

Concerts with The Decemberists, Grizzly Bear, Ray LaMontagne, Neko Case, Courtney Barnett, and Blondie anchor MASS MoCA's big summer of music, dance, comedy, and film

Major new exhibition by Taryn Simon featuring two new installation-based commissions fills first-floor galleries

NORTH ADAMS, MASSACHUSETTS — **Ray LaMontagne**, **Neko Case**, and **Blondie** under the stars on Joe's Field, and **The Decemberists**, **Grizzly Bear**, and **Courtney Barnett** in our concert courtyard and on the Hunter Center stage. MASS MoCA's summer season is awash in big music, new art, and, as every year, a few rollicking weeks of both when **Bang on a Can** returns with 60 musicians for its 16th summer in North Adams. New art in the galleries rounds out the season, with **Taryn Simon's** ambitious new installation *Assembled Audience + A Cold Hole* opening on May 26, and **Sally Taylor's** long-running project, *Come to Your Senses: Art to See, Smell, Hear, Taste, and Touch*, opening in Kidspace on June 23. We'll celebrate that night when Taylor and friends — including **Carly Simon**, **John Forte** (the Fugees), and **Kori Withers** (daughter of Bill Withers) — take the stage for a one-night-only concert. "You'll have to slow down this summer: it's a knockout season of art, destination concerts, intimate nights of folk and indie, staged dance, dance parties, and outdoor film," notes museum director **Joseph Thompson**. "To make it easier, MASS MoCA is making all ticketed museum admission valid for two visits within a week. Take time, take part."

In the galleries

A multidisciplinary artist working in photography, text, sculpture, and performance, **Taryn Simon** introduces two new installation-based commissions in our first floor galleries on **May 26**. In *A Cold Hole*, the gallery floor is replaced by an expanse of ice with a square hole cut from its center, exposing the dark water beneath. Performers will plunge the icy depths throughout the course of the 10-month exhibition. Inside *Assembled Audience*, thousands of individually recorded claps combine in an applauding crowd. With these two installations, Simon activates the rituals of the cold water immersion and applause, examining the ways in which individual action and collective belief can reinforce — or disrupt — systems of power.

Sally Taylor, daughter of James Taylor and Carly Simon, curates *Come to Your Senses: Art to See, Smell, Hear, Taste, and Touch* in MASS MoCA's lively Kidspace gallery and art-making studio, which will include new music by both of her parents. The exhibition asks visual artists, poets, dancers, musicians, perfumers, chefs, and sculptors to use one another's art as a catalyst to create their own work. It's the capstone of Kidspace's "Art 4 Change" project that has encouraged visitors and students in its school partnership program to develop positive habits of mind (empathy, optimism, and courage) with which to approach complex problem-solving through art experiences. The exhibition opens on June 23, capped by an evening performance of participating artists, including the legendary **Carly Simon** with her

family, **Ben Taylor** and **Sophie Hiller**; *Consenses* project curator **Sally Taylor**, also of the famed folk family; fellow next-generation R+B sensation **Kori Withers**, daughter of **Bill Withers**; blues guitarist **Eric Erdman**; and hip-hop artist and producer **John Forte**, formerly of the **Fugees**; with a dance performance by **Alison Manning** and **Jesse Keller**.

Elsewhere in the galleries, **Liz Glynn** paints an immersive and unnerving image of the future in our largest gallery (vocalist **Karen Adelman** and experimental percussionist **Corey Fogel** join the artist in the gallery on August 4 for a performance titled **Techne: Extension Exorcises**), **Allison Janae Hamilton: Pitch** turns to the sights and sounds of the southern landscape, **The Lure of the Dark** celebrates the night with works featuring everything from Lana Del Rey to Bash Bish Falls, and artists ranging from **James Turrell** and **Laurie Anderson** to **Jenny Holzer** and **Robert Rauschenberg** continue to turn heads in Building 6: The Robert W. Wilson Building, which celebrates its one-year anniversary on Memorial Day weekend.

Also on view across the museum is a rich array of art by **Gunnar Schonbeck** (Bang on a Can), **Louise Bourgeois**, **Dawn DeDeaux**, **Lonnie Holley**, **Mary Lum**, **Barbara Prey**, **Spencer Finch**, **Anselm Kiefer**, **Franz West**, **Rachel Howard**, **Etel Adnan**, **Natasha Bowdoin**, **Michael Oatman**, and others.

Festivals

The **Bang on a Can Summer Music Festival** spans more than two weeks (July 12-28) that include daily gallery recitals, anything-goes *Chalet* appearances, **Kids Can Too!** on July 21, the annual **Bang on a Can All-Stars** performing ensemble founder **Julia Wolfe's Anthracite Fields** on July 21, and the **Bang on a Can Marathon**, featuring **Steve Reich**, for a 6-hour genre-busting festival finale on July 28.

