

14th Annual Celebrate Mansfield Festival to Feature Lawrence



August 17, 2017 - The Mansfield Downtown Partnership is pleased to announce the headliner for the 14th Annual Celebrate Mansfield Festival: **Lawrence!**

After years of consuming Stevie Wonder, Janis Joplin, and Eggo waffles, Lawrence delivers *Breakfast*, their twelve-song debut LP. Led by siblings Clyde Lawrence, 23, and Gracie Lawrence, 20, the New York-based soul-pop group blends old-school and new-school vibes to create a set of songs that sound as good on the record as they do at their high-energy live shows.

To create *Breakfast*, Lawrence teamed up with Grammy Award winning producer Eric Krasno (Lettuce/Soulive/Tedeschi Trucks Band) and brought in several NYC soul/funk mainstays including Adam Deitch (Lettuce), Cory Henry (Snarky Puppy), and Maurice "Mobetta" Brown (Tedeschi Trucks Band) for guest appearances. Following two short runs with Blues Traveler in the fall of 2015, Lawrence is currently promoting *Breakfast* with a national tour of headline dates, festival appearances, and as many pancakes and omeletes as possible.

Clyde and Gracie have been writing and playing music together since their early childhood, performing regularly at small cafés and clubs around lower Manhattan, and of course, in their living room at their grandparents' request. During Clyde's time at Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, they met the crew of talented musicians that would ultimately form the full-time

Lawrence lineup, an eight-piece keyboard-driven powerhouse with a dynamic horn section to support the siblings' explosive vocal arrangements. It was with this group that they began to garner a passionate following at countless venues and colleges across the Northeast.

With *Breakfast*, Lawrence doesn't shy away from the oft-maligned idea of "pop" music but instead is on a mission to write the music they wish "pop" sounded like. They draw from the past and present, combining their love of The Beatles, Randy Newman, and Etta James with Beyoncé, Ben Folds, and Amy Winehouse.

In addition to working with Lawrence, Clyde has composed songs and score for films such as *Miss Congeniality* (2000), *Music and Lyrics* (2007), *The Rewrite* (2015), and *Hard Sell* (2016). At age six, Clyde was admitted as the youngest member to the Songwriters Guild of America for his work on *Miss Congeniality* (2000). Gracie



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is also an accomplished actress who has performed on Broadway in Neil Simon's *Brighton Beach Memoirs*, films such as *Did You Hear About The Morgans* (2009) and *The Sitter* (2011), and TV shows such as *The Good Wife* (2012) and *The Americans* (2014).

Lawrence will perform at 2:30 PM on the stage of the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation Pavilion on Betsy Paterson Square.

Prior to Lawrence's performance, the public is invited to take part in a truly unique, participatory performance. The Ballard Institute & Museum of Puppetry and the Hartford Hot Several will lead a Puppet Pageant featuring puppets created during the annual Community Puppet-Building Workshop, hosted by the Ballard and the Mansfield Downtown Partnership. The free workshop is open to the public and will take place Saturday, September 9 and Sunday, September 10. For more information, please visit bimp.uconn.edu. The Puppet Pageant will take place at 1:00 PM, following the Celebrate Mansfield Parade.

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The Mansfield Downtown Partnership hosts the Celebrate Mansfield Festival each fall as a way to promote Storrs Center and to highlight the businesses and community organizations that make Mansfield unique. The Festival draws thousands of Mansfield residents and UConn community members together for a day filled with music, food, and fun activities for all ages. The Celebrate Mansfield Festival is free and open to the public.

ABOUT THE PARTNERSHIP

The [Mansfield Downtown Partnership](http://mansfieldct.org/mdp) is an independent, non-profit organization comprised of the Town of Mansfield, the University of Connecticut, and individual business members and residents. The Partnership seeks to foster the continued development, management, and promotion of Storrs Center – a vibrant and economically successful community in the heart of Mansfield.

EVENT INFO

Celebrate Mansfield Festival
Sunday, September 17, 2017
12:00 PM to 4:00 PM

- Celebrate Mansfield Parade at 12:00 PM
- Puppet Pageant at 1:00 PM
- Lawrence performs at 2.30 PM

Location: On and around Betsy Paterson Square, 2 Dog Lane, Storrs, CT 06268

Rain location: E. O. Smith High School, 1235 Storrs Road, Storrs, CT 06268

PARKING

Free parking will be available in the Storrs Center Parking Garage (33 Royce Circle, Storrs, CT 06268). Directions and additional parking information are available at downtownstorrsfestival.org.