rosa Parks Circle. And the music resumes at two stages - Rosa Parks Circle and Ah-Nab-Awen Park - at 5 p.m. Friday and again on Saturday. (Fireworks light things up at 9:30 p.m. Friday; up-and-coming singer **Hunter Hayes** headlines an evening of country at the Rosa Parks stage Saturday). Plenty of local and regional bands will perform. Read more [here](#) and in Thursday's Weekend Ticket! or get more details online at celebrationonthegrand.org.

Friday – Here's a coffeehouse venue you might want to check out: **Good Folk Coffeehouse**, in the Fountain Street Church social hall, 24 Fountain St. NE, features local troubadour Mick Lane in

concert from 7 to 9 p.m. Friday. The venue touts an "ambiance of the 1950s and 1960s," with local poets also reading their works during the show. Groovy. Admission is free, donations accepted for The Giving Tree, and beverages – including fair trade coffee – available.

Friday-Saturday – Grand Rapids piano marvel and singer-songwriter **Dennie Middleton** recently wrote a song, "Calling All Gods," for which he's donating all sale proceeds to the **Michigan Fallen Warriors Memorial** project to be built on the grounds of the Grand Valley National Guard Armory in Wyoming to honor those in the military who've given their lives since 9/11. Now, he's releasing a mini-CD that includes that song and five other tracks which'll he'll be selling for \$10 at four of his shows Friday and Saturday. He'll perform at 8 p.m. Friday at the Sparta Moose Lodge, 11510 N. Division Ave in Sparta, at 3 p.m. Saturday at the Last Chance Tavern & Grill Saloon, 1132 Burton St. SE, and 7 p.m. Saturday at the Holy Trinity Catholic Church festival, 1200 Alpine Church NW. (He's also performing at 5 p.m. at Ah-Nab-Awen Park as part of Celebration on the Grand.) You download the song from iTunes [here](#).

Friday-Sunday – One of the most prestigious folk music events in the country, the 38th annual **Wheatland Music Festival** will draw thousands to Remus, northeast of Grand Rapids, for performances by The Freight Hoppers, Abigail Washburn, Wayne Hancock, Peter Rowan, Los TexManiacs and more, plus local artists such as Karisa Wilson, Red Sea Pedestrians and An Dro, not to mention campground jamming by everyone. (By the way, the Celtic-hued **An Dro** performs at 9:05 p.m. on the festival's Centennial Stage. They'll join me on the air and perform a song during my **Local Spins Live** segment at 10 a.m. today on News Talk 1340 AM WJRW, so tune in for a preview of their weekend set.) **Attention:** Wheatland stops selling weekend tickets at 5 p.m. today (Sept. 7), so call 989-967-8561 to order tickets. However, Sunday-only admission is available at the gate for \$25 (or \$3 for kids 5-12). Get details and a schedule online at wheatlandmusic.org.

Saturday – As Bob Seger once proclaimed, "I have two words for you: **Kid Rock!**" The Detroit rock singer/rapper plays the countyfair.com/entertainment/">Allegan County Fair at 7 p.m. Saturday; tickets are \$65-\$70, available through etix.com at the fair box office in Allegan. See the full story in Thursday's Weekend Ticket!

Saturday – The sixth edition of **Rock for Crash's** raises money for **Crash's Landing Cat Rescue and Placement Center** at 8 p.m. Saturday at Founders Brewing Co., 235 Grandville Ave. SW. Admission is just \$5, with proceeds going to the cause and additional donations accepted. Starring in this year's diverse concert are Grand Rapids bands The Crane Wives, Alexis, Onn and The Pistolbrides. Fab lineup.

Saturday – The inspiring **Blind Boys of Alabama** return to West Michigan for a concert at 7:30 p.m. Saturday at **Hope College's Dimnent Memorial Chapel**, 277 College Ave. in Holland. Tickets are \$6-\$18 at the DeVos Fieldhouse ticket office or by calling 616-395-7890.

Saturday – R&B singer **Frankie Beverly and Maze** ("Happy Feelin's") will play DeVos

Performance Hall, 303 Monroe Ave. NW, at 8 p.m. Saturday. Tickets, \$51.50-\$87.50, available at the DeVos Place box office or through [Ticketmaster](#). Tickets are \$5 more the day of the show.

Sunday – It's the 10th anniversary of 9/11. There are many events across West Michigan to mark the day. Here are just a few featuring concerts:

The Cascade Community Foundation hosts Chicago pianist (and Grand Rapids native) Sam Stryke for a **9/11 Memorial Concert** at Forest Hills Fine Arts Center, 600 Forest Hill Ave. SE, at 4 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$5. The show also features Voices of Freedom, Great Lakes Chorus and St. Matthew Lutheran Church Children's Bells.

Fountain Street Church, 24 Fountain St. NE, hosts its **9/11 Memorial Concert** at 4 p.m. Sunday, with performances by the Calvin College Alumni Choir, guitarist Michael Hyde and singer Edye Evans Hyde, violinist Dylana Jenson and more. Donations for The Thin Blue Line will be collected at the show.

Dove Award-winning artist **Mark Schultz** plays his "Letters from War" concert at **Community Reformed Church in Zeeland** at 6 p.m. Sunday, honoring those working to protect America. Tickets are \$10 in advance online at [communityreformed.org](#) or \$15 at the door.

UNDER-THE-RADAR PICK

Award-winning Michigan bluegrass group **Greensky Bluegrass** plays a double-header of sorts Thursday in Grand Rapids. First, the **Celadon Summer Concert Series** (in the intimate Celadon Amphitheatre at 2050 Celadon Drive NE) concludes at 6:30 p.m. Thursday with a free performance by the bluegrass outfit in an intimate picnic-style spot, with a food vendor on hand and special guest Dragon Wagon. Then it heads to **The Intersection**, 133 Grandville Ave. SW, for a second show. Tickets for that are \$13 in advance or \$15 at the door, but there's good reason to fork over the bucks: The Crane Wives and Glean Infusion, two terrific Grand Rapids bands, open the 16-and-older show. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. By the way, fans can also get the new "Handguns EP" for free at Greensky Bluegrass' website, [greenskybluegrass.com](#).

ON THE HORIZON

WYCE-FM's Hat Trick Concert Series kicks off at One Trick Pony on Monday with singer-songwriter Bahamas, **Uncle Lucius** plays Fifth Third Ballpark's Pepsi Stadium Club on Sept. 16 and the inaugural **MIFest**, starring The Raconteurs and Sheryl Crow, invades the Michigan International Speedway in Jackson County on Sept. 17.

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