The FreshGrass Festival, MASS MoCA's annual festival of bluegrass and roots music, takes place on **September 14-16** with headliners **The Indigo Girls**, **Trampled by Turtles**, **Yonder Mountain String Band**, **Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder**, and more — with big news still to come. Over 50 bands in all!

Concerts

The Soul Rebels kick things off on our performing arts stages on May 26. One of New Orleans' biggest, brashest, and best brass ensembles, *The Village Voice* calls them "The missing link between Public Enemy and Louis Armstrong." You'll recognize at least a handful of their adventurous covers. Back-to-back concerts make the weekend of June 15 and 16 one for the books, with **The Decemberists** performing a sold-out show on Friday night and **Grizzly Bear** taking the stage on Saturday with support from electronic musician **Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith**. The highpoint of the weekend will be the bands' newest albums, with The Decemberists' eighth studio album *I'll Be Your Girl* signaling an exciting new phase, and Grizzly Bear's fifth album *Painted Ruins* marking the band's triumphant return to music after a four-year rest.

We'll be on our bucolic concert field on June 29 when **Ray LaMontagne** and very special guest **Neko Case** take the stage. Known for his gravelly voice, arresting live performances, and hits ranging from "You Are The Best Thing" to "Jolene," LaMontagne is one of today's most important singer-songwriters. Neko Case, another singer-songwriter with a seemingly endless capacity to search within herself, returns to the same stage she graced during Wilco's Solid Sound Festival in 2013. Both artists are here with their own bands for what promises to be a revelatory MASS MoCA moment.

Aussie singer-songwriter and consummate performer **Courtney Barnett** keeps the momentum going with a concert on July 12. On the heels of a stellar collaboration with Kurt Vile and with new music due to be released next month, Barnett is an “indie rock game changer” known for her wry lyrics and fierce guitar work (*Pitchfork*). Her summer concert is a hot ticket, especially with Cameroon-born singer **Vagabon** opening the night. **Blondie** punctuates the summer of stellar music on August 3, promising a night of timeless hits and ferocious energy. Bandleader Debbie Harry remains a force to be reckoned with, prowling the stage with the same verve that made Blondie’s CBGB shows a thing of legend.

More Live Music

MASS MoCA loyalists know **Paul de Jong** as one-half of the daringly experimental band The Books. On June 9, the long-time favorite returns with new music, vocalist **Jennifer Cavanaugh**, and riveting visuals. July 7 is another dynamic evening of rhythm, courtesy of the “irresistible spirit and universal appeal” of **LADAMA** (NPR). An ensemble of women who hail from every corner of the Americas, they perform a Pan-Latin blend of music that begs you to dance. **Jaimeo Brown** is in town on August 18 to perform in confluence with Allison Janae Hamilton’s exhibition, *Pitch*. His ensemble, Transcendence, fuses jazz, hip-hop, and blues, and samples the sounds and music of unknown laborers. Preferred ticket-buyers are invited to a gallery tour and recital at 3pm. Local favorite and now Grammy-celebrated **Roomful of Teeth** returns home to MASS MoCA on August 24, pushing boundaries of the human voice in its captivating and deeply researched exploration of vocal traditions, this year performing work by Bryce Dessner of The National. Kiss the summer goodbye on September 1 with the cool, funky, and gospel grooves of **Cory Henry and the Funk Apostles**. Limbs will be flying as the Hammond B3 master lets loose.

Film

We’ll roll out the mega-screens for Rudolph Valentino’s last flick, *The Son of the Sheik*, with live accompaniment by perennial favorite **Alloy Orchestra** on August 11. Continuing a long-held summer tradition treasured by locals and aviation enthusiasts, MASS MoCA takes over the North Adams airport on August 17 with a screening of **Strak Trek II: The Wrath of Khan**. Burgers, beer, and a classic film make this evening one of the most anticipated of the summer — admission is \$2 per person (fly-ins are free!).

Comedy

Hailed by *Time Out* as an “improv master,” Josh Sharp is best known for his role as a citizen journalist in Comedy Central’s “The Opposition with Jordan Klepper” and his delightfully lewd musical “F*cking Identical Twins.” He’s here on July 14 for **Josh Sharp Sings! Live!**, a music-and-comedy performance that exists entirely within one long cover of a D’Angelo song. On August 25, continuing the Star Trek theme, **The Greatest Generation Podcast** — the self-proclaimed “Star Trek podcast by two guys who are a bit embarrassed to have a Star Trek podcast” — focuses its lasers on the hilarious and beloved classic *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*. With projections, trivia, and witty commentary, it might just be the summer of Captain Kirk.

