

Mendel releases 2013-14 schedule

Little River Band, Jack Hanna's 'Into the Wild Live' top LMC's 13-show season

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BENTON HARBOR — What do you want to see?

It's a question often posed to audience members at any performance venue, but when you're programming a calendar as diverse as Lake Michigan College's Mendel Center season, the answer sometimes can be surprising.

"When we've gotten (recent) feedback from the community, what they've told us they want to see is more classic rock type shows," said Laura Kraklau, LMC's executive director of marketing and communications.

That explains why LMC's 2013-14 Mendel Center Mainstage Theatre season, which was announced late Wednesday, not only opens on Sept. 28 with Australian rockers Little River Band, but also features Brass Transit's "The Musical Legacy of Chicago" on Feb. 21, 2014, and The Pink Floyd

Experience on March 8, 2014.

"They were just so popular in the late '70s and early '80s," Kraklau said of Little River Band. "When you listen to any classic rock radio you hear their songs all the time. They still have a strong fan base and they're somebody who hasn't played in the area."

Formed in Melbourne, Australia, in 1975, Little River Band found chart success in America with the songs "Help Is on Its Way," "Reminiscing," "Lady," "Cool Change," "The Night Owls" and "Take It Easy On Me."

They also set a record for having Top 10 hits for six consecutive years, the first band to achieve that mark.

Brass Transit brings together Canada's most in-demand studio musicians, including a world-class horn section, in a show that includes all the hits from Chicago's golden age.

The Pink Floyd Experience, meanwhile, presents

Pink Floyd's greatest hits, including "Wish You Were Here," "Time" and "Another Brick in the Wall (part 2)," in a live concert complete with a massive light show, HD projection, and full quadraphonic sound.

The new Mendel season won't just rock, however.

The 13-date schedule also features the family programs "Dinosaur Train Live," Lightwire Theater's "The Ugly Duckling & The Tortoise and The Hare," and Jack Hanna's "Into The Wild Live."

"We have a long-standing tradition of providing children's programming and we've really gotten some good shows this year," Kraklau said. "I mean, everybody knows Jack Hanna. He's the go-to guy when you talk about exotic animals."

New this year is the Artists You Should Know Series featuring Grammy Award-nominated country singer Susan Ashton; stand-up comedians Matt Bergman, Tony Deyo, Chris Doucette, and Andy Pitz as part of the Nobodies of Comedy; and dancer Brian Cunningham's Atlantic

LMC Mendel Center's 2013-14 lineup

Here's the lineup for the 2013-14 Mendel Center Mainstage Theatre season at Lake Michigan College, 2755 E. Napier Ave., Benton Harbor. All times are 8 p.m. unless otherwise marked. Series tickets for packages of three or more shows are on sale now. Single show tickets go on sale at 10 a.m. July 31. For series ticket information and pricing, call 927-1221 or visit www.lmcmainstage.org:

SEPT. 28: Little River Band; \$35-\$49

OCT. 12: Susan Ashton; \$22-\$29

OCT. 26: Sandy Hackett's Rat Pack Show; \$35-\$49

NOV. 9: "Dinosaur Train Live," 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; \$15-\$26

NOV. 30: Nobodies of Com-

edy.

Steps.
"There's so many incredibly talented artists out there," Kraklau said. "I've seen both Susan Ashton and Brian Cunningham at performance showcases and

edy; \$25-\$32

DEC. 22: Mannheim Steamroller Christmas by Chip Davis, 4 p.m.; \$52-\$72

FEB. 21, 2014: Brass Transit's "The Musical Legacy of Chicago"; \$29-\$39

MARCH 8, 2014: The Pink Floyd Experience; \$32-\$46

MARCH 13, 2014: "Hair," 7 p.m.; \$48-\$56

MARCH 15, 2014: "The Ugly Duckling & The Tortoise and the Hare," 11 a.m.; \$15-\$22

MARCH 26, 2014: "Newport Jazz Festival: Now 60," 7:30 p.m.; \$25-\$39

APRIL 12, 2014: Atlantic Steps; \$25-\$32

MAY 9, 2014: Jack Hanna's "Into the Wild Live," 7:30 p.m.; \$28-\$38

they are amazing. It's fun to see somebody on the cutting edge and I think our audiences are open to seeing something new."

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