For Families

Artist and play-master **Wes Sam-Bruce** (whose whimsical work is now on view at Kidspace) is here on May 26 to create a fantastical outdoor sculpture beneath the upside-down trees. Families are invited to participate in this free event and enjoy hands-on art-making during the celebration of creativity, family, and fun.

Beer Garden

Beginning June 28, *The Chalet*, Dean Baldwin’s deep-woods-sculpture-turned-bar, comes alive with free entertainment and local, craft-brewed beer. You can find us there with local live music or strutting drag queens most Thursday evenings through August.

For Members

Dive deep into museums, exhibitions, and art in our **Cocktails with Curators** series. Museum curators lead discussion and conversation on June 20, July 12, and August 8. Swing by the **Members Lounge** before the Grizzly Bear, Courtney Barnett, and Blondie concerts for free drinks before the music. And experience the James Turrell and Laurie Anderson exhibits without the crowds on Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings, just for Members.

Assets for Artists

MASS MoCA’s Assets for Artists program helps working artists in all disciplines strengthen business skills as they pursue a creative practice. A full slate of workshops including Personal Finance and Career Planning begins this month. The Studios at MASS MoCA host artists and writers for self-directed one- to eight-week residencies. July is the deadline for applications for residencies that begin this fall. Massachusetts artists can apply now through April 27 for fall studio sessions. The 2018 North Adams Project is now live, an initiative that encourages artists to relocate to North Adams, Massachusetts. Accepted applicants are given financial incentives to relocate, project grants, a matched savings fund, and many additional benefits.

Buy Now, Save Big

MASS MoCA discounts 25% on most summer 2018 performances if tickets are purchased on or before May 2. Early-bird prices do not include festivals (which have a separate pricing schedule), preferred tickets, artist talks, \$5 member tickets, member openings, the Decemberists, Grizzly Bear, Ray LaMontagne with Neko Case, Courtney Barnett, or Blondie. Discounts do not combine, and discounted tickets are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

Images

High-resolution images of these events are available through this link: bit.ly/2J3V0oU.

Season at a glance, by date:

Date	Time	Event	Type
May 26	11am-2pm	Kidspace Family Day	Free for everyone
May 26	8pm	The Soul Rebels	Live music
May 26	5:30pm	Taryn Simon	Opening exhibition
June 9	8pm	Paul de Jong with Matthew Gold	Live music + video
June 15	8pm	The Decemberists	Live music
June 16	8pm	Grizzly Bear with Kaitlyn Aurelia Smith	Live music
June 23	11am-1pm	Come To Your Senses	Kidspace opening reception

June 23	7pm	Sally Taylor & Friends	Live music
June 29	7pm	Ray LaMontagne with Neko Case	Live music
July 7	8pm	LADAMA	Live music
July 12-28	Varies	Bang on a Can Festival	Music festival
July 12	8pm	Courtney Barnett with Vagabon	Live music
July 14	8pm	Josh Sharp Sings! Live!	Comedy
July 21	11:30am	Kids Can Too!	Live music
July 21	8pm	Bang on a Can All-Stars	Live music
July 23	4:30pm	Bang on a Can Composers Concert	Live music
July 28	4-10pm	Bang on a Can Marathon	Live music
August 3	7pm	Blondie with And The Kids	Live music
August 4	12-5pm	Techne: Extension Exercises	Performance in the galleries
August 11	8pm	Alloy Orchestra	Film + live music
August 17	8pm	Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan	Movie at the airport
August 18	8pm	Jaimeo Brown: Transcendence	Live music
August 24	8pm	Roomful of Teeth	Live music
August 25	8pm	The Greatest Generation Podcast	Live podcast
Sept 1	8pm	Cory Henry & The Funk Apostles	Live music
Sept 14-16	All weekend	FreshGrass Festival	Music festival

About MASS MoCA

MASS MoCA is one of the world's liveliest (and largest) centers for making, displaying, and enjoying today's most important art, music, dance, theater, film, and video. MASS MoCA's 250,000 sq. ft. of gallery space includes partnerships with Laurie Anderson, the Louise Bourgeois Trust, Jenny Holzer, Anselm Kiefer with the Hall Art Foundation, Sol LeWitt, and James Turrell.

Gallery admission is \$20 for adults, \$18 for veterans and seniors, \$12 for students, \$8 for children 6 to 16, and free for children 5 and under. Members are admitted free year-round. The Hall Art Foundation's Anselm Kiefer exhibition is seasonal and will reopen on May 26, 2018. For additional information: 413.662.2111 x1 or visit massmoca.org.

Hours

MASS MoCA is open from 11am to 5pm, closed Tuesdays, through June 22. From June 23 through September 3, MASS MoCA's galleries are open seven days a week — from 10am to 6pm Sundays through Wednesdays and from 10am to 7pm Thursdays through Saturdays.